

## **Community Lunches at the Stumble Inn, Chelsfield Farm**

This initiative was to provide a safe, warm space and an affordable lunch to encourage elderly, isolated or other vulnerable people to enjoy a sociable lunch to promote physical and mental well being within the local community.

Alan and Marianne Birchall from the Stumble Inn were approached by North Petherwin Parish Council to see if they would be willing to host such an initiative and provide funds in order to assist in subsidising the meals. Both Alan and Marianne embraced the proposal and agreed.

The Spice of Life Ladies Group were asked to identify individuals within Boyton and North Petherwin that would benefit from these lunches and co ordinate their attendance by contacting them and providing transport if required. Also deliver takeaways for those that were housebound or could not make the lunch. They also assisted in providing puddings for the meals, washing up and serving.

Part way through the initiative, Boyton Parish Council were also approached to see if they would provide funding, due to its initial success. They duly matched the funding provided by North Petherwin. This allowed the initiative to be extended and keep the lunches heavily subsidised.

A total of eight Community Lunch dates were provided, the first being on Tuesday 8th November and then every other Tuesday until the last which was held on the 21st February 2023. (With a small break over Christmas and New Year)

Attendees enjoyed main meals such as roast dinners, meat pie and sausage casserole with crumbles, lemon meringue pie and jam roly poly for puddings together with a game of bingo with prizes at Christmas for a treat.

Many members of the Boyton Community attended these lunches and takeaways (see the numbers below). They stated that they very much enjoyed the meals together with the social aspect of it, where many friendships were rekindled after the isolation felt by the Pandemic.

Other members of the Community were also reached out to and incorporated into these lunches such as asking residents from NOSNOM an assisted living facility for adults with learning disabilities to assist in serving the meals, making it truly a inclusive event.

There are many people to thank for the success of these lunches but a special mention has to be made for Alan and Marianne who not only gave up their time to prepare these meals, but also opened their facilities and warmly welcomed everyone so people felt at ease instantly.

Andy and Gaby Greene who transformed Caroline Smale's initial idea into reality and helped at every meal.

The Spice of Life Ladies (and spouses) who co ordinated attendance, provided lifts and delivered take aways, made puddings, washed up and served.

Finally, North Petherwin and Boyton Parish Councils for financially supporting this initiative which enabled the meals to be affordable and extend the initiative over the winter months.

## **Lunches- attendance from the Boyton Community**

### 8th November 2022

9 sit down

2 takeaways

### 22nd November 2022

18 sit down

2 takeaways

### 6th December 2022

8 sit down

2 takeaways

### 20th December 2022

21 sit down

2 takeaways

### 10th January 2023

19 sit down

3 takeaways

### 24th January 2023

22 sit down

3 takeaways

### 7th February 2023

28 sit down

1 takeaway

### 21st February 2023

25 sit down

1 takeaway





Bev Hunt