

A - Z OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS

A

Abseil: Scale the dizzy heights of a local landmark or office block.

Aerobics: Organise a sponsored aerobathon with the help of gyms, leisure centres and sports shops.

Afternoon Tea: Put the kettle on and get baking. Entertain guests with raffles, auctions, tombolas & live music

Aluminium Collection: Collect empty cans and tins and sell them to a recycling company.

Arts/Crafts Stall: Make necklaces, dried flower arrangements, stained glass mirrors, etc, to sell on a stall.

Auction: Auction off original items, taking a percentage of sales. You could even auction the services of people and businesses - anything from singing lessons to dinner for two.

B

Bad tie day: Charge your colleagues a pound to come in wearing their loudest tie. Award the winner.

Baked Bean Bath: Get sponsored to spend the day in a bath/Jacuzzi of baked beans. Charge friends to join you.

Balloon Race: Sell balloons that are filled with helium; the purchasers' name and address are written on a tag fixed to the balloon. The balloon that travels the furthest wins a prize

Barbecue: Add stereo, football and rounders bats and make it a whole day's event.

Barn Dance: Swing into action by hiring a caller and traditional country band. Serve food & plenty of cider.

Beat the Goalie: Score a goal and win a prize. Footballers pay to enter.

Bed Push: The 'bed' can be anything from a hospital bed to a four-poster or even a 3-piece suite!

Bingo: Hold a one-off evening or regular morning sessions.

Board Games Evening: Invite friends over to play Scrabble, Monopoly, Cluedo and more. Charge entrance or game fee.

Boat Race: Teams build model boats and race them. Alternatively, use real yachts, dinghies or canoes.

Bonny Baby Contest: Charge proud parents to show off their offspring in the town centre. Invite the local press.

Book Sale: Sell old books, collected from everyone you know. Book dealers may buy leftover stock.

Bungee Jump: Raise sponsorship by flying in the face of fear.

Burns Night: Theme evening with Scottish dancing, Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. Admission fee.

Bus Pull: Gather a team & get sponsored to heave a bus through town. More teams? Make it a race.

C

Cake Stall: Hold a traditional cake stand at fetes or fairs. Check health and safety regulations.

Calendars: Design & sell a pictorial calendar for your company. Departments/suppliers may sponsor pages.

Car boot sale: Cash in your old belongings, or sell pitches. Raise more with bouncy castles, raffles, etc.

Car treasure hunt: Drive from clue to clue in search of the 'treasure'. Teams pay to enter.

Car wash: Wash cars at shopping centre or office car parks.

Carol concert: Host a festive concert for your community. Earn extra by selling minced pies & mulled wine.

Carol singing: Get a group to go door-to-door singing. Bigger public displays may require a licence.

Casino evening: Hire gaming tables and a hall for the evening.

Charity ball: Raise sponsorship the sophisticated way. Organise a themed ball with DJ or live music at a hotel or nightclub. Charge for tickets, but boost your earnings with games and raffles.

Christmas draw: Sell tickets and ask local firms to supply prizes. Check regulations about public draws & raffles.

Classic car show: Well-organised classic car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.

Coconut shy: Easily arranged game for traditional fairs. All you need are a few coconuts and wooden balls.

Coffee morning: It's open house for the morning. Make extra with raffles, bring and buy sales and cake stalls.

Collecting tins: Trusted fundraiser for busy pedestrian areas. Charity should supply tins, stickers and leaflets.

Concerts: Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire bands of musicians.

Copper collection: Ask people to donate their collections of one and two pence pieces.

Cricket match: Assemble a team and challenge your county team to a match. Charge spectators.

D

Dance: Barn dances, tea dances, disco dances, salsa dances - whatever rocks your boat.

Darts tournament: Challenge all the pub teams in the area to compete for cash prizes, or a barrel of beer.

Dinner and cabaret: Hire a popular and spacious restaurant. Entertain ticket holders with music, comedy & magic.

Disco: Spin the decks or hire a DJ to stage a themed disco night.

Dog show: Charge proud pet-owners to show off their pooches. Ask pet shops to sponsor the event.

Duck race: Sell numbered plastic ducks and launch them from a bridge. The duck to finish first wins.

E

Easter egg hunt: Edible hide and seek. Charge entry fee and ask confectioners to provide the eggs.

Eating marathon: Get sponsored to stuff your face with as many baked beans/grapes/pies etc. as possible.

Eyebrows: Get sponsored to shave them off - they grow back eventually!

F

Face painting: Get creative with face paints at fetes, fairs and children's parties.

Fancy dress: Jazz up your event with a fancy dress contest. Charge entrance fee.

Fashion show: Ask businesses to sponsor venue, outfits or catwalk. Charge admission and sales commission.

