

## **Stow Fun Raisers 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024**

The aim of the Stow Fun Raisers is to foster and extend the strong sense of community spirit in Stow by organising fun events, which will appeal to all age groups and backgrounds represented in the village population. Any money raised at these events should benefit the local community primarily, with any surplus going to local charities or individual good causes or such other charitable purposes as the committee should from time to time decide.

### ***5th to 7th May - Coronation weekend***

Stow Fun Raisers (along with the Cross Keys) took responsibility for organising the celebrations and on the Sunday held the family bike ride followed by a BBQ and cakes. About 45 cyclists joined in and overall we estimated over 80 people attended during the afternoon. Over the weekend the church was decorated by a donations of flowers from local residents organised and arranged by Shirley Hanrahan supported by volunteers.

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> July - Garage Sale***

Event organised with the participation of 15 local households. A map was created by SFR and distributed by The Cross Keys and SFR members. We had great interest from all over the neighbouring area.

### ***24<sup>th</sup> September - Litter picking***

Clare Ella organised this as usual supported by Anne Taylor and her van and the regular volunteers, plus some newcomers. A significant number of bags of rubbish are still collected each time despite several individuals litter picking regularly while out walking.

### ***20<sup>th</sup> October - Talk Night***

The first talk night since COVID - 'Tales from a Submariner' was organised by Stow Fun Raisers at the Cross Keys. Our guest speaker Frank Powell shared his unique experience working his way up from being a deck hand to commanding his own vessel. The event was well received by over 40 people who also enjoyed a delicious buffet served after the event.

### ***November - Remembrance poppies***

Stow Fun Raisers have bought 10 poppies for the village. Chris Potts has arranged delivery and installed them along the main road with the help of Phil Hanrahan. They were on display throughout the month as a respectful reminder of 'Lest we forget'

### ***December - Christmas tree***

Limestone Farming once again donated a tree. Doug Garner, Phil Hanrahan and Charlie Taylor put it up and decorated it. It looked delightful and was admired as usual.

### ***15<sup>th</sup> December - Carols around the tree***

As one of our regular events, this was attended by many local residents who enjoyed signing traditional carols accompanied by the Willingham Band. Hot drinks and mince pies were served, and we've raised a record amount of £200 for St Barnabas.

### ***23<sup>rd</sup> February - Race Night***

Our first race night took place at The Cross Keys as an adult only event that was a great success. Races were sponsored by local business and the funds raised will be used by the Committee to organise future events in the village.

This year we are once again enjoying the Spring bulbs purchased by SFR over the years and planted by volunteers at the village signs.

Stow Fun Raisers

2024