

## Russell Society at the Somerset Earth Science Centre

Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of August was the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Somerset Earth Science Centre and to celebrate this they held a 'Mendip Rock day'.

The Russell Society was represented by two of its members Chris Finch and Alistair Napier. We put on a display of Mendip minerals from local quarries, displayed information boards on the Minerals and Historic Mines of the Mendip Area, Type locality specimens and a further board outlining The Russell Society and its role in the world of Minerals.



*Above shows the main display with the main display in the glass display cabinet, the information boards behind and the freebies in front of the Mendip area boards.*

In anticipation of a number of the younger generation attending we both took a number of mineral specimens as freebies. However, we did impose a little task by insisting that the youngsters wrote the mineral name and location on a bit of card - good practice for their English and written work. It was also good for us as we had to remember where they all came from and that can be a bit challenging as we all get older!!



*Left, The main mineral display with the type locality information*

In addition to the Russell Society, there were two displays of local fossils, some art work with a rock theme and a craft workshop with wire bending art being produced. The Earth Science Centre has a number of local rocks displayed around the outer edges of the room, along with several works of art all by local artists.

The day progressed well with approximately one hundred and fifty visitors. This was mainly parents with their offspring so we saw a steady stream of visitors to our display and freebees table many making a return trip to grab another 'gem'. From our point it was good to get involved with this event. It puts the Russell Society into the public domain in an area well known for its quarrying industry. It also supports the Earth Science Centre and its sponsors showing that we are more than willing to put something back into the local community with the promotion of mineralogy and education.



*Left, Chris in full 'education mode' challenging some younger visitors to name that mineral*



*Above shows the main Mendip display boards and a selection of freebies*

*Below is the main display case with a number of Mendip area specimens from the Chris Finch and Alistair Napier collection*

