

**From the Chair, Mark Ballard:**

There's no question that autumn is arriving, the landscape colours are changing by the day and the days are drawing in, With the schools having returned, I suspect that many of you are seeing a change to your "duties" to support working parents.

Our next meeting, our AGM, will be on Wednesday 14 October, so please arrive from 2.15 as usual for a 2.30 start. The venue is the Martock Parish Hall. There will not be a speaker but there will be a free raffle, a quiz and of course, cake! I look forward to seeing as many of you there as you can make it.

We have identified people to fill most of the roles, we just need someone to come forward to take on the position of Publicity and Events Secretary. As I have mentioned previously, all of the speakers for 2026/27 have been organised which will enable anyone taking on this role a significantly easier transition.

Returning to the subject of autumn, with the shorter days and cooler weather, it is the perfect time to consider learning something new or developing an existing interest. Do look afresh at the list of existing groups and consider trying something. There's also nothing stopping you considering something that isn't currently available and using the newsletter to see what interest there might be out there. I leave you with that thought.

**October 2026 Meeting on Wednesday 9 September 2.15 for 2.30 start**  
**Annual General Meeting, followed by a Quiz and Prize Draw**

Future Meetings currently arranged

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

9 December — Christmas Party

13 January 2027 — Brimsmore 'Gardening Folklore, part 2'

10 February — Caroline Newark 'Looking for a Husband: the 700-year search for Prince Charming'

10 March — Win Scutt 'Recent Stonehenge Research'

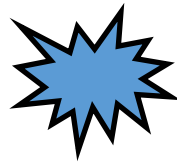
***Please contact the Publicity & Events Secretary if you have ideas for Speakers  
on [pubmaru3a@gmail.com](mailto:pubmaru3a@gmail.com)***



**Welcome to our new members:**

Lesley Jones, Trevor and Isabel  
Brooks

*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:**

Norma Smyth, Alison Sutton, Laurie Hawes, Craig  
Paull, Janet Plummer, Sue Jones, Deborah Harris,  
Peter Fowler, Peggy Horwood, Gordon Richings,  
Mandy Kuhn, Constance Stolworthy, Gillian  
Sharples, Trevor Brooks

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

**Dates for October Diary**

- Tuesday 6 Oct** 9.50am, Lighthouse Café, Stoke-sub-Hamdon — Stoke Long Health Walk (Ring Sue on 07792 311736 for details)
- Saturday 10 Oct** 10.00am-1.00pm, Moorlands Shopping Centre, Martock — Farmer's Market
- Monday 12 Oct** 9.30am, Lighthouse Café — Montacute/ Stoke Short Health Walk, as above. 9.50am — Medium Walk, as above
- Tuesday 13 Oct** 10.30am, Martock Recreation Ground — Martock Health Walk (1 mile round recreation ground at gentle pace)
- Wed 14 Oct** 2.15pm for 2.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Martock & District u3a monthly meeting
- Friday 23 Oct** Meet at 10.30am, Moorlands Shopping Centre — Martock Health Walk (30-45 mins. level walking)
- Sunday 25 Oct** 10.30am-12.30pm, The David Hall, South Petherton — Jazz Café
- Monday 26 Oct** Montacute/Stoke Health Walks, as above
- Friday 30 Oct** 10.00am-12.00pm, Martock Parish Hall — Come for Coffee
- Saturday 31 Oct** 7.00pm for 7.30pm start, Martock Parish Hall — Film Night 'Tuner'

**Martock & District Accounts Update**

The final figures for August 2026 show Income of £127.50, Expenditure of £59.94 with a total balance of £1,872.81. If you would like more detail about the accounts, please email the Treasurer, Adrian Sutton, on [treasmaru3@gmail.com](mailto:treasmaru3@gmail.com)

***Exercise your vote in our u3a***

***Please come to the AGM on Wednesday 14 October***

***Followed by a Quiz***

***and Prize Draw for vouchers for***

***The White Hart, Paulls, The Railway Farm  
Shop, The Flower Loft, Days Gone By Café  
and a hamper from Lopen Trading Post***



***We need enough members attending the AGM to be legally quorate  
— So see you there!***

**Can You Help Your u3a?**

Fortunately we have members willing to stand for election to the Committee for almost all the Committee roles.

However, we still need a member to take on the Publicity and Events role at the AGM. All of next year's speakers have been arranged, so the member taking on this role in October will have time to learn without pressure.

***Are you willing to come onto the Committee as Publicity and Events Secretary? To learn more about the role contact the Chair or email the current role holder (email addresses on page 6)***

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

**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](mailto:martocku3achair24@gmail.com) with any comments, suggestions or ideas for items in the Notices section.

