

**From the Chair, Chris Atkins:**

February has been very wet and damp as we all know. So it was with a considerable amount of joy that we welcomed so many of you to our February monthly meeting. Our speaker Caroline Newark did not disappoint and her talk on the supposed murder of Edward II at Berkeley Castle was riveting. Both Caroline & her husband have asked me to convey their thanks to you all for such a warm welcome. We did them proud and also made £50 for the Book Trust Caroline's chosen charity. See page 3 for information about buying her books. Our annual Open Day is coming up on 19 March. I would ask that all of you spread the word and also maybe pop in to see if there are any other Groups that you might want to join. Talking of Groups, Rummikub is up and running and our Choir I think has enough members to make it viable. Talk to Felicity to find out more.

There are only seven monthly meetings left before our Secretary, Treasurer and I have to step down. Legally our u3a cannot continue unless these three posts are filled. We need people to step forward now so that we can ease them into their chosen roles before we stand down. Please don't think someone else will do it because chances are that if everyone thinks that we will have to dissolve our branch. Sue, Pat and myself can talk to any one who would like to volunteer and know more about these positions. Please do not let all the hard work, the fun, the friendships and the coming together go. Please help keep Martock and District u3a up and running.

Chris

**March Meeting on Wednesday 12 March, 2.15 for 2.30 start**

**Richard Kay 'From Here to the Horizon: Landscape Painting from 1500 to the present day'**

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

**Future Meetings currently arranged**

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

14 May — Richard Salter 'A Potted History of Quakers in England'

11 June — Megan Haldane 'Cybercrime'

9 July — Peter Isaacson 'Medical Detection Dogs'

August — no meeting

10 September — Fergus Dowding 'Industry in Martock'

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

**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:**

**Elizabeth Griffiths, Jackie Poole, Alex Gartshore, Susan Jones, Jane and David Chapman, Roy Littlefield, Alison Edwards, Joan Chapman, Sue Tyrie**

*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:**

Liz Stevens, Angela Hunt Cooke, Carol Youngson, Susan Mitchell, Dorothy Rotherham, Rosalyn Bowers, Sheila Young, Meryl Townsend, Helen Artingstall-Harris, Rosanne Crowther, Adrian Sutton, Beth Hill, Alex Gartshore

*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 March Diary**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Saturday 8 March</b>   | 10.00am-1.00pm, Moorlands Shopping Centre, Martock — Farmer's Market   |
| <b>Tuesday 11 March</b>   | Meet at 10.30am, Martock Recreation Ground — Martock Health Walk (1 mile round recreation ground at gentle pace) |
| <b>Wednesday 12 March</b> | <u>2.15pm for 2.30pm start</u> , Martock Parish Hall — Martock & District u3a monthly meeting                    |
| <b>Saturday 29 March</b>  | 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Film Night 'Paddington in Peru'                                   |
| <b>Friday 28 March</b>    | Meet at 10.30am, Moorlands Shopping Centre — Martock Health Walk (30-45mins. level walking)                      |
| <b>Friday 28 March</b>    | 10.00am-12.00pm, Martock Parish Hall — Come 4 Coffee   |

**Martock & District Accounts Update**

The final figures January 2025 show Income of £666.91, Expenditure of £188 with a total balance of £2,905.21 The raffle raised £39 for u3a funds. Please email the Treasurer on [treasmaru3@gmail.com](mailto:treasmaru3@gmail.com) if you would like more detail about the accounts.

## **An Introduction to Richard Kay the speaker on 12 March**

Following a degree in the History of Art at the University of St. Andrews, Richard began his career at Sothebys in 1987. He worked in their salerooms in Chester, Sussex and London for nearly nine years. Richard joined Lawrences in 1999, having previously been an Associate Director at Phillips Auctioneers where he oversaw picture sales and valuations for the firm in Central Southern England.

Since joining Lawrences, Richard has achieved great successes with works by artists as varied as John Atkinson Grimshaw, Winifred Nicholson (for whom Lawrences held the world record auction price for almost a decade), William Heath Robinson, Paul Sandby and Joseph Farquharson. He carefully researched an oil painting by John William Godward that was bought for £380,000. A superb group of six linocuts from the Grosvenor School achieved record prices to total £166,000.

Richard is a regular lecturer, devising over two dozen talks on themes as varied as Mona Lisa and Minimalism and also speaking to local art groups, Somerset County Museum, The Arts Society and Sothebys Institute of Art amongst many others.

The theme for Richard's talk this year is landscape painting.



