

Alderley Edge and Wilmslow Advertiser

Friday, April 4, 1953

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UNIVERSITY READER PUT ON PROBATION ***To Have Organo-Therapic Treatment***

At Cheshire Quarter Sessions at Knutsford on Monday, Alan Mathison Turing (39), F.R.S., O.B.E., single, university reader, of Adlington Road, Wilmslow, described as "one of the most original profound and mathematical minds of his generation," and Arnold Murray (19), unemployed photo-printer, of Boncarn Drive, Wythenshawe, both pleaded guilty to three charges of gross indecency.

Turing was placed on probation for 12 months, and undertook to have organo-therapic treatment at Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Murray was bound over for two years.

Mr Robin David, prosecuting, said Murray was standing in Oxford Street, Manchester, when Turing walked past him and, to use Turing's own words, picked him up. They had dinner together, and some days later Murray went to Turing's house, where the first offence was committed. After that Murray was sent a present of a pen-knife.

MONEY STOLEN

The two men later met at Turing's house, and the same thing happened again. The next morning Murray stole £8 from Turing's pocket, but convinced Turing that he had nothing to do with the theft.

Later, after telling Turing that he was in debt, Murray received £3 from him "as a gift for all the fun I have had." He got another £7 by telling him of another debt.

The third offence, Mr David said, took place after Turing's house had been broken into.

HIS UNDOING

The next morning the two men went to Wilmslow Police Station. Murray stayed outside, while Turing went in to make a report about the burglary. He gave a wrong description, and that proved to be his undoing.

Mr David said that after Turing had made a statement, he asked a police officer: "What is going to happen about all of this? Isn't there a Royal Commission sitting to legalise it?"

Detective-Constable Robert Wills said nothing was known against Turing, who had been awarded the O.B.E. as a result of his work during the war.

Murray had one previous conviction for larceny.

PARTICULARLY HONEST

Maxwell H. A. Newman, a professor of pure mathematics at Manchester University, called as a witness for Turing, said Turing was particularly honest and truthful.

“He is completely absorbed in his work, and is one of the most profound and original mathematical minds of his generation,” said Newman.

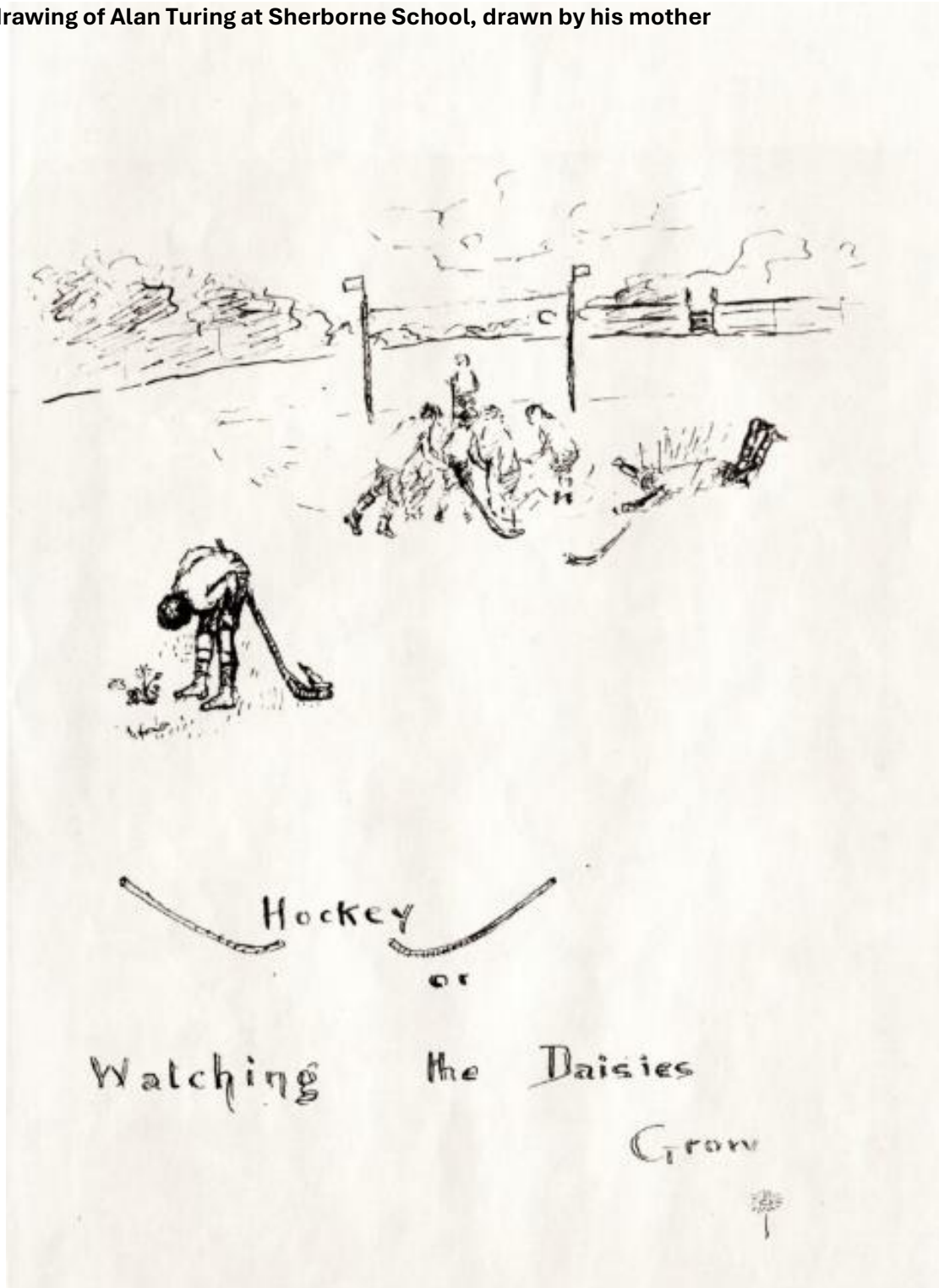
Mr Lind Smith, defending Turing, said: “He is entirely absorbed in his work, and it would be a loss if a man of his ability — which is no ordinary ability — were not able to carry on with it. The public would lose the benefit of the research work he is doing. There is treatment which could be given him. I ask you to think that the public interest would not be well served if this man is taken away from the very important work he is doing.”

