

A-Z OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS FOR CHARITY

A

Aerobics-athon

To stay fit and healthy, organise an aerobics-athon. It'll make you feel good about supporting us.

Arts and crafts fair

Put your creative talents into action and sell your works of art at a craft fair.

Auction

Organise your own fundraising auction. Why not auction off your talents for the day

B

Bake off!

One of our most popular fundraising event ideas! get your friends, colleagues, parish or group to bake cakes, pies and biscuits, and see who can produce the tastiest sponge. Sell what's left after the judges have done their tasting. You could even auction the winning entries!

Bad Tie day

Look in your dad's wardrobe for those outdated ties and dazzle your friends. Pay to display the outrageous tie. Your friends could pay to have the offending tie removed. This is just one of many good fundraising ideas to use to Brighten Up for Harvest Fast Day.

Bag packing at local supermarket

Ask your local supermarket if you can hold a bag packing day for CAFOD. It's a great way to provide a service to the local community while supporting us too. Get in touch with our local office !

Battle of the bands

Challenge those budding musicians to a battle of the bands and put on a concert to raise money. You could also raise money with a “pay to leave” policy.

Beat the goalie

Challenge your friends to a beat the goalie competition. Pay to play.

Bring and buy sale

Sell donated goods on a stall. Cakes, books, home-made jam, bric-a-brac and fairtrade goods are firm favourites.

Bike ride

Looking for fun sponsorship ideas? Try pedalling against poverty with a sponsored bike ride! Set up a sponsorship page for CHANGE TOMORROW on JustGiving

Bingo

Organise a bingo event – devise your own calls for the numbers. Charge a fee per game.

Barbeque

Charge neighbours, friends and family a small fee to attend your barbeque. If you get them all to bring a bottle or some nibbles, costs should be kept down.

Beard Shaving

Grab a few hairy marys and shave them. Not just for fun - fundraise by getting people to sponsor them to go through with it. You can shave heads, beards, backs or legs... the possibilities are great.

Blind Date Evening

Get some single folks in the same room and charge an audience to watch you give Cilla a run for her money. Hopefully will raise a lorra lorra money fundraising chucks!

C

Colour theme days

Bring a bit of colour into your day and raise money at the same time! Get your friends to dress in their favourite colours for a donation. Set a football, season or country theme. This is another great fundraising idea for schools looking to Brighten up for Harvest Fast Day.

Cake sales

Cake sales are a great way to raise money and awareness too, if they are made from fairly traded products.

Collections

A really easy fundraising activity is to put those empty jam jars to good use and turn small change into a big difference. You could also get in touch with your local office for CAFOD fundraising collection tins.

Competitions

Devise your own competition, or use tried and tested ideas such as 'guess who the baby in the picture is' to entertain the guests at any kind of fundraising event.

Cricket match

Challenge your peers or teachers to a cricket match. Each team pays a fee.

Car wash

Charge your teachers, friends and family to wash their cars.

Car Boot Sale

All you need is a car (preferably with a boot), some junk and some people to buy it from you.

D

Dancing

Put on those dancing shoes and disco the night away. Remember to charge an entry fee. Or go further and dance all day in a sponsored dance-athon. Set up a sponsorship page for CHANGE TOMORROW on JustGiving

Dress down day

It's not the most unique way to fundraise for charity but the tried and tested dress down day, own clothes day or mufti day is always a hit with school students. It can work in your workplace too!

Dog walk

Get some exercise and raise money at the same time. Offer your services as the neighbour dog walker and charge per dog per walk.

E

Eating baked beans with a cocktail stick

Challenge your friends to a baked bean eating competition – how many can you eat in a minute using only a cocktail stick?

Egg and spoon race

Are you up for an egg and spoon challenge? Race your friends and family. No cheating now!

Egg painting competition

Don't waste those eggs after the race – turn them into works of art. Sell them to raise money for us.

Easter party

Seasonal parties are always a good idea. Incorporate the Easter Egg hunt and the egg painting to keep the children amused whilst you mingle with the parents telling them all about your upcoming gap year - and how they can help you get there.