### **Message from the February Speaker Caroline Newark**

A couple of people asked where they could buy copies of my books. The answer is through my website [www.carolinenewark.com](http://www.carolinenewark.com) where they are all available.

Also The Trading Post at Lopen stock all my books.

If anyone has any problems finding any of these books they can contact me by email [caroline@carolinenewark.com](mailto:caroline@carolinenewark.com)

### ***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, the Secretary and the Treasurer will be retiring from the Committee in October. As these are 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.*

# Open Day for Martock & District u3a

**Wednesday 19 March 2.00-4.00pm**

**in Martock Parish Hall**

***Come and find out about various Groups that  
you could join!***

***Bring your friends and neighbours***

**Refreshments provided**

**Membership is available to all who have time  
for themselves**

## How to Join a Martock & District u3a Group

Membership (whether full, associate or Avalon membership) of Martock & District u3a entitles you to attend the monthly meetings, receive the Newsletter and other information, go on trips and join Groups.

Once you are a member, you can attend one session of a Group as a taster or you can join a Group straight away (provided there is space). However, it is not possible to have a taster session or join a Group if you are not a member.

So if you wish to have a taster session, join or leave a Group, please contact the Groups Secretary, email as below. 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 wish to be or are a member of a Martock & District Group, please note the following:

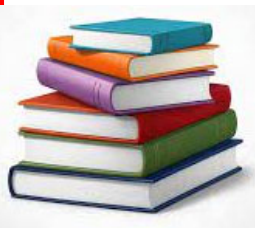
1. Please do not approach a Group Leader directly
2. To comply with the u3a Insurance Policy which covers Martock & District u3a, all members must be allocated to a Group by the Groups Secretary. The u3a insurance does not provide personal accident cover and physically active group activities are undertaken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

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

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

## **New Groups, Old Groups, Possible Groups**

### **A Second Book Group?**



The u3a Book Group has steadily increased in numbers and has reached the point when we can't get any bigger. There is a limit to how many can squeeze into the average living room and more importantly — how many can sustain a central discussion without breaking up into mini-discussions.

We need a Group Leader and members for the second Book Group  
Are you interested? If so contact the Groups Secretary — details below

### **Rummikub Group**



This is a new Group just starting.  
If you would like to join it, please  
contact the Groups Secretary

### **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*



*Bonjour mesdames et messieurs ....*

*Can you help?*

*A Group Leader is needed for the French Conversation & French Improvers Groups.*

*If you can help please contact the Groups Secretary*



### **Choir Group**

This is another new Group!  
So if you enjoy singing and want to join the Choir,  
please contact the Groups Secretary



**For all Group matters, whether to arrange a taster session or to join a Group, please email Felicity Renshaw on [martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com)**



## 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.***

### **March Facts and Legends ...**

The name March comes from the Roman 'Martius'. The month was originally the first month of the year and was named for Mars the god of war. The Anglo-Saxons called the month 'hyld monath' which means stormy month or 'hraed monath' which means rugged month.



*The narcissus (also known as the wild daffodil) and jonquil are the flowers most associated with March, named after the boy in Greek mythology who was changed into a flower. It is the main daffodil*

*species in the UK and is also known as the Lent Lily.*

*This is because it blooms in early spring, usually dropping the blooms by Easter. The March birthstones are bloodstone and aquamarine.*



One of the weather lore sayings for March is 'as it rains in March, so it rains in June' So lets hope for a dry March!

*In the days when the River Thames was wider than it is now, barges carrying oranges and lemons landed just below the Saint Clements Dane Churchyard. On 31 March this is commemorated when local primary school children attend for a service and sing the nursery rhyme 'Oranges and lemons say the bells of St Clements'. Sometimes they also ring handbells.*

*Each child is presented with an orange and a lemon at the end of the service.*

Spring starts between 19 and 21 March and March is when many animals start to wake up from hibernation.

*The Spring Equinox is on 20 March this year. This is when the Earth is perpendicular to the sun, with the sun shining in a straight line toward the equator. This means that the north pole and the south pole are at equal distances from the sun so daytime and nighttime are equal in length.*

Other March events include:

- St David's Day on 1 March. St David is the patron saint of Wales and many Welsh people wear daffodils that day.
- The Ides of March fall on 15 March. In Roman times it was considered to be a day for settling debts. Julius Caesar was assassinated on the Ides of March 44BC
- 17 March is St Patrick's Day. He is the patron saint of Ireland.
- For football fans — the English football league was formed on 22 March 1888
- 25 March 1948 saw the opening of Heathrow Airport
- Coca-cola was introduced on 29 March 1886
- 31 March 1889 saw the opening of the Eiffel Tower in Paris