

**From the Chair, Chris Atkins:**

Last month was a remarkably busy time for the committee preparing for our AGM which took place on 9 October and we appreciated the solid support given to us all. Members have asked how we were able to complete it so quickly and the answer was preparation. I cannot praise the committee highly enough for the huge amount of work that entailed. You received all the documentation needed well in advance, along with hard copies available at the meeting, so we could dispense with the reading out of reports. Voting was swift and we can now welcome our two new committee members Stewart Seery Vice Chair and Felicity Renshaw Group Secretary, both of whom I know will bring much positivity to our branch of u3a. Prof. G Atkins then gave an informative talk on bacteria and viruses and he also sent out copies of his slides to interested members.

Our trip to Westonbirt proved to be as beautiful as we imagined. It was a day enjoyed by all and thanks must go to Elizabeth Kirtley who organised it & Carol Youngson who helped her. The heart of our u3a is not one thing, it is a movable feast. Monthly meetings rely on our community coming together for an afternoon consisting of a guest speaker, information, refreshments and fun.

Groups are also hugely important for our survival. We are always looking for ideas for new ones. Please contact us if you have any suggestions or interests that you may like to explore. In the early days of our organisation, we had a Member On Their Own group (MOTO). This could be resurrected if any of you would be interested. Please contact me or our new groups secretary Felicity Renshaw about this or any other ideas that you may like to explore.

**November Meeting on Wednesday 13 November, 2.15 for 2.30 start**

**David Sutcliffe 'Cecil Sharp, folk music collector, his life and work'**

(See page 3 for an introduction to David Sutcliffe and important information about parking)

**Future Meetings currently arranged**

11 December — Christmas Party

8 January 2025 — Brimsore Garden Centre 'Gardening Folklore'

12 February — Caroline Newark 'Obsession, Betrayal & Revenge: a medieval murder mystery about the death of Edward II in Berkely Castle'

12 March — Richard Kay 'From Here to the Horizon: Landscape Painting from 1500 to the present day'

9 April — Ann French 'Forty Years On: A Career in Textile Conservation'

***Please contact the Publicity & Events Secretary if you have ideas for Speakers***



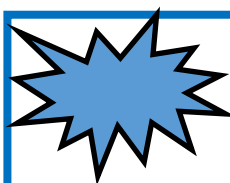
**Welcome to our new members:**

**Penny Whitehouse, Mike Ashworth,  
Sarah Threlfall, Heather Woodward**

*We look forward to speaking to you at a meeting, please make yourself known to a committee member when you attend.*

**The George Coffee Shop, Martock**

Wednesday 9am — 1.30pm;  
Thursday and Friday 10am — 4.30pm;  
Saturday 9.30am — 1pm



**Celebration Corner  
Happy Birthday to:**

Martin Atkins, Trish Port, Jean Hockey, Su Seeley, Haydn Everitt, Vivienne Fletcher, Sylvia Seal, Kay Durrant, Pam Miller, Tracy Perkins, Jennifer Becker, Jane Horsey, Geoffrey Hael, Jill Frost, Jacqueline Martin, Mike Ashworth, Ann Campbell.

*If you would like your name mentioned, please let the Membership Secretary know your birth month if you haven't done so already (phone 07555 033027 or email [martocku3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3amembership@gmail.com))  
Do you have a special birthday or anniversary coming up? Please let us know so we can give you good wishes.*

**Dates for Your November Diary**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 9 November</b>   | 10.00am-1.00pm, Moorlands Shopping Centre, Martock — Farmer's Market   |
| <b>Tuesday 12 November</b>   | Meet at 10.30am, Martock Recreation Ground — Martock Health Walk (1 mile round recreation ground at gentle pace) |
| <b>Wednesday 13 November</b> | <u>2.15pm for 2.30pm start</u> , Martock Parish Hall — Martock & District u3a monthly meeting                    |
| <b>Friday 22 November</b>    | Meet at 10.30am, Moorlands Shopping Centre — Martock Health Walk (30-45mins. level walking)                      |
| <b>Friday 29 November</b>    | 10.00am-12.00pm, Martock Parish Hall — Come For Coffee   |
| <b>Saturday 30 November</b>  | 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Film Night 'The Holdovers'  |

**An Introduction to David Sutcliffe  
the speaker at the meeting on 13 November**

David lives in Isle Abbots. On retiring from running his nursing home in Hambridge, he has written two books: a biography of Rev Charles Marson, vicar of Hambridge, one of the early Christian Socialists; and in 2023 a new biography of Cecil Sharp, collector of folk songs and dances (including Morris dances, country dances etc).

