

HIGHLIGHTS



309,048 activity sessions for young people delivered through Active Schools, an increase of 12.6%

Massive 36.6% increase in the number of hours that volunteers gave to the Trust

Admissions at the Mariner Centre and at Grangemouth Sports Complex increased

Over 24,000 tickets issued for Kelpie Tours, a big increase on the previous year

Callendar House visits up again by 20%, at 69,913 it set another new record and Kinneil Museum visits were up by 24%

Record numbers of rounds played at Grangemouth Golf Course continued

Our 4 millionth visitor was welcomed to the Helix since opening

Participation in walking programmes grew by 10%, helped by better weather

Highest admissions on record across the gyms, up by 6.4%, an increase at most individual gyms

1,592 activities and events took place in libraries, a 5% increase on last year

Worked with 407 local clubs and organisations to benefit culture and sport, an increase through the introduction of Community Sport Hubs

Admissions to FTH increased by over 8%, maintaining the increasing trend

Helix and Callendar House continued to receive 5 star reviews on TripAdvisor

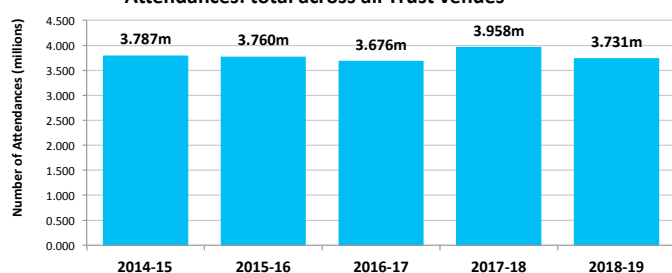
The Hippodrome won the Scottish Hospitality award for 'Best Cinema Experience in Scotland' and admissions increased by 9.1%



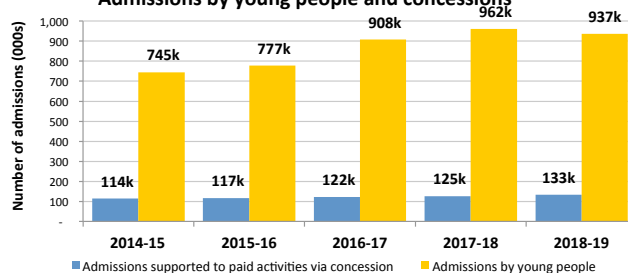
RESULTS AT A GLANCE

“I am proud to live in the Falkirk area and very proud of the Helix park and it’s facilities, I would highly recommend visiting”
Trip Advisor review

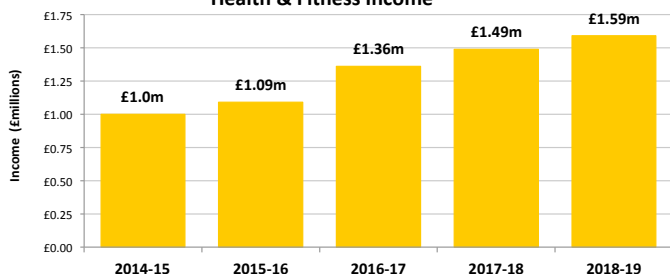
Attendances: total across all Trust venues



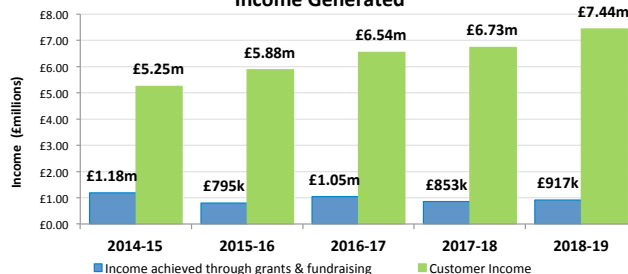
Admissions by young people and concessions



