

A-Z of Fund-raising Ideas

ART SHOW

This could be a show from one or two local artists. Ask local art dealers or the Arts Council. Alternatively, it could be a children's art show or one with a theme.

AUCTIONS

There are all sorts of auctions:- Celebrity items, e.g. autographed photos or clothing, Auctions of Promises, Lots include skills, gardening, babysitting, a free dinner, etc.

BALLOON RACE

Balloons, helium, cards to attach and prizes required. See Balloons in the yellow pages for local contacts and to get price quotes. (Not a very green idea these days)

BANDS

A band concert could be for any kind of music. Think widely to other forms, a steel band, a folk band, town, police, pop or regimental band.

BOOKS

A book stall. Collect books locally and also ask local newspapers for any redundant review books. Any you feel may be worth more, take them to a book dealer for extra cash.

BARN DANCES

This could be held in a hall, a barn, a large tent or, weather permitting, a field! Check local listings and the library for entertainers.

BARREL ORGAN COLLECTION

A barrel organ or similar can be borrowed through local enthusiasts, Always a good extra for a flag day or street collection.

CAR BOOT SALES

Organise your own in a friendly car park or field, charging £3-£5 per car. You could charge admission, do a car wash or serve refreshments to supplement income. **OR...** a collection from friends and colleagues could soon produce enough to do a stall at somebody else's car boot sale.

CELEBRITY FOOTBALL MATCH

It doesn't have to be 'big' celebrities, local ones will do just as well...how about the head teacher, bank manager or mayor. Alternatively, dress up as celebrities past and present. Good fun, charge for entry and for autographs!

CINEMA/THEATRE COLLECTION

Ask permission from the management to do a collection preferably before the show, or during the interval.

CLAY PIGEON SHOOTS

These need proper organisation if they are to be run safely and successfully. The Clay Pigeon Association has a booklet on how to do it.

CAR TREASURE HUNTS

The routes and clues must be correct. Many are organised by staff associations/clubs if you are looking for help. People pay to take part and can win some sort of trophy or shield. End with a picnic.

CAR WASHING

Ask a supermarket if you can use part of their car park for a charity car wash if you don't have suitable premises, or approach organisers of large events locally, e.g. flower shows, agricultural shows, etc.

OR

Locally-owned or managed garages will let you wash car windows on their forecourts while people get fuel. This is a particular effective fund-raiser.

CAROL-SINGING

Enough said!

CASH-IN!!!

Watch local papers for upcoming events. Often there will be a sponsored bike-ride or walk; there may be a swimathon or equivalent. Some schools/clubs do an event each year as a group-building event and donate the money to a different charity. Ask to be the beneficiary of the sponsorship. Appeal for people to take part on your behalf, either personally or through newspapers or local clubs, e.g. swimming clubs, running clubs or gyms. No organisation needed – pure profit!

CHILDREN'S PLAY-DAY

As long as you have plenty of helpers this can be fun and profitable. Arrange for an entertainer, e.g. a clown, magician, circus skills, puppet show, to come along; have some pop music and a few games. Charge entry. (Parents often will stay)

CHILDREN'S PAINTING COMPETITION

Not a good fund-raiser, but very good for publicity. Children pay a small fee to enter and it is very effective to ask the local paper to appoint a judge and then print some of the winners.

DINNER

A very enjoyable way of raising money, Keep the catering bill down and the ticket price up with a good speaker or entertainer. You can combine it with an auction or raffle.

DUCK RACE

If you have a fairly fast running river/stream (and a net to catch them!) this can be good fun. Buy some bath ducks and paint numbers on their bottoms. You sell the

ducks and when they are released for the race the owner of the winning duck gets a prize. Return the ducks to their owners, but remember to rope off the bank as owners, particularly children, are likely to follow their duck's progress with great enthusiasm.

EXHIBITION

This can be with paintings, pottery, knitting, handicrafts or a skill. Charge admission, organise refreshments and sell the exhibited goods with the commission going to the cause.

EXPEDITIONS

This could be anything from a ramble or a local history walk to a day trip or a full holiday. There are tour operators who will arrange some of these with a mark-up for you to keep for advertising it and getting people along to join in, if you don't want to organise your own.

FAYRE/FETE

Whole books have been written on how to run these successfully. See attached list at the end for suggested stalls. Important tips – Don't clash with other events on the same date. A good PA system is imperative. Invite a 'good' person to open it. Think about hiring out extra space to stall holders. Everybody attending will need food and toilets!