David will talk about Sharp's life and sing some of the songs he collected here in Somerset.



**Martock & District u3a Annual General Meeting**

The following members were elected to the Committee for 2024-25:

Chair: Chris Atkins

Treasurer: Sue Roberts

Vice Chair: Stewart Seery

Secretary: Pat Brett

Membership Secretary: Alison Sutton

Groups Secretary: Felicity Renshaw

Publicity and Events Secretary: Adrian Sutton

Web Manager: Alison Bleasdale

Contact details are available on the last page of the Newsletter.

**The Chard and Ilminster U3A Rock Music Group is trundling along as it is very early days but we need some more members, we are looking for a keyboard player, drummer, lead guitarist who can "jam" and a male singer with a strong voice.**

**We meet at Horton Village Hall every other Wednesday 7pm - 9pm.  
If you are interested please reply by email  
to [sueplawton@btinternet.com](mailto:sueplawton@btinternet.com) and we will get back to you.**

**Alan Lawton**

**Parking in The George Car Park for u3a Monthly Meetings**

**We are allowed to use this carpark without charge for most meetings. But please put your u3a Membership Card on your dashboard when parking for these meetings. Please car share as much as possible as there is limited space in the car park.**

**Thank you.**

## **Martock & District Accounts Update**

The final figures September 2024 show Income of £160. Expenditure of £986.98 with a total balance of £2,477.04. Please email the Treasurer on [treasmaru3@gmail.com](mailto:treasmaru3@gmail.com) if you would like more detail about the accounts.

The raffle at the September monthly meeting raised £40. This was donated by the speaker to his charity.

## **Martock & District Groups Update**

If you wish to be or are a member of a Martock & District Group, **please note the following:**

1. To comply with the u3a Insurance Policy which covers Martock & District u3a, **all** members must be allocated to a Group by the Groups Secretary. Please do not approach a Group Leader directly; and
2. The u3a insurance does not provide personal accident cover and physically active group activities are undertaken at members' own risk.

If you wish to join or leave a Group, please contact the Groups Secretary, see back page for details. To ensure the insurance cover is valid, **all Group membership actions must be undertaken this way and not directly with a Group Leader.** Thank you.

If you are a Group Leader and would like to promote your Group in the Newsletter, please contact the Chair.

## **RAFFLE PRIZES NEEDED PLEASE....**

The Raffle at the monthly meeting is very important in raising funds. Many speakers give their presentations without a fee and the funds raised from the raffle are given to the speaker to give to a charity of their choice. The Committee will be very grateful if members are able to provide raffle prizes.

Please give any prizes to Chris Atkins at a meeting. Thank you.

## **Friends Extra — Your Exclusive Benefits Hub**

Subscribe to the u3a Friends Newsletter today at [u3a.org.uk/newsletter](https://u3a.org.uk/newsletter)

Once you subscribe, follow the link to join the Friends Extra Scheme

Unlock exclusive benefits & save money on shopping, travel, health, home, insurance & much more

## Martock & District u3a Theatre Group

**Would you like to come and see Lucy Worsley at Westlands at 7.30 on Sunday 27 April with a pre-show supper at Westlands?**

This show is a long way ahead but if we do not book now, we will be unable to get reasonable seats.

Half the seats are booked up already but there are still plenty of good central seats.

I do hope some of you will feel able to commit so early.