Defending Murray, Mr Emlyn Hooson said: “Murray is not a university reader, he is a photo-printer. It was he who was approached by the other man. He has not such tendencies as Turing, and if he had not met Turing he would not have indulged in that practice or stolen the £8.”

COUNSEL	PRISONERS	PARTICULARS OF OFFENCE	PLEA	VERDICT	SENTENCE OR ORDER
Mr. S. Llewellyn Pros. Mr. R. David. Dfg.	Christopher Howard Newton.	On the 29th day of January, 1952 at Sale broke and entered the shop of Tom Roberts and stole 3 boxes of cigars, 1 box of cheroots, 12 boxes of Whiffs, 6 cigarette lighters, 30 packets of flints, 3 pipes, 2 cigarette cases, 24,816 cigarettes, 17 boxes of chocolate, 34 bars of chocolate together of the value of £205.17.14d and £1.5.0. in money the property of the said Tom Roberts in the said shop.	Guilty	-	Sentence postponed for Twelve Months.
Mr. R. David. Pros. Mr. Lind Smith Dfg. Turing. Mr. R. Hoosen. Dfg. Murray.	Alan Mathison Turing.	1. On the 17th day of December, 1951, at Wilmslow, being a male person, committed an act of gross indecency with Arnold Murray, a male person. 2. On the 17th day of December, 1951, at Wilmslow being a male person was party to the commission of an act of gross indecency with Arnold Murray, a male person. 3. On the 12th day of January, 1952 at Wilmslow, being a male person committed an act of gross indecency with Arnold Murray, a male person. 4. On the 12th day of January, 1952, at Wilmslow, being a male person, was party to the commission of an act of gross indecency with Arnold Murray, a male person. 5. On the 2nd day of February 1952 at Wilmslow, being a male person committed an act of gross indecency with Arnold Murray, a male person. 6. On the 2nd day of February, 1952, at Wilmslow, being a male person, was party to the commission of an act of gross indecency with Arnold Murray, a male person. 7. On the 17th day of December, 1951 at Wilmslow being a male person, committed an act of gross indecency with Alan Mathison Turing, a male person. 8. On the 17th day of December, 1951, at Wilmslow, being a male person, was party to the commission of an act of gross indecency with Alan Mathison Turing, a male person. 9. On the 12th day of January, 1952 at Wilmslow, being a male person, committed an act of gross indecency with Alan Mathison Turing, a male person. 10. On the 12th day of January, 1952 at Wilmslow, being a male person, was party to the commission of an act of gross indecency with Alan Mathison Turing, a male person. 11. On the 2nd day of February, 1952, at Wilmslow, being a male person, committed an act of gross indecency with Alan Mathison Turing, a male person. 12. On the 2nd day of February, 1952, at Wilmslow, being a male person, was party to the commission of an act of gross indecency with Alan Mathison Turing, a male person.	Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty Guilty	- - - - - - - - - - - -	Turing:- Placed on Probation for a period of Twelve Months. To submit for treatment by a duly qualified medical practitioner at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Murray:- Bound over to be of good behaviour for Twelve Months. When passing sentence, the Court took into consideration at the request of the prisoner, one outstanding offense, which he admitted, as per the list attached to the indictment.

