



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter



March 2024

Editor – John Giovanacci – publicity@falkirku3a.uk

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

There are signs of Spring in the garden with crocuses and daffodils in bloom, but March has a habit of reminding us that winter is not quite over yet. The month came in like a lamb but let's hope it doesn't go out like a lion. When the clocks go forward at the end of this month, it may feel more like Spring. Shortly we will see birds nesting and other small animals coming out of hibernation. Appropriately, our speaker at the April Open Meeting is a 'Hedgehog Champion'.

All members of the Committee have been given new email addresses. We have been aware for some time that our personal email addresses could be compromised by scammers or hackers. Should you wish to contact me as Chairperson you can now use this new email address - chair@falkirku3a.uk

Later this year we will also give Group Organisers appropriate u3a email addresses.

We are also in the process of updating our website. The website was set up some years ago when Falkirk & District u3a was first started. IT has moved on from that time and we hope the new site will be more user friendly, easier for members to navigate and more inviting for those interested in joining our organisation.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Open Meeting.

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

Louise Westall



We would like to welcome Sandra & Malcolm Howie, Margaret & Mark Malcolmson, Margaret & David Foggo, and Ruth Morris to Falkirk & District u3a. We hope you enjoy joining in with our Meetings and Groups.

Gardening Guru

Seeds sown in the greenhouse at the end of February are beginning to pop up through the compost now. Don't be too quick to pot them on into bigger tubs. Wait until they have true leaves, and they are easier to handle. House plants should now be watered more often as new growth appears. Prune any untidy shrubs taking care to cut out any branches that are crossing.

New Website Coming Soon

Our Chairperson, Louise Weastall, informed members at the March Open Meeting and in her update above about new email addresses and improved Website. To further inform Members, the current situation is that Toni Smillie is working on a New Website for Falkirk & District u3a. It will have a more modern look and feel and work on all devices. It's nearly ready and just needs a few final tweaks.

We have also got official email addresses for our Trustees and Groups, so we don't publish personal email addresses on the Website. It also makes it a lot easier to remember.

So, what are these email addresses?

Chair (Louise Westall)	- chair@falkirku3a.uk
Secretary (Dorothy Ferrie)	- secretary@falkirku3a.uk
Membership Secretary (Toni Smillie)	- membership@falkirku3a.uk
Treasurer (Peter Willett)	- treasurer@falkirku3a.uk
Vice Chair (Archie McIntyre)	- vicechair@falkirku3a.uk
Groups Co-ordinator (Jennifer Kightley)	- groups@falkirku3a.uk
ICT Support (Peter Kahan)	- ict@falkirku3a.uk
Publicity (John Giovanacci)	- publicity@falkirku3a.uk

We will also have email addresses for the various Groups. For example - if you want to contact the Scrabble Group - you just need to email scrabble@falkirku3a.uk

These emails will be published on the Website - so you don't need to commit them to memory.

Interest Group News

Film Group

Another great turnout in February for the showing of **The Dish** an extremely popular Australian film full of nostalgia and humour which captures the historic moment in 1969 when man first landed on the Moon from a very quirky Aussie perspective.

This month I am dipping into my Hitchcock collection to show **Rope** which is regarded as one of his most audacious, in terms of film making, as it's a one-shot film, basically an experiment in real-time. Based on a real murder case, it stars James Stewart, Farley Granger and John Dall.

John Giovanacci

Family History

At our February meeting we discussed how we stored our family history research. Some of us still use paper but George gave us an interesting insight into how to store our research on an external computer drive which is easily transported and can be passed on to future generations.

Louise Westall

Photography Group

The group headed to Bo'ness in mid-February and despite the rain they got some good photographs. Afterwards they enjoyed some refreshments in the Hope Street Cafe.



Scrabble Club

At a recent Scrabble Club meeting one of the members of the club kindly provided us with a list of words which included words that begin with 'q' but do not have 'u' straight after the 'q.' It is surprising just how many such words exist. How many words can you think of which start with 'q' but don't have 'u' straight after the 'q'? Examples of such words will be provided in the April Newsletter

Maths Teaser

How did you find last month's Maths Teaser? Not too difficult, I hope. It represents a very practical problem that you would find in industry. Once again there was quite a lot of information in the question which had to be interpreted and applied correctly if the right answer was going to be obtained. The question plus solution is shown below.

Question

A company orders a batch of washers with a thickness of 2.4 ± 0.05 mm. A quality control inspector takes a sample from the batch of washers. The thicknesses, in mm, of the washers in this sample are shown below.

2.44, 2.37, 2.36, 2.45, 2.35, 2.35, 2.44, 2.43, 2.34, 2.40, 2.40, 2.41, 2.39, 2.38, 2.46, 2.41, 2.39, 2.53, 2.36, 2.37

For the batch to be accepted, at least 88% of the washers in this sample must be within tolerance. Will the batch be accepted?

Solution

The first step in solving the problem is to interpret the tolerance information correctly.

The limit in washer thickness is 2.40 ± 0.05 mm.

Thus, the upper limit on washer thickness is $2.40 + 0.05 = 2.45$ mm and the lower limit on washer thickness is $2.40 - 0.05 = 2.35$ mm. Having established the maximum and minimum thickness of washers permissible, we should review the list of washer thicknesses provided in the question to determine how many washers are not within the limit. A review of the list reveals that the following three washers are not within limit:

2.34, 2.46 and 2.53

As three of the washers are not within limit, this means that 17 of the 20 washers are within limit, or in percentage terms -

$$\text{Washers within limit} = \frac{17}{20} \times 100 = 85\%$$

However, for the batch to be accepted, 88% of the sample of washers should be within limit and as only 85% of the washer are in limit the batch should be **rejected**.

The March maths teaser is taken from 2016 National 5 Lifeskills Mathematics Paper 1 examination paper. Please note that you **should not use a calculator** to solve this question.

All the best.

Question

Seonaid is saving up to buy a tablet computer costing £388.

She earns £7.30 per hour and works for 30 hours each week. Seonaid is paid at the end of each week. She pays £5.32 in Income Tax and £7.68 in National Insurance each week. Her living expenses are £86 per week.

Seonaid saves half of the money that she has left each week towards the tablet computer. How many weeks will it take her to save up enough money to buy the computer?

Peter Kahan - ict@falkirk3a.uk