

Lunch Club January 2024 – Christine Watson

Ten members of the U3A Lunch Club met at a new venue, the recently refurbished “The Spotted Dog” at High Coniscliffe on Wednesday 17th January. It was a bitterly cold day, but despite that we were given a very warm welcome by the staff and we were shown to their small private function table. Quite nice to have room to ourselves but the staff made sure we were not forgotten.

The Spotted Dog is very comfortable and tastefully decorated and most of all has plenty of choice on their menus.

They have 2 menus their “Lunchtime Set Menu”, 2 courses for £20 & 3 courses for £25, then their “Winter Menu” with individually priced meals & snacks.

Six members went for their set menu and so five started with a very tasty & well presented Pheasant, Bacon & Apricot Terrine, served with Winter Chutney & toasted sourdough. There was also a Smoked Mackerel Pate & a tasty White onion soup, which one member really enjoyed.

We then went to the main courses and the majority decided on the Fish Pie, with Salmon, Smoked Haddock, Cod & Prawns served with Winter Greens

The remaining four had Sausage & Mash, Steak & Mushroom Pie, Slow Roasted Belly Pork all served with roasted carrots & some with Winter Greens. A Chicken Schnitzel with Pickled Red Cabbage, Caper & parsley & lemon butter & fries.

The food we decided was delicious, good portion size, well presented but unfortunately the Winter Greens were “too al dente”! The staff did say we could be offered some that would be recooked but in the end we decided it would just take too long.

Four of us decided we did have room for a pudding, so we had a very good Lemon Posset, Traditional Creme Brûlée with shortbread and lastly Sticky Toffee Pudding. Those that had “no room” had a coffee served with a little lemon cake on the side.

I can safely say we all agreed we would go back & definitely recommend “The Spotted Dog” to our friends & family. Just remember to ask for the vegetables to be “tender”.

The Spotted Dog is only open Wednesday through to Sunday at the moment.

Website, www.the-spotteddog.co.uk