Photograph of the official record of the charges, pleas, and sentences passed on Alan Turing and Arnold Murray in respect of their crimes, 31 March 1952. The record is held at Cheshire Archives.

A drawing of Alan Turing at Sherborne School, drawn by his mother



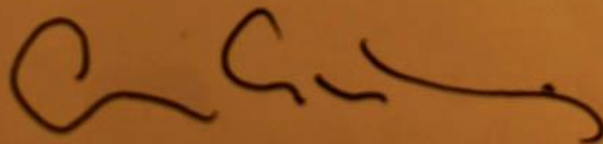
NOW KNOW YE that We, in consideration of circumstances humbly represented unto Us, are Graciously pleased to extend Our Grace and Mercy unto the said Alan Mathison Turing and to grant him Our Free Pardon posthumously in respect of the said convictions;

AND to pardon and remit unto him the sentence imposed upon him as aforesaid;

AND for so doing this shall be a sufficient Warrant.

GIVEN at Our Court at *Saint James's*
the *24th* day of *December* 2013;
In the sixty-second Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command.

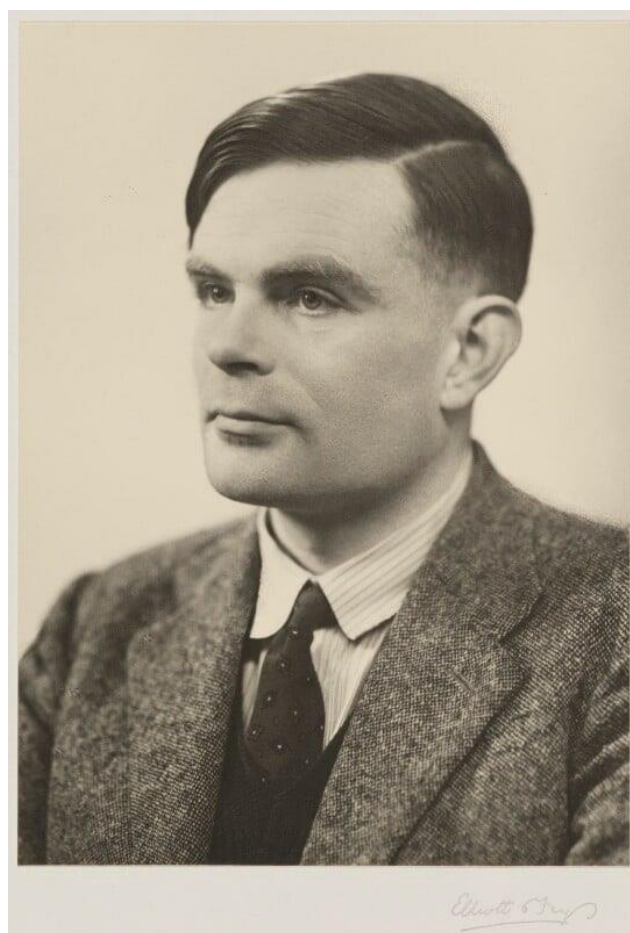


The Royal Pardon



Alan Turing in his garden (1951)
43 Adlington Road, Wilmslow, Cheshire

A studio portrait taken some time in 1951, when Turing was working at Manchester University taken by Elliott & Fry, a renowned London photography studio active from 1863 to 1963





