

BLETCHLEY PARK

Bletchley Park's secret D-Day role revealed in unique 2019 programme

New immersive exhibition to open for 75th anniversary of D-Day



Landing ships putting cargo ashore at Normandy during the first days of the operation, June 1944. Photograph from the U.S. Coast Guard Collection in the U.S. National Archives.

5 December 2018: 75 years on, the full scale of Bletchley Park's top secret impact on the planning and implementation of D-Day is to be revealed to visitors in a new immersive cinematic experience, *D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion*, opening in May 2019, with previews planned in April.

Featuring a specially commissioned film projected on a 22m screen, the audio-visual experience will be held on site in the newly restored Teleprinter Building where hundreds of thousands of intercepted messages first arrived at Bletchley Park from secret listening posts across the UK, and Ultra intelligence was transmitted to Allied headquarters. Iain Standen, CEO of the Bletchley Park Trust said: "This exhibition will allow our visitors to understand the vital importance of the ULTRA intelligence produced here, and the impact it had on one of the most important military operations of the twentieth-century."

Bletchley Park is delighted to have BT, whose wartime history is closely intertwined with the Codebreaking site, as the exclusive and sole corporate partner of the restoration of Teleprinter Building and the exclusive and sole partner of the exhibition. It was General Post Office (now BT) engineers who managed Bletchley Park's secure

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communications network and delivered innovative information technology such as Colossus, the world's first electronic digital computer.

2019 will also see the opening of a new display of items from the museum's archive, showcasing rarely seen cartoons and sketches of people and places associated with Bletchley Park. The eightieth anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) will be marked by a special display opening in summer 2019. Visitors can also enjoy Bletchley Park's popular vintage 1940s weekends, Museums at Night events, as well as lectures, workshops and activities throughout the year.

2019 Dates for the diary

31 March 2019 – Mother's Day: Vintage Tea with Fizz and Music

April 2019 – *Cartoons and Sketches* display

April 2019 – Preview showings of *D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion* exhibition

May 2019 - Official opening of *D-Day: Interception, Intelligence, Invasion* exhibition

17 May 2019 – Museums at Night

16 June 2019 – Father's Day: BBQ, beer tent, and music

28 June 2019 – 80 years WAAF marked with special display highlighting role of the WAAF at BP

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July 2019 – Summer Vintage 1940's Weekend

Autumn 2019 – A display marking the centenary of the Government Code and Cipher School (GC&CS), today known as GCHQ

-ENDS-

For more information about Bletchley Park, high res images or interview requests, please contact Bletchley Park's Press Officer Rosie Burke.

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<https://bletchleypark.org.uk/>

About Bletchley Park

Bletchley Park is a place of exceptional historical importance, open to visitors throughout the year. 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-five years Bletchley Park has become an internationally renowned site, visited by people from around the world. It is an accredited museum dedicated to telling the story of BP, its achievements and the people who worked there during World War Two.

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About D-Day: *Interception, Intelligence, Invasion*

- Opens Spring 2019.
- Entrance to the new exhibition will be included in the general admission ticket price.
- For visitor information, contact 01908 640404, info@bletchleypark.org.uk, or go to www.bletchleypark.org.uk
- BT are the exclusive and sole corporate partner of the restoration of Teleprinter Building and the exclusive and sole partner of the exhibition.
- The Teleprinter Building restoration project has had additional kind support from The Linbury Trust, The Gosling Foundation, The Hobson Charity and the Wolfson Foundation.
- The Wolfson Foundation (www.wolfson.org.uk) is an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in the fields of science, health, education and the arts and humanities. Since it was established in 1955, over £900 million (£1.9 billion in real terms) has been awarded to more than 11,000 projects throughout the UK, all on the basis of expert review.

About BT's Heritage

BT is the world's oldest and most established communications company. Its roots extend back to the UK's Electric Telegraph Company, incorporated in 1846 as the world's first national telecommunications provider. Few companies in the world have a history as rich as BT, a heritage of innovation stretching back almost 175 years www.bt.com/history.

BT's Archives have been recognised by UNESCO and Arts Council England as having unique significance to the UK's cultural heritage. In July 2016 BT was awarded Archives Accreditation by The National Archives.

BT is the only UK plc to give a firm and clear commitment to safeguard this unique legacy on behalf of the nation in a published Heritage Policy

www.bt.com/heritage

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