F

Fancy dress

Go crazy with the fashion ideas and create a zany masterpiece to wear for the day. Prizes for the most outrageous and colourful costumes.

Five a side football

Challenge your mates or your teachers to a five a side tournament as part of a football fundraiser. Each team pays to play.

Film night

create your own cinema and hold a film night for family and friends. Sell popcorn and drinks and charge an entry fee. Theme the night on your favourite type of film!

Fashion show

Put your creative talents to the test and organise a fashion show – why not use recycled clothes and make it an eco-show? Invite the wider community to see your fabulous designs, and don't forget to charge an entry fee.

Face painting competition

Put your artistic talents to good use and paint people's faces. You could have a themed face painting day such as of animals or characters from a book. Remember to charge for your works of face painting art.

Football Match

Ask your local team to play a match in aid of your gap year. Organise a raffle at half time and get prizes donated by local businesses. Alternatively, organise a match pitting your mates against their dads and older relatives. Ask each player to pay a fee to play and buy a small cup for the winning team.

G

Guess who the baby is (from photos)

Do a twist on the classic baby photo game by collecting some baby photos of famous celebrities and charging your friends to guess who they are.

Give it up!

Get sponsored to go without something. Give up speaking for a day, computer games for a week, chocolate for a month, or give up magazines for the whole of Lent! Donate the money you save, set up a sponsorship page for CHAGE TOMORROW on JustGiving

Garden party

Whip up some cucumber sandwiches, dust off the picnic tables and crack open some Pimms. Charge a small entrance fee and organise a collection during the fundraising event.

H

Hair beading, braiding and plaiting

Put your creative talents to good use. Make your friends look cool and raise money for CHANGE TOMORROW

Head Shaving

Less impressive if you already have a crew cut, but for those of you with long flowing locks this could earn you shed loads of cash. Or if you aren't feeling brave, get sponsored to shave the head of a hairy (willing) mate.

Halloween party

Probably best organised around the 31st October (*though an out of season "Fundraising Halloween" might also be fun*). Encourage your friends to dress the part and run a fancy dress competition with a small prize for the winner. All guest should pay a small entrance fee to attend.

I

Indoor games

Organise an indoor Olympics using our mini-Olympics resource for primary schools. Rain won't stop play and you'll have fun challenging your friends and raising money for us too.

It's a Knockout

Organise an It's a Knockout competition – fun for all the family.

J

Jumble sales

Reduce, reuse and recycle – the perfect opportunity to hold a fundraiser jumble sale. See if you can turn your trash into cash.

Jewellery making/selling

Put your creative jewellery making skills to good use and hold a sale with what you make. Share your skills with others and teach your friends how to make that perfect accessory.

Joke-athon

Have your friends in stitches with a joke-athon. How long can you keep your friends laughing? If the jokes are really bad, make them pay a fee to leave.

K

Kite flying

When the wind is right get those kites into the air. The kite that stays up the longest wins. Why not design your own kites and get sponsored too?

Karaoke

Impress your friends with your singing ability – try out your favourite tunes. Pay per tune.

Knitting competition

How long is that scarf? Challenge your friends to a knit-off. You could sell or auction your work of art too.

Kiss-a-thon

Sponsored snogging? Sounds like fun. Whether you go for quantity or duration is up to you...

L

Line dancing

Friends and family can have hours of fun with a line dancing event. You could even organise a line dance-athon. Charge a fee to take part.

Line of coins

A simple fundraiser that everyone can join in with - set yourselves a challenge to see how long you can make your coin collection before you donate it. Remember you can also donate COINS TO CHANGE TOMORROW

Litter picking

Get yourselves sponsored on a mass litter pick afternoon and look after the local environment too. Set up a sponsorship page for CHANGE TOMORROW on JustGiving

Loud tie day

Look to make a difference amongst your friends: see who can wear the most outrageous tie. You could even design your own tie. Only those who have paid to display can take part.

Limbo Competition

This could work well down the pub. Charge a quid for entry to the competition, and get the bar to donate a few free drinks for the winner.

M

Money boxes

Order a free CHANGE TOMORROW money box online , and collect your small change to make a big difference. At school ask if you can have a classroom box.