Turing running a long-distance race in Wilmslow, Cheshire (June, 1946)

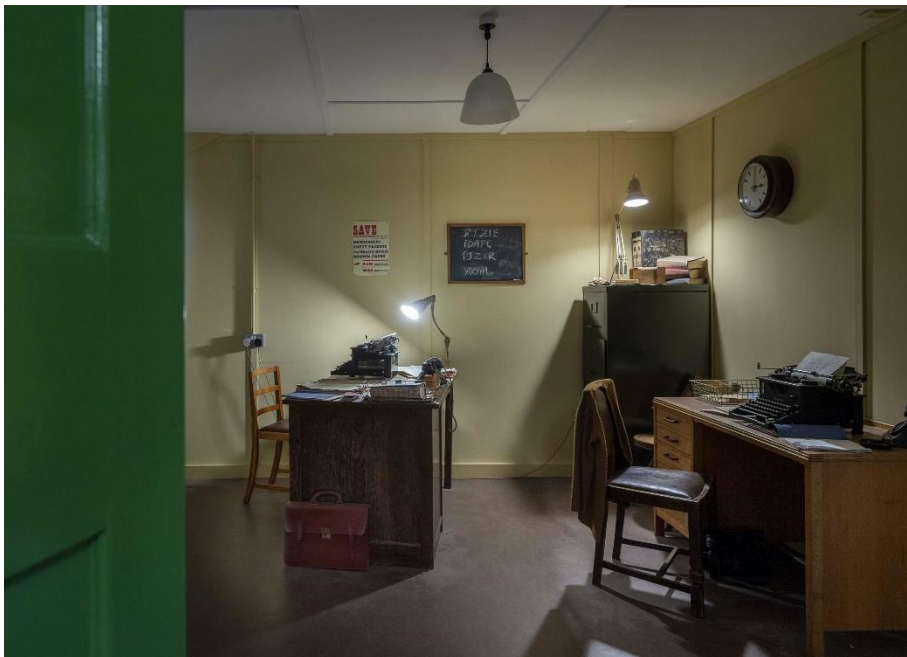


Bletchley Park mansion