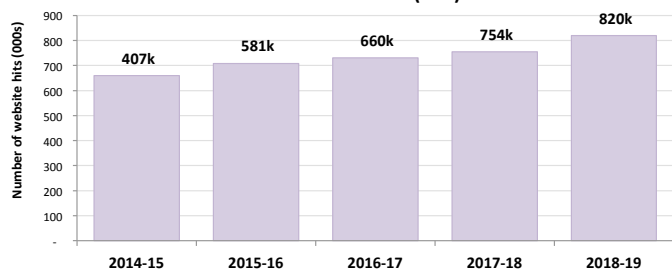
Health & Fitness Income



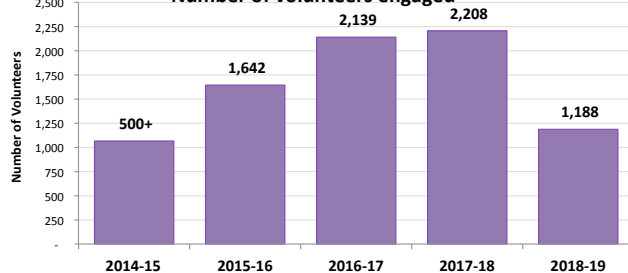
Income Generated



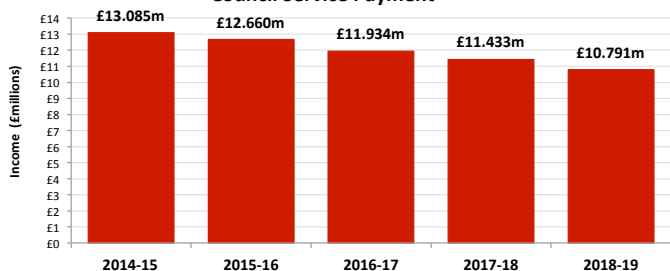
Visits to the Trust website (hits)



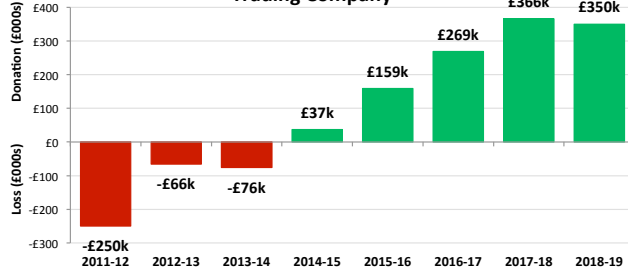
Number of volunteers engaged *



Council Service Payment



Trading Company



Our full results can be viewed on our website at www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/aboutus/performance

* Revised counting mechanism introduced in 2018.

MEETING OUR OBJECTIVES

OUR AMBITION IS THAT BY 2024:

We will be operating from venues that people want to use, with a more responsive programme offering high quality for our customers.

We will be a trusted and valued organisation, secure in our role as a leader for culture and sport and with diminishing reliance on Council funding; we will be more flexible, entrepreneurial and commercially minded.

We will have created champions for culture and sport and have loyal volunteers and a workforce who motivate a huge cross section of the community to take part in culture and sport that improves their lives.

WE ARE WORKING TO DELIVER THIS AMBITION THROUGH 3 OBJECTIVES. ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR INCLUDED:

Meeting Customer Needs

- Continued to deliver 5 star attraction standards at both the Helix and Callendar House
- New and wider range of arts programming at FTH including professional pantomime
- Introduced a new arts ticketing system giving a much improved customer journey
- Increased focus on targeting health needs including work with dementia patients and people suffering from Osteoporosis, Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis
- Improved physical access to the Mariner Centre by relocating the entrance at a level with the car park
- Continued work with social care services to install 'changing places' facilities at two sports centres with two more planned for 19/20
- Expanded community engagement in heritage through The Great Place project
- Developed dialogue with customers online through social media and the number of likes and follows across our digital media channels grew by over 10%
- Visiting the Kelpies continued to be ranked as the top thing to do in Falkirk on TripAdvisor and both the Helix and Callendar House continued to receive 5 star reviews

Ensuring Financial Viability

- Grew customer income particularly in the areas of Sport, Arts and Trading
- Opened the Great Mariner Reef, a new income generating activity at the Mariner Centre
- Utilised national frameworks and partnered with Falkirk Council to secure a developer partner for new business growth opportunities focusing on the Mariner Centre and Stenhousemuir Gym
- Secured income of £567,000 from competitive grant making bodies and made successful bids for project funds amounting to £430,937
- Continued to encourage a culture of donating in our venues through our donations boxes and received donations through workplace giving schemes
- Participated in the Council's strategic property review
- Utilised reserves to invest in business growth projects
- Our reliance on income from Council funding reduced from 60% to 57%, significantly down from 72% in the Trust's first year of operation