Mile of coins

Set yourself the mile challenge - what is the longest distance you can reach with a line of coins? (Bronze, silver and gold categories) Remember you can also donate foreign coins to CHANGE TOMORROW.

Murder Mystery Night

This could be great, especially if you're a member of an amateur dramatics group, or a drama group at school or college, who'll help you out.

Magic Show

If you're Doncaster's answer to David Blaine, put together a magic show and get paid to perform at kids' parties.

N

Nominate a teacher – to have their legs, beard or head shaved.

Challenge a teacher / youth leader to have a shave or wax for a good cause.

Nearly new sale

Outgrown those jeans? Only worn something once? Why not sell or swap your unwanted things with your friends? Pay £2 for each item you take.

Name the teddy

Does your mascot need a name? Charge your mates to come up with the most interesting suggestion. You could raffle the teddy at the end too.

Netball tournament

Challenge your friends, teachers or parish to a netball tournament. To add to the fun, why not play your matches in fancy dress too?

Non-Uniform Day

People pay a couple of quid for the privilege of coming to school or work in their civvies.

O**Odd job Day**

Charge a fee for all those odd jobs around the house that need doing.

Origami

If you're good at this Japanese art-form, hold a fundraising origami workshop for kids.

Office Collection Day

Stick a pot on your desk with notices telling people what you're raising money for. Loudly remind your colleagues that it's for a good cause. Probably best to do this the day before you leave your job...

P**Penalty shoot out**

Show off your skills in a sponsored shoot out as part of a football fundraiser.

Photo competitions

If you're a budding photographer, hold a competition for interesting snaps. All entrants to pay a fee.

Pancake race

Hold your own pancake race – challenge your friends and family.

Pin the tail on the donkey

Challenge your friends to a pin the tail on the donkey. Remember to blindfold them - and no cheating! Pay to play.

Poetry reading

Organise a poetry recital and invite your friends and family. Why not hold a themed poetry event, or use poems from your favourite poet? Set yourself the challenge of reciting your poem from memory. £1 per line – the longer the poem the more you raise.

PTA coffee morning

Get the Mums and Dads to organise a coffee morning – and why not make it a Fairtrade event too? You could combine it with a 'bring and buy' sale.

Pet show

Get a pet shop to donate prizes in exchange for publicity. Why not make it an alternative pet-show, with prizes for the waggiest dog, pet lookalikes etc?

Pram push

Dress up, push your mate in a pram through the streets of your town, shake a bucket and be prepared to tell a lot of curious bystanders why they should give you money for your fundraising shenanigans.

Plant Sale

Requires forward planning. Buy a packet of seeds for a quid, plant them, and when they're looking impressive, set up a stall and sell the plants for a quid each. From little acorns, mighty oaks shall grow, or something like that.

Pub Games

Skittles, darts, pool, cards... Charge people to enter; the landlord/lady will appreciate the custom, and might agree to donate free drinks for the winner. You could even make it a weekly league.

Pool Competition

People put money in a pot to enter; the winner takes half of what's in the pot, you take the other half!

Q

Quiet in the classroom - sponsored silence

Make your teacher or parents happy by remaining quiet for a few hours, or even a whole day, with this popular fundraising activity.

Quizzes

Quizzes are very popular and hence a good way to make money. Pubs are the usual venue, but you could also hold one at a local college, at a day centre for older people, or in a town or village hall.

Quiff competition

Warning: only try this if you want to bring large numbers of Elvis fans out of the woodwork.

R

Raffles

Get friends and family or local businesses to donate prizes and raffle them off to raise funds. Great on its own but this also works well as an extra idea at any fundraising event.

Relays

Organise a sponsored relay race. Add a bit of variety into the race and create an obstacle relay.

Rounders tournament

Challenge your friends and teachers to a fundraiser rounders match. Remember it is pay to play.

Rugby Match

Charge spectators for tickets. For extra crowd-pulling power, play in drag...

S

Samba or Salsa Dancing

Put on those dancing shoes and find a partner! Collect donations to take part.

