**Chairs’ Review of 2022-2023**

This year we have continued our aim to grow back from COVID .

Membership numbers in May 2022 were 277 and we currently have 309. So we continue to attract a healthy number of members.

It’s the same story with the Interest Groups, our cornerstone. The vast majority of them continued throughout with inventive responses to social distancing including online and outdoor meetings. Prior to COVID we had 33 Groups of which 28 survived. We have continued to restore and expand the range of activities during this year with 7 new Groups now active:- Ballet, Opera,Music & Theatre (Revamped), Book Club 3, Crafternoon, Dog Walking,Image Shapers Art Group, Quiz and Recorder Playing

**So we now have 35.** All credit to our Groupleaders and Pauline George, our Interest Group Coordinator.

In 2021 we formed the South Birmingham Network together with Kings Heath/ Moseley and Harborne/Edgbaston U3A’s with the aim of helping each other through a difficult time. We have continued to develop the Network over 2022 with our late Chair, Linda Curry, being the driving force. Although there is not a formal structure or constitution, the wider provision of benefits such as opportunities to join in all 3 U3A’s Interest groups is is now a reality. The arrangement may become formalised in time.

We have held all our monthly General meetings this year, slowly reducing social distancing and we are now back to pre COVID arrangements. Talks at meetings since have attracted 70-80 attendees and been well received. Information about the programme of speakers for the rest of the year were available on flyers at the registration desk or on the website.

In addition we have reintroduced our New Members Coffee Mornings which have provided a platform for socialising and learning what the U3A can offer. We have also diversified communication through regular Newsletters, and social media.

On a sad note, we have lost 2 key people during the year. Jenny Snashall, our former Treasurer, left us to explore the delights of Bath. We were fortunate to have Chris Locke ably take over the role. And our finances remain on a sound footing. But tragically, our Chair Linda , passed away in January. She has done so much to restore normality back to our U3A and she will be greatly missed.

In conclusion, we have had a very successful year, restoring and developing Kings Norton U3A. Our thanks to all of you for your continued support.