

Weddings at Shuttleworth

Built adjacent to the site of Warden Abbey, a monastery founded in the time of the Domesday Book, stands the former home of the Shuttleworth family. A 4500 acre estate in the heart of rural Bedfordshire, Shuttleworth offers an extraordinary setting for weddings and celebrations all year round.

As a multi-venue property, Shuttleworth provides the opportunity to host your ceremony and reception in more than one location. The estate offers clients an assortment of choice, from intimate ceremonies for 4 guests to opulent gatherings of up to 2000 guests, any of the stunning venues will make your day unique and memorable. The Victorian House presents twelve grand and elegantly furnished spaces; the romantic Regency-era Swiss Garden hosts nine acres of tranquil scenery and the traditional parkland with majestic trees, framed woodland and water features.

Within the Jacobean-style country house, choose between an array of rooms to hold your ceremony, wedding breakfast, and evening reception. Set within a Sunken Garden, the Summer House makes for a charming and idyllic outdoor ceremony venue. For a magical and serene affair, The Swiss Garden has two licenced venues for wedding ceremonies: The Swiss Cottage and The Grotto & Fernery. The Collection's Hangar 3 is also a thrilling venue to host your day, with tables peppered around masterpieces of aviation and automotive history.

All weddings at Shuttleworth are offered with the assistance of an experienced wedding planner. Our prices include venue hire, tables and chairs, bar and the dancefloor. Clients partner with one of our preferred caterers or dry hire the venue with caterers of their choice.

We look forward to hosting your special day.

Weddings Team







The Saloon



The Drawing Room



The Dining Room



Shuttleworth House

Shuttleworth House

Standing elegantly amongst acres of historic rolling parkland sits the Shuttleworth House, a Grade II* Jacobean style home built in 1872. Spread across two floors, quality Arts & Crafts décor and elegant furnishings breathe life into numerous stately rooms.

Hosting wedding ceremonies of up to 240 guests, and seated dinners for up to 150 guests. A collection of exquisite spaces perfectly suited for weddings and celebrations, five of which are licensed for ceremonies. When choosing Shuttleworth House, guests are offered full exclusivity. This gives you the opportunity to create the wedding of your dreams using the array of rooms available.

On the morning of your wedding we also offer rooms for our couples to prepare onsite taking away any stresses of travelling on your wedding day.

Within the grounds of Shuttleworth House we have The Summer House where we can offer outdoor ceremonies and drinks receptions. With spectacular views over the lily pond and The Sunken Garden, The Summer House creates a romantic setting for ceremonies of up to 100 guests.



The Summer House



Michaela and Chris, 2021

"Having our wedding at Shuttleworth was an absolute dream come true. We fell in love with the venue as soon as we had our first viewing. We had the most magical wedding day, everything ran like clockwork and that was all down to the organisation of Georgia. We cannot thank her enough for making our special day the best day of our lives."

Amy and Matt, 2019

Old Warden Park

With rolling parkland vistas and steeped in compelling history, Shuttleworth can provide a piece of land for you to hire where you can build your own wedding structure tailored to your individual requirements for up to 2000 guests. External caterers are permitted onsite with our dry hire packages available to suit all.

Our venues can also be combined. The Summer House is closely located to our marquee site; here you may choose to hold your ceremony and drinks reception within The Sunken Garden before making your way to your marquee or tipi for the wedding breakfast and evening reception.

"We are so so glad we choose Shuttleworth as our wedding venue, it is the most beautiful setting for such a special day. The wedding team allowed us to tailor every aspect of the day. The Summer House was perfect for our intimate ceremony. With views of the stunning house in the background and the beautiful Lilly pond. Would recommend to anyone!"

Frances and Thomas, 2018



Alex and James, 2018



Rani and Hursh, 2019



Rani and Hursh, 2019



Yasmin and Akira, 2021



Zoe and Tom, 2019



Zoe and Tom, 2019



Emil and Scott, 2019



Emil and Scott, 2019



Rani and Hursh, 2019



The Grotto & Fernery



Andreia and Antonio, 2018



Sarah and Matthew, 2021



Swiss Cottage Ceremony



The Swiss Cottage

The Swiss Garden

The Shuttleworth Swiss Garden 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 Swiss Cottage is suitable for ceremonies of up to 20 inside and a further 50 standing on the lawn. The Grotto & Fernery is licenced for up to 17 people.

The Swiss Garden has a romantic, intimate feel. 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.

Following the ceremony, guests can then make their way to The East Lawn for a drinks and canapé reception with our weddings gazebo and pod bar. During this time you can also capture your wedding photos and enjoy the surroundings with your guests.



Gavin and Matt, 2021



Maria and Aaron, 2019

"We had the most amazing day; The Swiss Garden is a jewel of a venue. We even had a guest appearance by the Peacocks which was enjoyed by all our guests. I felt like a princess in a fairytale, we didn't want it to end, we will recommend The Swiss Gardens to all our friends."

Ann and Paul, 2019

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.

For those looking to dress their wedding reception in their own unique way, arrangements can be made for Hangar 3 to be available for exclusive private hire, with space accommodating up to 130 guests. The Collection is an exclusive venue which is only available twice a year.

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.



