

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2022 AGM

Our Winchcombe Area U3A has now been running for 5 years, and I am pleased to be able to report its continuing success. Our membership has continued to grow through the year, currently standing at 297, which is approaching the size of membership we achieved before the pandemic struck. Furthermore, as you will see from our treasurer's report our finances are sound and enable us to keep membership subscriptions for 2022-23 to an easily affordable level. We now have some 50 interest groups covering very diverse interests.

At the beginning of this membership year, I was looking forward to our monthly meetings and interest groups starting to meet in person again. It is gratifying to see that this has now happened, although it has taken rather longer than I had expected; the COVID-19 resurgence in the autumn and early winter did discourage some of us from attending meetings in person despite the protection vaccination offered. This was understandable as we tried to ensure we avoided self-isolation that could have prevented much needed family re-unions.

Your committee has continued to provide management of our U3A activities during the year and ensured that relevant developments and changes have been communicated to members in a timely way. A lot of work has been put in by all committee members to keep us running effectively much of which has been invisible to our members. I would like to thank all my fellow committee members for their contributions, and in particular Jenny Mackelworth our Webmaster and our two vice-chairs - Janet Bidwell and Phil Hawthorn. Janet has been the organiser for our monthly meetings, and this has been particularly challenging as the COVID-19 situation led to last minute changes in speakers and sudden reversions to Zoom formats rather than physical meetings. Phil has been the lead on using Zoom, now an essential tool, and the organiser of our successful Zoom Quizzes

We are also grateful to John Hurley who joined the committee during the year to take on the important job of Newsletter editor. Which of course leads me to pay a further tribute to his predecessor Richard Slessor who sadly passed away during the year. He is much missed.