

May 2026

 Message from the Chair

Hello everyone,

I'm sitting in my sunroom to write this and... there is sun. I think spring has finally arrived, and we can all breathe a sigh of relief. It is my favourite time of year, especially as I am a keen gardener. It always amazes me that the sight of new leaves, buds, colours, and growth in general can delight me so much. I particularly like going into the garden first thing to inspect everything and see what else is about to reveal itself. Plants I dug in back in the autumn suddenly appear. I had forgotten about them, and this small bonus is always a joy.

I also love the activities of spring. My seed potatoes are in, as are a few vegetable seeds. Roll on summer.

I hope you all had a lovely Easter, perhaps spent with friends or family, or quietly alone. I was alone with my dog and garden, and that suited me fine.

All clubs and groups are now back up and running after the break. There is much to choose from. As ever, if you would like to start a new group, please do. You only need enthusiasm — there is no need to be an expert.

Enjoy the sunny days whilst we have them, and I hope to see you at the coffee mornings and social meetings.

Very best wishes,

Janie Davis

 Forthcoming Events

11th June 2026

2:00 pm

Social Meeting plus AGM:

**"Saturday Morning Pictures & The Children's Film Foundation"
with Mike McGarry**



From the 1950s to the 1970s, a visit to the local cinema on Saturday mornings was a must for millions of British children. Mike will try to recapture the excitement of those film shows in this nostalgic talk. If you went to the Gaumont, Odeon or ABC, then this will be a walk down memory lane. Many of the films that the children enjoyed were produced by The Children's Film Foundation and

usually featured other children having exciting adventures. Mike will talk about the history of the Foundation and concentrate on the child actors who went on to do great things as adults. Of course, the talk will be liberally sprinkled with excerpts from some of the films. Have your sixpence ready. The show is about to begin

Venue: [United Reformed Church Hall](#)

22nd June & 27th July 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

Bridge Group

The Church Stretton U3A Bridge Club is on the lookout for potential new members. While we do not have the capacity to train absolute beginners, we would be delighted to welcome anyone who has – or had – a basic knowledge of the game, no matter how long ago that knowledge was last used.



We play simple Contract Bridge on a Thursday evening between 19:00 and 21:00 in the warm, comfortable surroundings of the Silvester Horne Institute. The mood is friendly and relaxed, with time to discuss interesting hands.

If this in any way raises a flicker of interest, please ring me on 07758 178278 or contact through the website https://churchstretton.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/bridge/

Eric Brown

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

Art
Art History
Basic Spanish
Book Group
Bridge

Coordinator

Mary Linkie
Sue Toghill
Andy White
Susan Lees
Eric Brown

Cryptic Crosswords
Family and Social History
Folk Music Appreciation
French – Rusty
Friday Walking
Hill Walking
Lifelong Learning
Mahjong
New Experiences
Philosophy
Poetry Appreciation
Popular Music
Scottish Country Dancing
Shropshire Pub Lunch
Singing for Pleasure
Tai Chi
Writers' Group 1
Writers' Group 2

John Bennett
 Pauline Lockley
 Tess Moore
 Jean Cuthbert
 Carol Lyons
 Roger Spittles
 Barrie Oxtoby
 Peter Toghill
 Dave Lyons
 David Howard
 Dianne Lightbound
 Steve Moore
 Alison Bradley
 Jenny Church
 Ru Trew
 Lesley Dench
 Lesley Dench
 Jenny O'Shea



Events Diary 2026

Date	Event
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/>