

From the Chair, Chris Atkins:

It is lovely to be able to report that the last monthly meeting talk was received with such a huge amount of interest. Our Speaker, Ann French, described her working life as a textile restorer and it was fascinating to listen to her descriptions of the many incredible historical restorations that she has worked on. Most of us, I think, believed that her job must be noticeably quiet, and for some of the time it is, but she also holds a scaffolding license and can operate machinery most of us only see on building sites! Ann thinks nothing of climbing to vast heights to hang finished pieces of work both inside and outside exhibition venues and has also travelled all over the world when her expertise is needed for a specific project. Since our open day, some members have shown a degree of curiosity relating to Avalon. This is the group name for Martock & District, Somerton, Crewkerne & District and Chard & Ilminster u3as. The prime benefits of belonging to any of these u3as mentioned means that any member can attend any meeting or join any group under the Avalon umbrella for no added charge other than membership of your own u3a. Yeovil also belongs to Avalon however, they do not allow outside members of Avalon to attend their meetings for free as their membership is much more expensive than the rest of us.

I make no apology for continuing to ask for members to stand for the committee. We will go under if at least two people cannot be found. We need a new Chair and a Secretary urgently. If you can help, especially by taking over one of these two positions, then please do come and talk to me. The only requirements are fair computer skills and a genuine wish to see our u3a thrive.

Our next Speaker, Richard Salter, is going to give us a potted history of Quakers in England. To make Richard feel completely comfortable **we will not be holding a raffle at this meeting** as Quakers do not indulge in any form of gambling.

Chris

May Meeting on Wednesday 14 May, 2.15 for 2.30 start

Richard Salter 'A Potted History of Quakers in England'

(See page 3 for information about the speaker & about parking)

Future Meetings currently arranged

11 June — Megan Haldane 'Cybercrime'. Followed by the launch of the book written by our Writing Group

9 July — Peter Isaacson 'Medical Detection Dogs'

August — no meeting

10 September — Fergus Dowding 'Industry in Martock'

8 October — Annual General Meeting with Prize Raffle and Quiz

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



Welcome to our new members:

Dorothy Onslow

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



Celebration Corner **Happy Birthday to:**

Pauline Warren, Robert Miller, Patrick Palmer, Judith Lewis, Ian Davidson, Derek Mace, Elizabeth Glaisher, Jorja Hael, Michael Greatwich, Gaynor Talley, Sean McCormick, Stephen Fox-Collins, Joanna Culliford, Ann Everitt, Carol Pembury, Tim Woodcock, Philip Tilson, Newton Jones, Janet Gelernter, Janet Gould

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)

Dates for Your May Diary

Saturday 10 May	10.00am-1.00pm, Moorlands Shopping Centre, Martock — Farmer's Market
Tuesday 13 May	Meet at 10.30am, Martock Recreation Ground — Martock Health Walk (1 mile round recreation ground at gentle pace)
Wednesday 14 May	<u>2.15pm for 2.30pm start</u> , Martock Parish Hall — Martock & District u3a monthly meeting
Friday 23 May	Meet at 10.30am, Moorlands Shopping Centre — Martock Health Walk (30-45mins. level walking)
Friday 30 May	10.00am-12.00pm, Martock Parish Hall — Come 4 Coffee

Martock & District Accounts Update

The final figures for March 2025 show Income of £463.39, Expenditure of £123.79 with a total balance of £3,688.18. The raffle raised £57 for the speaker's chosen charity Smile Train. Please email the Treasurer on treasmaru3@gmail.com if you would like more detail about the accounts.

An Introduction to Richard Salter the speaker on 14 May

Richard is from Taunton. He grew up in Bristol and North Somerset but has lived in Taunton for fifty years. His Salter ancestors were from the Blackdowns. He has a degree in History from Oxford and Richard's working life was as a secondary school History teacher, an Open University History lecturer, a teachers' trade union secretary and an adult education tutor. Having been retired a while now, Richard's life still seems busy with children and grandchildren, friendships, travel and long-distance walking.

