

WHY JOIN THE STAMP CLUB

Some of the reasons we often hear from people for not joining their local Stamp Club :-

I DON'T WANT PEOPLE KNOWING WHAT I HAVE - *You are under no pressure or obligation to tell anyone what you have or what you collect if you don't wish to.*

LETTING OTHERS KNOW WHAT I HAVE WILL PUT MY COLLECTION AT RISK - *This is not so, we all have a duty of care to one another and we abide by the Data Protection Act not to reveal details of our members or their interests. **We also care about our collections.***

I MAY FEEL EMBARRASSED BY MY LACK OF KNOWLEDGE – *the club is not that shallow and will always lean over backwards to help and encourage fellow collectors.*

I KNOW MORE THAN THEY DO – ***Really**, then we would like to learn from you. We do however have members that show and compete at National Level, although you would never know it, **they are just ordinary members on club nights.***

THE SUBJECTS COVERED BY SPEAKERS IS OF NO INTEREST TO ME - *All displays should be of interest, they may not be on the area of your interest, **you will always come away from a display having learnt something or gained an idea of how to expand your own interest.***

I DON'T NEED A CLUB AS I BUY ALL MY MATERIAL THROUGH Ebay and SIMILAR WEB SITES - **You really do need to belong to your local club.**

Most clubs know of many horror stories relating to material bought this way e.g.

- *Used stamps that have been cleaned re-gummed and sold as mint.*
- *Stamps with an elusive postmark, that when examined carefully is found to be bogus.*
- *High Value mint stamps that when examined carefully are found to be two stamps joined.*
- *Modern forgeries of rare or expensive items that really look the part, but are bogus.*
- *Instances of the buyer not getting what they were led to believe they were buying.*

DO YOU GET YOUR PHILATELIC ITEMS EXPERTISED – *Organisations such as the Royal Philatelic Society (RPSL) and the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) have expertising committees that examine and issue certificates for rare and valuable philatelic items for a very modest fee. Your material will then have a provenance when it comes to be sold, enhancing its value.*

**IF YOU WANT TO GET THE BEST VALUE WHEN YOU BUY & SELL
IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE OF WHAT YOU BUY
IF YOU WOULD LIKE ACCESS TO A SUPURB PHILATELIC LIBRARY
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR COLLECTION
YOU REALLY DO NEED TO BELONG TO YOUR LOCAL CLUB**

**MOST OF US ONLY REALISED THE EXTENT OF OUR IGNORANCE
BY JOINING OUR LOCAL STAMP CLUB**

&

ARE BETTER FOR DOING SO.