

Philately and Family History Open Afternoon

The afternoon of Tuesday 27th October saw our first open event which was held at High Lane Village Hall.

Both groups had prepared interesting displays of relevant material which were studied avidly by the steady stream of interested members.

The family history group had displays of family trees, photographic archives and research material. Sue and Noel were operating their laptop computers which are such a boon to modern research and were kept busy with a succession of enquiries. Using the Ancestry program June Fielding went back three generations in half an hour, but others were less fortunate. However, there was plenty of other help to guide people in the right direction including information on both storage and display.

Don and Brian from the Philately Group were kept busy during the afternoon looking at some very interesting stamps, some of which went back to the visitors childhood, either collections of their own, or had been passed down from parents. At one stage Brian got very excited when he thought at first glance he'd come across a stamp that was catalogued at £1500. Unfortunately, it was the wrong type of perforations and watermark, but it still turned out to be worth a few pounds. Some members of the group brought examples of their own stamps in for display and were able to show visitors the different ways of laying out collections. Jean and Rosemary did sterling work welcoming visitors to the group, while Dorothy took the opportunity of updating her own collection during any quiet period.

June Gibbs, ably supported by Louanne and Anne, dispensed countless welcoming cups of tea throughout the afternoon and there was a lively buzz in the room. Both groups would like to thank members who came to talk to visitors about their hobby or brought items for the display.

It was a well thought out event and we are sure it will be repeated in the future.