

West Berkshire Heritage is a service provided by West Berkshire Council committed to safeguarding the local heritage whilst supporting education and encouraging community involvement.

The service includes Shaw House, the West Berkshire Museum, archaeological and cultural information, advice and guidance.



SHAW HOUSE

Shaw House
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& Conferences
& Meetings



Shaw House Shaw_House shawhouse1581 Company/Shaw House



Shaw House is one of the best preserved Elizabethan mansions in England.

Over the centuries Shaw House has welcomed royalty, seen action during the Civil War, housed soldiers during World War II and schooled generations of local children.

Little remained of the historic furnishings at the time of restoration, which allows the rooms to be presented with a minimalist finish – perfect for hosting highly efficient conferences, meetings and seminars.

The surroundings may be steeped in history but the facilities are very much set in the 21st century with modern digital and audio visual equipment.

We warmly welcome you to Shaw House.

A brief history of the House

1581 \

Shaw House was built by Thomas Dolman II. It was then home to successive Dolman families, the flamboyant Duke of Chandos and the Andrews, Eyre and Farquhar families.

1644 \

Shaw House was used as a Royalist strong hold during the English Civil War. It is said that a musket ball was fired at the House, narrowly missing King Charles I.

1939 \

When World War II broke out Shaw House was requisitioned by the War Office to be used as accommodation for British and then American troops.

1943 \

Shaw House began a new life as a school for generations of children after bombs destroyed a local school. The building was then vacated in 1985 due to structural concerns.

2003 \

Restoration began which transformed this historic House into a venue for conferences and events, thanks to grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Vodafone and English Heritage.

The House Today \

Shaw House reopened in 2006 and continues to thrive as a unique conference venue as well as offering free public access and a year round programme of events and activities.



Our meeting spaces

If you are looking for a unique location for conferencing, seminars or meetings then Shaw House is the ideal venue to create an inspiring and productive environment.

We have nine stunning rooms, all with their own historic character, plenty of natural daylight and a restful ambience. We can arrange rooms for 2 to 100 delegates depending on your layout specification.

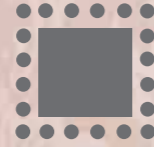
Our rates

Our versatile and flexible approach to room hire ensures that our rates are highly competitive within the local area.

We offer our customers hourly room rates which are inclusive of all technical facilities, without the restrictions of minimum hire periods and the extra expense of delegate day rates.

Room layout options

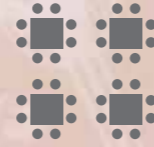
Suitable layouts vary for each room. These are illustrated by the icons below with maximum numbers on the following pages:



Boardroom



Round groups



Square groups



Theatre



U of chairs



Horseshoe



First Floor



The Dolman Suite

The three rooms across the central range of the first floor form a suite. When Queen Anne stayed at the House in 1703 this suite would have been used as her state apartment where she slept, dressed and welcomed visitors.

Dolman 1

The largest of the suite and is a very versatile and popular space for large meetings, or those that need breakout areas.



28



40



50



Dolman 2

This is the central room of the state apartment and would probably have been Queen Anne's bedchamber during her stay. Being at the centre of the House this room has fantastic views over the forecourt lawn.

Dolman 2 is a compact room often used as a breakout area. It has beautiful panelled walls and historic fireplace, this room is ideal for smaller and informal meetings.



14



14



Dolman 3

The last of the Dolman suite rooms, with original wall panelling finished with reproduction blue wash and a beautiful fireplace.

This is a prestigious, medium-sized option for a meeting or conference.