Soak the priest/teacher

See if you can convince your priest, teachers or youth leaders to get in the stocks and get wet! Get people to pay per sponge.

Students vs. students tug of war

A fun way to compete with staff at school – challenge them to a tug of war. Each team pays a fee.

Stalls

Set up a variety of stalls, from plants or cakes to recycled goods, and create your own mini £1 bazaar.

Shakespeare marathon

Get sponsored to over-act your way through the complete works... in a public place. Tights obligatory.

Sponsored Silence

Could you talk for England? Reckon your family and friends would pay good money to shut you up for a day? A sponsored silence is a really easy fundraising activity to organise, and can make you a fair bit of mullah.

Swear Box

Get your mates or colleagues to put 50p in the box if they swear.

T

24 hour fast

How long do you usually go without eating? Why not give up something you really enjoy for 24 hours?

Tea party

Tea is the new fashionable drink of choice, or so they say. Charge your mates a couple of quid to attend, and go all-out with the fairy-cakes and cucumber sandwiches. Very civilised.

Tombola

Get friends and family to donate gifts and organise a tombola. Only numbers ending in 0 or 5 will win a prize! Like a raffle, adding a tombola to your fundraising event is a really easy way to make money for charity.

Treasure Hunt

Create a treasure hunt and challenge your friends to find what you have hidden. Pay to play.

Three legged race

Team up with a friend and challenge other pairs to a three legged race. To make it more fun, why not do it in fancy dress too? Each team pays to play.

Tuck shop

Buy cheap multi-packs of chocolate bars and crisps and sell them at extortionately inflated prices. This works well at offices and factories, as well as schools and youth clubs. Sell home-made cakes and cookies too if you've got time to bake them.

Themed Dinner Party

A Mexican, Indian or Moroccan meal could go down really well. Charge people to attend - try your parents' friends.

Tennis Tournament

Hold your own mini-Wimbledon. People pay to enter, and the winner gets a prize donated by a local business. Sell champagne and strawberries-and-cream to the spectators.

U

Ugly face pulling competition

A prize for the most outrageous face – make sure you get photographic evidence! Each entrant pays to play.

University Challenge

Pit your uni, school or college against another one. We're not promising Jeremy Paxman will agree to host...

Unwanted Gift Sale

Get your friends and family to donate their unwanted Christmas gifts in early January. Flog them shamelessly.

V

Variety show

Does your Dad play the didge? Can your dog dance the tango? Put on a variety show with a difference!

Volleyball Tournament

This could work well on the beach in summer-time. Promote it through a loud-speaker, and get teams to pay to enter. Get local businesses to donate prizes for the winners: try the nearest ice-cream van.

Valentine's Day Event

Soft music, mirror-balls, largely heart-based decor... you get the idea. Sell tickets to the love-sick and desperate. Alternatively, more ethically sound fundraising can be achieved with an anti-Valentine party.

W

Walk for CAFOD

Get active with your fundraising and organise a sponsored walk.

Welly throwing competition

Put your shot put skills to the test and see how far those wellies will go.

Word search

Create a themed word search and challenge your friends and family. Remember to charge a fee.

Window Cleaning

Spend a weekend cleaning windows for your neighbours or local shops. Fundraising Tip: Ask for donations rather than charging a set fee and you may get more money.

Wine Tasting

Hold a wine-tasting evening. Get a supermarket or off-license to donate a few bottles for the tasting, and sell bottles for them at the end (for a small profit).

X

X-Factor Competition

Celebrate all your talents by putting on a show – Britain's definitely got talent.

Organise your own talent show and invite friends and family too.

Xmas fair/panto/party

This the season to make money! Get out the mistletoe for a big Christmas party, or sell home-made gifts at a Christmas fair.

Y

Yo-yo competition

Have you got a talent for yo-yoing? Then put your skill to good.

Yacht Race

People who own yachts aren't short of a bob or two, right? So get them to shell out to enter a yacht race, with fun prizes for the winners.

Z

Zany clothes day

Instead of a dress down day, dress up! Charge a fee and wear a zany costume that will Brighten Up everyone's day!