

HRH The Duchess of Cambridge walks in her grandmother's footsteps at Bletchley Park

18/06/2014

An archive image from Bletchley Park

HRH The Duchess of Cambridge has walked in her grandmother's footsteps at Bletchley Park, meeting Veterans who worked alongside her in the newly restored Codebreaking Hut 6.

Valerie Glassborow, The Duchess of Cambridge's paternal grandmother, worked in Hut 16 (as Hut 6 was renamed) towards the end of the war, as a Foreign Office Civilian. Few records of her work for the Government Code and Cypher School survive.

Today, as she visited Bletchley Park to mark the completion of the £8million – supported with a £4.9m Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant - the Duchess of Cambridge also saw the vibrant new Block C Visitor Centre and planted a tree to commemorate the occasion.

Sir John Scarlett, Chairman, Bletchley Park Trust, said: "The work at Bletchley Park made an immense contribution to the victory of Great Britain and our Allies in World War Two. It was a great honour to welcome The Duchess of Cambridge and to show her where her grandmother worked, especially now that Hut 6, along with other fragile buildings, has been restored to create a permanent and fitting tribute to the thousands of men and women whose work helped to shorten the war."

Iain Standen, CEO, Bletchley Park Trust, said: "Our many visitors can now experience the conditions in which the Codebreakers worked during World War Two. During her visit, The Duchess of Cambridge was able to hear first-hand memories of her grandmother from her Bletchley Park colleagues, demonstrating how Veterans' recollections are central to telling this remarkable story, which is why they are embedded throughout our new displays."

Carole Souter, Chief Executive of HLF, said: "The Bletchley story is fascinating: all the more so because of the level of secrecy that surrounded the house and park until relatively recently. The Heritage Lottery Fund is proud to be associated with Bletchley Park, a place that speaks of quiet dedication, honour and excellence. We congratulate the Trust and its team for completing this major redevelopment project, a fitting memorial to all who worked at Bletchley during the Second World War."

Further information

Images are available via Royal Rota. Broadcast quality video footage of the finishing touches being added to the restoration and the Veterans' previews is available from the Bletchley Park Trust's Media Relations Manager, Katherine Lynch. Email: klynch@bletchleypark.org.uk or call 01908 272 661 or 07903 138 806.