



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter



September 2024

Editor – John Giovanacci – publicity@falkirku3a.uk

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Welcome to the September edition of the Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter. We do hope you enjoy the various contributions in this Newsletter. Please remember that you can also contribute to our monthly Newsletter if you wish. Any articles of interest would be most welcome and help to make our Newsletter even more interesting and informative.

Have you ever known such a wet summer? I am struggling to remember a summer when it has rained so much. Waking up most mornings to overcast and damp conditions can make one feel a little depressed. As we head into the autumn let's hope that we have an Indian summer, at least for a few days. I think we all deserve it.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees and all the group organisers (or their substitutes) for what I think was a very successful registration meeting. I do think the new on-line registration system has made registering with Falkirk and District u3a even easier. We currently have 21 groups which gives members a good choice when deciding what activities they want to undertake during session 2024/25. One of the great strengths of the u3a group arrangement is that members have a free choice as to whether they want to stay with their existing groups, or if they want to try something different and join a new group or groups. I would just like to say how good it is to see that the Lunch Group has restarted. Members of the group can now look forward to many culinary delights from various parts of the world in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

Did you have an opportunity to watch some of the Paralympics in Paris? What a wonderful event it was with over 4,000 participants from around 160 countries taking part in a wide range of events. Great Britain won 124 medals in total which included 49 gold medals, and finishing second overall. I found the sight of Ellie Challis, a quadruple amputee, winning gold in the 50m backstroke incredibly inspiring and uplifting.

I hope you all have a good and healthy September.

Peter Kahan

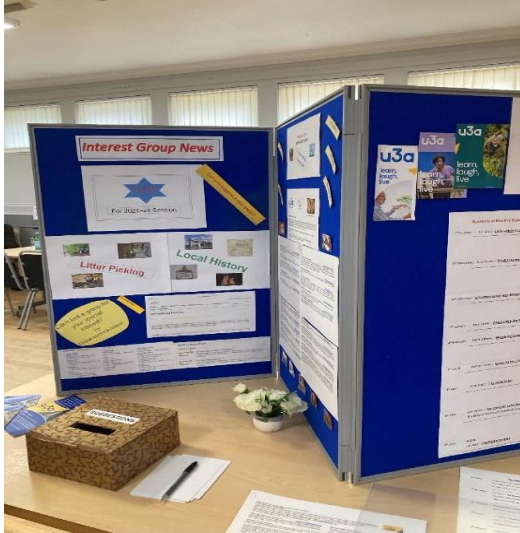
October Open Meeting

The next Open Meeting is Tuesday 1st October where our guest speaker will be Liz Allan who will give a talk called Love Letters from a Desert Rat.

Quite appropriately 1st October this year is International Day of Older People so let's play our part and make it a great day.

Registration Day Round Up

It was a busy day with many of last year's members arriving to join up for another year, meet old friends after the summer break, and decide which group(s) to try out. There were also some new members, and we would like to welcome Ursula & George Kilkie, Dilys Watters, Dinah Nicholson, Elaine Mitchell and Margaret Kerr to Falkirk & District u3a. We hope you enjoy joining in with our Meetings and Groups.



Reminder that 2024-2025 membership forms can be found on our website at <https://falkirku3a.uk/index.php/membership>

There is a new online form as well as the downloadable form (this is a fillable pdf which can be returned by email).

We'd like to thank members who returned their membership forms in advance of the Registration Meeting on 3rd September.

Our Treasurer (Jim Hanmer) would also like to encourage payments by bank transfer where you can - it just makes the job easier!

Paper forms will be available at the next Open Meeting on 1st October for those who don't have online access.

Interest Group Organisers Preparing for New Session





Scrabble Club

Did you find out the meanings of the words in last month's Newsletter? If not, they are shown below courtesy of Collins English Dictionary.

eeling – is the activity to catch eels

wain - a farm wagon or cart

fey - mainly Scottish: fated *to* die; doomed

ab -away from; off; outside of; opposite to

bez – the branch of a deer's horn above the brow-antler

cos - cos is an informal way of saying because or, of course, short for cosine

Here are some more words you might like to find the meanings of: *eme*, *jake*, *pinger*, *snee*, *yurt*, *zo*. The meanings of these words will be given in the next Newsletter.

As a parting shot, I have been advised that 2000 new words will be entering the English language in 2025. One thing for sure, English is an ever-changing language.

Maths Teaser

How did you get on with the maths teasers from last month? Well I hope. For the first question you would have had to remember the sequence in which arithmetical operations should be carried out (e.g. using BODMAS). Did you spot the relationship between the three numbers in the second question? Don't worry if you did not, because the solutions to both questions are shown below.

Question 1

What is the square root of 144 minus 4 times 2 plus 3?

Solution

Using BODMAS I will do O (order) first

$$\sqrt{144} = 12$$

I will now follow this by M (multiplication)

$$4 \times 2 = 8$$

I will finish with Addition and Subtraction (the order in which addition and subtraction are performed does not matter) which gives

$$12 - 8 + 3 = 7$$

Question 2

What is the next number (?) in the sequence of numbers shown below?

10 28 82 ?

Solution

Let's represent the three numbers as follows:

$$9 + 1 \dots \dots 27 + 1 \dots \dots 81 + 1$$

We can write these three numbers as follows:

$$3^2 + 1 \dots \dots 3^3 + 1 \dots \dots 3^4 + 1$$

Based on this pattern the next number must be

$$3^5 + 1 = \mathbf{244}$$

Please see below the questions for you to solve this month.

Question 1

$$\frac{\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3} + \sqrt{3}}{\sqrt{27}} =$$

Question 2

$$\frac{(99^0 + 9^0)^5}{8} =$$

All the very best. (Hint: any number raised to the power of 0 equals 1)

Gardening Guru

Now is the time to prepare for next year.

If you are harvesting peas this month, remember to save some dried-up peas for sowing next year. Food for free can never be bad!

Cut off the flowering heads of hydrangeas with about 30cm of stalk and hang them upside down in a dark, cool place e.g. a garage, to allow them to dry and they can then be used as part of your Christmas decorations.

After flowering, divide clump forming perennials to make new plants so increasing your stock. Cuttings can also be taken from pelargoniums and carnations at this time of year.

