

Stoke by Nayland Village Lunches
April 2022- April 2023

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2023.

The Village Lunches held regularly on the third Thursday of each month, except July and August, have continued throughout this past year. Thanks go to our stalwart teams of volunteer cooks and helpers who have provided varied and appetising home-cooked meals in the warm and welcoming Village Hall, for an average of 30 people each time, and their efforts are always warmly received by our regular diners.

Following the distribution of funds raised at last year's village Spring Fair, we were very grateful to receive a grant, which has enabled us to reduce the cost of meals from £5 to £3 per person, in spite of the rising cost of ingredients and energy. We hope to maintain this reduced price for at least another year.

I am very grateful to the Village Lunch Team who enthusiastically responded to the Rural Caravan's suggestion that as many Parishes as possible provide a Warm Space during the winter months, where those who were in need of warmth and companionship in our community could meet together. We offered this opportunity in the afternoons of the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, (the 1st and 3rd weeks having existing regular social gatherings) with two of our team in attendance each time, providing refreshments and the opportunity to chat or play various card or board games, all free of charge, in our warm Village Hall. This started in November and was to have run until the end of March but by mid-February it was discontinued because we concluded that the lack of participants meant that, perhaps fortunately, it did not appear to be needed, and it was wasteful to heat the hall.

We are still on the lookout for two additional cooks and two helpers to replenish our teams, so if you know of anyone who might be interested please let me know.

Margaret Fowler
Organiser.