**Keith Oliver – 2023 – A Year in Review**

A key aim of the envoy role has always been to educate, and to take both within and outside of Kent knowledge of living with dementia to as wide as audience as possible. In 2023 Keith spoke at the national dementia congress in Birmingham, as well as universities in Kent and London, and at the Dementia Alzheimer’s care show in London. Most of these talks were co-written at presented with KMPT volunteer Lara Stembridge. Keith will construct talks by increasingly using creative metaphors such as tree of life or Journey of life to tell a narrative, which makes his talks unique and more engaging.

Much of 2023, Keith spent working on his new book Talking with dementia reconsidered published in April 2024, and also in 2023 he co-edited; Dementia and Ethics Reconsidered, Reconsidering Neighbourhoods and Living with Dementia, and Leisure and Everyday Life with Dementia. He has spoken on various platforms about his writing in order to encourage other people with dementia to consider penning their stories, but also to show academics and professionals what someone with dementia with support can achieve in the printed word. In September 2023 he was invited to advise the reading agency in compiling a list of books on prescription covering dementia, which were to be available free of charge throughout public libraries in England and Wales.

Since being diagnosed Keith has received some amazing support from students on placement, many of whom have continued as volunteers and friends beyond their placement. This has included help with preparing and planning talks, travel to and from venues outside of Canterbury, accompanying Keith on activities linked to his care and support plan, and help with IT and social networks. In return Keith supports them in enriching their placement experience by giving them unique and positive experience that they would otherwise not achieve. Many have gone on to work within KMPT or other trusts nationally, partly inspired and supported by the work they did with Keith.