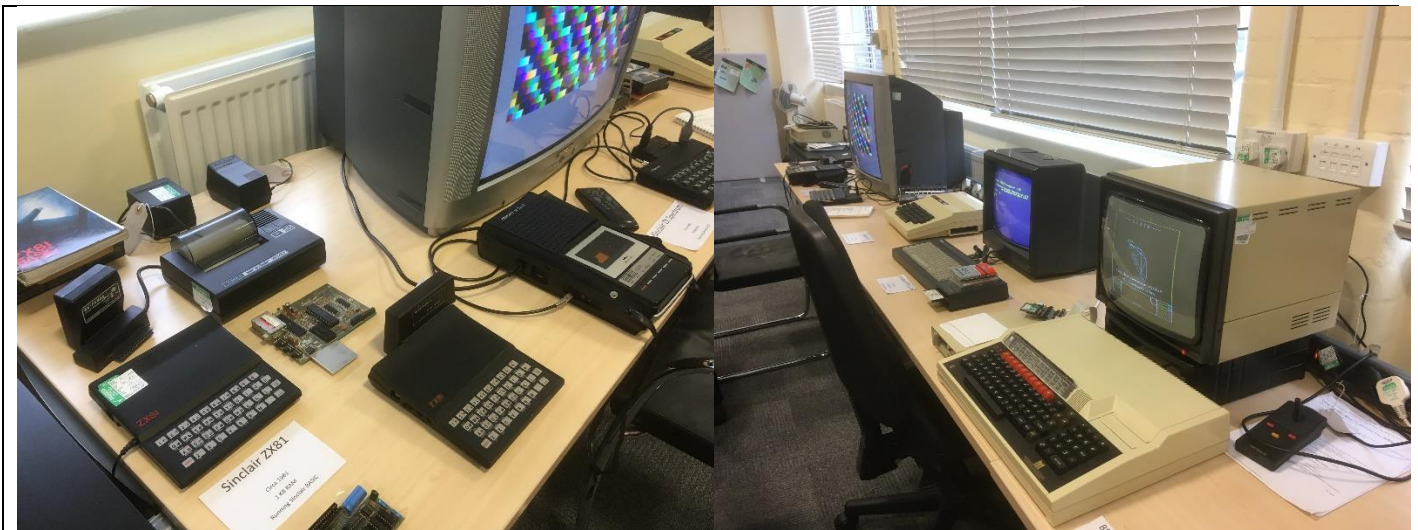


Science & Technology visit to British Library Boston Spa 29th January 2019

Do these computers dating back to 1980s & 1990s bring back memories?



Well they did for those participating in a group visit by the Science & Technology (Tuesday) Group when they visited The British Library at Boston Spa, near Wetherby.

This facility stores books, documents, newspapers and much else in conjunction with the main library building near St. Pancras Station in London. The task was complicated enough when everything was on the printed page. Now, however, the library has a remit to archive digital content. And to do that, they need a range of computers capable of retrieving the original material. Most of these computers have been donated but the project leader explained many a promised item has failed to arrive. Their owners cannot resist one last go at Space Invaders or Manic Miner and the love affair starts all over again.

A fascinating visit that covered digitising images of newspapers for eventual search on line, the huge automated storage facilities and the work of the document supply service.

Not a lot of people know this.....

If you have an hour or two before catching your train back from Kings Cross to Leeds, it is worth popping along the Euston Road to see the "Treasures of the British Library" a free permanent display at the St. Pancras site. Here can you see a copy of the original Magna Carta, first editions of many classic books, the original handwritten lyrics of "Ticket to Ride", and much more. The cafés are also first class.