Charlie and Paul, 2021



Georgina and Steve, 2016



Richard and Claudia, 2019



Dorothy Steam Engine



Hangar 3

Room Capacities

	Ceremony ⬢ ⬢ ⬢ ⬢ ⬢ ⬢	Wedding Breakfast ⬢ ⬢ ⬢ ⬢	Reception
The Saloon	120	80	120
The Morning Room	70	60	70
The Drawing Room	60	50	60
The Dining Room		20	20
The Billiard Room	80	70	80
The Garden Suite	240	150	240
The Summer House	100		150
Hangar 3		130	130
The Swiss Cottage	70		
Grotto & Fernery, Standing	17		
The Garden Room		25	30

Catering

Once your venue and date have been confirmed with the Weddings Team, it is time to book your caterers. Shuttleworth has partnerships with a range of preferred caterers, each with a fantastic reputation for exquisite food and amazing service.

Our partnered caterers offer slightly differing styles to accommodate your exacting requirements. Each caterer will be able to provide for your food, beverage, event management, linen, crockery, cutlery and glassware needs.

For our dry hire clients, you are welcome to arrange your caterers pending the approval of the Weddings Team. Please see our preferred caterers' contact details and information sheet in your wedding pack or on our website.



Accommodation

Shuttleworth House has fifteen single and double en-suite bedrooms, located above The Garden Suite, as well as sixteen shared-facilities, single, twin and triple bedrooms on the top floor of the House. We can also provide a fully furnished one-bedroom flat with picturesque views over the Parkland.

All accommodation is offered on a bed and breakfast or room-only basis. Please note, all our accommodation is only accessible via a staircase.

A list of local accommodation can also be provided upon request.



Contact us



Telephone: +44 (0)1767 627922



Website: www.shuttleworth.org/weddings

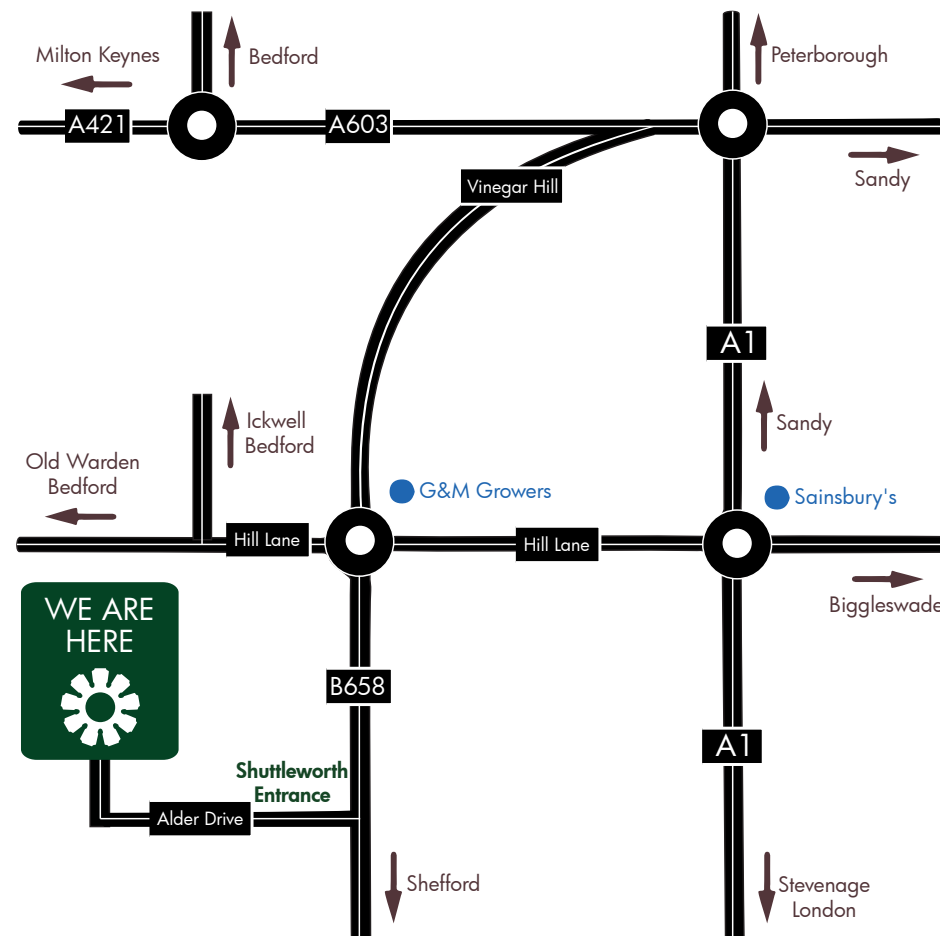


Email: weddings@shuttleworth.org

Getting Here

Shuttleworth is located in the idyllic village of Old Warden, two miles due west of the A1 and approximately 20 miles from junction 13 of the M1.

Shuttleworth has two entrances. For those wishing to visit Shuttleworth House and Parkland, please use SG18 9EA, and for those wishing to visit The Collection and The Swiss Garden, please use the B658 Alder Drive Entrance.





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 Dorothy Clotilda Lang, the daughter of the Old Warden vicar. 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.



Colonel Frank and Dorothy's Wedding

Richard's mother Dorothy 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, as well as Shuttleworth House, Shuttleworth 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.

"Shuttleworth House, situated within the historic Old Warden Park was a much loved home to my grandmother Dorothy Clotilda Shuttleworth and the family, which she then endowed as a charitable trust in memory of her son Richard, a renowned racing driver, who was sadly killed in 1940. The House remained as a centre for family and friends during her long lifetime. I have very happy memories from my early childhood on, and loved being there and I am very attached to the house and its beautiful surroundings which do make such a wonderful setting for family occasions.



As patron of the Shuttleworth Trust I would like to wish all those holding their marriage ceremonies here much happiness and blessings in their lives."

Princess Charlotte of Croÿ



Credits

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