

From the Chair, Chris Atkins:

Our September meeting was busy; Fergus Dowding gave us a very interesting talk on industry in Martock, which members enjoyed immensely. Gremlins were in the system, and sadly there was no visual representation to accompany the talk. However, massive credit and thanks go to Fergus for being able to speak so knowledgeably without his slides. His talk was much appreciated. Also, our amazing tea ladies were moved by July's talk on the medical detection dogs and decided that the tea money in September should go to this incredible charity. Due to their wonderful refreshments and your generosity, they raised well over £100. This is the last piece I shall write for the newsletter, and it would be remiss of me not to thank everyone for keeping us going this year. Firstly, you, our members. You gave me the confidence needed and were forgiving of the mistakes I am sure that I made. You responded so generously to the Transforming Lives Christmas appeal and to the lunches for children during the summer holidays. It is also a joy to see you greeting friends, and welcoming new members.

Our committee has also been an incredible strength to me, and I certainly could not have done it without their support. Each of them brings their own personal skills and expertise to committee meetings, and I sincerely want to thank everyone for that. Our Group Leaders have also continued to guide the groups responsibly, sharing knowledge and making sure that members have fun as well as learn new skills. The Gold Club organiser, Elizabeth Kirtley, works so hard bringing the bulbs, plug plants, vouchers, and informing us of the Brimsmore talks that allow members discounts. This has helped us throughout the year, and I am sure all who love their gardens have benefited from Elizabeth's kindness.

To all of you who have helped set up the hall and at the end of meetings put the chairs away, grateful thanks. I always breathe a sigh of relief on walking in to find the meeting is ready to go and I really do want to say how much this is appreciated.

Our tea ladies have already been mentioned in part, but I want to add how lucky we are to have such generous women in our branch of u3a. They are an integral part of our team and have freely given of their time to bake and serve refreshments for us all to enjoy at each of our meetings.

I am ending this on a more positive note than my previous ones. A new member has come forward and is willing to stand for election as our new Chair at the AGM. Hopefully we will continue to go from strength to strength in the coming years, and I know that you will be as supportive of your new committee as you have been of our present one.

It has been a privilege to have been your Chair.

Chris Atkins

Chair Martock & District u3a.

October Meeting on Wednesday 8 October, 2.15 for 2.30 start

Annual General Meeting with Prize Raffle and Quiz

(See below for information about the raffle & about parking)

A quorum of 25 Full members attending is needed for the AGM

Future Meetings currently arranged

12 November — Andy Day 'Gardening the World—The Commonwealth War Graves Commission'

10 December — Christmas Party

14 January — Brimsmore Gold Club 'Slightly Naughty Plants'

11 February — Andrew Whiley 'Yeovil Freewheelers Blood Bikes'

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

Annual General Meeting on 8 October

Followed by

Free Prize Raffle for all members attending the AGM.

Vouchers for:

A meal at The White Hart

Martock Butcher

The Flower Loft

and Old Railway Farm Shop

And a Hamper from the Trading Post

Free refreshments

And a Quiz



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.



Welcome to our new members:

Millie Taylor, Cheryl Ronaldson,
Trudy and Mark Ballard

*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:**

Margaret Davidson, Constance Stolworthy, Susie
Stakes, Norma Smyth, Alison Sutton, Rhona Jones,
Laurie Hawes, Janet Plummer, Susan Jones, Peter
Fowler, Peggy Horwood, Judith Stewart, Gordon
Richings, Margaet Robathan, Gillian Sharples

*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). Do you have a special
birthday or anniversary coming up? Please let us know.*

Dates for Your October Diary

- Tuesday 7 October** Meet at 09.50am, Lighthouse Café, Stoke-sub-Hamdon —
Stoke Health Walk (5-6 miles with option of pub lunch)
- Wednesday 8 Oct** 2.15pm for 2.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Martock &
District u3a monthly meeting
- Saturday 11 October** 10.00am-1.00pm, Moorlands Shopping Centre, Martock —
Farmer's Market
- Monday 13 October** Meet at 10.00am, Lighthouse Café, Stoke-sub-Hamdon —
Montacute/Stoke Health Walk (3-4 miles, 1.5 hours)
- Tuesday 14 October** Meet at 10.30am, Martock Recreation Ground — Martock
Health Walk (1 mile round recreation ground at gentle pace)
- Friday 24 October** Meet at 10.30am, Moorlands Shopping Centre — Martock
Health Walk (30-45 mins. level walking)
- Friday 24 October** 10.00am-12.00pm, Martock Parish Hall — Come 4 Coffee
- Sunday 26 October** 10.30am-1.00pm, The David Hall, South Petherton — Jazz Cafe
- Tuesday 28 October** Meet as above on 9 June — Montacute/Stoke Health Walk

Martock & District Accounts Update

The final figures for August 2025 show Income of £179, Expenditure of £22.80 with a total balance of £2,481.46. Full accounts for 2024-25 will be presented at the Annual General Meeting. Please email the Treasurer, Adrian Sutton, on treasmaru3@gmail.com if you would like more detail about the accounts.

