



Falkirk and District u3a Newsletter



May 2023

Editor – John Giovanacci

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Members,

Thank you to all the members who completed suggestions for improvements in our u3a Open Meetings. At the next committee meeting, we will discuss how these might be incorporated into our Open Meetings in the future.

We have recently had a National Volunteering Day when everyone was encouraged to volunteer in whatever way was appropriate to them. One of the three principles of the u3a movement is mutual aid where members are both learners and teachers with no payment for their services. Each member is considered a volunteer. What can you give to your u3a? Could you help to serve teas at the open meeting? Could you book a venue for a lunch or dinner? Could you demonstrate a craft at an Open Meeting? Perhaps you could even make sure that the door of the church hall is kept closed to make sure the room is a little warmer.

Our year is coming to an end with the AGM in June. As usual, we have put out a call for members to volunteer as committee members. Without a committee we have no u3a. None of the posts on the committee are particularly onerous. Perhaps you know of a member who would make a good committee member. Nomination forms are available on our website.

Think not what you can take from the u3a but what you can give.

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

Louise Westall

May In the Garden

Encourage bees by having a no-mow May and let the wildflowers in your lawn bloom. Move pot-bound house plants into larger pots. Stake your delphiniums before they grow too tall and flop over and protect the young shoots of hostas and lupins from slugs. The worst frosts are now over and tender annuals and perennials can be put outside nearer the end of the month.

Gardening Guru

MATHS TEASER

How did you get on with solving the Maths teaser in the April newsletter? I do know a few of you managed to do it and, in fact, found the question straightforward. That's good. I shall have to see if I can find some more challenging questions for such clever folk. For those of you who were not able to solve the problem a reminder of the problem plus a solution now follows.

Question

A basic cookie dough mix requires butter, sugar, flour and chocolate chips.

- $\frac{1}{6}$ of the mix is butter
- $\frac{1}{3}$ of the mix is sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of the mix is chocolate chips
- The rest of the mix is flour

Calculate the fraction of the mix that is flour.

Solution

Add the three fractions together by changing to a common denominator

$$\frac{1}{6} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$$

Or

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2}{12} + \frac{4}{12} + \frac{3}{12} \\ \frac{9}{12} = \frac{3}{4} \end{aligned}$$

Subtract $\frac{3}{4}$ from 1 to get the answer

$$1 - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{4}{4} - \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4}$$

This month's Maths teaser is also taken from the 2019 National 5 Applications of Mathematics Paper 1. The question is in the non-calculator paper so you should not use a calculator to solve the question. Neither should you go on the Internet to find the solution. All the very best. I will provide the solution next month.

Question

Write the following values in order from greatest to least.

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

Justify your answer

Peter Kahan

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

Antonine Wall Project – Last Call

A **visit** to the **Hunterian Museum** to see the Antonine Wall Gallery on Wednesday 17th May

A **walk** which includes a section of the **Antonine Wall** on Tuesday 23rd May

You can find full details of both events in the April newsletter.

Jennifer Kightley (Groups Co-ordinator) - jenniferkightley@gmail.com

Photography Group

A new group is starting up - **Photography**

They've already had a preliminary meeting and are looking for new members. If you would like to join contact Arlehne Stewart - arlehnestewart@gmail.com

All Groups – Appeal

Apart from my own Film Group I know very little about recent activity in other Groups apart from the Antonine related ones plus the one or two who have sent me something in the previous few months. Therefore I am appealing to Group Organisers to send me something about your Group for the next Newsletter e.g. what books have the Reading Group been enjoying? What have the Science Matters Group been investigating? Have the Scrabble Group come across any unusual words they want to share? What meaty subjects have the Current Affairs Group been discussing? What's the Theatre Group's favourite venue and what have you seen? etc.etc. Please send me something no matter how small in detail.

John Giovanacci - j.giovanacci@sky.com

Art Collection at the University of Stirling

Open Day on Sat 20 May, 10am-4pm – this should be of interest to many of our members.



u3a learn,
laugh,
live

In the ideal u3a everyone is a volunteer.
Run by the members for the members.

Volunteers don't get paid,
not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless!

Photo by Robert Power and sand art by Sean Corcoran (Kilmurrin Cove, Co Waterford)

PARTING SHOT

We are now going to end our Open Meetings with a joke or a brief amusing story, i.e. **Parting Shot**, and I would like to ask any budding comedians or raconteurs amongst our members for a contribution.

You can send details of the contribution to me rosemaryarchiemcintyre@gmail.com and then you could deliver it yourself or you can ask me to deliver it at the end of the meeting.

Archie McIntyre