TNMOC – headline review of 2010

January
TNMOC starts hosting school and education visits – averaging 3-4 per week in term time by year end.
Britain’s first Vintage Computer Festival to be held at TNMOC in June.
Your daily tweet: 400 tweets to date.

February
Pioneers of computing: BBC interviews at TNMOC.
War-time codebreaker Jerry Roberts video-interviewed in front of the Tunny machine.
Ford UK presents vintage WANG equipment to TNMOC.

March
A Night at the Museum: Online recording of Pixelh8’s Obsolete? featuring TNMOC computers coming alive as musical instruments. The Brits who built the tech behind the internet (video interviews in TNMOC NPL Gallery).
Sophie Wilson says … she will speak at Britain’s first VCF about the BBC micro and ARM.
Large rare beast rescued from first floor offices of local company – via stairs. The ICL 25’s continuing existence in situ becomes clear!

April
OMG it’s OMD: Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark announce they will appear at VCF.
DEC Legacy event: TNMOC guests get to pick the winners.
The Harwell-WITCH computer makes its first noise after more than 30 years.

May
“Analogue gadgets come-back?”: BBC inquires in TNMOC’s Analogue Room.

June
The Great Geek-End: Britain’s first VCF is an enormous success. Some less reported moments:
• audio mixing desk fails 15 minutes before OMD performance – replacement vintage mixing desk emerges from depths of a TNMOC volunteer’s car boot
• exhibitors camping onsite in each marquee (for security reasons) have agonisingly slow dashes to toilets because of cars parked in front of exits (for security reasons). Nothing goes missing!
• Sophie Wilson asked to show her ticket to get into her own talk. See lots of VCF coverage in the June entries here.

July
Tuesday tours: first guided tours of TNMOC start thanks to sponsorship from Insightsoftware.com, TNMOC’s first Foundation Sponsor.
August
Comeback of BBC Micros in education at TNMOC makes national news. Chips off the old block: Peter Day of BBC Radio 4 In Business is wowed by PC Gallery. ICL2966 EDS80 drive can be read again (with specially built interface) – paves way for diagnostics on rest of ICL2966. Followed by strange noises in October when it once again reads real instructions. Ice creams become TNMOC’s best seller -- in TNMOC’s brand new coffee and souvenir shop.

September
Largest ever donation to TNMOC – Bletchley Park Capital Partners give £100,000. Computer Weekly donates its 44-year old magazine archive. Elliott 803 shows off more of its capabilities with the arrival of a plotter, an unexpected donation.

October

November
Tony Sale’s alter ego George the Robot arrives at TNMOC via Wallace and Grommit. HTML Patchwork goes on display and stitchers unravel Code. Very popular TNMOC travelling exhibit at R3PLAY event in Blackpool.

December
The Archive and its team grow rapidly – 10,000 items, 1,000 digitised images. Arthur C. Clarke’s 1948 paper on satellite relay stations, Turing’s Patent for Acoustic Delay Lines, Jack Good’s paper on the Early History of Computers at Bletchley Park, Harry Fensom on the development of ERNIE, plus one of the largest collections of books on analogue computing in existence. ICL7501 terminal, after 20 sad years in a barn, is restored and ready to become part of forthcoming interactive exhibit showing what the ICL2966 can really do.

Looking smarter by the week, thanks to sponsors Bletchley Park Capital Partners, TNMOC with fantastic input from its 60+ dedicated volunteers forges ahead.

2011? There’s plenty more on the way …