Fastathon: Get sponsored to fast for an hour, a morning or a day. Consult your doctor first.

Fete: Reach the whole community by holding a fete, or team up with organisers of an annual event.

Film evening: Recreate an evening of vintage cinema by showing classic films and musicals.

Flower show: Always popular. Boost funds with competitions, advice corners & side stalls.

Football tournament: Schedule fixtures and charge teams to enter. Ask local businesses for prizes.

Foreign coins: Ask people to donate their leftover holiday coins. Change into sterling once you have enough.

Fun day: Arrange games, music, competitions and stalls at a nearby hall or sports club.

Furniture sale: Hire a large hall to sell donated furniture and old office equipment. Take sales commission.

G

Game show: Host mock version of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire or The Weakest Link. Otherwise adapt board games for big audiences, and get prizes donated.

Garage sale: Sell off all your unwanted belongings.

Garden party: Sell tickets or invite guests to make a donation.

Gardening: Offer your gardening services to friends and family.

Glamorous Gran: Go in search of your area's most glamorous gran. Charge contestants to enter, and ask local hair and beauty salons to donate prizes. Invite the local press.

Go Kart Grand Prix: Hold a Go Kart Grand Prix at the nearest track. Drivers pay entrance fee.

Greeting cards: Make and sell cards for every occasion. Find out about selling Christmas cards for your charity.

Guess the??? Competitors guess how many sweets in the jar, a cake's weight, etc. The closest answer wins.

Guest speaker: Invite a guest speaker and sell admission tickets. Boost funds with raffle & refreshments.

Gunge Tank: Charge fairgoers to drop their relatives, friends or enemies in tank of last week's leftovers.

H

Halloween party: Another excuse to dress up and party. Charge entrance fees and raise money trick or treating.

Head shave: Sick of bad hair days? Go bald for charity.

Household sale: Sell off all your unwanted belongings.

I

Inflatable: Put a bounce into your summer fete with an inflatable fly wall, boxing ring or gladiator court.

Ironing: Offer your ironing services - at a cost.

It's a knockout: Revive the 80s game show by inviting teams to compete in silly games in silly costumes.

J

Jailbreak: Dump teams in the middle of nowhere. With no money or transport, see who gets back to base first. Charge entrance fees and offer prizes.

Jazz festival: Play your own brand of jazz, or stage a show for local musicians. Sell tickets and refreshments.

Jewellery making: Buy your own beads and get threading. Sell your products at markets and craft fairs.

Junk mail: Collect all your junk mail and sell it to a recycling company.

K

Karaoke: Arrange your own Pop Idol contest. All you need is a machine, a room and a well-stocked bar.

L

Left-handed day: Try doing everything with your left hand for the day.

Line dancing: It's all the rage. Just make sure you have a caller and plenty of drink!

M

Marathons: Get sponsored to run a traditional 26-mile race.

Mile of pennies: Make a mile of pennies in your town centre. Ask shoppers to help by donating their coins.

Mini-Olympics: Invite everyone you know to compete in traditional & silly sports. Charge entry.

Mufti day: Introduce dress down day at work. Colleagues pay a fee to leave their suits at home.

Music concert: Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire bands of musicians.

N

Nature trail: Offer guided walks to natural beauty spots.

New Year resolutions: Get sponsored to stick to your new year's resolutions.

O

Open garden: Open your garden to visitors. Sell tickets, refreshments, plants and vegetables.

Opera night: Stage an opera evening in your area, or arrange a trip to see a big London production.

P

Paintballing: Organise paintballing challenges at locally run centres. Players pay to enter.

Pancake race: Get flipping on Shrove Tuesday. Charge teams to enter, and spectators to eat.

Parachute jump: Daredevils only. Get sponsored to take the plunge.

Parties: Pick a venue, a date, a theme... and party on. Sell tickets and charge for extras like food.

Petrol tokens: Trade in petrol tokens for gifts, which can be used as raffle or competition prizes.

Plant a tree: Seek sponsors for a "plant a tree" scheme.

Plant sale: Sell donated plants or rent out pitches to traders.

Playstation play-off: Organise a league of players and compete on a certain game. Charge entrants.

Play your cards right: Fair game made famous by Bruce Forsyth. Guess higher or lower 6 times running & win a prize.

Postage stamps: Collect and sell foreign and unusual stamps to dealers.

Private tuition: Whether it's French or Flamenco, sell your skills with private lessons.

Programmes: Get businesses to advertise in event programmes. Number the programmes & use as raffle tickets.

Pub games night: Stage a championship of traditional pub games - darts, skittles, dominoes, cards, etc.

Puppet show: Pull in the crowds with a traditional Punch & Judy show, or something more innovative.

