

## LITTLECOURT LUNCH CLUB REPORT 2019-2020

It was with enormous regret that we decided, on 12<sup>th</sup> March, that Lunch Club should close for the time being. We were anxious to safeguard the health of our treasured members and volunteers, and of course that continues to be our priority. We will not be re-opening Lunch Club until we have clear guidance from Age UK that it is safe to do so. One of our challenges is that drivers collect many of our members, and at the present time it is not safe for people to travel to the club in this way. The welfare of our members has always been a priority for us, and Age UK have always given us safeguarding advice.

When Lunch club had to close, many of the volunteers offered to help to maintain contact with members. Each person who volunteered was given two or three members to stay in touch with and to help them with shopping and errands if needed. Pam Rankin, as usual, went above and beyond by crocheting a rainbow for every member. These were received with enormous joy, and consequently there are nearly fifty beautifully crocheted rainbows in the windows around Sevenoaks!

Our Lunch Club has been a source of fun and fellowship for our 40+ members and our 50+ volunteers. We missed Rev. Martin Booth's pre-lunch jokes and amusing stories, but Christ Church's Rev. Dr. Alan Spence certainly brought cheer to us all.

Our money takers, Bryan Nicholas and Geoff Holland, and our many wonderful drivers have worked tirelessly and kind - heartedly for our Lunch Club.

Marjorie Brown has always done an excellent job at organising the transport, and Pam Rankin has crafted beautiful gifts she crafts for members at Easter and at Christmas.

We celebrated our forty year anniversary in September. Our guest of honour was Gloria Hunniford, and we were all impressed by her warmth and genuine interest in meeting as many members as possible. We were entertained by a wonderful brass band, and one of our cooking teams produced an excellent lunch as always. Our dessert was red in order to fit in with our Ruby celebration theme: red jelly, raspberries and raspberry ripple ice cream. We were all treated to a glass of Prosecco too. Our entire bill was funded by the Sevenoaks Lions, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Our Christmas Lunch was another cause for celebration. The St Mary's cooking team led by Ronnie Todd and Janet Sharp cooked a splendid roast turkey meal, with meat supplied at a very generous discount by Batchelor's. The cooks arrived at around 6am to start cooking the meal, and were found by the 9am helpers to be convulsed with laughter rather than stressed and exhausted. What a testament to the joy of belonging to, and serving, our Lunch Club!

In order to boost funds, we took part in the Waitrose green token scheme, and we received over £300 from this. Our six cooking teams do a splendid job in sourcing good quality but inexpensive ingredients for the wonderful meals. Sadly, however, we have now decided that we will need to raise our charge for the meal from £3 to

£4. The enormous kitty we had some years ago has been spent on jolly summer outings, visits to local restaurants, fish & chip meals and donations to Christ Church for the use of the hall. We shall have to be a little more circumspect about 'treats' until our funds reach a healthy level again.

We are longing to reopen, and hope and pray that our members & volunteers stay safe and well during this current crisis.