

## Bitter end

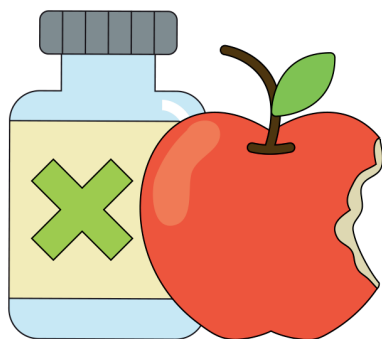
After the end of the war, Turing joined the University of Manchester and was involved in building the ACE, Britain's first computer. He expanded his scientific interests and it seemed that a great career and further accolades awaited him.

Everything changed in January 1952 when Turing's house was broken into. During the police investigation, Turing's sexual orientation came to light. Until 1967, sexual contact between men was illegal and even punishable by imprisonment.

The Turing verdict was reached on 31 March 1952. Wanting to avoid a stay in prison, Turing agreed to hormone therapy to eliminate his sex drive. Injections of synthetic estrogen quickly led to changes in Alan's body including gynaecomastia. In addition, as a convicted criminal, Turing was barred from working on military computers and denied entry to the US.

Humiliated and subjected to systemic discrimination, Turing fell into depression. On June 8, 1954, he committed suicide by eating an apple poisoned with cyanide.

8.06  
1954



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## Commemoration

It was not until 1974 that British authorities declassified the details of Turing's work at Bletchley Park. As computerization progressed, its contribution to the development of science and the world began to be widely appreciated. To this day, Turing has been commemorated in many ways, including: monuments, asteroids or picture on the 50-pound banknote. However, the greatest expression of recognition was the election of Alan Turing as the most important person of the 20th century in a BBC plebiscite in 2019.

In 2013, Queen Elizabeth II issued an official apology to the Turing family for the 1952 verdict, and then issued an act of pardon. In January 2017, the British Parliament introduced the so-called Alan Turing's law, in which all convictions in cases of sexual contact between men were annulled.



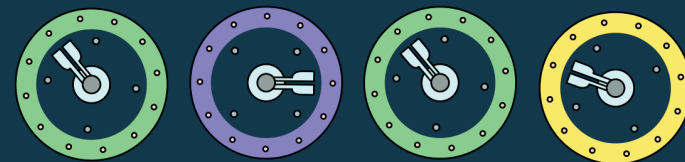
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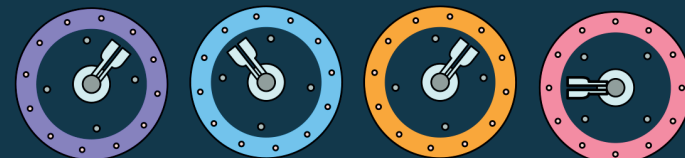
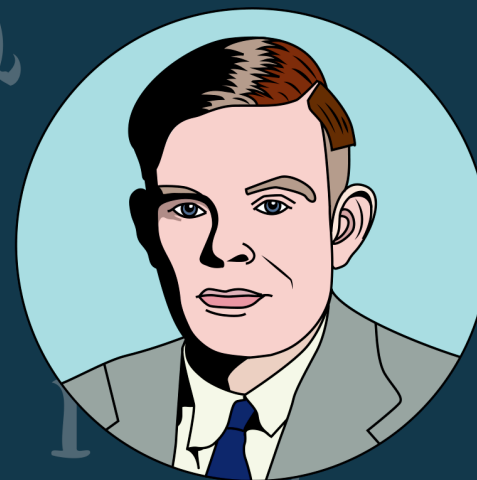
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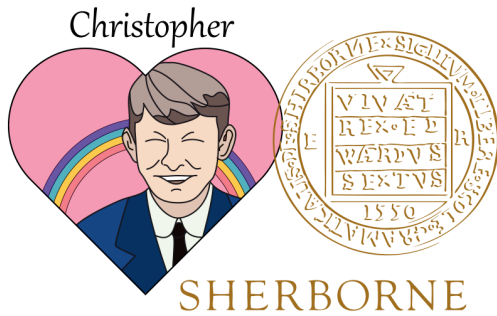
pracownia różnorodności  
STOWARZYSZENIE NA RZECZ  
OSÓB LGBTQ

**STAN  
RÓWNO  
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**EQUAL HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY: ALAN TURING  
– THE FATHER  
OF ARTIFICIAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
AND COMPUTER  
SCIENCE**





### Childhood and first love

Alan Turing was born on 12 June 1912 in London into the family of a colonial official. While his parents were away in India, Alan remained with his family in England, where he showed great aptitude for science during his schooling.

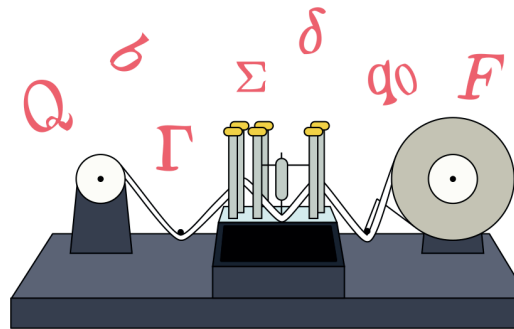
From 1926 to 1931 he attended the renowned Sherbourne School for boys. It was there that he met Christopher Morcom, his first love. Sadly, it ended tragically when Christopher died of tuberculosis.



### Scientific career

In 1931, Alan began studying mathematics at Cambridge University, graduating with honours 3 years later. His outstanding performance led him to find employment at his Alma Mater immediately after graduation, with which he was associated for the next few years, with the exception of a two-year stay at Princeton University in the USA, where he obtained his PhD in 1938.

In 1936, Turing published what is probably his theory with most far-reaching consequences. He presented a theoretical design for a machine that executes commands given to it via an infinitely long tape. This concept was called the Turing Machine and was the foundation on which the principle of computers were based.



### Bletchley Park and Enigma's mystery

When war broke out in September 1939, Turing decided to discontinue his university career to use his skills in the fight against Nazi Germany. Throughout the war, Turing served at the British Government Code and Cypher School located at Bletchley Park, near London, where he was involved in breaking ciphers.

Due to the complexity of the cipher machine used by the Germans known as the Enigma, Turing decided to abandon previous code-breaking methods and follow the path set by Polish mathematicians Rajewski, Zygaliski and Różycki, who created the first mechanical decryption devices known as 'bombs.'

Turing constructed dozens of such devices over the course of the war, while also creating his own approach to the construction of such devices later called 'Turingers.' This method was later used to build the first Colossus, the world's first proto-computer. For his services during the war, Turing was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1946.

Working alongside Alan at Bletchley was Joan Clarke. The talented mathematician was the only woman working to break the Enigma ciphers. A friendship was quickly born between the two, and in the spring of 1941 Alan and Joan became engaged. The engagement did not last long and after a few months, due to Alan's orientation, the couple separated. Nevertheless, they remained friends until Turing's death.



Joan Clarke