



Weddings at Shuttleworth

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Built on the site of Warden Abbey, a monastery founded in the time of the Domesday book, stands the former home of the Shuttleworth family.

A 5000 acre site in the heart of rural Bedfordshire, with rolling parkland vistas and steeped in compelling history, the Shuttleworth estate offers an extraordinary setting for weddings and celebrations all year round.

From smaller, more intimate ceremonies to opulent gatherings of up to 2000 guests, Shuttleworth has a choice of three stunning venues to make your day unique and memorable.

The House and Parkland offer an unrivalled wedding experience. Take exclusive use of the Jacobean-style country house and choose between an array of grand and finely furnished rooms to hold your ceremony, wedding breakfast and evening reception. Additionally, The Summer House, set within a sunken garden makes for a charming, idyllic outdoor ceremony venue. Finally, the abundance of mature parkland is ideal if you wish to erect a marquee or tipi.

For a magical, serene affair The Swiss Garden, designed in the late Regency era, is a rare example of period landscape design. Within the garden, surrounded by beautifully manicured lawns, are two licenced venues for wedding ceremonies: The Swiss Cottage and The Grotto & Fernery.

The Collection's Hangar 3 is a thrilling venue to host your day. With tables peppered around masterpieces of aviation and automotive history, this unique space lends itself to a stylish 'vintage' celebration.

As a multi-venue property, Shuttleworth offers the opportunity to host your ceremony and your reception in more than one location.



All weddings at Shuttleworth are offered with the close assistance of an experienced wedding planner, to assist in the lead up to and during the wedding - this is complimentary to ensure excellence of service.





The House & Parkland

Standing elegantly amongst acres of historic rolling parkland, The House, a Grade II* Jacobean style home built in 1872 makes for a stately and prestigious wedding venue.

Weddings ceremonies of up to 200 guests and seated dinners for up to 150 guests can be hosted in an array of rooms, five of which are licensed for ceremonies. When choosing The House, guests are offered full exclusivity of the property.

There is also the option to host your ceremony in the delightful Summer House, with views over the lily pond and the sunken garden. The Summer House can host parties of up to 60 guests.

Alternatively, to take full advantage of the abundance of beautiful parkland, guests are offered the opportunity to erect a tipi or marquee to entertain up to 2000 guests.





The Swiss Garden

The Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth was created between 1824 and 1832. The garden is a rare survivor of a Regency garden in the 'Swiss Picturesque' style. It was first opened to the public in 1982 and has often been described as a hidden gem.

The Grotto & Fernery and the Swiss Cottage are both licensed for wedding ceremonies. Ornate bridges, ponds and rustic buildings are dotted around the nine-acre garden, offering a range of opportunities to take beautiful and memorable photographs of your day.

The garden has a romantic, intimate feel and it is thought that Colonel Frank Shuttleworth and his young bride Dorothy spent a great deal of time here during their courtship. Peacocks, ducks and other wildlife are resident in the garden throughout the year, along with a range of interesting trees and plants.

Ceremonies for up to 70 guests can be hosted within the garden. Arrangements can also be made for a drinks and canapé reception on the east lawn.





The Collection

The spirit of Richard Shuttleworth's enthusiasm for engineering lives on to this day through his collection of rare and historically significant aircraft and automobiles. Shuttleworth has been welcoming visitors to The Collection since it opened to the public in 1963.

For those looking to dress their wedding in their own unique way, arrangements can be made for Hangar 3 to be available for exclusive private hire. The space can comfortably accommodate up to 130 guests.

Hangar 3 is normally used to house museum exhibits and provides an ideal canvas to showcase the most individual of celebrations. As an extra-special touch for those with a particular interest in the Collection, select pieces can be exhibited around your set-up allowing you and your guests a rare opportunity to connect with the magic of early aviation.

A number of vintage vehicles from The Collection are available to hire for your wedding. Please contact our weddings team for more information.





Accommodation

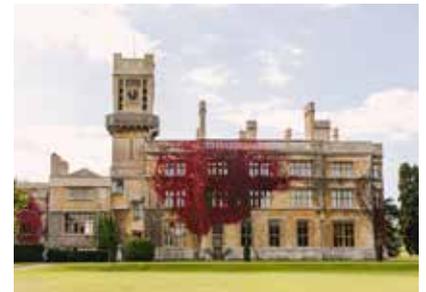
Fifteen comfortably furnished en-suite bedrooms are available year round for guests of weddings. The rooms are located in a modern purpose-built building opposite the former coach house.

Additionally, within the Shuttleworth Estate there are several properties that are available for short term rental through The Landmark Trust. Please ask your wedding planner for more information.

