

# RAISING YOUR OWN FUNDS

## THE A TO Z OF IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING

The following list of ideas is by no means exhaustive but may give you some inspiration in devising schemes to raise funds for your group. However, please be aware that the following may be subject to licensing regulations (ie liquor, public entertainments and gaming) and local bylaws, so please refer to the section relating to Fundraising and the Law:

- **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 the guests with raffles, auctions, tombolas and live music
- **Auction of services/promises** - auction services of people and businesses; anything from dinner for two to half-a-day with a handyman
- **Bad tie day** - charge your colleagues £1 to come in wearing their loudest tie; prize for the winner
- **Balloon race** - sell balloons that are filled with helium with the purchaser's name and address written on a tag fixed to the balloon; the balloon that travels the furthest wins a prize
- **Barbecue party** - selling food cooked outside
- **Board game evening** - invite friends over to play Scrabble, Monopoly, etc; charge an entrance or game fee
- **Buy a brick** - sponsors are invited to purchase a brick as a contribution to the funding of a building or an extension
- **Calendars** - design and sell a pictorial calendar of your organisation; companies may sponsor pages
- **Car wash** - car owners pay you to wash their cars
- **Coach trips** - coach trips to London, theatres, local events, etc are popular; sell tickets and hold a raffle
- **Copper collection** - ask people to donate their one and two-pence coins
- **Dinner and cabaret** - hire a popular and spacious restaurant; entertain ticket holders with music, comedy or magic
- **Directories** - compile a community Businesses and Services Directory; raise funds through advertising
- **Dog show** - charge pet owners to show off their canine friends; ask pet shops to sponsor the event
- **Duck race** - sell numbered plastic ducks and launch them from a bridge; the first duck to finish wins a prize
- **Easter egg hunt** - charge an entry fee and hunt for chocolate eggs; ask local shops to provide the eggs
- **Eating marathon** - get sponsored to eat as many pies/baked beans/grapes as possible
- **Eyebrow shave** - get sponsored to shave your eyebrows; they grow back eventually!
- **Egg rolling competition** - roll hard-boiled eggs down a slope
- **Fashion show** - use stock from local charity shop; charge admission; hold a raffle
- **Film evening** - show classic films; ask the audience to dress up in keeping with the theme of the film; prize for best outfit
- **Flower show** - boost funds with side stalls, raffles, competitions, etc
- **Fun day** - arrange games, music, competitions, stalls at a community centre or church hall

- **Fun run** - teams/individuals race each other over an arranged course/area and you raise money through entry fees, sponsorship, collections and sale of refreshments
- **Game show** - host mock versions of Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Stars in Their Eyes or The Weakest Link
- **Gardening** - offer gardening services for a price
- **Garden open day** - open your garden to the public for an entrance fee; sell refreshments, plants, etc
- **Glamorous gran** - find the area's most glamorous gran; charge contestants to enter
- **Guided tours** - organise local guided walks
- **Hair beading** - offer hair beading as part of a larger event
- **Ironing** - offer an ironing service at a price
- **It's a Knockout** - teams in silly costumes playing silly games
- **Jailbreak** - dump teams in the middle of nowhere with no money or transport; see who gets back first; charge entry fees
- **Judo** - organise a competition or display
- **Jumble sales** - second-hand clothes sales
- **Karaoke** - organise your own version of Pop Idol
- **Kites** - have a competition for the best-made kite, or a kite-flying contest
- **Line dancing** - you will need to have a caller
- **Line of coins** - see how long a line you can make by asking people to donate their coins
- **Lottery** - put numbers on chocolate to make a Choco Lotto
- **Medieval evening** - themed evening in fancy dress with medieval food and entertainment
- **Mini-Olympics** - compete in traditional sports and silly games
- **Midnight party** - start at midnight
- **Nature trail** - guided walks at local beauty spots
- **Night-time hide and seek** - using torches
- **New Year resolution** - get sponsored to keep to your New Year resolution
- **Old-time music hall** - an evening of old-time music hall entertainment; charge an entrance fee but you could also make it a competition to see who has the best act
- **Pancake race** - charge teams to enter; sell pancakes to spectators
- **Pick a cork** - pick a numbered cork out of a board; if the number is a winner, claim a prize
- **Pictures** - sell pictures of a local scene, or relevant to your organisation
- **Panel games** - organise a social evening with games
- **Quizzes** - themed or general knowledge
- **Raffles** - buy tickets for the chance of winning a small selection of prizes
- **Ramble** - mass walkabout in the countryside; could be in fancy dress, themed, three-legged, etc
- **Rapping contest** - could be a show or sponsored event
- **Safari dinner** - a meal with courses taken at different venues
- **Scavenger hunt** - similar to treasure hunt but participants have items to collect
- **Sit in the bath** - get sponsored to sit in a bath of baked beans, tea, etc
- **Sponsored activities** - individuals pledge to collect money for activities achieved
- **Stalls and sideshows** - eg Guess the Number of Sweets, Splat the Rat, Fishing for Ducks, Balls in a Bucket, Coconut Shy, Hoopla etc
- **Strawberry and cream tea party** - could be held during Wimbledon
- **Street collections** - collecting donations from the public in the street

- **Swap shop** - find a new home for your unwanted items; charge to participate
- **Theme days/evenings** - eg French, Spanish, Chinese, soap operas, Western, old-time, screen legends, etc
- **Tombolas** - tickets are sold for the chance of winning a prize but unlike raffles, tickets are drawn at the time of purchase
- **Top of the Pops** - mime in costume to impersonate your favourite singer/group
- **Treasure hunt** - go from clue to clue in search of the 'treasure'; teams pay to enter
- **T-shirts/clothing** - sell promotional clothing
- **Underwear party** - come wearing it or take commission on selling it
- **Visits** - arrange visits to local places of interest
- **Waxing** - get the boys waxing their legs or chest
- **Weight of the cake** - nearest one to guess the weight of the cake wins it
- **Windscreen wash** - charge to have windscreens washed
- **Wine tasting** - hold tasting sessions
- **Wishing well** - exploitation of the desire to throw money into water
- **X-Files day** - use your imagination!
- **Yard of ale** - drinking contest
- **Zodiac evening** - guest astrologer