

## Chairman's Report 2024

It has been an interesting year and I am glad to see that we are getting back to face to face meetings. Both in London and Birmingham where John and Caroline are doing a grand job, bringing members together. Queen Victoria Hospital has started hosting support meetings for its KC patients and we hope this will be replicated at other hospitals. We have made some valuable connections at Sight Village events, especially London where we met several Eye Clinic Liaison Officers (ECLO's). ECLO's are on the front line and well placed to ensure our leaflets are available at eye clinics and to point the newly diagnosed in our direction. Anne with my assistance has given several presentations on-line to groups of ECLO's. These have been warmly received and will hopefully lead to greater awareness of our existence.

After the last AGM I had a meeting with Mike Oliver to get his advice on the future of the charity. Subsequently, the committee agreed that we need to take a serious look at succession planning. The sad loss of our past chairman has brought this topic even more in to focus. Whilst we are proud of what we have achieved, we must face reality and plan for the future.

Consequently, we started speaking to umbrella organisations and similar charities to see how they organise things. It was clear that we have been fortunate to survive for 30 years on a purely voluntary basis without any paid staff. This is something we may have to change.

As this is such a pivotal moment in the KC Group's evolution, it was decided not to have our customary speaker meeting in September but instead hold a general forum to get the views of members. The newsletter announcing the change did attract some consternation but achieved its purpose in attracting members to come forward. You will notice several new faces at this years AGM who we hope will provide a valuable contribution.

It was decided not to change the committee at this meeting and instead invite the new volunteers to join the committee on a co-opted basis. This will give us a chance to get to know each other. I'm confident that this injection of new blood will make the KC Group stronger.

All in all, I think we are doing well but we must not be complacent. We need all the help we can get so please do not hesitate to step forward, you will be most welcome.

David Gable