***Following her sold-out Agatha Christie tour, acclaimed historian Lucy Worsley leads us into the life of one of English literature's most cherished figures. For these live, beautifully-illustrated talks, Lucy invites audiences to step into the world of Jane Austen, the beloved author of timeless classics such as Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility, and Persuasion. Through the houses, places and possessions which mattered to her, Lucy takes a fascinating look at what home meant to Jane and to the women like her who populate her novels. Austen famously lived a 'life without incident', but with new research and insights Lucy reveals a passionate woman who fought for her freedom. A woman who, far from being a lonely spinster, in fact had at least five marriage prospects, but in the end refused to settle for anything less than Mr Darcy. "It is a truth universally acknowledged" that this is an event not to be missed!***

***"This is my kind of history: carefully researched but so vivid that you are convinced Lucy Worsley was actually there at the party - or the parsonage." Antonia Fraser***

If you are interested, please email Alison Bleasdale on [alisonbleasdale@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbleasdale@gmail.com). Perhaps you would consider joining the theatre group, so you get information about future visits. If so please contact the Groups Secretary. Normally our visits are not planned so far ahead but this show will be sold out a long time beforehand.

***Have you got any useful hints, ideas, information or experiences you think members will be interested in? Please send your ideas to Chris Atkins.***



## **Martock Food Bank — Christmas 2024**

***As a 'thankyou' for the use of The George car park for our monthly meetings, we will be collecting food and other items to donate to the Martock Food Bank for the Christmas boxes that are given to those in need of help locally.***



***Please bring your donations of Christmas tinned or boxed food, other household items and items from a chemist (all very important for people) to the monthly meetings on 13 November or 11 December.***



***If you wish to donate perishable items, please bring them to the December meeting only. Please ensure all items have an expiry date for after Christmas and preferably into 2025, so that people can properly benefit from your generosity. Many thanks.***



## Martock & District u3a 2023-24 Committee

Chair – Chris Atkins [martocku3achair24@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3achair24@gmail.com)

Vice Chair – Stewart Seery

Treasurer – Sue Roberts [treasmaru3@gmail.com](mailto:treasmaru3@gmail.com)

Secretary – Pat Brett [commaru3a@gmail.com](mailto:commaru3a@gmail.com)

Web Manager – Alison Bleasdale [webmaru3a@gmail.com](mailto:webmaru3a@gmail.com)

Groups Secretary – Felicity Renshaw [martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary – Alison Sutton [martocku3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3amembership@gmail.com) or for information about membership please ring 07555 033027

Publicity & Events Secretary – Adrian Sutton [pubmaru3a@gmail.com](mailto:pubmaru3a@gmail.com)

**The Committee welcomes feedback from members, by email to the Chair or the Secretary or through your Group Leader**

### **DISCLAIMER:**

***The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions, if required.***

### **November Facts and Legends ...**

November comes from the Roman 'novem' or ninth month — as it was originally before the 2 months were added to the calendar by the Romans. The Anglo-Saxons called it Wind Monath (as it is the time cold winds start to blow) or Blod Monath (as cattle were slaughtered for winter food).

*The November flower is the chrysanthemum which represents joy and happiness. Topaz*



*and Citrine are the November birthstones. They both represent fortune.*



All Saints day, 1 November, used to be called All Hallows when Christians remember the saints 'people of good will'. This is followed by All Souls Day on 2 November, when those who have died in all walks of life are remembered.

*In the 19th and 20th centuries, children used to go around 'souling' on All Souls day, rather like carol singing, for money and soul cakes. These were like hot cross buns but without currants or the cross on top. Soulers were often accompanied by a Hobby Horse, referred to as a Hooden Horse.*

Other November events include:

- The first motor insurance policies were issued on 2

November 1896. They excluded damage caused by frightened horses!

- On 4 November 1922, Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter discovered the tomb of Tutankhamen.
- The Berlin Wall started coming down on 9 November 1989.
- At the 11 hour on 11 November 1918 the First World War ended with the Armistice.
- The first helicopter took off on 13 November 1907.
- Terry Waite was released from captivity in Lebanon on 18 November 1991.
- On 21 November 1783, the first flight by man in a hot air balloon took place.
- The first female police officer went on duty in Grantham, Lincolnshire on 27 November 1914.

*Stir-up Sunday, the last Sunday before Advent, goes back to Victorian times and is the traditional time for all the family to stir the Christmas pudding and make a wish. In 2024 this is 24 November.*

The 4th Thursday in November is Thanksgiving Day in America, when the Pilgrim Fathers' first harvest is celebrated.

*St Martins Day or Martinmas on 11 November celebrates St Martin of Tours, a Roman soldier who became a bishop in Gaul. He is known for cutting his cloak in half & giving one piece to a beggar.*