Leadership and Community Development Capacity

- Won a Total Business European Business award and a CEO Today award
- Improved our external communications with the launch of three new websites
- Increased the number of clubs and organisations worked with
- Created a new community partnership to manage and develop Carron Gymnastics Centre
- Continued to work with Grangemouth Golf Club towards community management of the Golf Course
- Strengthened our processes for working with volunteers and created several new volunteering opportunities
- Continued to manage sickness absence which at 4.46% was just slightly above our target of 4%
- Dealt with 64 complaints and formal enquiries which was less than the previous year
- Developed a new Information Security Policy to augment our data protection controls
- Maintained our focus on health & safety and as expected with the opening of soft play, there was an increase in numbers of accidents

PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN A WIDE RANGE OF SPORTING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY SITS AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

Connecting people with the past

Our Archives service is located in the oak-panelled former Victorian library of Callendar House, and is the place to go to find out about the history of the Falkirk area or to participate in family history research. Local archives and photographs are held here, and may be freely viewed by the public. Most aspects of local life are covered, from valuation and electoral rolls to old newspapers, from school records to town council minutes, from foundry catalogues to church bazaar programmes, and all sorts of things in between.

Led by our Archivist, the team manages the Search Room, catalogues and cares for the collections, deals with a huge variety of enquiries and promote engagement with the heritage of the area. Additionally, a comprehensive records management and corporate records service is provided to Falkirk Council.

In 2018/19 the use of the Search Room continued to increase, with over a thousand people visiting for a variety of reasons: from looking into their family

history to researching the industrial heritage of Falkirk. Enquiries increased by 30% on the previous year and 1,311 archives and 1,848 photographs were produced for customers.

To help raise the profile of the service the team took part in Doors Open Day, worked with other Archives and Libraries, collaborated with heritage groups, increased the scope of the volunteer programme and worked with higher education on a variety of their postgraduate courses. Doors Open Day in September attracted 140 people to our free talks.

The Archive offers attractive volunteer opportunities and we increased this from an average of 8 hours per month to 16 hours. Volunteer outcomes have been successful with many moving on to work in archives for private companies. We also established a productive working relationship with the University of Glasgow Archive degree course which resulted in a student placement that greatly assisted with our collection cataloguing.

Grangemouth Library's 130th anniversary celebrations offered an ideal opportunity for collaborating with the Library team. This included finding and digitising items such as photographs of the library from the grand opening to video work commissioned in the 1980s for the 100th anniversary.

