

## Warwick Town Christmas Lunch 2018

Christmas Day 2018 - we had a full room with 79 people sitting down for a traditional Christmas lunch. When we 1st decided to host a Christmas Lunch in 2017, we had no idea as to how many people might want to attend. It was therefore bitter sweet to have so much interest in 2018 - we were at capacity by the end of November and, unfortunately, had to say "no" to a number of people who would have liked to have joined us on Christmas Day.

We were also, once again, over-subscribed with volunteers. 24 wonderful people joined Liz and I on Christmas Day with another 6 helping with the set-up on Christmas Eve. Guests were entertained by caricaturist Steve Callaghan and magician Jester Styles; Choir leader Trevor Barr's request for Carol Singers resulted in over 30 local choristers helping get the day started. Santa joined in the fun (of course!) and we were also paid a visit by PC Jamie Parker (not that any of the elves had been naughty!).

People find themselves alone for a number of reasons and social isolation can, and does, affect people of all ages. It was a desire to try to address social isolation at Christmas that 1st gave us the idea to host the event. To make that idea a reality, we needed sponsorship - The Warwick Town Christmas Lunch simply would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses, organisations and individuals.

We are therefore extremely grateful to Warwick Town Council for allowing us to use the wonderful Regency Ballroom and for providing the trimmings which made the room look so fantastic on the day.

In addition to Warwick Town Council, we'd like to give a heart-felt thanks to everyone else who donated to the event: Alderson House, Aubrey Allen, Bar Catalan, Beki's Brownies, Booker Wholesale, Emscote Vets, Lockwoods Ski & Outdoor, Phoenix Private Ambulance Service, The Chip Shed, The Rose & Crown, Tiny Seeds Chutneys, Waitrose, Warwick Castle, Warwick Court Leet, Warwick District Council, Wine Poole, WRCC and those who have asked to remain anonymous - thank you all!