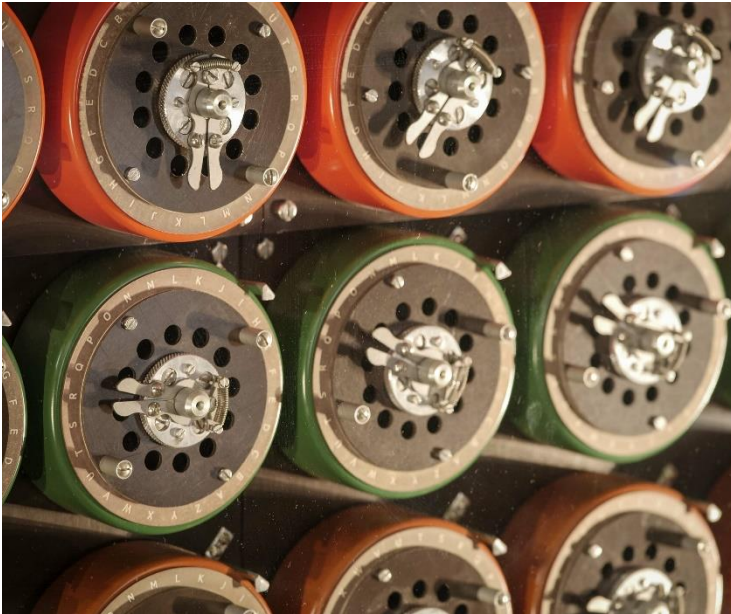


Code-breaking huts

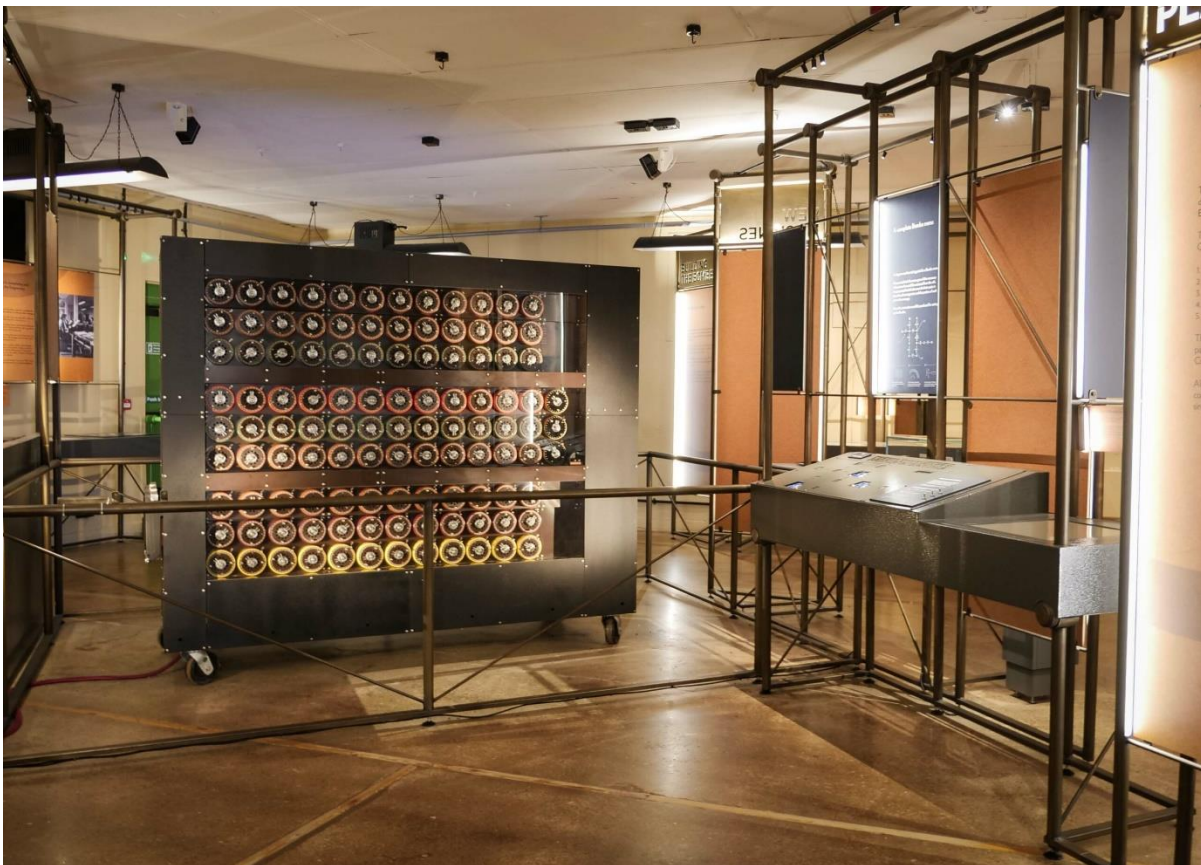
Alan Turing's office (Hut 8)



