



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter



June 2023

Editor – John Giovanacci

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

We have been generally lucky with warm dry days, many of them sunny, throughout May and into June. Let's hope the good weather continues throughout the summer. Now that Covid19 is less prevalent, we can get out and about more. Even though you may not be contemplating a foreign holiday or have booked a holiday in this country there is lots to see in and around Falkirk. Those of you who are eligible, can make use of your bus pass to have a day out in Stirling or Linlithgow. Trips further afield to Edinburgh or Glasgow can also be made using your bus pass. It may take a little longer than by car or train but can be more relaxing.

Although the session 2022-2023 has now finished, some groups have agreed to continue during the summer to make sure they keep in touch with one another. Your Committee are not yet on holiday as they are busy organizing dates and speakers for Open Meetings for next session.

Our Newsletter is taking a well-deserved rest but will be back in mid- August with news of an interesting session to come for 2023-2024.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer months.

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

Louise Westall

June In the Garden

As I write this, the soil is very dry due to lack of rain. It is a good idea to have a water butt in the garden to collect any rain water which can be used for watering your plants. You might also consider using any tea left in the pot for hanging baskets and tubs. Gardens are now very colourful with rhododendrons. The colours are vibrant from pale pink to deep red. After flowering it is a good idea to remove the old heads and give the plants a feed. Hydrangeas will be coming into bloom soon too. Feed them now to ensure larger blooms. Don't plant a row of lettuce all at the same time. Just sow a few seeds each week to give a succession of lettuces ready for salads over the summer months.

Gardening Guru

Antonine Wall Talk given by Geoff Bailey at the May Open Meeting

Fran Humphreys (u3a Edinburgh), who took up our invitation to attend the Talk wrote an email to thank Falkirk u3a members for the very warm welcome she was given and the most interesting talk. She also remarked on what a lovely town Falkirk is.

A Maths Teaser

Did you manage to solve the Maths teaser in the May newsletter? Don't worry if you did not as the question plus solution now follows:

Question

Write the following values in order from greatest to least.

$$0.388, \frac{3}{8}, 38.38\%, 0.39$$

Justify your answer

Solution

The simplest way to solve this problem is to convert the fraction and percent into decimal form. To convert the percentage just divide 38.38 by 100 which gives you 0.3838 (remember when dividing by 100 you move the decimal point two places to the left).

To convert the fraction you can use long division as shown below

8)3 *does not go so put a .*

8)30 *goes 3 carry 6*

8)60 *goes 7 carry 4*

8)40 *goes 5 with no remainder*

Final answer = 0.375

Apologies if this is not clear but I have not fully mastered the skills of doing long division using computer software.

Now we have all four numbers in decimal form we can arrange them in order from greatest to least as follows:

$$0.39, 0.388, 0.3838, 0.375$$

Or

$$0.39, 0.388, 38.38\%, \frac{3}{8}$$

Here is this month's maths teaser for you try. It's particularly suitable for anyone going on a long-haul flight in the near future. The question comes from the 2018 National 5 Applications of Mathematics Paper 1.

Problem

Steven flew to Hong Kong to start a new job. The flight included a stop in Doha. He flew from Edinburgh to Doha then from Doha to Hong Kong.

- The flight from Edinburgh to Doha took 6 hours 35 minutes.
- The flight from Doha to Hong Kong took 7 hours 20 minutes.
- Hong Kong is 8 hours ahead of Edinburgh.

Steven's plane took off from Edinburgh at 9:15 am local time. It landed in Hong Kong at 8:50 am local time. How long was the stop in Doha?

Peter Kahan

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Scrabble Group

The Scrabble Group continues to meet every alternate Wednesday between 2.00 and 4.00 pm in a member's house. Group members continue to discover new words while playing Scrabble. These are not always long words as the following examples show: dib, hin, ka, lod. Do you know what these words mean?

Peter Kahan

Family History Group

The Family History Group paid a visit to the Mitchell Library in Glasgow. We had a one hour presentation from a very knowledgeable archivist and we were shown round the resources available to the public. They have a wealth of information available to family historians who have ancestors in the Glasgow area and beyond, from birth, marriage and death records, to photographs, maps, old newspapers and much more.

Louise Westall

Two new groups

Great News! The **Dinner Club** and the **Photography Group** are up and running and ready to welcome new members. Look out for more information on the website in due course, definitely by the end of this month.

Two groups in search of Organisers

The **Lunch Group** had its last meeting at the beginning of the year. They need a new Organiser to take over from Danny Pace who stood down on that occasion after many years in the role. Please contact me if you are interested in taking over.

I know that several members are interested in joining a **Local History Group** which we don't have just now, mostly because there is nobody to organise it. Next session I hope to bring those members together and try to get things moving. You will have the opportunity to register your interest at the re-registration meeting in September.

What about Art & Craft and Music?

I often hear a call from members for more groups which cover these areas in a hands-on, active way but also as an interest group. If you have skills and expertise or wish to enrich your own knowledge please consider setting up a group under the art/craft/music umbrella.

Co-organisers

You don't have to go it alone. You can set up a group with a partner and/or share the tasks amongst all members of the group.

Group Organisers Zoom Meeting 20/6/2023 at 2.00 pm

If you're thinking of starting a new Group why not join us at the Group Organisers Zoom Meeting. Please email me for the link if you are interested or you can email me at any time for more information.

jenniferkightley@gmail.com

Antonine Wall Walk 23/5/23

The walkers set out from the Falkirk Wheel along the Forth and Clyde Canal towpath, as far as Bonnybridge. The route then heads downhill and under the Radical Pend near the site of the Battle of Bonnymuir, back under the Canal and along a leafy lane towards the Roman Fort at Roughcastle. The walk is mainly on good paths but the area around the Fort is moorland and irregular underfoot in places. A fine day, a convivial crowd, a peaceful place at least in our time.

2. The leafy lane.



4. The long view on the south side of the Wall.



1. A stop on the Canal towpath to enjoy the Andrew Muirhead Memorial Garden at Bonnybridge.



3. About to set off along the course of the wall for Roughcastle.



5. Finding our bearings at Roughcastle then back to the Falkirk Wheel and very welcome refreshments.

