

Ideas for Events

- **Art exhibition** – Get all the local/school/office artists to contribute paintings, drawings, photos and sculptures; frame them, mount them and make them look great, charge an entry fee then sell them.
- **Battle of the Bands** – There are aspiring bands and musicians everywhere. Get them all in one place, sell tickets and find a panel of top judges. If you can get a record label rep to come along you will up the profile and attract better bands.
- **Beer Festival** – Beers from around the county, the country or the world. Remember licenses.
- **Board Games Evening** – Collect together a range of classic and simple games, set time limits for each round and shower winners with sponsored prizes.
- **Bingo** – Simple and appealing
- **Burns Night** – Make an occasion of this annual Scottish tradition and take a cut of the ticket price.
- **Carol Concert/Singing** – Keep the quality of singing high and let that attract people, rather than endlessly rattling tins and following people around.
- **Casino Night** – A potentially great way to raise money. Make sure that there is something for everyone and that you have all the necessary permissions.
- **Classic Car Show** – Classic car enthusiasts normally overlap with the social bracket that give most money to charity. You will be surprised by how much interest there is.
- **Coffee morning** – Tried and tested means of community fundraising. Mums, grannies, aunties, friends – everyone knows how to hold a coffee morning.
- **Concert** – Find a way of contacting a well known or reputable band, orchestra or group of musicians and make them the centrepiece of a fundraising event.
- **Cocktail Night** – Tasty and usually expensive drinks made well and cheaply – a regular winner. Don't scrimp on your mixers and consider getting in some pro-barmen.
- **Crossword Contest** – This works with crosswords and riddles. Put together a tough sheet of puzzles, find a few sponsored prizes and send them out to people.
- **Darts/Pool/Table Football Tournament** – Indoor events which keep the costs down and demand zero preparation beyond turning up on the participants behalf.
- **Eating Contest** – Another popular theme. Find sponsors among restaurants and suppliers and hold a number of different contests: chillies, donuts, water biscuits. Ensure very high hygiene standards.
- **Face Painting** – Seems like it's just for the kids, but stand outside any big sporting event and you have thousands of punters looking to show their colours.
- **Fancy Dress** – Anyhow and anywhere, the fancy dress theme always makes

- people relaxed and off-guard.
- **Fashion Show** – Potentially a massive winner. The key is developing lots of contacts amongst local fashion shops, designers and suppliers. Give the audience a chance to buy or order what they have seen and take a cut.
- **Fete** – Something for everyone at a village fete and an opportunity to pull together lots of small-scale fundraising ideas into one event
- **Film Evening** – Find an angle that differentiates the evening from an average night in watching tv: classic black-and-whites, films with local relevance, 80s classics etc.
- **Firework Display** – Always popular, but remember that people's standards are high and public shows are cheap and very impressive.
- **Flower Show** – Everyone loves flowers in summer. Get a whole band of suppliers together in a beautiful setting, charge a small entry fee and take a cut of the profits.
- **Football/Tennis/Touch rugby Tournament** – Target specific groups to put a team together: companies, teachers, clubs, associations etc.
- **Go-Karting GP** – Like paintballing, expensive to hold, but with the right participants and thorough research and organisation it can raise good money.
- **Guess the Weight/Size/Amount** – This one fits into any event as a nice sideline
- **Karaoke Night** – Gets more and more popular every year and cheap to put on. Make sure it is well organised and structured – people hate a karaoke shambles.
- **Lads/Ladettes Olympics** – Made up of anything mainly unenergetic: drinking, eating, pool, penalty shoot out, table football etc.; put together a points system, find some prizes and charge for

The Non-Event This sounds like a cop out but it is a potential winner. Everything is in the invite: strike an amusing chord with people who feel obliged to attend a number of charity events every month. Let them know that on a certain date there is absolutely nothing going on, no dress code and no live music. Tickets to this totally unsociable evening are sold, with all the proceeds (i.e. 100%) going to charity.

individual or team entries

- **Mini-Olympics** – Same theme as above, but based more on real sporting events, or parts thereof.
- **Mufti Day** – Ideal for a school; £1-2 to abandon uniform for the day and wear casual clothes
- **Open Garden** – Find a beautiful garden and ask if you can hold an open day for people to come and enjoy the environment. Set up a refreshments stall and hope for good weather.
- **Paintballing** – As this is quite an expensive activity you will have to generate some goodwill from suppliers to get a decent cut of the profits.
- **Pancake Party** – Any food theme will do: donuts, bagels, cookies etc. Ask