

**From the Chair, Mark Ballard:**

It was really good to see so many of you at our February meeting and I hope you found the talk by Andrew Wiley as interesting as I did. The work of charities like the Yeovil Freewheelers Blood Bikes are a cornerstone of our society and one has to wonder what would happen without all of those support services in place. Over £200 was raised by the sale of refreshments to support this fantastic charity and I know others were adding to his collection box as well, thank you.

On the subject of supporting other charities, several members have enquired about sharing details with you all about the various initiatives around the area for groups in recycling goods. We will include more in a future newsletter but in the meantime, Rosanne Crowther is happy to receive any broken or unwanted jewellery & watches to support Yeovil Hospital Charity and Mike Plummer has mentioned All Saints Church are now registered to collect used Toner Cartridges. Please feel free to bring anything along to the next meeting and as referred to above, we will include more details in the future.

Hopefully over the coming weeks, we will see some respite from the rain and of course, the impact that has had our local community. I hope you have all managed to stay safe and found ways around the various road closures.

Our March meeting will include Jonathan Hoskyns, talking about 'North Perrott Fruit Farm and Apples'. The meeting will be on Wednesday 11 March, 2.15 for a 2.30 start and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

**March 2026 Meeting on Wednesday 11 March, 2.15 for 2.30 start**

**Jonathan Hoskyns 'North Perrott Fruit Farm and Apples'**

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

Future Meetings currently arranged

8 April — Adrian Denning 'Spy Radios'

13 May — Caroline Newark 'Till Death Do Us Part'

10 June — David Webb 'The UK Wild Otter Trust'

8 July — Brian Wright 'Humpty Dumpty Sat On The Wall'

*No meeting in August*

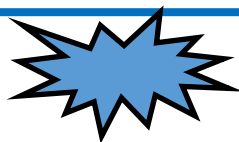
***Please contact the Publicity & Events Secretary if you have ideas for Speakers***



**Welcome to our new members:**

Maureen Spinney, Joy Williams,  
Martin Brown, Ian Hall, Sandra  
George, Vicky Wiggins

*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:**

Alex Gartshore, Suzy Langdon, Liz Stevens, Hugh Pearce, Susan Mitchell, Dorothy Rotheram, Rosalyn Bowers, Meryl Townsend, Helen Artingstall-Harris, Rosanne Crowther, Adrian Sutton, Fiona Paull, Beth Hill

*If you would like your name mentioned, please let the Membership Secretary know your birth month (contact details on last page)*

**Dates for Your March Diary**

- Tuesday 3 March** 9.50am, Lighthouse Café, Stoke-sub-Hamdon — Stoke Long Health Walk (Ring Sue on 07792 311736 for details)
- Monday 9 March** 9.30am, Lighthouse Café — Montacute/ Stoke Short Health Walk, as above. 9.50am — Medium Walk, as above
- Tuesday 10 March** 10.30am, Martock Recreation Ground — Martock Health Walk (1 mile round recreation ground at gentle pace)
- Wednesday 11 Mar** 2.15pm for 2.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Martock & District u3a monthly meeting
- Saturday 14 March** 10.00am-1.00pm, Moorlands Shopping Centre, Martock — Farmer's Market
- Monday 23 March** Montacute/Stoke Health Walks, as above
- Friday 27 March** 10.00am-12.00pm, Martock Parish Hall — Come for Coffee
- Saturday 28 March** 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Film Night 'The Choral'
- Sunday 29 March** 10.30am-12.30pm, The David Hall, South Petherton — Jazz Cafe

**Martock & District Accounts Update**

The final figures for January 2026 show Income of £818.00, Expenditure of £158.98, with a total balance of £3,518.87. Please email the Treasurer, Adrian Sutton, on [treasmaru3@gmail.com](mailto:treasmaru3@gmail.com) if you would like more detail about the accounts.

## **An Introduction to Jonathan Hoskyns the speaker on 11 March**

Jonathan and his wife Anwen are the 3rd generation to tend to the orchards of North Perrott Fruit Farm and their farm shop was one of the first in the area. It has continually developed for over 50 yrs to remain relevant to the local community. Land on which the orchards grow has been in the Hoskyns' family since the 1740's, when Jonathan's ancestor first started purchasing land in the area.

Jonathan and Anwen met in Kent and were married in Anglesey in 1994. Their twin daughters Harriet & Isabel were born in 1996.

Many types of dessert apples and pears are grown at the fruit farm and more than 30 named varieties are pressed for juice. Jonathan is very knowledgeable about apple varieties and encourages many people to grow their own apples and pears. So if you have a query about an apple/pear that you grow, bring a fruit and photos and ask Jonathan.

### **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.**

### **Financial Matters for Membership**

The Committee has recently reviewed the costs of membership and decided that some changes were needed to ensure our u3a can continue to meet its ongoing financial commitments.

**These changes are:**

- **Printed Newsletter** Some members choose to have the monthly Newsletter in printed format. The cost of producing printed copies has greatly increased since 2020, with not only increased postal rates but the cost of paper, envelopes and printing. Therefore **from 1 April 2026**, for members renewing their membership who choose to have a printed Newsletter, **the cost will be £8.50 per year.**
- **u3a Matters Magazine** (previously known as Third Age Matters) About half of our members chose to have this publication in printed format. The u3a is currently charged £4.20 for each address that the magazine is sent to. This is a considerable burden on our finances. Almost all the neighbouring u3as to us make an charge extra if members want the printed magazine. Therefore **from 1 November 2026**, renewing members who want a printed copy of *u3a Matters Magazine* will be charged **£4.20 a year**

***We encourage members who want to read u3a Matters to access the free version online at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/u3a-matters>. This is a shortened version without so many adverts!***

## New Committee Members

Members can only be on the Committee for 3 consecutive years. They then have to stand down for a year before standing for another 3 years if they wish.

