

Open Afternoon brings our interest groups together

Our annual Open Afternoon, held on 18 August, gave members and guests the chance to discover more about our interest groups and enjoy an informal afternoon together.



Members and guests explore the displays at the Open Afternoon.

All 17 groups were represented at staffed display tables, with objects and information to spark conversation. Visitors found out how the groups are run, what they enjoy exploring, and how they arrange activities and outings. There were also conversations about how to start a new group.

Drinks, cakes and a free raffle featuring mostly local produce helped create a friendly, sociable atmosphere. Many visitors said how welcome they felt and remarked on the lively, outgoing feel of the afternoon.

A successful afternoon

The event brought several encouraging developments:

- Three guests signed up as members on the day. Our u3a continues to grow, and we hope new members will bring fresh skills and ideas to share.
- The proposed Six-Week Readers book group is now full, with its first meeting planned for September.
- Nine people expressed interest in a Scrabble group. The next step is to find a suitable venue and meeting time.
- Discussions are under way about a shorter walking group, with walks of around two to three miles.
- The Kings and Queens History Group is very popular, and we hope to start a second group to meet the demand.

The committee thanks all the group facilitators for the thought and hard work they put into the afternoon, which led to many new sign-ups. Thanks also go to the kitchen volunteers, whose cheerful and efficient work kept everyone refreshed.

Group displays



The Dog Walking Group display.



Visitors look over the Local History and Asian Cookery displays.



The Culture Club display.

Visitors, displays and refreshments



Visitors talking with the Local History group.



Visitors chatting beside the Art Appreciation display.



The Art Appreciation display.



Cakes and refreshments prepared for visitors.