

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London

Livery Committee

A visit to the Secret Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch with guided tour and lunch

Thursday 21st May 2020



The Secret Nuclear Bunker at Kelvedon Hatch, in Essex, is a large underground bunker used during the Cold War as a Regional Government Headquarters. Since being decommissioned in 1992, the bunker has been open to the public as a tourist attraction, with a museum focusing on its Cold War history.

Built in 1952–53 as part of ROTOR, a program to improve and harden Britain's air defence network, the bunker was originally a Sector Operations Centre (SOC), meant to provide command and control of the London Sector of the RAF Fighter Command.

The bunker was able to hold hundreds of military and civilian personnel sustaining them for up to three months while they would be tasked to organize the survival of the population and continue government operations. The location had to be off the main road, behind fields and forests, to prevent civilians from finding it.

The bunker is built 38 metres underground, and the entrance is through what appears to be an ordinary looking bungalow set amongst trees. Once in the bungalow, a 90-metre long tunnel leads down to the bunker's lowest floor. Above are two more floors, the "hill" which covers it, and a radio mast.

The bunker was eventually decommissioned in the early 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Union, when the nuclear threat was seen to have diminished. The bunker was turned into a museum and the land was sold back to the family that had originally owned it in the 1950s.

The event will begin at 11am, with participants making their own way to the site. There will be coffee on arrival followed by a guided tour. After the tour a cold buffet lunch will be served with a glass of wine.

With the subterranean nature of the site disabled access, particularly to the lower parts of the bunker, is limited. Full details can be supplied on request.

Requests to join the visit are required by 25th April 2020. Total numbers limited to 25.

Travel

By Road Access is from the A128 Chipping Ongar to Brentwood road at Kelvedon Hatch. If you have GPS then use CM15 OLA and look out for the Brown Tourist signs.

From the M11: Take the A414(Chelmsford) to Ongar then take the A128 to Brentwood.

From the M25: Interchange with the A12, junction 28, take the A1023 to Brentwood then take the A128 to Ongar.

Rail: There are services to Brentwood and Shenfield Mainline Train Stations, where you may either take a 7-mile taxi ride, or from Brentwood you can also catch the 501 Townlink bus.

Underground: Take the Central Line to Debden, Theydon Bois or Epping, and then a 7-mile taxi ride.

Secret Bunker, Kelvedon Hatch

To Mr Robin Youngs, 19 Hardwick Park Gardens, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2QU, or 07704476337, or robinyoungs@icloud.com

Please reserve me places at £38 per person for the event on 21 May 2020 **Either** I shall pay by bank transfer:

WSA Livery Committee, Sort Code: 40-46-08, Account No: 92018829. Please reference with your surname and date of event.

Or I enclose a cheque for £..... (Payable to WSA Livery Committee) **All applications and receipts of money will be acknowledged**

Special Dietary Requirements.....

Name.....

Address.....

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Post Code..... Telephone.....

Email.....