

Chipping Norton & Area u3a

<https://chippingnorton.u3asite.uk>

Newsletter June 2026

Dear Members,

I wrote the last newsletter during a heatwave and what a surprise – we're now in the middle of the second one this year. I hope you're all able to keep cool and hydrated while enjoying the sun in small doses.

Our upcoming monthly meeting takes place next Wednesday, 1st July at Chipping Norton Town Hall. Melanie King, author of 'The Secret History of English Spas' (Bodleian Library Publishing) and seven other books on social history will give a presentation entitled 'Beau Nash and the making of Bath Spa'. Her talk explores how Beau (Richard) Nash as Master of Ceremonies, transformed the city of Bath from a modest spa town into the fashionable social capital of Georgian England and how his flair, rules of etiquette, and talent for bringing together aristocrats, artists and gamblers helped create the elegant culture for which Bath became famous as a place to see and be seen. As usual, doors will be open from 2pm.

A further reminder that we still have spaces available at our celebration of Chipping Norton and Area u3a's 25th anniversary. Come and enjoy a range of sandwiches and scones with cream and jam at Chipping Norton Rugby Club on 15th July. Full details and how to book are on the news page of the website. Payment can be made by card, cash or cheque at next Wednesday's meeting if you prefer.

I am continuing to record the names of members interested in joining any of the new groups proposed in the recent bulletins and newsletters, i.e. BSL for beginners, Music Appreciation, Members On Their Own and Pub Lunches. We only have volunteer leaders for the first two of these groups so please think about leading if you would like to join the MOTO or pub lunch groups.

Mixed walking cricket is taking off in the u3a movement. There are other groups in Chalfont and Purley and matches have even taken place in Yorkshire. Walking Cricket is just like the real thing except you aren't allowed to run and the ball is softer. The first match of our own **Cricket Lovers Group** is at 2:30pm next Tuesday, 30th June at Chipping Norton Cricket Club and all are welcome.

A reminder that our Annual Open Day will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 15th September 2026. This is our chance to show the community what we do and advertise our special interest groups to potential new members. Please save the date and be prepared to assist with set-up, refreshments or representing your special interest groups.

'Think Britain doesn't make anything anymore' is the next Thames Valley Network (TVN) talk via Zoom at 10:30 am on Wednesday 15th July. Manufacturing systems engineer and

industrial historian Dr Richard Marks draws on 25 years of hands-on experience to dismantle the myth of decline and reveal the vibrant reality of British industry today. The fee for this event is £2 per device, and it can be booked electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link 48 hours before the event.

Please note that the pub walk scheduled for this Friday, 26th June has been cancelled for safety reasons because of the extreme heat warning issued by the Meteorological Office. The next walk is therefore scheduled for Tuesday 14th July.

We look forward to seeing you on the 1st July.

Mark Knight

Secretary, Chipping Norton & Area u3a