

A-Z of Fundraising Ideas

A

Antiques roadshow - find experts to donate their time. Charge for entrance and valuations.

Encourage fish-themed items.

Artwork sale or auction - friends' or local artists' work, particularly maritime-themed. Any picture, however bad or good looks more attractive in a mount so get them mounted and wrapped in a protective cover.

Afternoon tea - organise an afternoon tea / coffee morning - get people to bake cakes to sell, have a raffle, charge an entrance fee.

Auction of promises - people offer goods or services to be auctioned (eg cleaning a car, chauffeur for the day, decorating a room, haircut etc.) Make sure you advertise well in advance and get a good auctioneer.

Angling competition - participants pay to enter. Prizes for the biggest fish caught, most fish caught and a booby prize for the most unusual item caught.

B

Babysitting - donate your earnings

BBQ - held in your garden. Ask guests to pay an entrance fee, then provide them with food - preferably fish - and drink for free.

Barn dance - find a real barn if possible and hire a good band. Recruit a caller who knows all the dances, including the Sailors' Hornpipe!. Charge for admission and refreshments. Try to sell tickets before the night, not just on the door.

Benefit Performance - organise a benefit performance in conjunction with local amateur dramatics societies, local bands / orchestras. Choose a maritime theme. Sea shanties go down well.

Big Fish Supper - get some friends or a group or a group you belong to together and have a fish supper/lunch. Most Fish & Chips shops will give a discount on large orders.

Bike rides - you name the distance and the route. Don't forget safety precautions and your helmet. Lots of pitfalls so take care and ask if you need advice.

Book sales - get all your friends and relatives to clear out their book shelves and donate the books for you to sell.

Bridge evening - the entrance fee could include fish & chips or fish canapes and a glass of wine.

C

Cake bake - at home, at school, at work. Bake a few cakes and sell each slice for a £1.

Caption competition - you need a group of at least 25 people. Get a photo of your club chairman or work CEO doing something unusual (with a fish!) and then get everyone to submit a caption for £1. Winner gets 50% of the proceeds.

Children's fun day - parents pay for children to take part. Arrange entertainment, face painting, races etc.

Cinema screening - could your local cinema be persuaded to do a preview for the Mission or a showing of Perfect Storm? Increase the price ticket by £1 - £2. Have a display in the foyer.

Coffee mornings - as afternoon tea.

Concerts - ticket selling and publicity are vital. Many bands, orchestras and choirs are often on the lookout for opportunities to perform for good causes and in good venues, on an expenses-only basis. You just need to ask and don't forget a maritime theme if possible!

D

Dances - organise a disco, ceilidh, ballroom, salsa or 70's night. You need a venue, band/ DJ and a drinks licence (if you are selling alcohol.)

Darts match - charge an entry fee, have a raffle and refreshments. Make it fun - men versus women, left handed throws only etc.

Dog walking - get your neighbours to pay you.

Do it in Your Wellies – do something different and unexpected in your Wellies – wear them with a ballgown! Have a Best Dressed Welly competition.

E

Exhibition - get local arts and crafts groups (wood turners, jewellery or nick nack makers, painters etc) to hold an exhibition of their work. Ask for an admission fee and ask exhibitors to pay a fee for their pitch.

Expeditions – take part in a Challenge event at home or abroad. See our website for providers.

Expert talk - use an expert or well-known personality prepared to donate their time. Charge admission, have a break to sell refreshments and auction their latest book, invention or autograph. Again try for a Maritime theme.

eBay - register yourself on eBay or another auction site and auction off your old, unwanted items. You're likely to raise more money than you would from a car boot sale and have fun watching the items go up in price!

F

Fancy dress days - pay to wear fancy dress or dress down to work or school and fine those that don't make the effort. Non-uniform days at school are always popular. In the office have crazy tie, bad hat or yellow and blue only days. April Fools Day is ideal for this.

Fetes - celebrities will help draw in crowds. But there's lots of work, planning and costs involved - so be careful!

Fishing tournament - get sponsorship from a local angling shop.

Fun runs - organise your own; you decide the venue and the distance. Keep off the roads if possible. Try to get a local personality to compete or start the event. Or, if you do not have time, simply book a place in an officially organised event ie London Marathon, Great North / South Run or smaller local event and ask friends for sponsorship. And set up a Just Giving page. We've guaranteed places in the Edinburgh Marathon/Half Marathon and Royal Parks Half Marathon, email john@rnmdsf.org.uk if you're interested.

£5 into £50 - give friends or volunteer fundraisers a sum of money (£5) and a time limit (three months) to increase this by devising a fish-related money-generating activity. Prizes for the most ingenious idea.

