

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, RIVERHEAD WITH DUNTON GREEN

LITTLECOURT LUNCH CLUB REPORT- APCM 2021

Our Lunch Club has been unable to meet for a year due to the pandemic. In August of 2020 we contacted Age UK for advice about re-opening, but the guidelines were prohibitive. Furthermore, one of our head cooks, Dr Debra Allen, warned of us of a second wave that was expected to begin in the Autumn. The health and safety of our members is of paramount importance, and hence no Lunch Club gatherings were convened.

Our members have not been forgotten however! Pam Rankin has done a wonderful job in raising everyone's spirits with her beautiful crochet pieces. Last spring she created a rainbow for each member, and even now it's possible to take a trip around Sevenoaks and spot a Lunch Club member's house by noticing a beautifully crocheted rainbow in their window! At Christmas Pam fashioned little hearts which she attached to Christmas gift bags of sweets and a satsuma. It was such a joy to deliver these, in a Covid safe way, and thereby have the chance to catch up with each Lunch Club member.

February saw our daffodil delivery. Members were given a bunch of daffodils with our love. Sadly, on this occasion, we learned of the recent deaths of two of our members: Mary Manning and George Holding. Mary lived at Hamlyn Court in Dunton Green, and had been attending Lunch Club with her friends there for many years. She had grown up in South Africa, and especially enjoyed chatting with Rev. Dr Alan Spence's South African wife, Sheila. George Holding was a much loved helper at Lunch Club. For many years he put out the tables and stored them away afterwards. The cooks enjoyed spoiling him with coffee and biscuits before his lunch! Both Mary and George will be missed very much.

A little bird has told me that our members are going to receive a lovely Easter treat. Pam has again been busy crocheting, and this time members will all receive an Easter card with a beautifully crocheted egg attached to it. Praise the Lord for Pam's work, and her outreach to our dear members. Many members live alone and have suffered a great deal in this virus situation. It is wonderful that through Pam's faithfulness, they know that they are loved and not forgotten.

We would dearly like to re-open Lunch Club. However, this will not take place unless we are advised by Age UK that it is safe for us to do so. When we do re- open, we shall strictly follow any safeguarding advice that we are given by Age UK. The welfare, not only of our members, but also of our cooks, drivers and leaders will be foremost in our decision making.