



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter



November 2024

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Welcome to the November edition of the Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter. We hope you are keeping well and warm now the clocks have gone back, and the nights are really drawing in.

I had the pleasure of attending the 2024 AGM of the Third Age Trust on Zoom. This proved to be an interesting and informative meeting, well supported by some excellent social media illustrating some of the brilliant work that the Third Age Trust and individual u3as do.

The main item on the agenda was a special resolution to change the articles of association of the Third Age Trust with a view to changing the governance structure to introduce a new Council, with regional representatives, as well as a Board. The resolution needed a 75% majority to pass. Voting took place online with 905 out of 1073 votes in favour of the resolution, representing over 80% support for the resolution. I cast the Falkirk and District u3a single vote in favour of the resolution as the overwhelming number of you who voted in the poll we conducted locally prior to the AGM supported the resolution. Work is now under way to implement the processes necessary to set up the new Council and Board, including nomination and election of new Council and Board members.

To keep you informed, the Third Age Trust now has a new CEO, Iain Cassidy, a new Chair, Allan Walmsley and a new Vice Chair Margaret Fiddes.

Our own Trustees Committee is currently working on arrangements for the Christmas Open meeting which will take place on Tuesday, 10th December 2024. Our aim is to provide you with a fun packed afternoon where you can spend some pleasurable time with your u3a friends.

We hope you all have a safe and relaxing November.

Falkirk Older People's Day 2024

We had a very successful time at the Falkirk Older People's Day held in the Howgate on Wednesday past. There was quite a lot of inquisitive people and hopefully we have managed to attract a few more members to come along to our next Open Meeting.

Peter Kahan



Interest Group News

Film Group

The dark comedy **What We Did on Our Holiday** was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our next film takes us back to the classic era when musical comedies were all the rage. **That Night in Rio** is a 1941 film starring Don Ameche in a dual role, with Alice Faye and the wonderful Carmen Miranda who is such a presence on screen.

For information, not just to members of the Film Group but to all members, especially at this time of year, there is an upcoming talk by Dr Tom Christie, who loves cinema, and particularly Christmas films (he's written 4 books on the subject), at Falkirk Library.

The talk is called **Christmas on Film** and is on Thursday 21st November at 2.00 till 3.00 pm

To book a spot for this free event use the following link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-on-film-tickets-1046736847087?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

John Giovanacci

Scrabble Club

Did you explore the meanings of the words in last month's Newsletter? Don't worry if you did not, as their meanings are shown below taken from the Collins English Dictionary.

eme – indicating a minimal distinctive unit of a specified type in a language

jake – satisfactory, all right

pinger - a device that makes a pinging sound, especially one that can be pre-set to ring at a particular time

snee – obsolete, to cut or thrust with a knife, especially when fighting

yurt - a circular tent consisting of a framework of poles covered with felt or skins, used by Mongolian and Turkic nomads of east and central Asia

zo - a Tibetan breed of cattle, developed by crossing a yak with common cattle

Here are some more words that have come up during Scrabble games which you might like to find the meanings of: *awa*, *doo*, *fere*, *mura*, *yod*, *zig*. The meanings of these words will be given in the next Newsletter.

Peter Kahan

Family History Group

Last month the group discussed using newspapers for family history research. Broadside, single sheets of paper, were the forerunners of newspapers and the tabloids of their day. Newspapers have a wealth of information from births, marriages and deaths to court reports and public meetings which are useful for finding information for family history. Historical newspapers often print information that would not be included in modern newspaper reports. One local newspaper included a list of every gift given to a bride and groom which included fish knives from Aunt Fanny and a boudoir jacket from Uncle Walter.

Louise Westall

Maths Teaser

How did you get on with the maths teaser in the October 2024 Newsletter? I have not had a lot of feedback from members, so I am wondering if people found it quite difficult. The problem and solution are shown below.

