

From the Chair, Mark Ballard:

Our speaker at the May meeting was Caroline Newark, who provided a fascinating insight into her own family history, blended into the wider historical figures that many of us had heard of and how marriages (or the ending of) have evolved over time. A most enjoyable session.

As the warmer days have arrived so too have the occasional heavy rains, reminding us why Somerset always looks so green. The winds always seem to be carrying seeds, pollen or blossom, so best wishes to those who suffer from any allergies or reactions. The longer days have also led to more public events and Open Days across the area and it is great to see so many people showcasing local produce, skills and endeavours.

We have had to have a swap around on our Speaker agenda for reasons outside of anyone's control, so thank you to Niall Clifford (one of our own Members) for bringing forward the date of his talk to this coming meeting. Niall is going to talk on the subject of "Governing Prisons". The meeting will be on Wednesday 10 June, so please arrive from 2.15 as usual, for a 2.30 start.

I look forward to seeing many of you there.

June 2026 Meeting on Wednesday 10 June, 2.15 for 2.30 start

Niall Clifford 'Governing Prisons'

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

Future Meetings currently arranged

8 July — Brian Wright 'Humpty Dumpty Sat On The Wall — Nursery Rhymes, a Hidden History'

No meeting in August

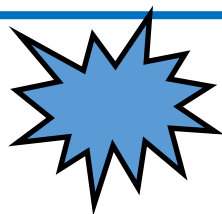
9 September — Jeannette Hampstead 'The Hazelbury Bryan Hedgehog Rescue Centre'

14 October — Annual General Meeting, Quiz and Prize Draw

11 November — Larry Jeram-Croft 'The Story of a Royal Navy Battle of Britain Pilot'

9 December — Christmas Party

***Please contact the Publicity & Events Secretary if you have ideas for Speakers
on pubmaru3a@gmail.com***



Celebration Corner

Happy Birthday to:

Welcome to our new members:

Roger Goodland

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

Sadie Lloyd, Lorraine Turton, Gill Cole, Richard Talley, Jan Kemp, Sally Oberthur, Jill Luffman, Mike Plummer, Peggy Redman, Karen Browne, Alyson Allen, Pam Davey

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

Dates for Your June Diary

- Tuesday 2 June** 9.50am, Lighthouse Café, Stoke-sub-Hamdon — Stoke Long Health Walk (Ring Sue on 07792 311736 for details)
- Monday 8 June** 9.30am, Lighthouse Café — Montacute/ Stoke Short Health Walk, as above. 9.50am — Medium Walk, as above
- Tuesday 9 June** 10.30am, Martock Recreation Ground — Martock Health Walk (1 mile round recreation ground at gentle pace)
- Wed 10 June** 2.15pm for 2.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Martock & District u3a monthly meeting
- Saturday 13 June** 10.00am-1.00pm, Moorlands Shopping Centre, Martock — Farmer's Market
- Monday 22 June** Montacute/Stoke Health Walks, as above
- Friday 26 June** 10.00am-12.00pm, Martock Parish Hall — Come for Coffee
- Sunday 28 June** 10.30am-12.30pm, The David Hall, South Petherton — Jazz Café

Martock & District Accounts Update

The final figures for April 2026 show Income of £479, Expenditure of £1,954.13 with a total balance of £2,429.18. If you would like more detail about the accounts, please email the Treasurer, Adrian Sutton, on treasmaru3@gmail.com

An Introduction to Niall Clifford
the speaker on 10 June

Niall joined the Prison Service in 1972 as a Prison Officer. In 1975 he became an Assistant Governor. Niall was at Long Lartin High Security Prison in Worcestershire in 1984 as 3rd in charge.

Later, Niall was Governor at Erlestoke, Cardiff, Durham and Feltham Prisons, moving round the country with his job.

For 4 years, 2000-2004, Niall developed and led the combined Women's Prisons. He was then Area Manager for the North East from 2004 to retirement in 2006.

In all, Niall had a total of 33 years in the Prison Service.



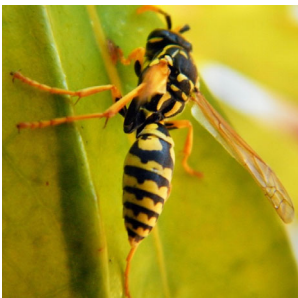
Asian Hornets — also known as Yellow Legged Hornets

These are an invasive species that are predators of honeybees

Please report any sightings of these hornets or their nests

- **On the phone recording app Asian Hornet Watch**
- **Online at nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet**
- **By email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk**

Use binoculars from a safe distance to identify the hornets or their nests and be very careful to avoid being stung, these hornets are dangerous



Update from Caroline Newark — our May speaker

Caroline's next book is 'The Taming of Lord Kildare' and the Amazon release date is 28 July 28 2026.

