

U3A NATIONAL RESEARCH DATABASE

EXAMPLES OF ENQUIRY-LED LEARNING IN INTEREST GROUPS

Many local interest groups are carrying out research, they just don't always call it that. There are dozens of Local History groups studying their local area and often producing books or other publications, as well as scores of WW1 groups researching war memorials, but a lot of other groups that you might not suspect of research are producing some interesting results.

[The numbers in brackets are the database reference, in case you want more information.]

Architectural group (Diss) – follies, grottos & crinklecrankle walls in E.Anglia [114]

Architecture Appreciation group (Kingswinford) – researched their favourite buildings in Dudley town centre [479]

Armchair Travellers group (Bexley) – research area or country for each meeting. [724]

Enquiring Minds group (Wooler) - What do the residents of Wooler want to happen to the old Police Station? – results to council. [436]

Geology group (Alnwick) - understanding of local geology through research on the Northumberland coast - book produced [585]

Latin group (Stratford) – translated the London underground map into Latin, Londinium Subterraneum, presented to Mayor of London [457]

Life Story group (Bexley) – reminiscence of holidays, linked to worldwide changes in leisure, transport and politics – book produced [657]

Lifelong Learning group (Salford) - recollections of VE Day – book produced [446]

Living Memories group (York) – life histories collected to preserve experiences and ways of life which would otherwise disappear [431]

Natural History groups (Dorchester & Purbeck) - recorded the plants of the parks and open spaces in the local area. [475]

Practical Philosophy group (Northampton) – how individuals can influence the direction society takes by ten ways of becoming politically active. [481]

Photography group (Redditch) – collaboration with Redditch Historical Society on a visual history of Redditch. [640]

Quilting group (Faringdon) – quilted panels representing Faringdon's history, presented to the Mayor. [718]

Reminiscence group (Brightlingsea) – produced several booklets based on life and work of older people in Brightlingsea [563]

Walks into History group (Wokingham) - shared their research by walking routes to see past features, and how Shiplake grew with the arrival of the railway. [562]

Wildlife group (Burnham-on-Crouch) – observation of glow worms over several years [91]

Writing group (Woking) – interviews with people at a day centre – book produced [400]