

March 2026

 Message from the Chair

Hello everyone,

Hopefully nobody has been washed away yet with all the horrible rain we have had lately. I think it has rained every single day of the year so far, specifically over my garden! I assume I can safely say that we are all fed up with it.

However, again in my garden, I see lovely signs of Spring. Snowdrops, croci, primroses, catkins... all are poking through or actually flowering. How brave these plants are! Soon we shall emerge to enjoy the outside once again. So hang on in there.

After the Christmas and New Year break all our clubs are up and running again, as are the coffee mornings at the Health and Wellbeing Centre and the bi-monthly socials in the URCH. The next one is on 12th March, starting at 2:00 p.m. The topic is "Trees and Woodlands in the Strettons". I think it will be interesting to learn about our local area. As usual, this event is free for members, but if you bring a friend who is not a member, the cost to them is £2. The usual refreshments will be served after the talk. I hope many of you will be able to attend.

As ever, if anyone has an idea for a new group, please feel free to suggest it to the committee members. You do not have to be a particular expert in whatever field it is. You need to have enthusiasm and the will to get it going.

Looking forward to seeing you either at one of the coffee mornings or at the next social in March.

Very best wishes,

Janie Davis

 Forthcoming Events

12th March 2026

2:00 pm

**Social Meeting; 'Trees and Woodlands in the Strettons'
"What we have learned from owning Brockhurst Wood"
by Paul and Frances Eade**



Before the invention of plastics in the twentieth century, wood and woodlands were a critical resource. Nowadays, woodlands are seen more for their environmental and wildlife value. As our climate changes, new challenges arise for tree and woodland owners. The talk will discuss these issues as well as describing the pleasures of woodland ownership.

Venue: [United Reformed Church Hall](#)

23rd March & 27th April 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 members, new members and prospective members.

Venue: [Health and Wellbeing Centre](#)

Group News

Folk Appreciation



The Folk Appreciation Group is taking a break while it seeks a new co-ordinator and venue. The Group has four members, and over two hours each month, we enjoy listening to a wide variety of folk music.

The current format is that each month, for the first half of the session, one member creates a playlist to introduce to the Group – these may be favourite songs, instrumentals or simply something of interest, and may range from traditional to electric folk, from Europe and beyond! There may be the odd anecdote thrown in!

During the second part, after refreshments, the other members play a few tracks they have chosen – again, there may be anecdotes, memories or knowledge to be shared! We are a friendly, welcoming Group, and would like to see it grow and thrive.

Please contact Tess Moore through the website, if you would like more information, to chat about co-ordinating the Group, ideas for a new venue, or if you could host it at your home.

https://churchstretton.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/folk-music-appreciation/

Thank you!

Membership Renewal Time Again:

Renewal Subscriptions for Church Stretton u3a are due on 1 April 2026.

The annual subscription remains at £12 per person (£5 for full members of other u3a Branches) for the coming year.

Membership fees are payable by:

- Cash or Cheque (payable to 'Church Stretton u3a') and sent, with your name, to the Membership Secretary, 16 Churchill Road, Church Stretton, SY6 6AE
- Bank Transfer using the following details:

- Bank sort code: 20-53-22
- Account name: Church Stretton u3a
- Account number: 73188183
- Ref: Your Surname, First Name. (This reference is vital, without it we will not know that you have paid!)

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 Leckey
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
Lifelong Learning	Barrie Oxtoby
Mahjong	Peter Toghill
New Experiences	Dave Lyons
Philosophy	David Howard
Poetry Appreciation	<i>Contact Group support via the website</i>
Popular Music	Steve Moore
Scottish Country Dancing	Alison Bradley
Shropshire Pub Lunch	Jenny Church
Singing for Pleasure	Ru Trew
Tai Chi	Lesley Dench
Writers' Group 1	Lesley Dench
Writers' Group 2	Jenny O'Shea

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@scrappies.org
 (Email the address above to register)



Church Stretton u3a



Events Diary 2026

Date	Event
12 th March	- Social meeting: "Trees and Woodlands in the Strettons" - what we have learned from owning Brockhurst Wood by Paul and Frances Eade
23 rd March	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a
27 th April	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a
11 th June	- Social Meeting plus AGM: "Saturday Morning Pictures & The Children's Film Foundation" with Mike McGarry
22 nd June	- Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a
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

For further information, see <https://churchstretton.u3asite.uk/>