

# Chipping Norton & Area u3a

## **Annual General Meeting**

The Town Hall, Chipping Norton

Wednesday 6th March 2024 at 2.15pm.

### **Chair's Report**

I joined Chippy u3a in 2010 and first took on the Chair role about ten years ago. I stepped in again last year because the Charity Commission rules demand one. I value u3a very highly. Helping behind the scenes with so many nice people really does enrich your life as well as getting to know Chippy in depth.

U3a differs from other organisations because our purpose is to learn with, and from, each other. Sharing educational, creative and leisure activities is a wonderful way to develop skills, have fun and make new friends in retirement.

Having members with the generosity of spirit to share the responsibility of running our u3a is vital for it to flourish - and even to exist. It's all too easy for u3a's to fail - sadly, like local branches of many other national voluntary organisations such as WI, Rotary or Probus - just for lack of vital member-backup support.

To share tasks, we have set up a very successful "Really Useful Group". It's a list of people who are happy to be called on from time to time for specific events, like our Annual Lunch or Open Day. The Committee meets as infrequently as possible - it's been around 6 week intervals over the last year - in someone's Chippy home. The other committee members are a friendly lot who will be only too happy to gently introduce and support a new volunteer Chair.

We have had many successful events this year, including our Open Day, new members Coffee Morning and the Annual Lunch. We finished 2023 with approximately 180 members, back to our pre-Covid peak and I hope our u3a will continue to thrive under our new Chair.

Yvonne Beaumont