

AbleOTUK -Newsletter

Easier Access to AbleOTUK Support Sessions

You're automatically a member of AbleOTUK if you're on our mailing list. Our support network is for occupational therapists and students with lived experience of disability, neurodivergence, or long-term health conditions.

Sessions run online at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month. You'll receive an email with the joining information on the day of each meeting.

To protect confidentiality, we don't send diary invites or share members' contact details, so please add the dates to your own diary.

Upcoming Support Network Dates (7pm):

10th June 2026.

8th July 2026

12th August 2026

9th September 2026

14th October 2026

11th November 2026

9th December 2026



Help Shape the Conversation on Reasonable Adjustments in Occupational Therapy

We're pleased to be welcoming two occupational therapy students from Bournemouth University on placement with AbleOTUK from 1st June. They'll be joining us for a short two-week placement with support from Kirsty, ending with a presentation to the Royal College of Occupational Therapists Expert Advisory Group on 15th June, which will also be attended by the new Chief Executive.

As part of this work, we'd really value hearing from members of our community.

We're looking for people who would be happy to share their experiences with the students, whether through a short email conversation, answering a few questions, or speaking with them directly. The focus of the presentation is exploring what can support disabled, neurodivergent and chronically ill people within occupational therapy education, placements and practice, particularly around reasonable adjustments.

We're especially keen to hear positive examples of what has worked well. What has helped you feel included, supported and able to take part fully in occupational therapy education or practice? What made a real difference?

If you'd be willing to contribute, please email ableotuk@gmail.com with the subject line **Students** by **Monday 8th June**. The sooner you can get in touch, the more helpful it will be for planning over the placement.

Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture 2026

The 2026 Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture, 'Simplicity and occupational therapy - managing complexity and promoting sustainability', delivered by Sue Parkinson, is now available to watch on [YouTube](#).

The Elizabeth Casson Memorial Lecture is one of the most respected and prestigious lectures within the occupational therapy profession, recognising significant contributions to occupational therapy practice, leadership, education and research. Each year, the lecture offers an opportunity to pause, reflect, and think critically about the future of occupational therapy and the profession's impact on people's everyday lives.

Whether you are a student, support worker, educator, researcher or occupational therapist, this lecture offers thoughtful reflections on practice, professional identity, and the value occupational therapy brings.



AbleOTUK is turning 5



Join us for a special online Celebration and Learning Event
Monday 27th July 2026 7.30pm
Online via Zoom

Everyone Welcome

#BeAnAbleOTUKAlly

AbleOTUK is turning 5, and we would love for you to join us for a special evening of celebration, reflection, and learning.

Over the past five years, AbleOTUK has grown into a supportive network and advocacy space for occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, students, educators, researchers, and allies with disabilities, long-term health conditions, and/or neurodivergence.

During this celebration-learning event, we will explore themes including ableism, disclosure, and what it means to be an effective ally within occupational therapy workplaces, education, and professional spaces.

Places are limited to 100 attendees, so please only sign up if you are able to attend. If your circumstances change and you can no longer join us, please let us know as soon as possible so we can offer your place to someone else.

The Zoom link will be sent to the email address you provide shortly after signing up.

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/5gUT4N1HRcYiNvso8>

BAOT AGM 2026 – Have your say

The British Association of Occupational Therapists Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on **Thursday, 25th June 2026, at 12 noon**. This year includes a member vote on a proposed increase to Royal College of Occupational Therapists membership fees.

The AGM is your opportunity as a member to hear updates, ask questions, and vote on decisions that shape the future of occupational therapy.

We know conversations about fees are not easy, but membership costs have only increased once in the last eight years, while wider costs have continued to rise. This makes it an important moment to engage and have your say.

We encourage AbleOTUK members who are also RCOT members to:

- Read the information
- Attend the AGM if you can
- Take part in the discussion
- Use your vote

Find out more and book your place here:

<https://www.rcot.co.uk/agm2026>

Thank you: Timms Review of PIP Call for Evidence

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to AbleOTUK's response to the Timms Review of Personal Independence Payment (PIP) Call for Evidence.

Over the past few weeks, members shared lived experience, occupational therapy perspectives and feedback through our support network and on the draft response. Your contributions helped shape a thoughtful and evidence-informed submission, which has now been sent.

Our response highlighted the importance of recognising the real extra costs disabled people face, improving accessibility within the PIP process, reducing unnecessary reassessments for long-term conditions, and understanding the wider impact PIP has on access to work, community life and day-to-day occupations. We also called for future policy to be shaped alongside disabled people and grounded in lived experience.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and helped make sure our collective voice was heard.