All images Courtesy of Bletchley Park Trust



Bombe drums

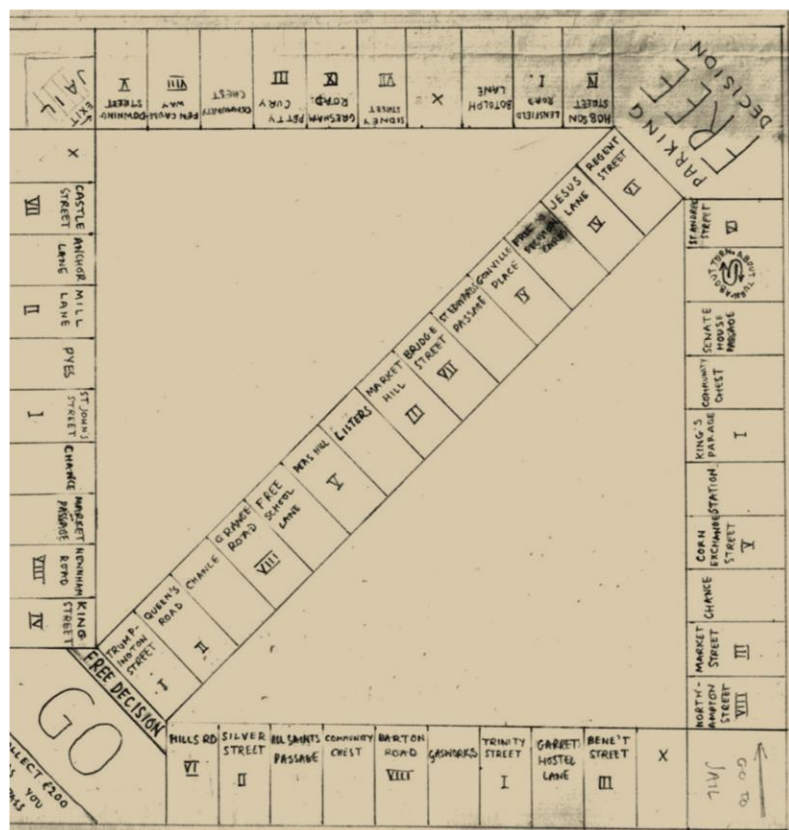
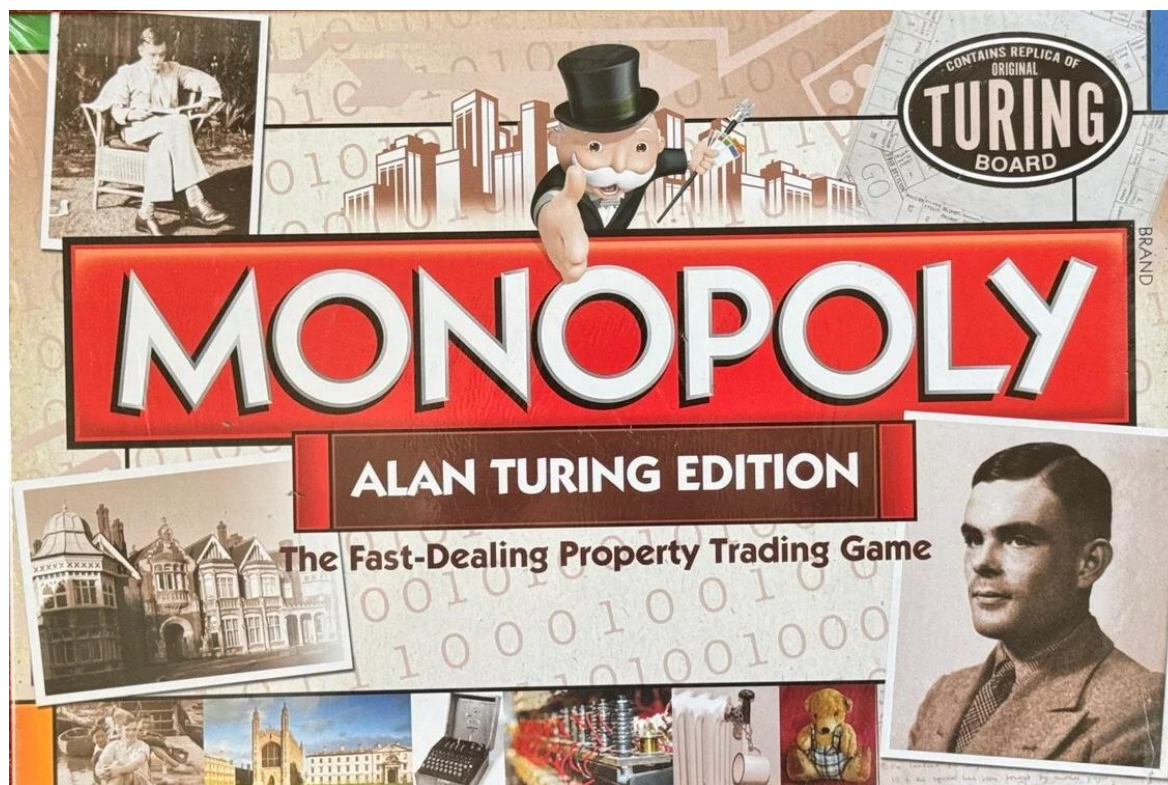


