

Welcome to the MA monthly newsletter

The Mathematical Association 259 London Road Leicester LE2 3BE Email: office@m-a.org.uk

# August 2018

# **Order Now! Primary Mathematics Challenge 2018/19**

The Primary Mathematics Challenge is a fun and exciting mathematical challenge aimed at pupils in *years 5 and 6 England and Wales, P6 and P7 in Scotland, and Years 6 and 7 in Northern* 

*Ireland.* The PMC is designed not to be just another test in the school year. We are of the belief that the PMC encourages enthusiasm, boosts confidence in



mathematics and shows the different way questions can be asked. We believe in the importance of problem solving as a means of helping pupils develop their reasoning skills.

The 2018/19 Primary Mathematics Challenge will take place the week beginning **12th November 2018**. Orders are now open at <u>https://members.m-a.org.uk/PMC-Registration</u>.

# **Discount for Members!**

The Mathematical Association's new pricing structure gives a 30% discount to members on all resources and publications. Visit our <u>online shop</u> to see the full range.



# Equals

Equals is a valuable resource for those working with mathematics and special educational needs. The Summer 2018 edition of Equals is out now and can be viewed <u>online</u>. This edition sees the inclusion of a wide range of articles, two from new contributors.



You can now follow on Equals on Twitter @EqualsOnline.



# Book now for the Stirling MA Conference!

The 13th Annual One Day Conference for Teachers of Secondary Mathematics is on 29th September 2018 at the University of Stirling. The keynote address will be by Maureen McKenna OBE. <u>Click here</u> for more information and to book online.



# Primary Conference: "Reasons to Love Reasoning"

Don't forget to book your tickets for the 7th Primary Mathematics Professional Development Day on 13th October 2018 at Wycombe High School. The conference features a wonderful line up of expert speakers including a keynote by Professor Mike Askew. <u>Click here</u> for more details.



# **Branch Event: Save the Date!**

# Meridian Branch, Tuesday 30th October 2018, time tbc

Venue: London Road Campus, University of Reading John Mason, internationally renowned author of 'Thinking Mathematically', will share some brand new research. Please email enquiries to Laura Teague.

Please see <u>our branches page</u> for further details.

# **GCSE Revision Cards: Special Offer**



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# Padlock Challenges by Rachael Horsman

Padlock Challenges are a motivating, innovative and practical way to enable students (Key stage 3 and 4) to engage with Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability and Geometry. Each book has a comprehensive set of worksheets from which teachers can construct their own pupil booklets or classroom posters



containing a selected set of challenges. Each challenge is carefully constructed to enable students to gain confidence and skills. The conclusion of each challenge is a number determined by their answers, collectively these lead to the combination for a padlock, and the route to opening a designated treasure box secured with a chain and combination lock. Find the combination - gain the treasure within.

Each book is priced competitively.

Non-Members £10.00

Members £7.00

# **Coming Soon - Primary Padlock Challenges by Rachael Horsman**

This exciting new book for KS1 and KS2 from Rachael Horsman, follows the same format as the very successful KS3 and KS4 Padlock Challenge series. As per the format of the previous books, it has a comprehensive set of worksheets from which teachers can construct a set of challenges. Each of the challenges is constructed to enable students to gain in both confidence and skills. The conclusion of each challenge is a number determined by their answers and collectively these lead to the combination for a padlock. The route to opening a designated treasure



box secured with a chain and combination lock follows. Find the combination - gain the treasure within.

We are sure that primary level pupils will find this book exciting and challenging.

Non-members £9.00

Members £6.30

PMC participating schools can pre-order this book for £8.50

### **Ray Gibbons**

It is with sadness that The Mathematical Association has learnt that Rachel Gibbons died on 3 July 2018. Ray was the driving force behind *Equals* from the first issue in 1995 until she stepped down from the editorial team in 2015. Ray was also on the editorial team for *Struggle* from 1978 until the journal was renamed *Equals*. Ray had been a member of the MA for 66 years. An obituary is planned for the October issue of MA News.

### Women in Mathematics

Plus Magazine has shared a video clip in conjunction with The London Mathematical Society in which June Barrow-Green talks about women in the history of mathematics. Among the things she notes is that no women were elected Fellow of the Royal Society until 1945. View the clip here:

https://plus.maths.org/content/interview-junebarrow-green.



# 2018 Fields Medal

The Fields Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding mathematical achievement for existing work and for the promise of future achievement. The 2018 Fields Medals were awarded at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Rio de Janeiro. The recipients were Caucher Birkar, Alessio Figalli, Peter Scholze and Akshay Venkatesh.



In an unusual twist, Caucher Birkar became the first person in the world ever to receive the Fields Medal twice. The Kurdish mathematician was presented with a replacement copy of the medal after his original medal was stolen just minutes after he received it. Birkar joked, "I'm more famous now than I would be".

Plus Magazine has an article by Rachel Thomas on winner Peter Scholze (<u>https://plus.maths.org/content/ps</u>). Learn about his 'perfectoid spaces', created at the tender age of 23, and how they have helped make advances in algebraic geometry.

There is also a video clip of winner Akshay Venkatesh talking about quadratic forms (<u>https://plus.maths.org/content/interview-akshay-venkatesh</u>).



The Councils of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and London Mathematical Society have awarded the Christopher Zeeman Medal in 2018 to Dr Hannah Fry of University College London, for her contributions to the public understanding of the mathematical sciences.

Hannah Fry, who was keynote speaker at this year's BCME conference, was also shortlisted for the prestigious Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize 2018 for her new book Hello World.



### **Volunteers Needed!**

We need your help! The Mathematical Association runs a bookstall at various conferences around the country each year. These events are often on Saturdays. We are looking for volunteers to help run the bookstall, even if just once a year. We can offer an honorarium of £100. Please contact Marcia



Murray (SeniorAdministrator@M-A.org.uk) for further details.

Compiled by Jo Morgan with thanks to Chris Pritchard