



Web of Stories  
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**NORMAN ROUTLEDGE on ALAN TURING**  
London, UK | Thursday 21 June 2012  
For immediate release

**NOTES FOR EDITORS**  
ABOUT WEB OF STORIES

**As the National Science Museum hosts a major new exhibition to mark the centenary of Alan Turing's birth this week, Web of Stories celebrates the groundbreaking work of the father of computer science with video recordings from those who knew him.**

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear.

Described as a completely original free-thinker, Alan Turing (23 June 1912 – 7 June 1954) was an English mathematician, logician, wartime codebreaker and computer pioneer, credited with masterminding the computer age. In 1936, Turing formulated his ideas for the creation of the Turing Machine, the philosophical principles of which power every computer and smartphone today.

stood out from the crowd: *'He was totally original, so untouched by fashion, totally his own man. He invented all his own stuff, it's how he was able to make the breakthrough that he did.'*

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists, writers and artists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and that a web was slowly being created of connected stories.

He is most vividly remembered for his work on cryptanalysis during World War II, developing the so-called electro-mechanical Bombe used to determine the correct rotor and plugboard settings of the German Enigma cryptor to decrypt intercepted messages – a development said to have shortened the length of World War II by two years.

Routledge shares his thoughts on the controversy surrounding his friend's death: *'Alan had described, before the war, in Princeton I think, to a friend that he'd worked out a way of committing suicide so that it would be perfectly possible to imagine that this had been an accident. He described precisely the method that he used, and I think for me that settles the question.'*

We welcome anyone to come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, we hope you will record your stories for others to enjoy.

Turing was homosexual at a time when this was illegal, and he was criminally prosecuted for his sexuality before he committed suicide in 1954, just two weeks before his 42<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Routledge also recounts how Turing had viewed his homosexuality, and the treatment he was forced to have as punishment, rather than face imprisonment. Alongside these personal memories are video recordings from cognitive scientist Marvin Minsky, who discusses the legacy of the Turing Machine.

**CONTACT**  
For more information on Web of Stories or any of our videos please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or [press@webofstories.com](mailto:press@webofstories.com)

Should you wish to refer to Web of Stories and our video interviews please ensure that a link to Web of Stories is clearly viewable on your site.

Web of Stories has compelling video clips from people who have studied his work or who knew him well, providing an invaluable insight into his life. Mathematician Norman Routledge, who became friends with Turing at Kings College, Cambridge, recalls that he and his friends were not aware of Turing's genius but could appreciate how he

These captivating videos can be watched as a number of short clips, often with an accompanying fully searchable transcript. All Web of Stories videos are easy to share with friends and colleagues, and may be embedded into personal blogs and websites.

<http://www.webofstories.com/people/norman.routledge/1>