



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter



Summer 2024

Editor – John Giovanacci – publicity@falkirku3a.uk

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Welcome back to the Falkirk and District u3a's monthly Newsletter after a short break. I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer despite the indifferent weather we have experienced of late. If you have been away on holiday this summer, I hope you had a relaxing and fun time, and the weather was kinder to you than it has been in Scotland.

The new Trustees Committee met for the first time on 23rd July at the Klondyke Garden Centre in Polmont: a place I know is becoming increasingly popular with a number of u3a groups. The first committee meeting was helpful in allowing members an opportunity to get to know one another better and become more familiar with their roles. Our next committee meeting is planned for 20th August where we will no doubt discuss in more detail arrangements for the registration afternoon on 3rd September 2024.

With regards to the Trustees Committee, we are still looking for a member to serve as Group Coordinator. This is a very important role in terms of supporting existing groups and helping to set up new groups, and I would encourage any member interested in performing the role to contact me at chair@falkirku3a.uk.

I hope you have put the registration afternoon of 3rd September in your diaries. I will write to everyone in the near future inviting them to register for the 2024/25 session of the Falkirk and District u3a. Our membership numbers are nearly up to 100 but we would like to increase the membership to well over a hundred as was the case pre-COVID days. Why not encourage a member of your family, or a friend, to come along on 3rd September so they can see the range of interest groups we have on offer.

For those of you interested in developments in the wider u3a Trust I am happy to announce that Allan Walmsley is the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Third Age Trust. Furthermore, after eight years of service to the Third Age Trust Sam Mauger is leaving as CEO to be replaced Iain Cassidy, who has a background in fundraising and leading charitable organisations through times of change. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information on these two appointments.

Peter Kahan

Meet Your New Trustees Committee



Back row (left to right)

Jack Egdell (Speaker Secretary), Peter Kahan (Chair), Jim Hanmer (Treasurer)

Front row (left to right)

Dorothy Ferrie (Vice Chair), John Giovanacci (Publicity), Toni Smillie (Webmaster & Membership Secretary), Ruth Morris (Secretary)

Membership 2024-25

The new membership year is nearly here. The 2024-2025 membership forms are now live on our website at <https://falkirk3a.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 encourage members to pre-fill and return their membership forms in advance of the registration meeting on 3rd September beginning at 2:30pm.

This will make proceedings quicker. Remember to refer to the notes on the membership page when filling out your form.

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

Paper forms will be available at the registration meeting on 3rd Sept for those that don't have online access.

Toni Smillie (Membership Secretary)

Gardening Guru

This is the time of year to enjoy the fruits of your labours with tomatoes, cucumbers and chillies all ripening in the greenhouse now. There is nothing like potatoes freshly dug up from your own patch - especially with a little butter. Have you noticed that hydrangeas are in full bloom just now and look magnificent with their large colourful heads in gardens around Falkirk? If you want hyacinths for Christmas, you should plant prepared bulbs now and put them into a cool dark place until November. We must also start thinking ahead to next year in the garden. It is not too early to think about pansies for a bit of winter colour.

Interest Group News

Coffee Morning Group Summer Outing

Some members of the Coffee Morning group decided to have a summer outing and having heard good reports of the Orient Express Experience in the Queen Charlotte rooms in Leith, eight of us arranged to go there for afternoon tea last month.

The grandeur and splendour of the iconic train has been replicated being laid out as rolling stock, including the cabins and corridors of the train, and a *1st Class Pullman Suite*-
"affording a more intimate experience for the discerning traveller!" The train's windows look out onto the scenery of the train's route as you journey across Europe departing from Venice and arriving in London.



Afternoon Tea is presented in the traditional way along with a choice of teas and coffee plus a variety of drinks including mocktails. Then followed by a selection of scones with jams and cream. The full silver service was friendly and exactly what you would expect on a First Class train.

All in all a wonderful experience.

The Coffee Morning Group meet every 2nd Thursday, mostly at Klondyke Garden Centre. We are a friendly bunch and look forward to welcoming new people. For more information contact Susan Crisp on

coffeemorning@falkirk3a.uk

World Events Group

The World Events Group has covered a lot of ground during the 2023-24 session. We started off by looking at the Enlightenment, an intellectual movement which championed reason and had a profound impact on how people viewed the world, for example questioning the religious and political authorities of the time. It also led to important advances in science, engineering, and economics, many of which were achieved in Scotland, particularly in Edinburgh and the Central Belt. A host of other topics arose from the Enlightenment including the French and American Revolutions, communism, socialism, social democracy and freedom.

Members of the group have occasionally stepped into the breach at Open Meetings when a planned speaker was unable to give their talk. Some of you might remember Peter Kahan's presentation on Czechoslovakia and George Love's presentation about the achievements of some of the Scottish Enlightenment figures, both of which received very positive feedback from members.

We continue to meet on Zoom as we find this useful for presenting information to the other members of the group, but we also occasionally meet in person.

Dorothy Ferrie

Scrabble Club

The Scrabble Club has been meeting over the summer and has continued to discover unusual words. Do you know the meaning of the following words?

eeling, wain, fey, ab, bez and cos.

The meanings of these words will be given in the next Newsletter.

Maths Teaser

As promised the maths teasers are back. This year I would like to present a greater variety in the types of maths teasers I put into Newsletters in the hope that they present a bigger challenge to some members who found last year's teasers too straightforward. We will see if I am successful. To start the session off here are two maths teasers for you to try.

Question 1 - What is the square root of 144 minus 4 times 2 plus 3?

Question 2 - What is the next number (?) in the sequence of numbers shown below?

10 28 82 ?

All the best. I will provide the solutions in the next newsletter. Please remember it's just a bit of fun.

Peter Kahan