

LITTLECOURT LUNCH CLUB 2012

In September of this year the Lunch Club will celebrate 34 years in existence. Our membership currently stands at 44 (with capacity to take 60). As you can see, we still have capacity for more Members. New Members seem strangely difficult to find, so please do let us know of anyone you think might like to come along and join us!

The six cooking teams continue to do an amazing job, producing fabulous and varied meals, everything from roast pork and all the trimmings to chicken marengo. As ever, these wonderful "home-cooked" meals are of top quality and the teams manage to produce the meals at such a reasonable cost that we are able to keep the cost of lunch down for all our Members. Our bank of volunteer drivers has sadly dwindled a little this year, and we would welcome anyone who feels that they could help. The front-of-house team has changed a little, with Gill Smith stepping down. However, we have been delighted to be supported by Rosemary McLintock, Maggie Booth and Gillian Roberts. Audrey Bernardi has also kindly offered help when she is fit and well again – we send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Barbara Strudwick has stepped down as part of our register team, we are most grateful to her for all her help, and delighted to see her coming on a regular basis for lunch. The Club has been delighted to welcome the Rev'd Martin Booth, it's wonderful to have him at our helm. We are also extremely grateful to Maggie for her support.

The Club is always looking for a good excuse to don party hats, patriotic clothing and to raise a toast with a drop of sherry, so this year has had several great occasions. The Olympics and The Queen's Jubilee gave us excuses and a good time was had by all.

The highlight of the year, as ever, was the Christmas party, where a fabulous meal was provided by the cooking team led by Wendy Wilkinson. Wendy stepped down from leading her team after the Christmas meal, having been involved with the Club for very many years. We are very grateful to her for all her years of support. We were, again, royally entertained at the Christmas party by the children from the Amherst School choir.

Financially, the Club has been stable this year, this very much thanks to the frugality of the Cooking Team leaders – our hats off to them. The Club has been very fortunate again this year to receive a donation from Age UK, and a generous donation from a small local charity. Thank you to both parties, their donations make a huge difference to us. In the coming year there will be a small increase in outlay with a minimal increase in the nominal rent paid for the hall, and the possible need for new helpers to complete First Aid and Health & Hygiene training.

In summary, the Club is continuing with its mission to provide members, and all who help, with a delicious and nutritious meal and wonderful fellowship. Thank you to all of you who attend, and all who support us in so many ways.

PAM RANKIN

