

Wickham Skeith Lunch Club

Report for the Parish Council AGM on 9th May 2016

The Lunch Club has been running once a month since 2004 – twelve years. The average monthly attendance of diners is 40 at present, reduced from 45 last year. Eight diners left the list in 2015 due to infirmity, family commitments, moving from the district or, sadly, death. In 2004 the cost of lunch was £2.50 and it is still only £3, but the cooks shop very carefully to keep costs as low as possible.

When Ann West retired as co-ordinator in December 2014, Lynne Baines and I took on the task between us. Thanks to Lynne's and the committee's advice and support, I was able to take on the role when Lynne and Bernie moved away from the village in January 2016. The committee meets every three-four months and my thanks go to Dennis Sore, Treasurer, Romaine Elsdon, Lynne Baines and Jenny Harvey for their commitment and support during 2015.

From December 2014 caterers have been legally obliged to provide information to diners about the presence of any of fourteen allergens in the food that they produce. The cooks at the lunch club understand the importance of this legislation and all allergens are listed on the menu each month.

Each month two cooks, two helpers and two kitchen washers-up are required. They work together brilliantly to produce a meal that is enjoyed by everyone. Huge thanks are due to them all and also to Dave who mans the dishwasher with Nigel's help as his relief, Dennis who sets up and lays the tables, Pete on the door and lots of other helpers who just appear, like the waiters and waitresses. In 2015 we were given beautiful plums, apples, rhubarb and potatoes – all fresh and produced here.

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2016.

Margaret Jones-Evans
9th May 2016