Contact us

For more information or to book a private tour of our venues, please contact our weddings team on 01767 627917 or email weddings@shuttleworth.org.

Correspondence should be addressed to The Weddings Team, The House, Shuttleworth, Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, SG18 9EA.



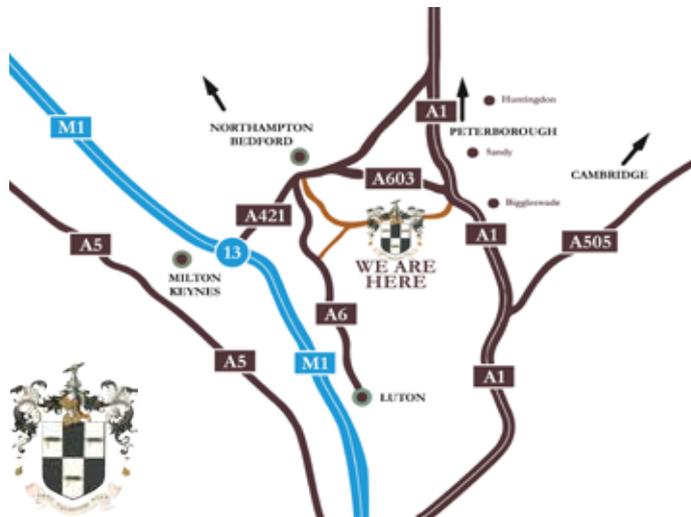


Getting Here

Shuttleworth is located two miles due west of the A1 where it bypasses Biggleswade. We are approximately 20 miles from junction 13 of the M1.

Shuttleworth has two entrances. For those wishing to visit The House and Parkland, please use SG18 9EA and for those wishing to visit The Collection and The Swiss Garden, please use SG18 9EP.

Several vintage buses in The Collection are available to use to transport your guests between our venues. Our 1923 Leyland SG7 'The White Rose' is a favourite amongst guests. For more details please ask your wedding planner.



History of the Shuttleworths

Joseph Shuttleworth, co-owner of the world-renowned engineering firm 'Clayton and Shuttleworth', purchased the Old Warden Estate in 1872 and continued developing the Old Warden village in the Swiss style, which was started by Lord Ongley in the 1820s.

Henry Clutton, a highly influential architect of the Victorian era, was commissioned to design The House you see today. It became the family home for Joseph Shuttleworth, his wife Caroline Jane Ellison and Joseph's younger son, Frank. Father and son spent many happy years buying fine paintings and furnishings for the property. Frank and Joseph hosted shooting parties and Shuttleworth became known for its pheasant and partridge shoots.

Frank was a Major in the 7th Queen's Own Hussars and became known as 'Colonel Frank' when he raised the Bedfordshire Imperial Yeomanry in 1901. Not long after this Colonel Frank married the local vicar's daughter, Dorothy Clotilda Lang. Despite a large age gap between them, it was deemed a happy marriage and they had a son, Richard. In 1913 Colonel Frank sadly passed away when Richard was just four years old. Dorothy bravely took over the running of the estate.

Richard grew up enjoying the estate and the village and developed a keen interest in all aspects of engineering. In 1932 he inherited the estate and that of his Uncle, which allowed him to follow his twin passions of motor racing and aviation. During this time he purchased many fine cars and aircraft, which now make up The Shuttleworth Collection. He enjoyed a successful career as a racing driver but after a serious accident in South Africa he was persuaded to withdraw from motor sport.

After recuperating, Richard focussed on aviation. He was particularly interested in historic flying machines and would track down abandoned aeroplanes, then restore them to pristine condition in what is now the Engineering Workshop at Shuttleworth.

During WWII, Richard enrolled as a Pilot Officer in the RAF Voluntary Reserve, and was involved in training exercises from RAF Benson in Oxfordshire. On 2nd August 1940, shortly after take-off during a night flying exercise, he was tragically killed. At this time Shuttleworth was being used as a Red Cross convalescent home and hospital.



Richard's mother Dorothy, although grief-stricken at her son's untimely passing, once again took over the running of the estate. Several years later she reimagined the estate as Shuttleworth College and set up a charitable trust in memory of her son. The mission of the trust-- 'for the teaching of the science and practice of aviation and of afforestation and agriculture', to follow in Richard's passions. The Shuttleworth College opened to students in 1946.

Today the College, now operated by Bedford College, The House, The Swiss Garden and The Collection are run to honour Dorothy Shuttleworth's vision and to operate under the mission of The Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth Remembrance Trust.





Credits

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