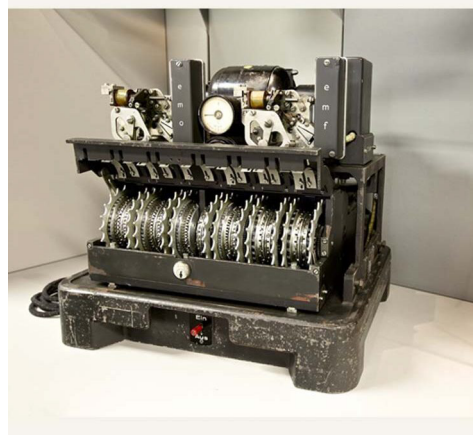


Lancashire and Cumbria Local Network

Cracking the Lorenz Cipher (Preston)

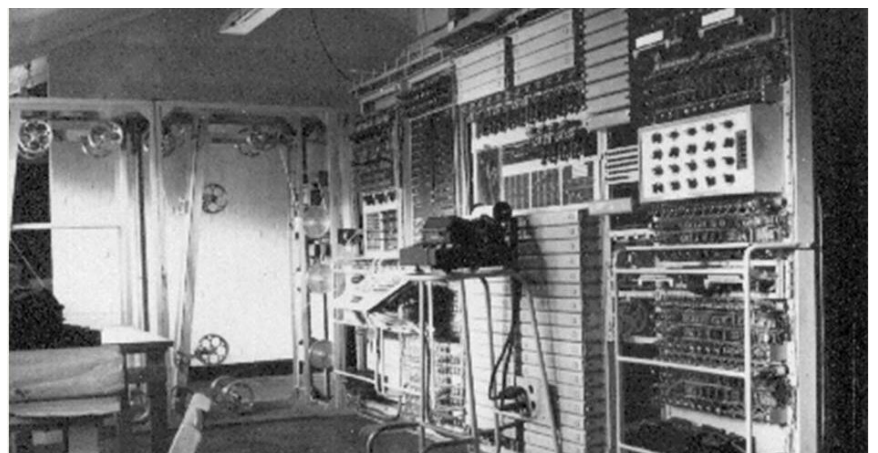
Tutte, Flowers and the Birth of Colossus

This presentation narrates the journey of engineers and mathematicians at Bletchley Park as they tackled the daunting Lorenz cipher. You will learn how Bill Tutte deciphered the machine's architecture, while Max Newman and Tommy Flowers transformed the challenge into an engineering feat. Their invention, Colossus—the first programmable electronic computer—revolutionized codebreaking. The session delves into the fusion of mathematics, creativity, and technology that not only hastened the end of the war but also laid the groundwork for the computing era.



A Lorenz SZ42 cipher machine features an open front cover showcasing 12 cipher wheels with 23 to 61 adjustable pins. Two sets of wheels collaborate—one continuously rotating, the other sporadically—to generate a sophisticated cipher.

Photo from Bletchley Park
<https://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>



Colossus machine No. 7 installed in Block H at Bletchley Park, in around April 1945. Photo from Bletchley Park <https://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>

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Wednesday 15th April
2026 from 6:30pm

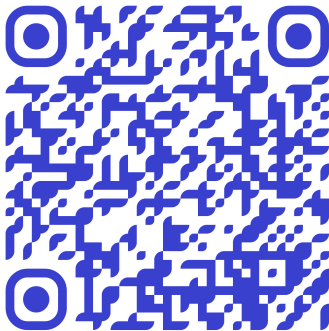
Speaker: Matthew Wylie

FREE ENTRY

Venue:

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