Therefore succession planning for committee members is very important. The following committee roles have to be filled at the AGMs over the next few years.

October 2026 — Treasurer, Vice Chair, Membership Secretary. Also Publicity & Events Secretary & Web Manager if these 2 currently vacant roles have not been filled beforehand

October 2027 — Groups Secretary, Outreach Co-ordinator

October 2028 — Chair, Secretary, Committee Member

Please consider if you can join the Committee. You can attend a Committee Meeting to see what happens (though you cannot vote). Please contact the Chair or the relevant Committee Member for more information about the role.

***Our u3a cannot continue unless we have committee members — please consider volunteering for the Committee***

## **How To Help Your Group Co-ordinator**

All Group Co-ordinators are volunteers, members of our u3a who are willing to manage a Group. It is very disheartening for Co-ordinators if they don't get a response to emails/phone calls they send out to the Group about a meeting. This non-response can even lead to a Group Co-ordinator deciding they don't wish to carry on—to the detriment of both Group members and the u3a!

So please be a polite, responsible Group member and answer emails/calls from your Group Co-ordinator — even if it is just to say 'no thanks' . Thank you.

## **Handy Hints .....**

### Have you heard about the recent problems with Property Fraud?

Property fraud scams involve criminals stealing identities or forging documents to sell or mortgage properties they do not own, often targeting vacant, rented, or mortgage-free homes. Key risks include email interception regarding bank details and "get-rich-quick" investment schemes.

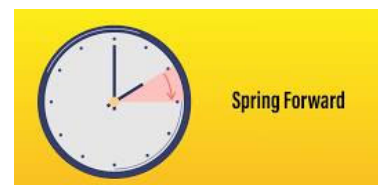
Protect your home from this fraud by registering with the Land Registry. Go to <https://propertyalert.landregistry.gov.uk/> for this free service.

### The clocks go forward on Sunday 29 March at 02.00.

Changing clocks can be relatively easy as we can see them. , though

probably you change then before you go to bed on Saturday night! And computers and phones go forwards automatically.

However, don't forget about your heating clock — so you don't wake up to a cold house — and remember security lights and other household items that are not in easy view.



Memory Café at All Saints Church, Martock will be on Tuesday 10 March 10-11.30. This a place for people with dementia and their carers to meet in a relaxed and friendly setting.

## Timetable for Martock & District Groups

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

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

### **MahJong Group**

New members are welcome to join in and play this absorbing Chinese game. We meet at least once a month in a relaxed and sociable atmosphere. Even if you have no idea what MahJong is, do come along to discover a new and fascinating game.



### **ART GROUP**

*Would anyone like to take over leading the Art Group? Either on your own or jointly with another member of the Group.*

*If you are interested, please get in touch with the Groups Secretary on [martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com)*



**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 2025-26 Committee

Chair – Mark Ballard [martocku3achair24@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3achair24@gmail.com)

Vice Chair – Stewart Seery

Treasurer – Adrian Sutton [treasmaru3@gmail.com](mailto:treasmaru3@gmail.com)

Secretary – Mary Marshall [commaru3a@gmail.com](mailto:commaru3a@gmail.com)

Web Manager –

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 –

Outreach Co-ordinator — Cassy Treasure [martocku3aoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3aoutreach@gmail.com)

Committee member — Trudy Ballard [Martockdistrictu3acommittee@gmail.com](mailto:Martockdistrictu3acommittee@gmail.com)

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

### **DISCLAIMER:**

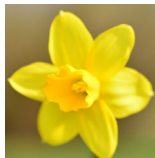
***The Committee reserves the right to edit submissions, if required.***

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

The name March is ultimately derived from the Latin word Martius (named after Mars, the Roman god of war). Martius was the name of the first month in the original Roman calendar. Along with January, May, and June, March is one of several months named after a god.



*The March birthstone is aquamarine, typically connected with the ocean and is supposed to represent youth, health, and hope.*



*Flowers for March are daffodils and jonquils (a daffodil variant), representing regard or unrequited love, rebirth and new beginnings, also desire and friendship.*

The equinox, on 20 March this year, marks the formal start of spring. It occurs when the sun is directly over the equator and day and night are nearly equal in length. In the Southern Hemisphere, March is the start of Autumn.

*The Anglo-Saxons called March “Hlyd monath,”*

*meaning “Stormy month,” or “Hraed monath,” meaning “Rugged month.” As March is generally linked with high winds, the proverb “March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb” describes the month’s weather patterns.*

March has St David’s Day for Wales patron saint on 1 March and St Patrick’s Day for Ireland’s patron saint on 17 March.

Other March events include:

- 2 March 1969 saw the maiden flight of Concorde, travelling at twice the speed of sound
- 15 March 44 BCE saw Julius Caesar killed on the Ides of March, even though he’d been warned to ‘beware the Ides of March’
- Queen Elizabeth II laid the foundation stone for the new Coventry Cathedral on 23 March 1956
- On 28 March 1912, both Cambridge and Oxford boats sank during the annual boat race
- The slave trade was abolished by the British parliament on 25 March 1807, after a long campaign by Quakers and others.