Problem

You have the following three water jugs: an 8 litre jug full of water and two smaller empty jugs, one 5 litres in size and the other 3 litres in size. None of the three water jugs have any markings on them, and you do not have access to any devices which can measure volume. Your task is to divide the 8 litres of water equally between two friends, so that each gets 4 litres of water. Please demonstrate how you can do this with the three jugs.

Solution to water jug problem

The solution to the problem is as follows:

Step 1 pour 5 litres of water from the 8 litre water jug into the 5 litre jug, leaving 3 litres of water left in the 8 litre jug.

Step 2 now pour water from the 5 litre water jug to fill the 3 litre jug. This means that we have 3 litres of water in the 8 litre jug, 2 litres of water in the 5 litre jug and 3 litres of water in the 3 litre jug.

Step 3 now empty the 3 litre jug of water into the 8 litre water jug so that the 8 litre jug now contains 6 litres of water.

Step 4 now pour the 2 litres of water in the 5 litre water jug into the empty 3 litre jug.

Step 5 Water from the 8 litre water jug is now poured into the empty 5 litre jug to fill this jug with water. We now have 5 litres of water in the 5 litre jug, 2 litres of water in the 3 litre jug and 1 litre of water in the 8 litre jug.

Step 6 Water is now poured from the 5 litre jug to fill the 3 litre jug which already contains 2 litres of water.

Step 7 We are left with 4 litres of water in the 5 litre jug which we can now give to one of our friends, and the 3 litres of water in the 3 litre jug can be poured back into the 8 litre jug which already had 1 litre of water in it. This gives us 4 litres of water in the 8 litre water jug which we can give to our other friend.

A mathematician may solve the problem in the following way using notation like that shown below to illustrate each step in the process.

(X, Y, Z) – where X is the volume of water in the 8 litre jug at the end of each step, Y is the volume of water in the 5 litre jug at the end of each step, and Z is the volume of water in the 3 litre jug at the end of each step.

Prior to starting the various steps we have (8, 0, 0)

Step 1 (3, 5, 0)

Step 2 (3, 2, 3)

Step 3 (6, 2, 0)

Step 4 (6, 0, 2)

Step 5 (1, 5, 2)

Step 6 (1, 4, 3)

Step 7 (4, 4, 0)

November's Question

This month's problem is based on a question in the 2024 National Qualifications 5 Applications of Mathematics Paper 1 (non-calculator). It is a very practical logistics question. All the very best.

Tabitha is a van driver for a supermarket that provides home deliveries. Orders are packed into rectangular boxes for home delivery to customers.

The dimensions of each box and the internal dimensions of the van are shown below.

Dimensions of each box

Length – 60 cm

Width – 40 cm

Height – 20 cm

Internal dimensions of the van

Length – 4.1 m

Width – 1.9 m

Height – 2.2 m

Calculate the maximum number of boxes that will fit in the van.

Gardening Guru

So far, this November has been unseasonably warm so grass might need another cut before winter.

Most of the leaves have fallen now so, on a dry day, go out and clear them from paths. Put them in a large rubble sack. Prick holes in the sack with the garden fork and store in a corner of your garden until next year when they will have rotted down and will make great mulch for the garden.

On a wet or cold day, clean out the greenhouse if you have not already done so.

November is the latest date for planting tulip bulbs for flowering in Spring next year. Plant the bulbs about 5ins./12cms deep in clumps in the garden or plant in pots on the patio.

Prune back roses to stop them rocking in the winds that we may get during winter. Final pruning need not be done until early spring.

Third Agers compete in “Only Connect” on BBC1

Proving that being in your “third age” does not mean being boring, a team consisting of three u3a members competed in the latest series of the quiz programme “Only Connect” last month.

They acquitted themselves well and the chair, Victoria Cohen Mitchell, said some very complimentary things about them.

If you would like to watch the programme, it can be viewed via this link:

[Only Connect - Series 20: Episode 12. Uisge Beathas v Third Agers - BBC iPlayer](#)

or you can search for it using the menus on your TV.

Ruth Moris (Secretary)