G

Garden party - with stalls, games, refreshments and raffles.

Golf open days - get a golf club to sponsor the event for you, invite club members and local businessmen to take part. Organise a raffle and an auction.

Pirate party - if you have a large garden organise a pirate party, charge for admission and refreshments.

H

Head and tails auction - fun at a sit-down do. Get everyone to stand up and pass a bucket around collecting people's change (although encourage £5 notes). Everyone decides whether they're heads or tails by putting a hand on their head or their bottom. Flip a coin on stage and announce the results. Those who get it wrong sit down. Continue until only one person is left. Winner gets a prize.

Hat sale - collect as many hats as you can then organise a sale.

Head shave - friends, family, colleagues to sponsor you.

J

Jelly eating competition - great fun for the young and not so young! Jelly fish!

Jewellery collection - ask the public and your friends and relatives to donate unwanted jewellery. Auction off the best items and sell the remainder at a car boot sale or use as raffle prizes. Package and display attractively to boost prices and sales.

Jumble sales – make money from other people's 'rubbish'

K

Karaoke night - with a nautical theme.

Knockout darts or snooker tournament - at your local pub.

L

Loud tie day - colleagues pay for the privilege.

M

Market stall - book a pitch at your local market. Sell fruit and vegetable from your garden or unwanted items from your home.

Masterclasses - are you or someone you know good at something? Fish filleting? Your local fishmonger? Why not organise a small class to show other people how to do it? Charge a fee.

Memory meal - transport yourself back to the 60s, 50s or the 40s. Dress in the style of the day and try to cook some fish dishes of the day.

N

Non uniform day - for pupils at school.

O

Open Garden - ask visitors to donate an entry fee and pay for refreshments, hold a raffle.

Outgrown exchange - a sale of children's clothes, school uniforms, books or toys.

P

Pirate party - if you have a large garden organise a pirate party, prizes for the best-dressed pirates! Charge for admission and refreshments

Plant sale - next time you're planting seedlings or taking cuttings why not double the quantity and have a plant sale in June?

Poetry recital - get people to read their own sea-themed verses over a glass of champagne.

Pub games' evening - teams pay to play dominoes, skittles, darts, pool, quizzes etc. Have plenty of fun prizes and charge for refreshments.

Q

Quiz night - ask us for our quiz sheet.

R

Radio campaign - your local radio station may help by broadcasting appeals or adopting you/ your fundraising campaign.

S

Scrabble competition

Shave off your beard or flowing locks!

Sing Sea Shanties – organise a sing-along in the local pub, theatre or church hall.

Skydiving - see website and email john@rnmdsf.org.uk for details

Sponsored events - always popular; the wackier the better. Bed push, half a beard after shave.

Sporting club dinner collection or raffle

Stand up bingo - sell bingo cards around the room, each with one number on it. Ask all the participants to stand up. Spin the balls and when a number is called that person has to sit down. The last one standing scoops the prize. Good for dinners etc.

Street collections - there are a number of legalities and restrictions. Email john@rnmdsf.org.uk for information.

Supermarket trolley dash - arrange date with manager and sell tickets beforehand. Winning ticket 'dashes' through the store grabbing as much food as possible. Money to pay for goods comes from proceeds.

Swimathon - children and adults can do sponsored distances. Aim to swim the Channel.

T

Treasure hunt - organise a set of clues leading people from one location to the next. Dress as Long John Silver or Captain Jack Sparrow! Finish with a barbecue? All participants pay a fee to enter. Prizes to be donated.

Triathlon - organise a place in your local /national triathlon, set up a Just Giving page and ask friends, family and colleagues to sponsor you.

U

Underground pub crawl - follow one of the Tube lines, visit pubs en route and do a collection.

V

Volunteer – to collect in your local store. Email john@rnmdsf.org.uk for information.

W

Walk – organise a sponsored walk with a fishing theme.

Wang it in the Welly – ask your customers to throw their loose change into a wellie - ideal for fish & chip shops or other outlets.

Wine tasting evening - spend an evening tasting fine wines. Ask attendees to pay an entry fee, provide wine, smoked salmon, potted shrimps, cockles, welks, mussels and bread free of charge. Try and get the wine donated.

Y

Yoga marathon - only for the very supple!

Z

Zany events - the list is endless ... throw a custard pie at your manager, eat jelly with chopsticks, greatest number of marshmallows in a mouth, lob a lobster (toy), gurnard gurning, crab crawling, mussel munching..... People can get sponsored or pay to enter.

Zumbathon

Fundraising can be a great way of having fun with family, friends and colleagues and of making friends along the way.