Bombe Machine



Enigma Machines





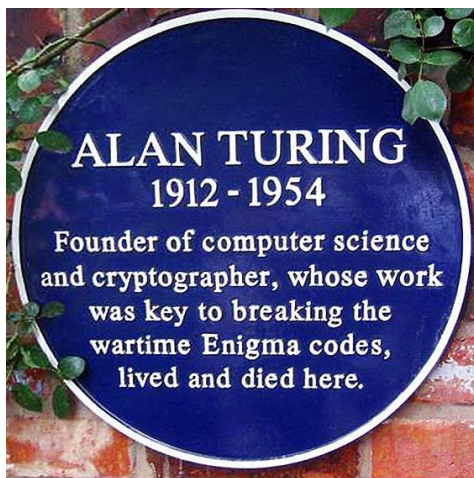
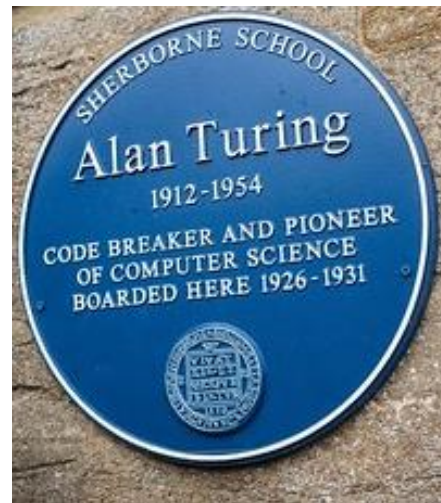
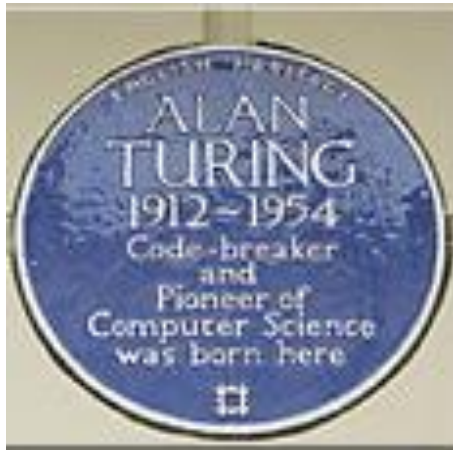
Copy of the original board designed by William Newman (aged 12)



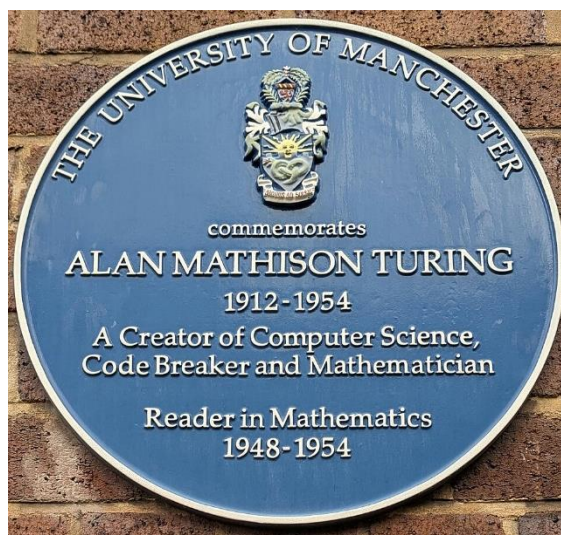
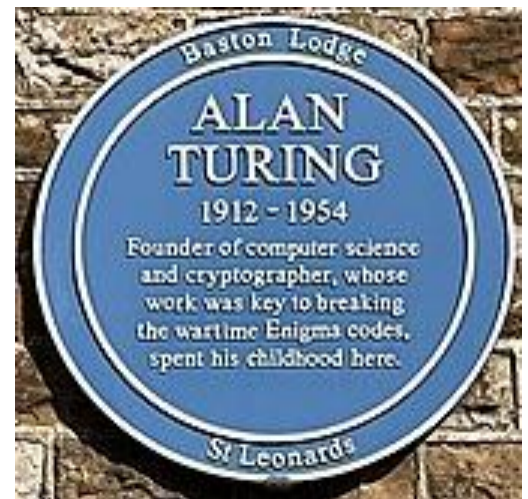
Alan Turing statue in Sackville Gardens,
Manchester

The £50 note depicting Turing





Some of the Blue Plaques dedicated to Alan Turing



Alan Turing (1952)

"I suppose I am a homosexual. I take no steps to hide it. I do not believe that my private life should concern the law, nor do I think that my affections make me any less capable of contributing to society. But it seems that society does not agree."

(Turing's police statement)

"I have no intention of denying the truth."

