



www.ainsdalelunchandleisure.org.uk

Ainsdale Lunch & Leisure

Ainsdale Methodist Church
Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3NQ

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December 2020

NEWSLETTER

Further to the AGM report enclosed, there have been developments in terms of funding applied for, both rejected and received, funding awards have been received from Liverpool City Region, P H Holt, The Charles and Edna Broadhurst Trust, The Masonic Charity, Tesco, Coop, John Moores Foundation, Eleanor Rathbone, Leathersellers and many individual donations. Total £33,261.35 which are funds secured up to the end of March 2021. This has been welcomed and without this funding we would have struggled to re-open even to the meals delivery service and this is because almost 80% of our annual income is raised through the activities and lunches that we deliver which had to cease overnight in April.

We are still in the process of applying for monies for beyond this period and this continues to be a challenge given the current climate and competitiveness of many charities seeking funds at this time. We have already been unsuccessful in many applications applied for since July, however as stated above we will continue to seek and apply for funds. Please spread the word that we are a worthy cause amongst your contacts as we are truly making a difference to those receiving meals at the current time and there is clearly a need for our services in the community. When we have contacted volunteers, members and their families they have told us unreservedly how much they miss the contact they had received through the various activities and how much they have valued our services. This has been as a result of the fantastic teamwork our charity enjoys through the skills and efforts of our Volunteers, Staff and Board.

We have just started a partnership with Formby Lunch Club as they are unable to serve food at this time to their members and so we are delighted to be able to assist by providing meals delivered by their drivers. This is mutually beneficial to all concerned not least it means their members receive a freshly cooked meal. This has increased the number of meals cooked and we are now delivering approximately 150 meals each week.





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I wish to express my thanks and congratulations to Mandy who married our volunteer Joe Draper in March, was then furloughed and returned to sole working in our kitchen creating these wonderful freshly cooked meals. With the increase in demand for meals it was necessary to acquire additional assistance in the kitchen and we are thankful to our volunteers for helping in the kitchen at this time.

My thanks also to Audrey as she continues to work in the office co-ordinating our volunteer drivers, contacting members and their families and generally is a point of contact whilst I am seeking funding and is a tremendous support.

A team of volunteers led by Brian and Dot Davey have been maintaining the community garden throughout the summer and the greenhouse has now been purchased and built and we are grateful for all the donations towards this amazing resource, the hope being that we will be able to grow our own bedding plants, tomatoes and other produce. We hope to resume gardening activities in February and so if any are interested please feel free to join in.

Other activities will resume as and when it is safe to do so and we feel realistically that this is unlikely to happen until at least April. In the meantime we will continue to deliver the hot meals service and we will keep you updated with any developments that arise beforehand.

Our priority has always been to safeguard our members and volunteers and we have been saddened to learn of people who have passed on during this period of time and we remember them with gratitude for all the happy times and all that they have meant to us and the times we have shared together. Just looking at the photographs of the last 5 years has reaffirmed to me what community means and the many good times that we have shared that must be treasured and what we have learnt from each other. It is my hope that we will be able to do this again soon and in the meantime, thanks to each and everyone of you for making Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure what it is.

On behalf of the Staff Team, we wish you peace at this time and every blessing in the New Year.

Rebecca Gomersall

Manager