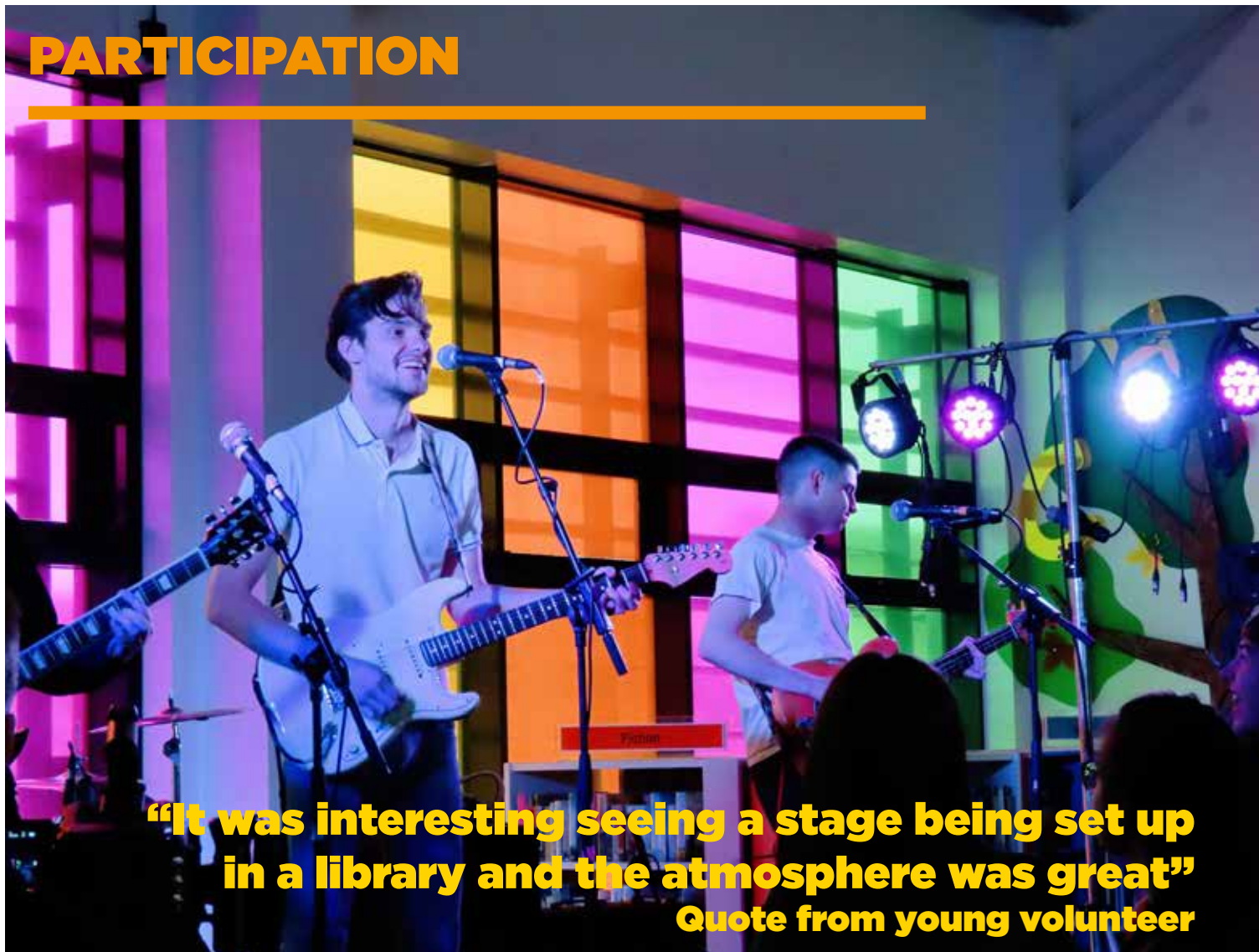
The Archive was used heavily for research closing the centenary of World War One. Rolls of Honour, Commemorative books, Falkirk Heralds from the period and the letter book from the Falkirk Recruitment Officer were all used in order to create a searchable database of the local men from the area who fell. This has proved invaluable for speedy searching for users wishing to trace family members who saw active duty.

Additionally the Archive has been opening up its vast image collection, working with Libraries' local history volunteers to create time lines on the various industries that have existed in Falkirk.



The frozen paddling pond, Zetland Park, Grangemouth, January 1959. © Falkirk Archive

PARTICIPATION



**“It was interesting seeing a stage being set up
in a library and the atmosphere was great”**
Quote from young volunteer

Getting it Loud in the Library

Denny Library proudly hosted a unique Sunday afternoon gig featuring Glasgow punk band Rascalton, supported by local band The Vamps. This special event was part of a joint project with six other Scottish public libraries and the Get it Loud in Libraries organisation, and was funded by SLIC (Scottish Library Information Council).

The aim of the Get it Loud in Libraries programme is to engage hard-to-reach young people who have low engagement in arts and cultural activity, either through social or rural exclusion. Get it Loud specialises in putting on gigs outside major cities and provides a quality music

experience for a young teenage audience, in a safe and alcohol-free space, and at a low cost. The organisation works with up and coming acts which in previous years have included artists such as Adele.

Another important strand of the funding is that groups of young volunteers are recruited to help set up and run the events. This offers a unique opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes at a gig. Tasks include assisting with sound and lighting, learning skills around film and photography, taking over social media platforms, as well as helping with ticketing and selling merchandise and refreshments.

For the gig at Denny we recruited a group of eight enthusiastic young volunteers. They were a great group to work with, and really seemed to enjoy themselves. To ensure they received a good volunteering experience we organised several sessions prior to the event. We were able to explain the project to them fully, they got to know each other and us, and explored which areas they were most interested in, for instance photography, music or sound, social media and blogging.