(Alan Turing, speaking to police about his relationship with Arnold Murray)

I am both bound over for a year and obliged to take this organo-therapy for the same period. It is supposed to reduce sexual urge whilst it goes on, but one is supposed to return to normal when it is over. I hope they're right. The psychiatrists seemed to think it useless to try and do any psychotherapy...

(Alan Turing, letter to Philip Hall, April 17th, 1952)

Home Secretary Sir David Maxwell Fyfe (1953)

"I am determined that the law shall not be slackened in dealing with male vice.

Homosexuals are a danger to society and must be dealt with accordingly. The police will continue to pursue cases with vigour, and those found guilty will face the full force of the law. There can be no tolerance for such behaviour, which undermines the moral fabric of our nation."

Peter Wildeblood (1956)

*"I had committed no crime, harmed no one, and yet I was treated as a danger to society. The court did not care that my relationships were based on love and trust, only that they violated an outdated law. I was made to feel like a criminal, not because I had done anything wrong, but because of who I was." (from **Against the Law**)*

British Medical Association (1950s):

"Homosexuality is a condition that may be treated through psychiatric intervention. Those afflicted by this disorder require medical attention to correct their unnatural inclinations. With proper treatment, they may be rehabilitated and reintegrated into society as normal individuals."

Michael Smith (Historian, early 2000s)

"Turing was a genius, yet he was treated as a criminal."

Prime Minister, Gordon Brown MP (10th September, 2009)

"So on behalf of the British government, and all those who live freely thanks to Alan's work, I am very proud to say: we're sorry, you deserved so much better."

(The full text of the apology is in this Resources Pack)

Remarks of the Prime Minister Gordon Brown

10 September 2009

This has been a year of deep reflection – a chance for Britain, as a nation, to commemorate the profound debts we owe to those who came before. A unique combination of anniversaries and events have stirred in us that sense of pride and gratitude that characterise the British experience. Earlier this year, I stood with Presidents Sarkozy and Obama to honour the service and the sacrifice of the heroes who stormed the beaches of Normandy 65 years ago. And just last week, we marked the 70 years which have passed since the British government declared its willingness to take up arms against fascism and declared the outbreak of the Second World War.

So I am both pleased and proud that thanks to a coalition of computer scientists, historians and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) activists, we have this year a chance to mark and celebrate another contribution to Britain's fight against the darkness of dictatorship: that of code-breaker Alan Turing.

Turing was a quite brilliant mathematician, most famous for his work on the German Enigma codes. It is no exaggeration to say that, without his outstanding contribution, the history of the Second World War could have been very different. He truly was one of those individuals we can point to whose unique contribution helped to turn the tide of war. The debt of gratitude he is owed makes it all the more horrifying, therefore, that he was treated so inhumanely.

In 1952, he was convicted of “gross indecency” – in effect, tried for being gay. His sentence – and he was faced with the miserable choice of this or prison – was chemical castration by a series of injections of female hormones. He took his own life just two years later.

Thousands of people have come together to demand justice for Alan Turing and recognition of the appalling way he was treated. While Turing was dealt with under the law of the time, and we can't put the clock back, his treatment was of course utterly unfair, and I am pleased to have the chance to say how deeply sorry I am and we all are for what happened to him. Alan and so many thousands of other gay men who were convicted, as he was convicted, under homophobic laws, were treated terribly. Over the years, millions more lived in fear of conviction. I am proud that those days are gone and that in the past 12 years this Government has done so much to make life fairer and more equal for our LGBT community. This recognition of Alan's status as one of Britain's most famous victims of homophobia is another step towards equality, and long overdue.

But even more than that, Alan deserves recognition for this contribution to humankind. For those of us born after 1945, into a Europe which is united, democratic and at peace, it is hard to imagine that our continent was once the theatre of mankind's darkest hour. It is difficult to believe that in living memory, people could become so consumed by hate – by anti-Semitism, by homophobia, by xenophobia and other murderous prejudices – that the gas chambers and crematoria became a piece of the European landscape as surely as the galleries and universities and concert halls which had marked out European civilisation for hundreds of years.

It is thanks to men and women who were totally committed to fighting fascism, people like Alan Turing, that the horrors of the Holocaust and of total war are part of Europe's history and not Europe's present. So on behalf of the British government, and all those who live freely thanks to Alan's work, I am very proud to say: we're sorry. You deserved so much better.

Gordon Brown