

BLETCHLEY PARK

NEWS RELEASE

Secret sketches of Bletchley Park revealed in new *The Illustration Game* exhibition



The exhibition features the specially designed 'Dispatch Rider game', inspired by the classic boardgame 'Snakes and Ladders'.

From 13 May to 3 November 2019, enjoy *The Illustration Game: Sketches from the Archives*, a special display of rare wartime sketches and drawings from the Bletchley Park archive.

- The exhibition will be in original World War Two Hut 12
- Features never-before-seen sketches and cartoons associated with wartime site
- Designed for fun – a family-friendly display with games and activities
- Join in with extra activities running Tuesday 29 – Thursday 31 October as part of The Big Draw

Featuring sometime comedic, sometimes mysterious sketches, the exhibition at the former top-secret codebreaking site in Milton Keynes, provides a fascinating insight into Bletchley Park's wartime story. The artworks are a powerful example of how details and memories can survive in pictures.

Erica Munro, Exhibitions Manager said: "We're really excited to be sharing these items from our archive, many of which have never been displayed before, and whose artist remains unknown. They reveal the human side to life at Bletchley Park and its Outstations, where thousands of women and men during World War Two were working in absolute secrecy under often intense pressure. I hope visitors will have fun creating their own artwork and trying out our new games inspired by these wartime drawings."

Highlights from the display include:

- A detailed plan of a fantastical amphibious machine by an unknown artist
- A rare sketch of 'The Women of Hut 4' by Hut 8 Codebreaker Penelope Bishop

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- A caricature by an unknown artist of Josh Cooper, Bletchley Park's Head of Air Section
- A lively sketch of Dispatch Riders in training
- A beautiful 1945 sketch of a Bombe Operator heading off on night duty drawn by Bletchley Park Veteran and Oscar, Emmy and Bafta award winning costume designer, Phyllis Dalton

Visitors will have the chance to play games – from competing in a Dispatch Rider race game to designing their own Impossible Amphibious Vehicle. They will also be encouraged to create their own drawings on a large magnetic wall.

The exhibition is just one of Bletchley Park's new activities for Summer 2019. Visitors can also celebrate Father's Day with a special barbeque on 16 June and see if they have what it takes to become a Codebreaker with our new Family Activities (running on select dates in May, July and August). Bletchley Park's much loved 1940s Vintage Weekend returns on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July.

Full details on all upcoming events can be found on the Bletchley Park's 'What's on' pages: <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/whats-on>

Entry to *The Illustration Game: Sketches from the Archives* is free with a general admission ticket. Suitable for ages 8+. Exhibition design by [Northover&Brown](#).

-ENDS-

For further information, interview requests and images, please contact Bletchley Park Press Manager Rosie Burke: rburke@bletchleypark.org.uk | 01908 272661

For visitor information, please visit www.bletchleypark.org.uk

About Bletchley Park

Bletchley Park is a place of exceptional historical importance, open to visitors throughout the year. It remains highly relevant to our lives today and for the future. It is the home of British codebreaking and a birthplace of modern information technology. It played a major role in World War Two, producing secret intelligence which had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the conflict.

Over the past twenty years Bletchley Park has become an internationally renowned heritage attraction, visited by people from around the world, which acknowledges the successes from the War and the people responsible for them. It celebrates their values: broad-minded patriotism; commitment; discipline; technological excellence. By presenting and explaining these achievements and these values, in the very place where they occurred, Bletchley Park brings together the dramatic history of the twentieth century with the challenges we face in the twenty first in our rapidly changing and technologically complex society.

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