For most of his life Richard has had a religious commitment but thinks he's more of a seeker than an adherent. He has been a member of Taunton Quaker Meeting for thirty years, but would never claim to be an especially good Quaker!

Richard's Quaker interest and his History interests are entwined, and he tends to seek the historical dimension in most things he studies. No spoilers, but he will try to suggest that Quakerism in England has had a series of stages, which have sometimes looked quite different from each other, while Quakers still hold to the insights which first made them distinctive.

Quakerism has deep roots in Somerset, both in the towns and in the countryside. The historic connections between Quakers and certain trades and industries are well known and include textiles and shoe-making in Somerset.

Richard is looking forward to our afternoon together!

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.

Joining the Committee.....

Do you have the time and energy to join the Committee and be part of the future of Martock & District u3a?

As our Chair explained earlier, both she and the Secretary will be retiring from the Committee in October. As these are 2 of the 3 Officers of our organisation which are required by law, the u3a cannot continue without members joining the Committee to take on these roles in due course.

So if you are computer literate, enjoy being involved and with time to attend one Committee meeting a month, please consider joining the Committee and contact Chris Atkins for more details.

Advertising our u3a

Do you live outside Martock? Could you put up posters to advertise our meetings where you live? If so, please contact Adrian on pubmaru3a@gmail.com

No printing needed, hard copy posters will be provided, laminated if necessary

Timetable for Martock & District Groups

Monday am	Tuesday am	Wednesday am	Thursday am	Friday am
Scrabble — every week	Art — 1st and 3rd Art Appreciation — 4th Cycling — monthly Sewing — 2nd	Philosophy — 1st Science — 4th	Beginners' Bridge — 2nd and 4th	Bridge — every week
Monday pm	Tuesday pm	Wednesday pm	Thursday pm	Friday pm
Dance Group — 2nd and 4th MahJong — 2nd Play Reading Drama — 4th Spanish — alternate weeks	Flower Arranging — 3rd Modern Board Games — 1st and 3rd Recorders — 1st and 3rd Recorder Consort — alternate weeks Recorded Music— 1st Ukelele —alternate Tuesday and Wednesday Writing – Tuesday or Wednesday	Paper Crafting — 4th Ukelele —alternate Tuesday and Wednesday Writing – Tuesday or Wednesday	Book Group 1— 4th German Beginners — every week German Improvers — alternate weeks	Book Group 2— every 6 weeks

Other Groups that meet at times and venue agreed by the Members: Lunch Club; Theatre; Try A Craft; Garden Visiting

Grants for Groups

Grants are available for Groups to buy equipment for their activity.

Also, if you have an idea for a Group but don't have what's needed to start a Group, you could get a grant to start up.

Contact the Chair on martocku3achair24@gmail.com to discuss your Group's needs or your ideas



CALLING ALL KNITTERS!!

Caroline Bennett, from the Martock Parish Council Community Team, is compiling a fun garland of knitted bunting to commemorate VE Day on 8 May. This is an intergenerational, cross community project.

If you're interested in helping, please contact Caroline on 07946 121 612 or email caroline.bennett@martock-pc.gov.uk to get the pattern. This is to ensure consistency among the triangles of bunting.

Theatre Group Trip

Would you like to join the Theatre Group to see 'Sleuth' on 24 May at the Swan Theatre in Yeovil? A non-professional theatre, produced professionally

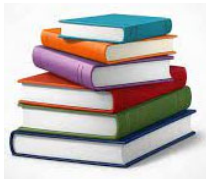
SLEUTH by Anthony Shaffer

The ultimate game of cat and mouse is played out in a cosy English country house owned by celebrated mystery writer, Andrew Wyke. Invited guest Milo Tindle, a young rival who shares Wyke's love for games, declares his intention to run off with Wyke's wife. The two men devise an elaborate revenge / power game; through their style and cunning, the stakes continue to rise, leading to the play's inexorable, heart-stopping finish.

