

Stoke by Nayland Village Lunches
April 2021- April 2022.

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 27. April 2022.

Having been unable to continue with our monthly village lunches for the past two years due to the pandemic, when the restrictions were lifted we were delighted to welcome 39 diners to the Advent Lunch in December 2021. Since then we have resumed our monthly gatherings here in the Village Hall, on the third Thursday of each month, and our regular diners have been keen to tell us that they missed the lunches and are very pleased to be able to meet again. Unfortunately over the past two years we have lost several of our original regulars and so the number of diners for January, February and April were low, however they doubled in March when we were joined by Joan Sheppard and her family in celebration of Joan's 100th birthday, and our normal deliciously home-cooked meal was accompanied by champagne, birthday cake, flowers and lots of laughter. It was a great fun occasion and good to see so many village friends and well wishers gathered together.

We are mindful that the risk of Covid transmission has not gone away and we continue to take sensible precautions, reducing the number of people seated at each table, keeping the number of people in the kitchen area to the minimum, and maintaining a high level of hygiene and fresh air.

Because of the rising costs of ingredients and fuel we felt it necessary to increase the cost of the meal to £5 per head, which at present is just covering our expenses.

We are most grateful to our 15 strong team of cooks and helpers, who give of their time and expertise so willingly, to provide a warm and cheerful welcome, and a rich variety of home-cooked meals, for all members of our village community, young and elderly, to enjoy. Some of our cooks have been helping for more than 20 years and would like the opportunity to retire from the duties, so please spread the word that we would welcome volunteers. As we operate on a rota basis it only involves cooking 3 times a year, but is hugely appreciated.

In order to remain a viable service we would welcome more diners. So again, if you can encourage your friends and neighbours to come and join us, it would make it so much more worthwhile and enjoyable for everyone. We can help with transport if required.

Margaret Fowler,
Organiser