

July 2026

 From the Chair

Summer is finally here, at least for a bit, and we can venture outside without hundreds of layers of warm clothing.

The A.G.M. on 11th June was well attended and all went smoothly. Mike McGarry was very enthusiastic about the Children's Film Foundation, Saturday morning cinema, and gave an interesting and informative talk. It was fun trying to spot famous people when they were very young, indeed child actors.

Some of our interest groups have already finished for the summer. Thank you to all those who run these groups and thereby make them work. We do seem to have a great selection of activities on offer, so hopefully something for each member.

Please think about joining the committee and coming along to help. We do also need a Vice Chair. This will be my constant refrain! Thank you.

I hope you all have a lovely summer whether or not you are going away. I'm going nowhere, apart from visiting my family, as I really want to enjoy my garden this year. So far no wasps. Last year the roofers found 32 nests in my roof! So... a happy and peaceful summer for you all.

Very best wishes

Janie Davis

 Forthcoming Events

27th July & 24th August 2026

10.00 am

Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a

Please drop in to chat with a u3a member about our current interest groups, our social meetings, becoming a member, or just join us for coffee. If you've got an idea for a new group, come along for some advice on how to make it happen. Open to current, new and prospective members.

Venue: [Health and Wellbeing Centre](#)



10th September 2026

2.00 pm

Social Meeting:

**‘Aggie’ – The life and adventures of ‘Dame Agnes Hunt’ -
Alison Utting**



Agnes Hunt began writing her life story to amuse Sir Robert Jones in his last illness; nothing less would have persuaded her to put pen to paper. Her story is astounding. Crippled with multiple complex disabilities herself, she refused to let limitations of health or gender define her. Seen as ‘too young and much too lame’ for the nursing profession, she was to go on to co-found one of the most prestigious hospitals in the world and establish the practice of orthopaedic nursing.

From Shropshire to Tasmania, from Aggie’s indomitable mother to a boisterous escaped patient, follow Aggie’s adventures as Alison brings this incredible story to vivid life. Scattered with enjoyable characters and almost unbelievable events, both tragic and hilarious, this performance is one to remember.

Venue: [United Reformed Church Hall](#)

+ Group News

New Jigsaw Puzzle Group

Would you like to join others and do jigsaw puzzles? Want to have a go at Puzzle Chess? There will be a selection of puzzles of 50-500 pieces to do, alone or with others...whatever can be achieved in about 2 hours. If you want to bring your own bigger puzzle, it would be best to bring your own board to take it home with you.



Starting in September, the group will meet on the 1st Thursday of the month, 10am - 12.30pm in the Jubilee Room at the Mayfair Community Centre. Cost will be around £5 each per session each, depending on numbers. Tea and coffee can be provided for an extra £1 per head, alternatively we can bring our own refreshments.

Please contact **Rachel** at rachfl@yahoo.co.uk if you are interested and saying whether or not you would want tea and coffee provided.

Questionnaire

We have received a request from Dr Matt Hill of the University of Leicester, asking if any Church Stretton u3a members would be willing to fill in a confidential questionnaire to support their study into the 'Worries and Concerns of Falling As One Ages'.

The study explores whether seeing or hearing about other people falling (for example, friends, family members, or others) influences an individual's own worries or concerns about falling. We hope the findings will help improve understanding of fear of falling and contribute to future falls prevention approaches.

Participation is entirely voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. The survey can be completed online at a time convenient to participants, and there are no right or wrong answers, we are simply interested in people's experiences and perspectives. It takes around 15 minutes to complete.

If you would be happy to support the study, we would be very grateful if you could complete the survey. The link is as follows:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/leicester/how-seeing-or-hearing-others-falling-affects-older-adults-worri>

I would also be very happy to provide a participant information sheet or answer any questions you may have about the study.

Thank you very much for considering this request. Your support would be greatly appreciated and would make an important contribution to research aiming to better understand concerns about falling in later life.

Dr Matt Hill
University of Leicester
School of Psychology and Vision Sciences (SoPVS)
mwh20@le.ac.uk

Current Groups:

Here are details of our current groups. Most will take new members, but please visit our website for up-to-date information.

Group	Coordinator
Art	Mary Linkie
Art History	Sue Toghill
Basic Spanish	Andy White
Book Group	Susan Lees
Bridge	Eric Brown
Cryptic Crosswords	John Bennett
Family and Social History	Pauline Lockley
Folk Music Appreciation	Tess Moore
French – Rusty	Jean Cuthbert
Friday Walking	Carol Lyons
Hill Walking	Roger Spittles
Mahjong	Peter Toghill
New Experiences	Dave Lyons
Philosophy	Ann Rogers
Poetry Appreciation	Dianne Lightbound
Popular Music	Steve Moore

Scottish Country Dancing
Shropshire Pub Lunch 1
Shropshire Pub Lunch 2
Singing for Pleasure
Tai Chi
Writers' Group 1
Writers' Group 2

Alison Bradley
 Mike Cottrell
 Jenny Church
 Ru Trew
 Lesley Dench
 Lesley Dench
 Jenny O'Shea



Events Diary 2026

Date	Event
27 th July	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a
24 th August	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a
10 th September	- Social Meeting: 'Aggie' – The life and adventures of 'Dame Agnes Hunt' - Alison Utting
28 th September	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a
26 th October	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a
12 th November	- Social Meeting: - 'A Fighter Experience' - talk by David Lyons and Malcolm Phillips
23 rd November	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a



10.00am, Health and Wellbeing Centre



2.00pm, United Reformed Church Hall



Keep in Touch

You can keep in touch with Church Stretton u3a news and events as follows:

- **Our Website** - <https://churchstretton.u3asite.uk/>
- **Church Stretton Community Messaging service:**
communitymessaging@strettonfocus.co.uk
 (Email the address above to register)



Church Stretton u3a