Contact Alison on alisonrbleasdale@gmail.com if you are interested.

New Groups, Old Groups, Possible Groups

A Second Book Group



Book Group currently has 5 members and could take 2 more. They will meet for the first time on Friday May 16th from 2pm to 3:30pm and will meet at the same time on the same day every 6 weeks.

Are you interested? If so contact the Groups Secretary — details below

Chess Group?

A visitor to the Open Day asked about a Chess Group. Would you be able to Lead a new Group?



Please contact the Groups Secretary if you're interested in such a Group.

Canasta Group

Do you like playing Canasta?



Are you interested in joining and/or leading a Canasta Group? If so, please contact the Groups Secretary

See page 4 for information about all our Groups and grants available for Group activities

For all Group matters, whether to arrange a taster session or to join a Group, please email Felicity Renshaw on martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com



Martock & District u3a 2023-24 Committee

Chair – Chris Atkins martocku3achair24@gmail.com

Vice Chair – Stewart Seery

Treasurer – treasmaru3@gmail.com

Secretary – Pat Brett commaru3a@gmail.com

Web Manager – Alison Bleasdale webmaru3a@gmail.com

Groups Secretary – Felicity Renshaw martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com

Membership Secretary – Alison Sutton martocku3amembership@gmail.com or for information about membership please ring 07555 033027

Publicity & Events Secretary – Adrian Sutton pubmaru3a@gmail.com

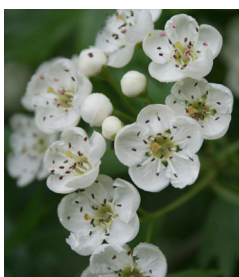
The Committee welcomes feedback from members, by email to the Chair or the Secretary or through your Group Leader

DISCLAIMER:

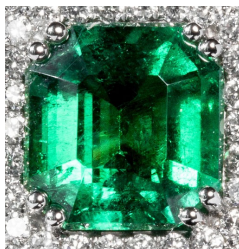
The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions, if required.

May Facts and Legends ...

May is named after the Greek goddess Maia. It's the time when flowers emerge and crops begin to sprout. The Anglo-Saxons called the month 'Tri-Milchi' because the lush new grass meant that cows could be milked 3 times a day. It was first called May in about 1430, before that being known as Maius, Mayes or Mai.



The May flowers are Lily of the Valley representing the return of happiness and sweetness and Hawthorn, a



symbol of hope. The birthstone is emerald, which represents fertility and rebirth.

May was thought to be an ill-omened month for getting marriage, with the saying 'Marry in May and you'll rue the day' - though no-one knows where this comes from or why. Maybe just from an unhappy spouse!

Other superstitions include a Cornish one about not buying a new broom in May as it's unlucky. And you shouldn't wash any blankets either! May weather lore includes 'A wet May makes a big load of hay. A cold May is kindly and fills the barn finely'.

The Eta Aquariids meteor shower can be seen in May. It was discovered in 1870 and can be seen best from equatorial regions, just before dawn.

May is exclusive in the year in the days it begins and ends. If it starts on a Friday and finishes on a Sunday, no other month that year will start on a Friday or finish on a Sunday.

May events include:

- On 5 May 1930, Amy Johnson was the first woman to complete a solo flight from England to Australia
- The world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, became valid on 6 May 1840
- Also on 6 May 1954, Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under 4 minutes
- VE (Victory in Europe) Day was on 8 May 1945. This year we celebrate the 80th anniversary, with the number of people in the UK still alive who lived then and served in the war rapidly decreasing
- Nelson Mandela became the President of South Africa on 10 May 1994
- On 18 May 1991, Helen Sharman became the first British woman in space
- 29 May is Oak Apple Day, when traditionally people wore oak apples or oak leaves to remember that King Charles II was restored to the monarchy on this day in 1660
- Joan of Arc was burned at the stake on 30 May 1431