

Chipping Norton & Area u3a

<https://chippingnorton.u3asite.uk>

Newsletter May 2026

Dear Members,

I hope you've all been able to enjoy some of the glorious but unseasonably warm weather we've been having. Like many people I actually found it too hot on occasion and had to retreat to the shade with a cold drink. It's a slightly shorter newsletter this month but hopefully you will all find something of interest below.

The first thing to remind you of in this edition is the next monthly meeting which takes place this coming Wednesday, 3rd June at Chipping Norton Town Hall. Julie George, a Relationship Manager for Cancer Research UK (CRUK) will be speaking a little about the history of CRUK and show some of the latest advances that are happening right now. This includes some new testing that will be happening in doctors' surgeries which is expected to have an impact on early diagnoses. She will also describe how legacies have had an impact on research and some of the strange things supporters have left the organisation. As usual, doors will be open from 2pm.

Chipping Norton and Area u3a is 25 years old this year, having been officially formed on 2nd May 2001. To mark this silver anniversary, we will be holding a celebration cream tea at the Chipping Norton Rugby Club on 15th July. Full details and how to book are on the poster enclosed with this newsletter.

Do you or someone you know rely on sign language to communicate some or all of the time? A member of our committee has started learning the basics of British Sign Language (BSL) and we are considering starting a new special interest group for any members who would like to do the same. We have already had interest from staff and residents at Penhurst Gardens, and the group would be very likely to meet there. If you would be interested in taking part, please let me know. It would be great if we could get this up and running in time for the 'International Day of Sign Languages' on 23rd September.

In the last newsletter I mentioned two other possible new groups, 'Members on Their Own' and 'Pub Lunches'. We've only had a couple of people interested in either group and no-one who has volunteered to lead / coordinate. I will continue to record names for anyone interested but at the moment these are unlikely to get started.

The **Cricket Lovers Group** is up and running full steam ahead. They will be meeting fortnightly on Tuesday afternoons at Chippy Cricket Club. The first walking cricket match is at 2:30pm on Tuesday 30th June and all are welcome. For further details or to contact the group leader please visit our website.

Is your special interest group getting too large to be accommodated in its present venue or might it benefit from a larger room? We have been offered the opportunity to use rooms at Southerndown Care Home on the Worcester Road. There are a number of rooms of different sizes that could be available and the Villager bus goes right to their car park. Their management are keen to engage with the local community including the u3a to find ways of collaborating that would be beneficial to both the u3a and their residents. Conditions of use would be similar to that at Porthaven, i.e. that residents would be permitted to join any u3a activities that take place there. Again, please let me know if you would be interested in exploring this option.

Many of you will have seen the u3a welcome boards that are displayed inside the Town Hall at our monthly meetings or the annual open day. Lawrence Home Nursing will be placing an advertisement on the boards next month and it was agreed at the recent committee meeting that we should offer members the opportunity to display appropriate notices there if they wish. Please contact our chairman, Pat Lake, if you would like to do this or require further information.

A date for your diaries – Chipping Norton and Area u3a Annual Open Day will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday 15th September 2026. This is our biggest opportunity of the year to highlight what we do and to recruit new members. We would like to have as many group leaders and other representatives of our special interest groups and activities there on the day. A number of other local organisations including the library and Age UK are also expected to be represented the same as last year. More details will be available towards the end of the summer but please save the date in the meantime.

We look forward to seeing you on the 3rd June.

Mark Knight

Secretary, Chipping Norton & Area u3a