FASHION SHOW

Sounds like an easy option but is actually a lot of work. Catwalk/runway, lights, music, compeer, make-up, hair, accessories and flowers. That is before models, clothes and choreography. However, they can be good fun, create good publicity and can be done fairly cheaply if you do the work yourself or get enthusiastic people to do it. Charge for entry and refreshments.

FLOWER SHOW

Host a flower show, ask the local horticultural society, organise flower displays, etc. Charge for entries, admission and refreshments.

FIFTY-FIFTY SALE

An auction is best. People donate articles to be auctioned and when the sale is agreed the money is split between the owner and the good cause. A good compeer is essential.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

It doesn't have to be 5th November. Combine with a pig roast or hot-dog stand.

FLAG DAYS

It doesn't have to be flags it could be badges or a simple collection and could be done as a street or store collection but remember you need a license for street collections from the local council, but not for those done on private property, only permission.

So many people go to supermarkets now, think of alternatives. **Garden centres** and **DIY stores** are good, especially at weekends. **Motorway services** are excellent.

FOREIGN MONEY

Collect and convert all that foreign money not spent on holidays, especially change. Post Offices will change it without charge.

GALA FILM/THEATRE EVENING

You need the co-operation of the local cinema or theatre. You may be offered a late showing but make the most of it with dinner first. Maybe themes of My Fair Lady, 007 Bond or Sound of Music with costumes and song sheets of course!

GARDENS/GARDEN PARTY

Whether the plants are the attraction or the large hats or house, people love to visit gardens. Have refreshments and a garden stall with plants, flowers for sale. Don't forget people will still need toilet facilities.

GOOD AS NEW SALE

Be very fussy. Keep rejected bits for the next jumble sale. Display things well and good used clothes could be auctioned while somebody models them.

GREETINGS CARDS

Cards are expensive things these days. Sell home-made ones, craft or computer-based. Alternatively, use a Miller or Webb Ivory catalogue to sell cards and keep the commission.

HOST A SALE

Host a 'party-plan' style sale and donate the commission. There are still a few to choose from: the 'giggly' ones, home-wares, clothes, perfumes and even chocolate. Who could resist?

INDOOR GAMES EVENING

Great for a winter's night, a get-together and a social evening. Charge for hot drinks and jacket potatoes with toppings and also for each game played. Supply board and other indoor games or make up your own, e.g. charades

INTERNATIONAL EVENING

Great fun and different. A charge is made to enter and it is important that the whole evening is themed from food and music to décor and even fancy dress. It is worth doing some research to look for traditions and cultural surprises!

JAZZ EVENING

Jazz is very popular and cuts across ages. Contact performers or host a dinner with jazz music on tape or try the local band or school, you may even get a donated jazz band.

JUMBLE SALE

The eternal jumble sale always works. Try 'fill a bag for £1' as an alternative. Advertise it as a '£1 Sale'.

MEDIEVAL BANQUET/FAYRE

This takes a bit of organising locating the wooden platters, goblets and minstrels. Dress as wenches and jesters. You could make extra money by running side-shows – old-fashioned puppets, old fashioned sweets, a pig roast or Ye Olde Englishe Cook book goes down well. If guests are dressing up offer a photography service for a small fee of course!

MUGS

Drinking mugs can be ordered with names on or buy plain mugs and paint them to personalise (check the paint is the right sort!) Sell for a profit at the office or group.

MUSICAL EVENING

Records/CDs/Tapes/DVDs, a single musician or a trio, quartet or a full band/orchestra. Hire a local hall, theatre or hotel/manor house.

MUSIC HALL

Older people love this all-round entertainment. Why not do a DIY performance and of course the compeer has to have the right word to say loudly and with gusto!

MYSTERY TOUR

Arrange with you local coach company to hire a coach, plan a good day-trip and then charge customers, making sure to keep a profit. If you are lucky the driver may donate his time so the bus hire is greatly reduced.

MAKE UP DEMONSTRATION

Local stores, particularly Boots and Body Shop will give talks to interested groups. Last I knew they were free and the assistants brought lots of free samples with them as a bonus. Lots of ladies would pay to be made up, have a make-over or pick up some tips.

New Year Sale

Ask your friends, family, office or group to donate one of their Christmas presents that can then be sold or raffled.

PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAY/COMPETITION

Choose a theme, or themes, people pay to enter the competition. Displays of local history or communities are very popular.

