

Stoke St Michael Community Events Group

Our main event for 2024 was Stokefest. The event was again really well organised and supported. A great time was had by all. The new layout worked well. A big thank you goes to all SSMCEG committee members who once again put their heart and soul into this event and as we all know it is a huge amount of work and personal cost

Thanks also to all the volunteers who stepped up to help which was invaluable, we couldn't do it without you. We had a few fundraising events running up to Stokefest. We are very grateful to Seve Thirion for helping with the fundraising & catering, the Buffet Night and Quiz nights were a great success and raised valuable funds. We were grateful to Tim Pearce for hosting the quiz

Local businesses were once again a very supportive. We had donations from Wainwrights, Cookswood and Wilmotts

A special mention goes to Paul Baker and his team who generously provided the electrical set up, lights etc which was far superior to anything we'd been able to achieve previously

We ran the bar ourselves this year with the help of the free loan of the bar taps and equipment from Electric Bear Brewing in Bath and cheap beer from Farrington Gurnery Social Club... so despite having a bigger marquee and higher set up costs we managed to end the event with a healthy bank balance

Moving on to this year we now look forward to 'Stokefest with a Twist', on July 12th utilising the centre of the village, pub & hall as venues and a much simpler set up so the committee can also enjoy the day. Due to lack of new committee members coming forward and changes of circumstances for current committee members sadly this looks like it will be our final event

I'll include the recent Valentine's fundraiser in this report event though it technically falls into next year's report. A huge thanks goes to the River Rats for offering their services to play free of charge and to the hall for free hall hire. A great evening was had by all, partly fuelled by the cocktail bar! We made a healthy profit of around £800 to go towards 'Stokefest with a Twist'. Al & Sarah organised a raffle and 100 square and this helped considerably with fundraising. It was a lovely evening, not too much work and great to see the committee enjoying themselves

Community use of SSMCEG equipment continues...In recent months The Talbot have borrowed the chairs for their bi-monthly quiz night and kindly donated a great raffle prize of an overnight stay. The school made use of the marquees for their Apple Fayre

My personal thanks as Chair goes to all the committee members and volunteers for another year of community support, team work and friendship

Special thanks again to Keith Hambly for keeping the accounts (even though he stepped down from the committee many years ago) and Sarah Stewart for Secretarial duties and reminders

Thanks also to Al & Sarah for organising our usual litter picks in March and November to keep our village looking clean and tidy, we hope these will continue in the future

Amanda Taylor. SSMCEG Chair. April 2025

