



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2023 AGM

In writing this report, I suddenly realised I have only been in the Chairman post for one year. It feels longer, probably because so much has happened.

It seems hard to believe that the 2022 report had references to our monthly meetings and interest group activities were now meeting in person again. It seems like we had learned to live with it, and now have come out the other side. At its simplest, we are a very active u3a, with 318 members now – the highest we have been – and 45 Interest Groups, which are still being added to.

I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for their collective and individual management and volunteering efforts to make sure we remain open minded to new ideas as well as keeping the pot simmering nicely. As we are 6 years old now, and some of our committee members have been there since the beginning, it is not surprising to see a few have decided to step down. I have really enjoyed working alongside Jenny Mackelworth, Janet Bidwell and John Mackelworth. We wouldn't be in such a positive place without their inputs in many and various roles since the initial concept of a Winchcombe Area u3a emerged in 2017. Thank you all, once again.

Just going through the diary for the last 12 months, such a lot has happened. I notice a lot of places visited through the excellent trips organised by Di Smith. In June we had the u3a's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary supper and dance. Then the Queens Platinum Jubilee, with many a street party. Such a joyous occasion, to be followed only a couple of months later by her sad passing.

I am sure if you look back through your diary the highlights will not be "take car in for MOT...". I hope it is far more likely that you will note many entries of u3a activities that you have attended. There are plenty more things you could get involved with – perhaps joining with us on the committee, or just offering a helping hand at our many events. It is a lot of fun to stay active in both mind and body with a group of like-minded people.

Finally, I'd like to thank all our members for your involvement and input into our u3a. It cannot exist without you. I hope that you are all looking forward to our 23/24 u3a year.