



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter

December 2023

Editor – John Giovanacci

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

I was disappointed that I could not join you for our Christmas/Winter Celebration. I hope that those who managed to make it to the meeting enjoyed themselves. I wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next Open Meeting is on **Tuesday 9th January** at the usual venue.

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

Louise Westall

Interest Groups News

Litter Picking Group

The newly formed Litter Picking Group met for the first time at Falkirk Football Stadium in mid-November. It was a beautiful day for the time of year and the Group spent about an hour clearing litter from the grass borders around the car park. They then enjoyed a well-deserved cuppa and chat while admiring the views from the Stadium's café. The photo shows some of the group members.



Family History

There was a good turnout of members for the November meeting in Klondyke Garden Centre. We discussed how we could go about dating a number of photographs from different eras.

Our December meeting is on Tuesday 19th December when we will be discussing Christmas traditions past, present and future with a particular emphasis on food.

Louise Westall

Scrabble Club

Here are some new words Scrabble Club members have discovered in recent meetings: *arti, coir, Han, jow, ren and scat*. Do you know the meanings of these words?

Gardening

Take care of that poinsettia you bought at the supermarket. They hate changes in temperature and will readily wilt if you don't them on the way home. Once you get them home keep them out of drafts and don't water them and they will last well into the New Year.

Gardening Guru

Maths Teaser

How was your knowledge of doing ratio problems? Were you able to solve last month's Maths Teaser? Don't worry if you could not manage to solve the problem as the problem plus solution are presented below.

Problem

Geoffrey shared his savings between his three children, Sophie, Ed and Lucy. The money was shared in the ratio 7: 2 : 6. Sophie received £3304. Calculate how much money Geoffrey gave his three children in total.

Sophie's $\frac{7}{15}$ th of the money corresponds to £3304. Thus, $\frac{1}{15}$ th corresponds to £3304 divided by 7 = £472. Thus, the total amount of money Geoffrey gave to his three children = $15 \times £472 = \mathbf{£7080}$.

On this basis Ed received $£472 \times 2 = £944$ and Lucy received $6 \times £472 = £2832$.

Thus, $£3304 + £944 + £2832 = £7080$.

Unfortunately, I cannot explain why poor Ed got so little money compared with his two sisters.

In this month's Newsletter please find two problems from the 2022 National 5 Mathematics Paper 1 (non-Calculator) for you to solve.

Q.1 Change the subject of the formula $D = \frac{B+4}{C^2}$ to B .

Q.2 Expand and simplify $\sqrt{10}(\sqrt{10} - \sqrt{2}) + 8\sqrt{5}$

Peter Kahan (peterkahan@hotmail.com)

Christmas/Winter Celebration

Despite the terrible weather those who managed to attend had a good time and I know that a few members were taking pictures at various stages. I had hoped to include a few of those in this Newsletter however it has proved to be a bit short notice but do check out the Website in the coming week or so to see how it all looked and to get a sense of the occasion if you were unable to attend.

I will pick out two or three for the next Newsletter in mid-January but in the meantime, I hope everyone has a joyous Christmas and a New Year full of good health and happiness.

John Giovanacci (Editor)

