



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter



June 2024

Editor – John Giovanacci – publicity@falkirku3a.uk

FROM THE OLD TO THE NEW

Dear Members,

It the end of an era for me. After six years on the committee - 3 years as Membership Secretary and another 3 years as Chairperson - it is now time for me to stand down from the Trustees Committee. I will miss the camaraderie of the Trustees, but I look forward to having more time to enjoy our u3a.

During my time on the committee the World has changed. We had Covid 19 and lockdown which cut us off from our family, friends and neighbours but by introducing Zoom, our u3a was able to keep going, albeit virtually. It was a huge learning curve for most of us but one which was embraced by us. If we are unable to travel to Open Meetings or group meetings, we can now view them on our computers from home. The Groups Co-ordinator, Jennifer Kightley, has done a sterling job in keeping groups going during some difficult times and also introducing new groups.

We have also had a few laughs along the way, not least the Parting Shot which was introduced at Open Meetings last session. Archie McIntyre, who is also standing down as a Trustee, always gives us a smile at the end of each meeting with his amusing stories and jokes.

The u3a movement would not exist without members coming forward to contribute their time and skills, including as group organisers as well as committee members. Thank you all of you who have given your time to make Falkirk & District u3a a success during my time on the Trustees Committee.

I look forward to continuing to enjoy Falkirk & District u3a by attending Open Meetings but also by volunteering as a group organiser.

I wish the new Trustees Committee well and look forward to the continuing success of Falkirk & District u3a.

May you all continue to LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE with Falkirk & District u3a.

Louise Westall

Gardening Guru

Remember to pinch out the side shoots on your tomato plants. Regular hoeing in the vegetable bed will keep the weeds down. Pots of blooms will not only need daily watering but also feed them weekly to keep them looking healthy. Water all your plants in dry weather. If you are going away, ask someone to water your plants for you. Soon you will be able to enjoy the fruits of your labour in the garden.

Interest Group News

Start a Group

This is a good time of year to start planning, if you are thinking of starting a group. You'll be ready to put your plan into action at the Registration Meeting in September.

The first step might be to have a look at the information on the Groups page of the u3a website - <https://falkirku3a.uk/index.php/groups>

The next step would usually be to contact the Groups Co-ordinator but, at the moment, that role is vacant. In the meantime, if you decide to go ahead, you should contact the Falkirk u3a Chair, Peter Kahan - chair@falkirku3a.uk

Jennifer Kightley

Film Group

To round off an enjoyable season of watching a great variety of films I have selected **A Hard Day's Night** this month which was The Beatles first film and celebrates 60 years since it was released in 1964. I have already picked out a few films for next season and look forward to recruiting members for this Group when we meet up for registration in September.

John Giovanacci

German Group

The German Group has continued to meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at Klondyke Garden Centre café. We are a very small group, but our numbers have almost doubled recently so that there are now 7 of us, including the Group Organiser. We are a very friendly group and enjoy some chat in German and in English while we have our cuppa (and maybe a cake). We also do various other activities to practise and improve our German.

This session we have focused on the topic of where people live and, as well as using transactional language to find our way round a town/city, we have also practised talking about where we live, where we used to live, would like to live etc and what facilities and activities are on offer there. In addition to this, we have given a talk in German to the other group members about a town/city in a German-speaking country, and then a few weeks later, a talk about somewhere in the UK.

We are now taking a break over the summer and look forward to meeting up again in September and talking in German about our summer holidays and experiences. In the meantime, we wish all u3a members a lovely summer.



Dorothy Ferrie

Scrabble Club

How did you get on with finding six, four letter words that contain consonants only? If you managed to find six, four-letter words did you manage to find six, five-letter words containing consonants only?

Here are some examples of four-letter words: *byri*, *cyst*, *grrl*, *hymn*, *lynx*, *psst*, *sync*, and *t ymp*.

And here are some examples of five-letter words: *byrls*, *chynd*, *grrrl*, *hymns*, *mythy*, *shyly*, *tryst*, and *xylyl*.

The Scrabble Club are keen to introduce readers to more new words during session 2024-25, so please keep reading this item.

Maths Teaser

You might have found May's maths teaser a bit tricky as it involved both imperial and metric units and converting between the two. I hope you managed to solve the problem, but in case you did not, the question and solution are shown below.

Problem

Sam drives from Paris in France to Zurich in Switzerland. He knows:

- his car will cover an average of 47 miles per gallon of fuel
- the fuel tank holds 50 litres of fuel when it is full
- it is 650 km from Paris to Zurich.

Will Sam be able to complete his journey with one full tank of fuel? Use your working to justify your answer.

1 mile = 1.609 km, 1 gallon = 4.545 litres

Solution

The trick to solving this problem is to convert all units to either imperial or metric units as shown below.

The journey from Paris to Zurich is 650 km which converts to $650/1.609 = 404$ miles.

The fuel tank holds 50 litres which converts to $50/4.545 = 11$ gallons.

11 gallons of fuel will take Sam 11×47 miles = 517 miles.

As 517 miles is significantly greater than 404 miles Sam will be able to complete the journey between Paris and Zurich on one full tank of petrol.

I hope you have enjoyed solving the maths teasers in session 2023-24. I have taken all the questions from SQA National 5 Mathematics examination papers so hopefully this gives you some idea of the level of maths taught to 15-16 pupils in schools currently. I will let you decide if the standard of maths taught nowadays is harder, the same or simpler than in our day. See you next year with some new maths teasers.

Peter Kahan (peterkahan@hotmail.com)