Other sessions included talking about live music opportunities with staff from Falkirk Council's music youth club Rock the Talk,

a session with Get it Loud in Libraries themselves and a photography and filming workshop on gig day itself.

Feedback from both the volunteers and the audience, showed all were keen to see more live music events.

The young volunteers in particular would like to help out at an open mic night with young emerging talent. So for the future this is definitely something the Trust would be interested in exploring with suitable partners.



**“What a great night,
Callendar Park looked
awesome”
From Twitter**

Hosting events in the Park

Callendar Park hosts a range of events of varying scale throughout the year and the Park is an important venue for both regional and national events.

The Lindsays Scottish Athletics National Cross Country Championships are held in Callendar Park annually in February and attract thousands of runners and spectators. The event consists of ten races for athletes aged 11 to adult, both male and female, over varying distances.

The Park accommodates a lapped course around Callendar House taking in the lake, woods and golf course, starting and finishing in front of the House. The event is the pinnacle of the winter cross country season for members of Scottish Athletics-affiliated clubs with National Championship medals for individuals and teams on offer. The 2019 event attracted 1,874 athletes.

A fireworks celebration event has taken place in Falkirk for many decades. From early beginnings in Bellsmeadow, the event now takes the form of a full professional fireworks show supported by a live music stage, all in Callendar Park.

The family friendly and free to attend evening gives the whole community an opportunity to experience the tradition of fireworks within a safe controlled environment. We commission expertly timed fireworks displays set to music, which provides creative high reaching bursts of colour, sight and sound spectaculars that are designed to build to an impressive finale.

Delivered in collaboration with the Emergency Services, the

community safety aspect is an important role of the event. The event itself meets all standards, is delivered by qualified experienced staff in all areas, and also has a wider effect. The 2018 event drew a 20,000 plus audience, a significant number of households across the district that chose not to set off their own fireworks.

Attending our event helps to ensure the safety of people, animals, and buildings, and reduce the risk of callouts to the Emergency Services.

We are delighted that families return to “the fireworks” year after year, whatever the weather, and go home safe, happy and well entertained.

