

## AN A-Z OF FUNDRAISING IDEAS

*For all activities remember to check the legal and insurance requirements, and health & safety regulations. More advice is in the Ataxia UK Fundraiser's tool kit.*



### A

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

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

**Arts/Crafts Stall:** Make necklaces, dried flower arrangements, stained glass mirrors, etc

**Art exhibition:** Stage an exhibition for local artists. Charge entrance fee & commission.

**Auction:** Auction off original items, taking a percentage of sales.

**Auction of Services:** Auction services of people & businesses - anything from singing lessons to dinner for two.

### B

**Bad tie day:** Charge colleagues to wear their loudest tie. Award the winner.

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

**BBQ:** Add stereo, football & rounders & make it a whole day's event.

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

**Battle of the bands:** Contest for unsigned bands, where audience votes on the winner.

Charge bands to enter, offer cash prizes. Sell tickets & set up a paying bar.

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

**Bed push:** 'Beds' can be a hospital bed, a four-poster or even a 3-piece suite!

**Bingo:** One-off evening or regular morning sessions.

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

**Boat Trips:** Organise a cruise down a nearby river or canal. Include refreshments & entertainment.

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

**Bouncy Castle:** A great way to keep kids entertained at bigger family events. Bouncing fee.

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

**Burns Night (25 January):** Scottish dancing, haggis, neeps & tatties. With admission fee.

### C

**Cake making:** Make & sell cakes at craft fairs or coffee mornings.

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.

Chariot race: Teams race decorated 'chariots' - from a horse & cart to a sedan chair.

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

Charity push: Get sponsored to cover a set distance in a bed, shopping trolley, bathtub, wheelie bin...

Christmas draw: Sell tickets & ask local firms to supply prizes.

Coconut Shy: Easily arranged for traditional fairs - a few coconuts & wooden balls.

Coffee morning: Make extra with raffles, bring & buy sales & cake stalls.

Collecting tins: Trusted fundraiser. See our information for collectors.

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

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

Crossword contest: Compile huge crossword, so punters pay per clue. Each number hides a ticket for prize draw.

D

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

Darts tournament: Challenge pub teams in the area to compete for cash prizes or beer.

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

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

Duck race: Sell numbered plastic ducks & launch them from a bridge.

E

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

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

F

Face painting: Get creative with face paints at fetes, fairs & 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 & sales commission.

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 & musicals.

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

Football tournament: Charge teams to enter. Ask local businesses for prizes.

Foreign coins: Ask for leftover holiday coins. Change into sterling once you have enough.

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

G

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 & family.

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 & sell admission tickets. Boost funds with raffle & refreshments.

Guided tours: Take tourists & visitors on locally guided walks or trips.

H

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

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

Hook-a-duck: Fete & fair game. Ask local companies to donate prizes.

Hoopla: Fete & fair game. Ask local companies to donate prizes.

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.

J

Jazz festival: Play your own or stage a show for local musicians. Sell tickets & refreshments.

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

K

Karaoke: Arrange your own contest, with a machine, a room & a well-stocked bar.



L

Left-hand day: Get sponsored to try doing everything with your left hand for the day.

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

M

Marathons: Get sponsored to run a traditional 26-mile race. Tried & tested – not just you!

Mile of pennies: In your town centre. Ask shoppers to donate coins.

Mini-Olympics: Traditional & silly sports. With entry fee.

Music concert: Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire 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: Sell visitors to your garden tickets, refreshments, plants & vegetables.

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

Ornament sale: Set up a market/fair stall. Or plan your own event & charge for pitches.

Outward bound: Go climbing, hiking, camping, etc, in preparation for your trip. Seek sponsorship.

P

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

Pancake race: Get flipping on Shrove Tuesday, charge teams to enter, & spectators to eat.

Pantomime: Your chance to play the ugly sister with friends, family & colleagues.

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

Parties: Pick a venue, a date, a theme... & party on. Sell tickets & charge for food etc.

Personalised gifts: Sell uniquely personalised gifts for special occasions.

Pick a cork: Fair game. Pick a numbered cork out of a board. Some numbers win prizes.

Pick a ticket: Fair game. Pick a numbered ticket from a bucket.

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 & 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.

Pop concert: Hire a venue & invite local bands to play. Sell tickets & set up stalls.

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

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

Promotional gifts: Sell promotional gifts with your Charity/organisation logo on.

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

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

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

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

Ramble: Take to the countryside. Include a theme (fancy dress, singles, three legged, Easter), & charge for entry & refreshments.

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

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

Refreshments: Sell teas, coffees, sandwiches, cakes, etc, at any fundraising event.  
Roll the dice: Roll six sixes & win a car! You need a big event... & car sponsor ...to make this worthwhile.

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 & your cut.

Silver collections: Ask supporters to donate their loose change collections.

Sit in a bath: Get sponsored to spend the day in a bath of beans/maggots/tea, etc.

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

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

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.

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

Stationary cycle: Don't fancy the map reading? Forget cycling to Paris, but cover the same distance at the gym.

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

Swap shop: Put unwanted items in touch with loving homes. Charge swappers to participate.

Swear box: Spend a £1 for every \$@\*£\$! uttered. Put a box at home, at work & 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 & offer prizes.

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

Tin can alley: Traditional fair game. Knock down the stack of tin cans & win a prize.

Tombola: Fair & fete favourite.

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

Treasure hunt: Teams compete to discover the 'hidden treasure'.

T-shirts & clothing: Market your charity, club, company by producing a range of promotional clothing.

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 & bike shows are great crowd pullers & fantastic fundraisers.

Visits: Organise visits to local places or tourist destinations.

# W

Walks: Organise walks to historical spots & places of interest. Ghost walks are also popular.

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

Water sports: Teach water sports or get sponsored to take part.

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 - & win the cake if you're right.

Welly throwing: Fun for every fete & fair.

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

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 & family.

Wood working: Make & sell your own woodcrafts, or give woodturning/woodcarving demonstrations.

# X

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

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

# Y

Yacht racing: Just a thought for 'Y'!

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

# Z

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

