



## Chipping Norton & Area u3a

<https://chippingnorton.u3asite.uk>

### Newsletter February 2026

Dear Members,

I'm very pleased to report that the majority of our members have now renewed their membership for 2026 and at the last count we had almost 200 members. It's not too late to renew for this year and you have until Saturday (28<sup>th</sup>) to do so if you wish to continue attending our various activities.

Our special interest groups are also doing very well with 29 groups now active. Read on for further details of the newest groups.

The kick-off meeting of the **u3a Croquet Club** was held at The Rose and Crown pub in Charlbury on Tuesday evening. It was well attended by both experienced and novice players, and I'm pleased to report that it has generated interest from a number of new members as well as offers of loaned / donated equipment. For more information email the interim leader, Paul Jackson at [pauldjackson1@outlook.com](mailto:pauldjackson1@outlook.com). The first event at which rules and techniques will be explained will be on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 3pm at Charlbury Cricket Club and on a weekly basis thereafter. For the first month, membership will be limited to 15 members to allow time for coaching etc. Ultimately, it is expected to grow to 40+ members offering the two main systems of play. For anyone wishing to get a head start, a number of short videos are available on YouTube.

The first meeting of the new **Science and Technology Group** will be this coming Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 3pm in the Green Room at the Memorial Hall, Browns Lane, Charlbury. Parking is available at the Co-op OX7 3QW and disabled parking is available at the hall. David Green, Head of Innovation at Blenheim Palace, will present "**Building a Smart Estate.....Digital Twins, Data Ecosystems and AI**". At this first meeting there will also be a discussion of the way ahead for the group and an introduction to the u3a for new members. The group is open to anyone with an interest in science and technology in its broadest sense i.e. not too technical. There will be an occasional modest charge towards the hall, and it is hoped to arrange a tea/coffee interval. Please contact the interim group leader, Paul Jackson [pauldjackson1@outlook.com](mailto:pauldjackson1@outlook.com) if you would like to attend so that he has an idea of numbers.

The first of the **Pub Walks (every month 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and last Friday)** starts at 10:45am on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March from the Five Ways Store, Sturt Road, Charlbury OX7 3SX and they will be walking to The Plough in Finstock for lunch with an option to return via the same route or by bus. The timings are coordinated with bus schedules from Chippy. For full details and joining instructions please contact Paul Jackson [pauldjackson1@outlook.com](mailto:pauldjackson1@outlook.com) or use



the pub walks contact button on the groups page of the u3a website or, for the very latest information on the Charlbury Town website [www.charlbury.info/events](http://www.charlbury.info/events).

The **Fun Conversation (Talk4Fun)** and **Circle Dancing** groups are also still open to new members and full details and contact buttons to the group leaders are available on the website.

**February meeting** - The Town Hall was once again near to capacity for our February meeting when Liz Woolley, a local historian, gave us a detailed and very interesting chronological 'History of Brewing in Oxford'.

**March Meeting and AGM** - The next meeting will be held at Chipping Norton Town Hall at 2:30pm or as soon as possible thereafter, immediately following the AGM on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March. John Kinory will be speaking about 'My Life and Times as a Film Extra'. John is a former lecturer who, 20 years ago started taking part in local theatre shows and in films and TV dramas. His talk is illustrated with slides showing his experiences as a supporting artist on a film shoot, from the morning call through wardrobe and makeup, being called to set, and pictures showing the film or TV drama. He will answer questions such as how does one become a supporting artist? and how much do you get paid? as well as giving anecdotes about interesting filming locations, meeting the stars, how one is treated, and the great excitement and satisfaction of seeing yourself eventually on screen, even if only for a second.

As usual, doors will be open from 2pm. The AGM will commence promptly at 2:15pm and refreshments will be available. All are welcome but please note that you must have renewed your membership if you wish to vote at the AGM.

**Volunteers needed** - Chippy u3a has a 'really useful group' of volunteers who help with such things as putting chairs out at the open meetings, serving refreshments etc. We really need to bolster the number of people in the group in order that no-one has to do too much. If you would be willing to help in this way, please speak to Di Ewing or one of the committee members.

The Thames Valley Network (TVN) is holding a **Spring Quiz** at 2:30pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March via Zoom. Participation in the event is free of charge, but you need to book in advance by clicking on the TICKETSOURCE icon immediately below the event on the TVN website [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk). You will receive an acknowledgement immediately, and the Zoom link will be sent to you shortly before the Quiz. Participants will be randomly divided into teams on the day.

We look forward to seeing you on the 4<sup>th</sup> March.

Mark Knight

Secretary, Chipping Norton & Area u3a