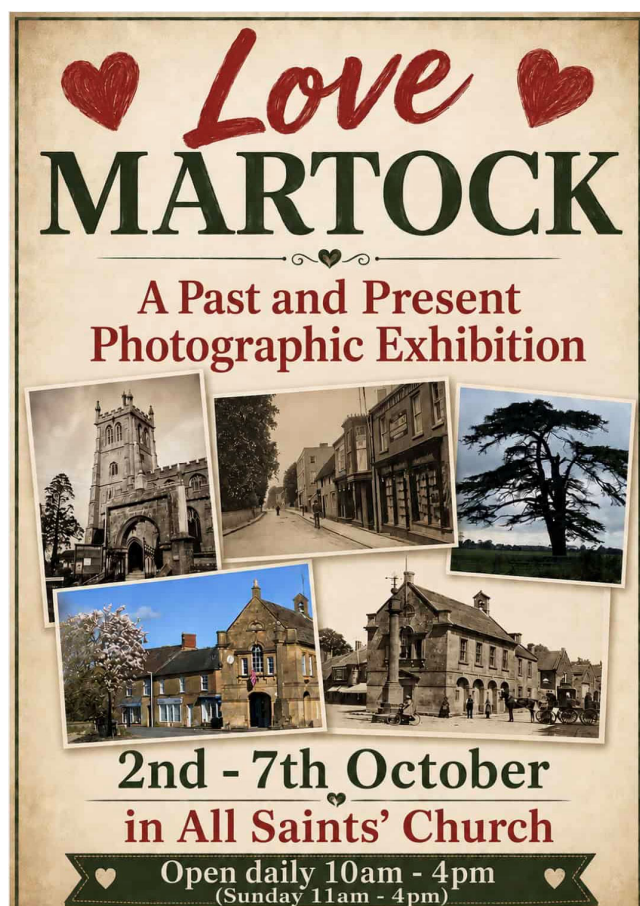
**Parking in The George Car Park for u3a Monthly Meetings**

**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.**

The Memory Café at All Saints Church, Martock is on Tuesday 6 October  
10-11.30.

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

## **More local events in October**



### **Tinkers Bubble, Little Norton**

#### **Open Day and Cider Night Saturday 3rd October**

Join us for our annual open day, which  
will flow swiftly into our next cider  
night, with a bar, live music and home  
cooked food. More details soon on

*https://*

*tinkersbubble.org*

Tinkers Bubble is a  
small off-grid  
woodland  
community near

Martock. We use environmentally  
sound methods of working the land  
without using fossil fuels.

Contact us at:

*tinkersbubble@riseup.net*



### **Free online talks, workshops and courses**

u3a members can access a wide range of free online talks,  
workshops and courses through their membership. Most sessions are led by  
fellow members, sharing their expertise, with additional talks from notable  
speakers and organisations.



All events are bookable via Eventbrite. Please ensure you can  
attend when booking and cancel if you're unable to make it  
so others can participate. Events are exclusively for u3a  
members. Sign up to get our monthly online events straight  
to your inbox.

**<https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events>**

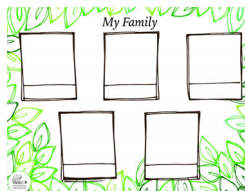
**For all Group matters, whether to arrange a taster session or to join a Group, please email Felicity Renshaw on [martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com](mailto:martocku3agroupssec1@gmail.com)**

### Interest Groups

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

### ***POSSIBLE NEW GROUP — Introduction to Genealogy***



A member is keen to know if there is any interest in a Group to learn more about where to start and how to develop a family tree. He doesn't profess to be an expert but he has been conducting his own research for over 30 years. He can help with advising on where to start and what information can be gleaned from the most readily available documents.

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

### **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](mailto:martocku3achair24@gmail.com) to discuss your donation



## Martock & District u3a 2025-26 Committee

Registered Charity no. 1217106

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 – [pubmaru3a@gmail.com](mailto:pubmaru3a@gmail.com)

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.***

### **October Facts and Legends ...**

October comes from the Latin 'octo' meaning eight, as it was originally the eighth month before the Romans added January and February at the beginning of the year. The Anglo-Saxons called October Winterfylleth, with its name containing the words for winter and full moon respectively. It was named this because winter was said to begin from the first full moon of the month.



*The birthstones are tourmaline and opal, both stones found in various colours. The birth flowers are the*



*pastel-hued cosmos representing the joy found in peace and love and the calendula, said to be a symbol of tranquility, grace, and grief.*

The first full moon after the Harvest Moon often falls in October and is known as the Hunter's Moon, it's one of the only two full moons (along with the Harvest Moon) that aren't connected to a specific month. This year it falls on 26 October.

*The Orionid meteor shower is active 2 October-7 November and will peak on the night of 21 October*

*between midnight and dawn. However, you should be able to see the shower for several days on either side of this 'maximum' date.*

October events include—

- On 1 October 1908, Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.
- The Space Age began on 4 October 1957 as the Russians launched the first satellite into orbit. Sputnik I weighed just 184 lbs. and transmitted a beeping radio signal for 21 days.
- On 12 October 1984, an IRA terrorist bomb killed 4 people at the Grand Hotel, Brighton.
- The Norman Conquest began on 14 October 1066 with the Battle of Hastings, in which King Harold II of England was defeated and killed.
- On 21 October 1805, the Battle of Trafalgar took place between the British Royal Navy and the combined French and Spanish fleets.
- English physicist Michael Faraday demonstrated the dynamo on 28 October 1831, thereby founding the science of electro-magnetism.
- On 30 October 1990, for the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.