PARTICIPATION



**“Absolutely fascinating”
Visitors from South Africa,
Visitor to 10 1/2 Objects exhibition**

Summer of Sport Exhibitions

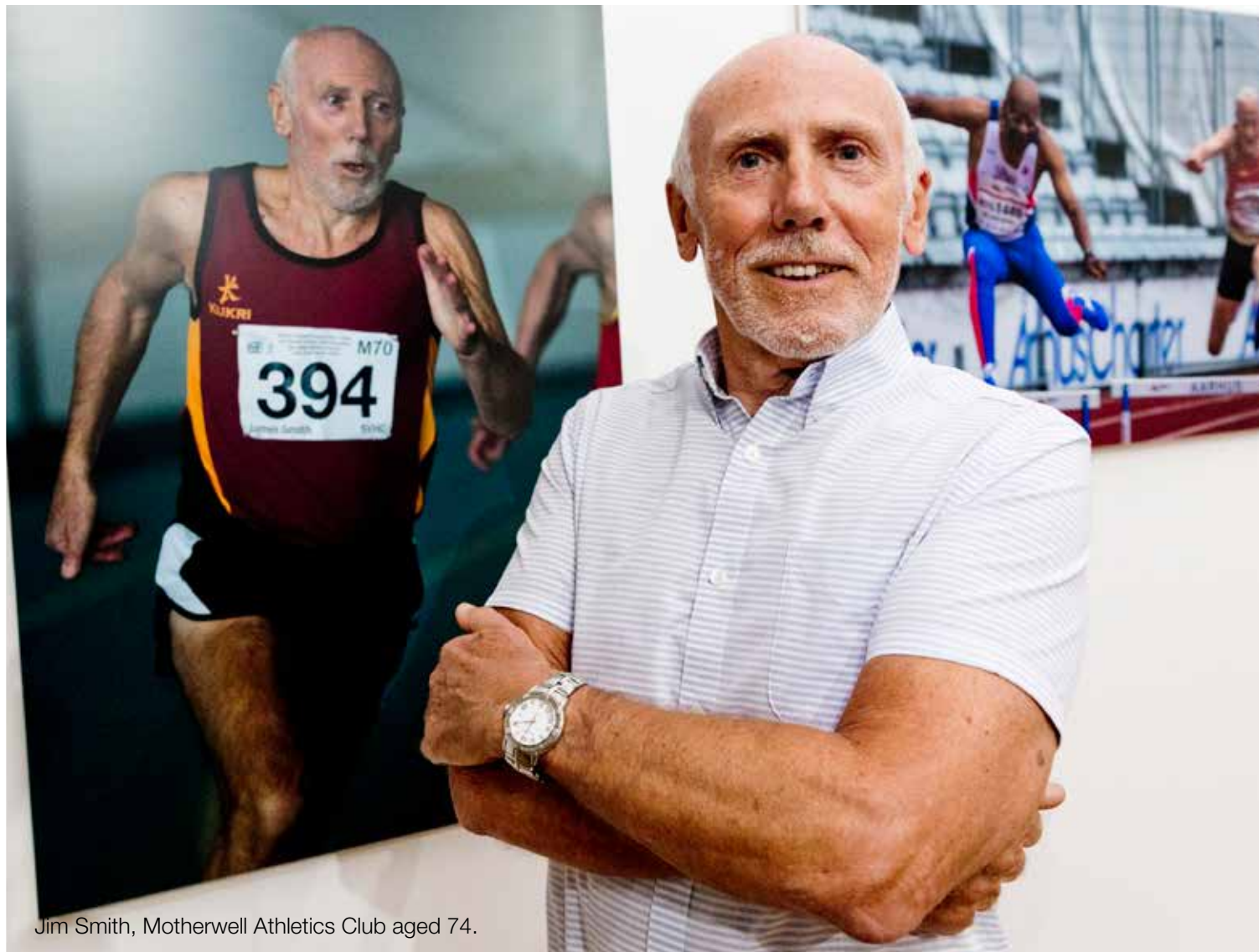
In the summer of 2018 we presented two exhibitions at Callendar House to tie in with that year's 'summer of sport' when the World Cup was in Russia, the Scottish Masters Athletics Meeting was at Grangemouth Stadium and the European Championships were in Glasgow.

Falkirk Football Club – A Fan's View

examined some of the more unusual stories from the Club's past through objects, images and documents from their unofficial archive as well as donations from the fans themselves.

Both exhibitions provided a fantastic opportunity to connect and highlight the different service areas within the Trust and to promote the Trust's key message of the importance of culture and sport to health and well-being. They also drew in many new visitors to Callendar House.





Jim Smith, Motherwell Athletics Club aged 74.

Growing Old Competitively

Growing Old Competitively featured the work of photographer Alex Rotas who, through her work, aims to change the perception of old age. Her photographs feature record breaking, medal winning athletes from around the world – all united by their age. For her exhibition in Falkirk we put her in contact with senior athletes from the Forth Valley area and she made portraits of them for inclusion in the exhibition.

Growing Old Competitively featured at the SPORTA 2018 conference in Perth as an example of good practice and it has been allocated a member-sponsored exhibition slot for the week beginning 18 November 2019 in the Garden Lobby exhibition space of the Scottish Parliament.



“Very well chosen items – didn’t know half of this stuff and I was born and bred here (53 years). Excellent.”
Visitor to 10 1/2 Objects exhibition

PARTICIPATION



Gladiators: A Cemetery of Secrets Bringing a unique exhibition to Falkirk

Over the year we worked with the Jorvik Centre, based in York, on a plan to bring their exhibition *Gladiators: A Cemetery of Secrets* to Scotland for the first time in 2019. The scale and ambition of the exhibition is significant and so for the first time we have introduced ticketing. Drawing on links with our area's own Roman heritage and the National Lottery Heritage Fund Re-Discovering the Antonine Wall initiative, we have programmed the exhibition as our 'must see' summer attraction at Callendar House.

The highlight feature is the skeletal remains of six men along with Roman artefacts dating from the early second century excavated in York. The six men are believed to have been gladiators who perished in combat and the exhibition explores the story behind the men.