Q

Quizzes: If your local doesn't run a pub quiz, set one up. Test the regulars on pop, trivia or sport.

R

Race night: The race is run on a large screen after all bets have been taken. A typical evening consists of eight races. Props (and film) are supplied by race operators. Some gaming regulations apply.

Raffle: Ask local firms to donate prizes and sell tickets. Check raffle laws with charity.

Raft race: Teams compete by building their rafts and racing over a set distance. Teams pay to compete.

Ramble: Take to the countryside for a mass walkabout. Throw in a theme (fancy dress, singles, three legged, Easter), and charge for entry and refreshments.

Recipe book: Publish favourite recipes from local restaurants and chefs.

Recycling collections: Collect paper, aluminium, glass, etc, and sell on to recycling companies.

Refreshments: Sell teas, coffees, sandwiches, biscuits, cakes, etc, at any fundraising event.

Roll-a-ball: Fair game where player rolls a ball through a hole at the end of a bowling-type alley.

Roll-a-coin: Fair game where player rolls a coin down a chute, aiming to land on a playing card.

Roll the dice: Roll six sixes and win a car! You need a big event... and car sponsor to make this worthwhile.

S

Safari supper: Travel from restaurant to restaurant, having a different course at each stop. Ask restaurants to support your efforts, but set cover charge to include all food and your cut.

Sale of Xmas gifts: Sell Christmas cards, wrapping, gifts, food and drink.

Scavenger hunt: Variation on the treasure hunt where participants have a list of items to collect.

Shoe shine: Get down on your knees at your nearest train station or shopping centre.

Shopping coupons: Trade in loyalty points for money or goods (to be used as prizes).

Skittles: Make an evening event out of this traditional pub game.

Skydiving: Free fall your way back to earth - for sponsorship.

Slimming contest: Arrange with local slimming clubs. Participants get sponsored £1 for every pound lost.

Slippery pole: Fair game where competitors pillow fight while sliding along a slippery pole.

Sponge throwing: Players pay to chuck sopping wet sponges at whoever's in the stocks.

Sponsored silence: Mum's the word. Stay silent for as long as you can.

Sports competition: Whatever your game, organise a tournament. Sell tickets, and organise stalls, raffles, etc.

Stage play: Raise the curtain on a local Am Dram production.

Street entertaining: Get juggling, tight rope walking, fire eating, knife throwing, unicycling...

Swear box: Spend a £1 for every \$@*£\$! uttered. Put a box at home, at work and at the pub.

Swimathon: Get sponsored per length, mile, minute, hour...

T

Tabletop sale: Indoor variation on the car boot sale. Charge for table hire.

Talent competition: Discover Britain's next big thing with your own talent show. Charge entry and offer prizes.

Ten-pin bowling: Bowling alleys often have special rates for big groups & charity evenings.

Tombola: Pick a raffle ticket out of a barrel and match it with a ticketed prize. Fair & fete favourite.

Toy sale: In the run up to Christmas, toy sales can be big fundraisers.

Treasure hunt: Sniffing out the clues, teams compete against each other to discover the 'hidden treasure'.

Tuck shop: Sell sweets, crisps, cake, drinks, etc, at a children's event.

U

Underwear party: One for the adults! Charge guests to come wearing it, or take commission for selling it.

Unwanted presents: Arrange a post-Christmas sale of unwanted gifts. Ask traders to donate a cut of their takings.

V

Variety show: Comedians, magicians, singers, dancers & musicians all under one roof.

Vehicle rally: Well-organised car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.

Visits: Organising visits to local places or tourist destinations.

W

Waste paper: Collect waste paper and sell to recycling companies.

Waxing: A hair-raising experience for the boys. Get sponsored to wax your legs or chest.

Weight of the cake: Fair game. Pay to guess the weight - and win the cake if you're right.

Welly throwing: Fun for every fete and fair. Throwers compete to see whose welly goes furthest.

Windscreen wash: Charge to wash windscreens at service and petrol stations. Ask permission first.

Wine & cheese: Ask supermarkets to donate the wine and cheese. Sell tickets, and produce to take away.

Wine tasting: Hold tasting sessions for wine companies. Charge commission on wine sold. Arrange a raffle.

Woodcutting: Offer to prune trees or chop firewood for friends and family.

X

Xmas evening: Stock up on crackers, pudding and mince pies. Break with tradition by holding it in July!

Xmas hampers: Make up and sell your own Xmas hampers. Include food, drink, toys and gifts.

Y

Yard of ale: Challenge yourself and others to a lengthy drinking contest. Charge entry fee.

Z

Zodiac evening: Invite a guest astrologer for a star-studded fundraiser. Charge for entry and horoscopes.