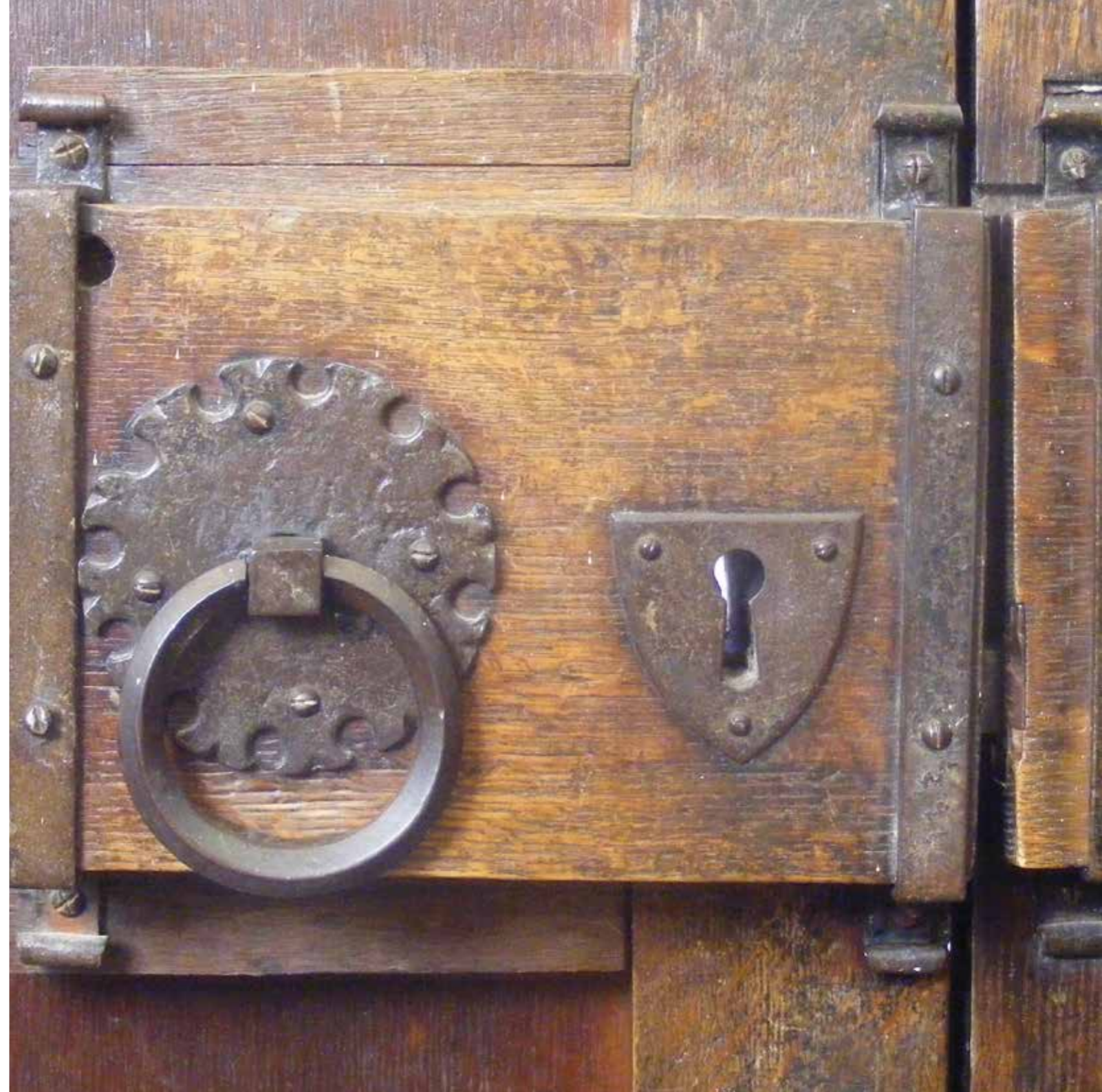
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24



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Farquhar

This room is named after the Honorable Mrs. Farquhar, the owner of Shaw House from 1905–1935. It was used as one of the main chambers, furnished with expensive antique furniture and an oak four poster bed.

Farquhar is an attractive oak-panelled room with magnificent dual aspect views of the Orangery and Great Lawns.



16



King Charles

There is a local legend that in 1644, during the Second Battle of Newbury, a musket ball was fired through the window which narrowly missed King Charles I. A plaque dating back to 1759 can be seen on the wall showing the area where the musket ball is said to have hit the panelling.

King Charles is an oak-panelled room with a bay window and the oldest stone fireplace at Shaw House - it's of a medium size and is a versatile space full of character and history.



24



28



25



30



Ground Floor



Oak Room

The Oak Room has the most intact 1580's interior in the House. First used as a family dining room and later, during the Edwardian era, known as the Gun Room. With its original features and characterful oak panelling this room is atmospheric and comfortable.

This room is perfect for smaller meetings, training sessions or seminars.



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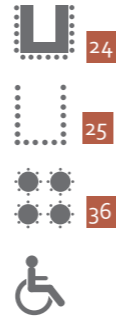




Chandos Dining Room

Originally used as a parlour, this room has been decorated to recreate some of the original splendour of the 'Chinese' Dining Room created here in the 1730's by the Duke of Chandos.

Chandos Dining Room features reproduction silk papers on the walls, natural oak wood floors and a beautiful chandelier and is perfect for group working or seminars.



Great Hall

The Hall was symbolic of the status of Shaw House. It would have been at the centre of manorial life and hospitality, providing guests with a grand sense of arrival.

Decorated with panelled walls, a stone floor, and natural lighting through large windows, the Hall is an impressive and prestigious space for larger conferences and meetings.



Pink and Rose Room

This room was home to Mrs. Farquhar's housekeeper. During restoration original 'Pink and Rose' William Morris wallpaper was uncovered and a small sample can still be seen.