The exhibition is set to run through to October 2019.

We have devised a programme of supporting activities, including for schools, comprising talks and participatory activities exploring - the creation of the exhibition; The Romans in Falkirk; The Antonine Wall; forensic science; Gladiator re-enactment; a screening of *Spartacus* at the Hippodrome and workshops in libraries. The exhibition has been promoted widely – looking to draw visitors from across the central belt of Scotland as well as our local audience.

“What an absolutely stunning exhibition. Fascinating facts and objects. Worth every penny. Well done all!”
Visitor from Watford.



“It’s great to see how much the kids in Falkirk love swimming”

Duncan Scott makes a wave in Falkirk!

On 6 November, Olympic medallist Duncan Scott joined 50 pupils at Grangemouth Sports Complex to mark our progress in delivering the Learn to Swim programme. The swimming hero took to the pool to show the children some top techniques for learning to be a great swimmer and took part in a Q&A session.

Duncan, who proudly takes on the role of Learn to Swim Ambassador, said “It’s great to see how much the kids in Falkirk love swimming ... it is so much more than just a sport – it’s an important life skill that keeps you

safe and healthy. But if the kids are aspiring swimmers, then starting at the grassroots through the programme is a great way to go.”

The success of the scheme in our area extends beyond local schools, with almost a quarter of all participants in the area of pre-school age, between 3 and 5 years – a fact Duncan said he believed was crucial in getting the nation’s youngsters swimming. Children have the opportunity to enrol in swimming lessons across eight pools in Falkirk and the surrounding area, Grangemouth Sports Complex,

The Mariner Leisure Centre, Bo’ness Recreation Centre, St Mungos High School, Braes High School, Denny High School, Larbert High School and Grangemouth High School.

The Framework helps to create quality Learn to Swim environments for children from birth upwards where they can become competent, confident and safe swimmers with opportunities to progress through the aquatic pathway and to swim for fun.

PARTICIPATION

**“What a treasure House of amazing artefacts
! Brilliant ! Thank You ! Well Done FCT!”**

Comment from Visitors Book



Geoff Bailey

As the Heritage Engagement Officer I have the fortune to work with a treasure trove of material and help to promote it, along with my colleagues in the heritage, arts and libraries teams. Research is key to our work and includes archaeological excavation with the aid of some wonderfully enthusiastic and skilled volunteers. Along with Naomi Kenny I help organise and run Big Roman Week in September each year, as well as Local History Week each May. The Antonine Wall is the big focus of Roman Week and each year a different theme is picked for Local History Week; last year it was the First World War, this year it's Communications.

In 2017 I was asked to turn my Falkirk history talks into an exhibition for Callendar House called 'A History of Falkirk in 10½ Objects'. The objects chosen from the collection marked the progress of society through its culture using a chronological framework. Some of them were very personal choices – such as the 10th century high Christian cross from Carriden which I discovered. The exhibition also told Scotland's story with Irn Bru being formulated here, and one of the very first prototypes for a television transmitter tested here. And that latter connection provided the idea for an innovative approach to interpreting objects in a museum display - Naomi and I made a series of short films on each object which also provide a legacy as they can be viewed here <https://tinyurl.com/yxo7wofj>.

Naomi Kenny

I'm the Equalities and Facilities Librarian for Falkirk Libraries. I have the best job ever! Not only do I get to work with the fabulous people within the Home Library Service, but my remit includes promoting local history to our local communities.

To do this, I work closely with local history societies, community groups, our Heritage team, local historians and, more recently, the Great Place team to host genealogy sessions with Alzheimers Scotland. What motivates me most is making information more accessible for all members of our communities – whether this is presented in an exhibition, a workshop, a display or digital format. It's very varied and never dull!

This year, as well as promoting our Fitness teams with greenscreen videos, I have been working on Local History Week, filmed a series of films on the Callendar House exhibition on the History of Falkirk in 10½ Objects, organised Big Roman Week and am currently working on a film to celebrate the bicentenary of the death of James Watt. His work on improving steam power in Kinneil Estate had a transformational impact for Industry worldwide. We're going to celebrate this in August by bringing his role in Falkirk to the fore! All this will be shared online so Falkirk bairns near and far can enjoy it.