PICNIC PARTNERS

Arrange a group picnic, each lady makes a traditional picnic basket and decorates it. At the start of the picnic each basket is auctioned to the men, the highest bid wins the contents to eat. (Sometimes done with the men also winning the lady as his guest!)

QUIZ EVENING

Quiz and puzzle books are readily available (plus the internet), or cut up magazines to 'name the celebrity' or 'name the brand in the advert'. A pleasant evening with refreshments for a fee.

RECYCLING

Many re-cycling items can produce money. Contact the local council or look for places to return print cartridges or old mobile phones for money.

SAFARI SUPPER

Various courses of a meal are prepared at 3 or 4 different houses. Paying guest travel from one to another entering with their ticket they have purchased and enjoying the food and the company.

SNOWBALL PARTY

Not as cold as it sounds! People agree to snowball a coffee morning, lunch or dinner for a fee. One person holds the first one and two of the people who attend volunteer to hold the next ones, asking different people. At each of these two, two more people volunteer to host and so on. The whole thing snowballs and the money raised is added together to see how big the snowball grows.

Suggestion: Put an end date for the last of the snowball parties otherwise it could go on forever, but the idea might go stale and the snowball will melt!

SWIMMING PARTIES

Plan your own sponsored swim, for individuals or teams or plan a pool party!

SPONSORED EVENTS

These can be many things from the dangerous to the outright stupid! Arrange your own event, use an events company or get people to do their own sponsored challenge, or look for a local sponsored event going on, enter and cash in.

TALENT SHOW

What a brave decision! Good fun though and charge for entry and refreshments. Don't forget the prizes.

TREASURE HUNTS

As 'car treasure hunts' but done on foot around the town and ending in a local park or pub!

VALENTINE DANCE

As you would expect but really go to town on the décor.

VINTAGE/CLASSIC CAR/MOTORBIKE RALLY

Ask enthusiasts to display cars and bikes locally and split the profit with you. You organise refreshments etc.

WESTERN EVENING

Come to cowboy country suitably attired and enjoy a bean supper and some line or country dancing.

WISHING WELL

Approach your local garden centre and ask them whether you could have the coins thrown in to a well, fountain or water feature. Put a plaque next to it so wishers know who the money is going to.

XTRA TERRESTRIAL PARTY

A new slant on themed events. Sell tickets to your favourite planet or to the moon and theme the evening around rockets, space or aliens!

YARN TELLING

This can be entertainment with two teams similar to 'Call my Bluff' **OR** start with the beginning of a story, e.g. 'One late night down by the docks...' and then pass it on to the next person who adds a paragraph or so and passes it on again to create a yarn. **OR** Have a panel and ask them questions like 'What was your most embarrassing moment?' When they have answered the audience has to say who is telling the truth. Charge for participation and refreshments.

ZE REST – A list of suggested stalls to choose from for fetes, open days or whenever!

SUGGESTED STALLS

Books	Hats – don't forget the mirror!
Breakfast stall with eggs, rolls, Jam and marmalade – decorate appropriately	Hot Dogs
Bring and Buy	Ice Cream
Cakes	Jewellery
Candy Floss	Linens and Household
China, Pottery and Glass	Magazines
Cream Teas	Nearly new clothes
DIY and Tools	Spring Bulbs
Flowers – fresh, dried, paper or silk	Sweets and toffee apples
Gardening	Toys
Greeting cards/Calendars	Vegetable market
Handicrafts	White Elephant

SUGGESTED SIDE SHOWS

Apple-bobbing	Goal kick
Archery	Guess the weight
Balls into buckets	Hoopla
Bouncy Castles	How many in the jar?

Bat the Rat (drop Rat toy through a drainpipe and try to bat it as it falls out)	Throw or kick a ball through a tyre
Bowling	Knock the hat off
Christmas Grotto	Mower race
Coconut Shy	Refreshments
Darts	Snuff out candles with water pistols
Easter Egg Hunt	Stocks (and sponges!)
Face Painting	Ten pin bowling/skittles
Fancy Dress/Hat Parade	Trampolines
Fish for Bottles – bamboo canes with string and curtain ring, hook cola bottles	Treasure Hunt
Fish for children's goodies over a picture of the sea/river with canes, string and pegs.	Wishing well and /or Lucky dip

SUGGESTED ENTERTAINMENT/CROWD-PULLERS

Acrobatic display	Sheep dog display/ dog show
Baby Show or child photographer	Singing Group
Band	Judo/karate display
Christmas Grotto	Model railway
Easter Egg Hunt	Morris dancing
Fashion Show	Puppet show