This is a small but versatile room with comfortable seating and boardroom table. A flat screen TV is available with laptop connector for presentations.



Looking for something different?

IT Training Room

The Donnington Room comprises twelve work stations, trainer station and interactive white board. It is the perfect space for computer based learning or computer literacy classes.

Outdoor areas

Beyond the walls of the House lay the beautiful Orangery and Great Lawns within 15 hectares of Grade II listed grounds. With a mix of grass and hard standing areas the gardens offer ample space for large marquees and performances. All enquiries will be considered on application.

Team Away Days

Working with specialist partners we are able to offer a variety of challenging communication-led activities which can be tailored to meet the needs of your team. The challenges can be designed to encourage communication, problem solving, team interaction, leadership or awareness of self and others.

Please contact us to discuss what you would like to achieve from your Team Away Day and we will be happy to design a programme to suit your exact requirements.

West Berkshire Museum

The museum is situated in the centre of the historic market town of Newbury and offers a meeting room for hire which can hold up to 50 people or, if you are looking for a more relaxed setting, the cafe is also available at certain times throughout the week.

With its central location and just a short walk from the train station, the West Berkshire Museum is a convenient venue for all manner of meetings, training sessions or community group events. For more information or to check availability please contact the museum on 01635 519562 or email museum@westberks.gov.uk



Celebrate with us

Wedding drinks receptions

Shaw House is a beautiful place to get married and the Register Office is conveniently located on the second floor of the House. To enquire about wedding ceremonies please contact 01635 279230.

After your ceremony we would be delighted to offer a drinks reception while the happy couple have their photographs taken.

Reception drinks are served in the Chandos Dining Room, which is located on the ground floor close to the Ceremony Room and can host up to 50 guests.

Drinks receptions are available every Saturday throughout the year but must be the last ceremony of the day to guarantee exclusivity. Other days and times will be considered on application.

Mrs. Farquhar's Afternoon Tea - *New for 2016*

Why not treat yourself to afternoon tea in the Elizabethan splendour of Shaw House. Afternoon tea includes a selection of Fair Trade tea, finger sandwiches with fillings of smoked salmon, grated cheese, Wiltshire gammon, egg mayonnaise and cress, a scone with clotted cream and locally produced jam and a generous slice of homemade Victoria sponge cake for £14.95 per person. And for a special occasion, why not add a little sparkle to your afternoon with a glass of Prosecco for £18.95 per person.

Available on selected Thursdays throughout the year at 12:00 or 2:30pm. Please enquire for availability, places are limited and to avoid disappointment we advise you book early.

Bereavement receptions

The quiet and tranquil setting of Shaw House, next to St. Mary's Church, makes for a suitable location to hold a bereavement reception. We can offer a variety of rooms for receptions hosting up to a maximum of 100 guests along with options for afternoon tea, canapes and drinks. Audio-visual equipment is available for sharing remembrance photos or videos.



Please contact us for more information about bookings at Shaw House or to arrange a viewing: 01635 279279
shawhouse@westberks.gov.uk

How to book

To make a booking or to enquire about current prices, availability and viewings please contact us on 01635 279279 or email shawhouse@westberks.gov.uk.

Catering

We can provide tea and coffee for your meeting breaks plus biscuits, pastries or homemade cakes. Our sandwich and finger buffet lunch options are suitable for all budgets and dietary requirements. We are happy to discuss any specific requests.

Your lunch may be served in the cafe which is located in the old Elizabethan kitchen, above the original bakehouse. The enormous fireplace and surviving smoke jack, dating back to 1850, can still be seen. During the warmer months, delegates are welcome to use the picnic tables outside where they can relax and enjoy the lawns.

Facilities

Free WIFI access is available throughout the House.

We have technical cabinets incorporating video/DVD, LCD projector, screen, power and data connection. There are no additional costs for the use of equipment. Photocopying is available at a small charge, please enquire at reception.

Accommodation & Visitor Information

If you require overnight accommodation or any information on visiting the local area please visit www.visitnewbury.org.uk.

Gift Shop

The Gift Shop is adjacent to the reception area and stocks Shaw House gifts and local produce.

How to find us

Shaw House is ideally situated in tranquil surroundings on the north edge of Newbury, within an hour's reach of London, Bristol, Oxford and the South Coast, and just five minutes from the M4/A34 junction. Parking is free.

It is also within a leisurely 25 minute walk from Newbury town centre and is accessible by public transport.

Church Road
Newbury
West Berkshire
RG14 2DR

www.westberkshireheritage.org

Events

Shaw House is host to a year round programme of events and family activities. See our website for more information or to join our mailing list please email shawhouse@westberks.gov.uk with the subject line 'mailing list.'