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 Book Group 2 — 3rd	Flower Arranging — 3rd Modern Board Games — 1st and 3rd Recorders — 1st and 3rd Recorder Consort — alternate weeks Recorded Music— 1st Ukelele —alternate Tuesday & Wednesday Writing – Tuesday or Wednesday	Paper Crafting — 4th Ukelele —alternate Tuesday & Wednesday Writing – Tuesday or Wednesday	Book Group 1— 4th German Beginners — every week German Improvers — alternate 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

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

What Could Happen to Martock & District u3a in future?

As you are aware from the paperwork sent to you, the Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday 8 October.

As the Chair has explained in her report on page 1 of this Newsletter, a new member has come forward to stand as Chair on the Committee. This role is one of the three Officers of the charity required by law.

However, that is not an end to the problem of how we get committee members. There are still 1-2 vacancies on the committee for 2025-26 — Web Manager and Publicity & Events Secretary.

At the AGM in October 2026, there will be vacancies for Treasurer and Membership Secretary, as those members have to leave the committee at that point. Please think about whether you could do these roles in a year's time. If you are interested, you can come along and see what the roles entail and shadow for a time in the coming year. There is lots of help and support available if you join the committee.

All of us are volunteers, whatever role we have — tea lady, helping with chairs for meetings, a member who attends monthly meetings and groups or a committee member. Please consider volunteering even more.

Dementia awareness event on 8 October 6-7pm in The Shore Room (the back room) at Martock Christian Fellowship.

Everyone is welcome, please share with friends, neighbours, colleagues, and at local groups and businesses.

The first Memory Café at All Saints Church, Martock will be on Tuesday 14 October 10-11.30. It will run on the second Tuesday of each month.

This a place for people with dementia and their carers to meet in a relaxed and friendly setting.



Martock & District u3a 2024-25 Committee

Chair – Chris Atkins martocku3achair24@gmail.com

Vice Chair – Stewart Seery

Treasurer – Adrian Sutton 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

Co-opted Outreach Co-ordinator—Cassy Treasure

Co-opted Member — Iain Houston

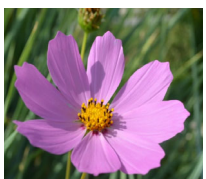
The Committee welcomes feedback from members, by email to the Chair or the Secretary or through your Group Leader

DISCLAIMER:

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

October Facts and Legends ...

October was named by the Romans after 'octo', as it was the eighth month in the original calendar, before January and February were added to the year. The Saxons called the month 'Wyn Monath' - wine month — because it was the time of year to make wine.



The October flowers are cosmos and calendula (marigold). The birthstones are opal



and tourmaline.

The full moon on 6-7 October is known as the Hunter's Moon (previously Harvest Moon). A large, bright super moon helping hunters, hence its name.

October folk lore includes:

When deer are in a grey coat in October, expect a hard winter.

Much rain in October, much wind in December.

A warm October means a cold February.

In October dung your field, and your land its wealth shall yield.

Keep an eye out for the Draconid meteor shower in

the late evenings of October 6-10, and the Orionid meteor shower in the pre-dawn hours from 2 October to early November.

The Bavarian beer festival Oktoberfest takes place every year in Munich, Germany. The event has been held since 1810.

October events include:

- On 1 October 1949, the People's Republic of China was founded. Mao Zedong ruled the republic from its founding until his death in 1976
- Britain's first escalator opened on 4 October 1911 at Earl's Court underground station in London, connecting the District and Piccadilly platforms
- On 14 October 1066, Harold II, England's last Anglo-Saxon King was killed at the Battle of Hastings — supposedly because of an arrow in his eye
- British general Lord Charles Cornwallis surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia on 19 October 1781, ending the American War of Independence (Revolution)
- On 25 October 1854, Lord Lucan led The Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava in the Crimean War
- The first television transmission of a moving image was made by Scottish inventor John Logie Baird on 30 October 1925