Or via Caroline's website www.carolinenewark.com/

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.

Charity Status — Our Registered Charity Number is 1217106 and we can be found on The Charity Commission website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/charity-commission>

New Website — The new site is <https://martock.u3asite.uk/>. If you go to the old website, you will be redirected. Please email the Chair at martocku3achair24@gmail.com with any comments, suggestions or ideas for items in the Notices section.

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

Days Gone By

***Now open on the Recreation Ground for Refreshments, Light Bites, Crafts and Vintage
9.30 am — 4.30 pm every day except Tuesday***



Presents 'The Rehearsal'

In The Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon

On 12 June at 7.00 pm and 13 June at 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

All money raised supports Stoke village.

This comedy drama was written by a u3a member, with another member in the cast.

Tickets available from Stoke Community Shop, £10 each (cash only).

Text 07891 183191 for more information.



ART NEWS

After running our u3a Art Group since we were established, Kay has decided to take a well-earned break. She has worked hard; her group was enjoyed by all who belonged to it and she will be sorely missed.

If there is sufficient interest, Chris Atkins is willing to hold a preliminary meeting to discuss where we may go from here. With summer coming, En Plein Air class could be arranged if enough people are interested.

If you are interested in attending a meeting with Chris, please get in touch with Felicity Renshaw, the Groups Secretary, on martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com

The Memory Café at All Saints Church, Martock is on Tuesday 2 June 10-11.30.

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

Raffle Prizes

Do you have something nice that you could donate as a small raffle prize?

Or maybe you have produce from your garden?

*Please bring items to a monthly meeting or email the Chair on
martocku3achair24@gmail.com to discuss your donation*

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

Interest Groups

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

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

Martock Fete on Saturday 15 August 2.00-5.00 pm



If you were unable to come to our u3a Open Afternoon, come to our stall and find out more about the u3a and our Groups

Family-friendly event, bring your relatives and friends and find out more about Martock & District u3a

— the place for Those Who Have Time For Themselves
(not just those who are retired!)



Martock & District u3a 2025-26 Committee

Registered Charity no. 1217106

Chair – Mark Ballard martocku3achair24@gmail.com

Vice Chair – Stewart Seery

Treasurer – Adrian Sutton treasmaru3@gmail.com

Secretary – Mary Marshall commaru3a@gmail.com

Web Manager –

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 –

Outreach Co-ordinator — Cassy Treasure martocku3aoutreach@gmail.com

Committee member — Trudy Ballard 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.

June Facts and Legends ...

The name June comes from the Roman goddess Juno who was the goddess of marriage, childbirth & love. The Anglo-Saxons called June “sera monath” (dry month).

June has two birthstones — Pearl and Moonstone.

The birth flower is the rose. In general, a rose indicates love or desire. Specific roses may relay other messages. For example, a white rose may mean silence or new beginnings, while a yellow rose signifies jealousy. A second birth flower for June is honeysuckle.



In any year, no month begins on the same day of the week as June.

For tennis lovers, Wimbledon occurs in June. It is the oldest Grand Slam competition and was established in 1877, the US Open followed in 1881.

The full moon in June is known as the Strawberry Moon and has its own name because of the plentiful fruit harvest that occurs during this time of year — very important for strawberries and cream at Wimbledon!

The summer solstice starts on 21 June this year at

09.24 BST. This marks the longest day of the year and the official beginning of astronomical summer.

June events include:

- On 1 June 1946, TV licences were issued in the UK for the first time, costing £2. Only 14,500 television licences were sold in 1947, but by 1950 that had increased to 344,000. Today, it's about 24 million.
- Oxford won the first-ever Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race on 10 June 1829. Two eight-men crews raced each other along the River Thames in a contest of rowing power nicknamed simply “The Boat Race”.
- On 15 June 1215, King John set his seal to Magna Carta, the first charter of British liberties, guaranteeing basic rights that have since become the foundation of modern democracies around the world.
- The Marylebone Cricket Club and Hertfordshire played the first ever cricket match at England’s Lord’s Cricket Ground on 22 June 1814.
- On 28 June 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Austria and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo, touching off a conflict between the Austro-Hungarian government and Serbia that escalated into World War I.