



# A-Z

of  
fundraising

ideas



# Have you found yourself in a fundraising wilderness?

Strapped for ideas and in need of inspiration? Well we've got you covered with our comprehensive A-Z of ideas to suit all ages, abilities and ambitions.

Don't forget our team of friendly fundraisers is here to help every step of the way – so once you've settled on your plan get in touch for any help or advice you may need!



## A

- **Abseil** – Set the bar high with an abseil. Whether it is off your local town hall or the side of a national landmark you're sure to get noticed and there are loads of well organised providers to choose from.
- **Auction/auction of promises** – If you have a well-stocked record collection you're willing to let go for a good cause or you have the contacts to get your hands on sought after sports memorabilia, an auction could be the fundraising activity for you. Or make your auction a more casual affair by auctioning off your time or talent, from a dog-sitting coupon to cooking lessons everyone has something they can offer!
- **Afternoon tea** – Ready to debate how to pronounce scones? Then why not host an afternoon tea, whether you do it at work, home or a local venue we are a nation of tea drinkers so your event is sure to prove popular. Get the cake stand at the ready and the invites out.



## B

- **Big Cake Bake** – Make like Mary Berry and bake your way to fundraising success. Whether you run the event at work, school or your home be sure to find out about any specialist diets (or perhaps just favourites) first to maximise sales! Download your kit today and get raising that dough!
- **Bag it up** – Ask your local supermarket for the chance to pack bags in return for donations. It's simple, it's easy and the more friends you rope in the more you will make!
- **Battle of the Bands** – Got an ear for music? Get your local talent together and hold a band night in your local pub or hall. Sell tickets and add some spice by offering a prize!
- **BBQ** – Get your sizzle on and host your own BBQ. Throwing a barbecue fundraiser is a great way to raise funds and get the whole community involved!



## C

● **Coffee mornings** – Most people rely on a coffee to get them through the day so hosting a coffee morning is a great way to fundraise on your lunch break and gathering donations is made easier when you're offering something people wanted anyway. If you're looking to host outside of the workplace, why not make a longer session, perhaps tie in with your local book club? If you know a friend is running a bake sale why not partner up, they can focus on the cake while you make sure you've got the right beans and brew.

● **Clear that clutter** – Remember those old records you've got? The winter jacket you haven't worn for five years? Get them sold online or at a car boot sale and turn your unloved items into cold hard cash.

● **Cinema screening** – Film student with a grad film to show or a DVD collection to rival Netflix? Either way a cinema screening is a flexible fundraising idea. Whether it's hosted in the school hall, work canteen, your living room, the local cinema or projected outside, only one thing will stand between you and success – popcorn – so buy your own kernels and get inventive, it's a great way to raise extra cash on the night.

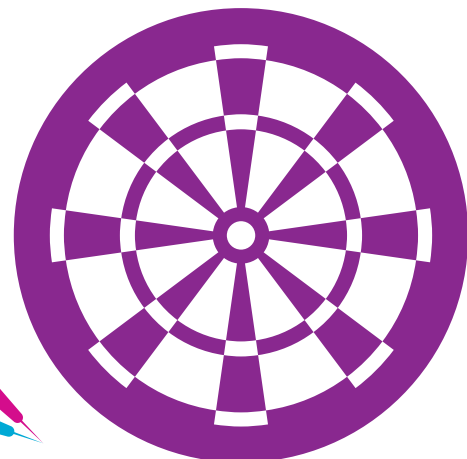
● **Car wash** – Pick up a sponge, bucket and soap and scrub your way to some easy donations. Whether at a farmers market, family fete or football tournament, make your presence known with a sign and a bucket. A sure-fire, easy way to kick start the fundraising.



## D

● **Dinner party** – An event for any time of year. Host as a standalone occasion or in support of other events – your dinner party can be adapted to appeal to almost anyone. Our top tip: pick a theme. You could focus on the origins of the food served or go theme first, food second and serve dishes from your favourite film. Keep in mind the timing of your event, if your hosting in January why not throw a healthy food dinner party to appeal to all those trying to kick bad habits in the new year.

● **Darts match** – Set your sights on bulls-eye and keep the game serious by charging an entry fee to raise funds. Or keep it fun and set challenges like throwing while on one leg and charge per throw. If you know a local darts champion why not charge a fee to play against them?



**Top tip**  
Pick a theme.

## E

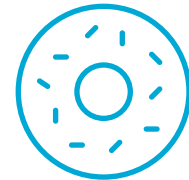
● **Eating competition** – How many doughnuts can you eat without licking your lips? How about crackers without water? When it comes to food there are lots of challenges to be set, particularly for fans of *I'm A Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here!* Raise money through entry fees or combine an eating competition with a larger event. Top tip: breaking records could help you gain press coverage and increase your fundraising (FYI the record for eating a raw onion is 89 seconds).

● **Easter egg hunt** – The only constraint here is time. We have found that eggs are hard to find in December so make sure you leave enough time to get this organised.

● **Easter party** – With school holidays and a long bank holiday weekend, Easter is a great time to fundraise. You'll have more time to plan the activity and people are more likely to have the time to support you. There are lots of low cost ways to raise money at an Easter party... from the more obvious Easter egg hunt to an Easter bunny hop race (ears at the ready).

### Top tip

Breaking records could help you gain press coverage and increase your fundraising.



## F

● **Football match or five-a-side football** – Even if you don't score, this is one match that guarantees you'll make a difference in 90 minutes. If you've got smaller numbers why not opt for a game of five-a-side? Raise funds by charging a player fee and why not let spectators donate to take part in a penalty shootout at the end of the match?

● **Fancy dress days** – Fancy dress isn't just for Halloween, it's a great way to raise money. If you're the boss why not have everyone come into work in fancy dress and pay a small donation for the day? Or if you're a dab hand on a sewing machine why not make up your own costumes to raise money? Top tip: Let your colleagues cast votes on the costume you have to wear for the day, they pay a fee to vote which goes towards our vital work (and of course embarrassing you).

● **Film night** – Pick a venue, pick a film and pick a theme. Just ask your friends to donate to the cause, and be ready to offer popcorn or cocktails and enjoy a cinematic experience to remember.



### Top tip

Let your colleagues cast votes on the costume you have to wear for the day.

## G

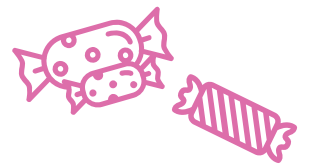
● **Games night** – You don't have to be a Monopoly board master or play scrabble like Carol Vorderman to host a games night. You just need games, a place and people. It can be as simple as charades or, if you have a screen and console to hand, why not go down the gaming route, charging friends to play. Tight on time? Put on a lunchtime session at your office and colleagues can play for the price of a coffee.



● **Girls' night in** – Get the girls round and get savvy with your fundraising. It's simple, just invite your friends round and ask them to donate the amount they would usually spend on a night out towards a world without barriers for every deaf child.

● **Guess the number of (balloons in a car, sweets in a jar)** – Have a lot of fun challenging your friends to guess the quantity in the jar or car.

● **Give it up!** – We all have bad habits, some worse than others (we are looking at you toenail biters) but if you have a habit you want to kick why not do it while fundraising? If your habit is costly donate the money you save or, if your habit causes more frustration to others than yourself, you could have people sponsor you. Over the years our supporters have raised money by giving up things like crisps, television, alcohol, chocolate, meat and smoking.



## H

● **Head shave** – One of our most popular fundraising activities is the head shave, and we commend you head shavers. Make sure your bold move gets the recognition it deserves by offering people the chance to bid to shave your head, or stretch out the activity by giving people the chance to dye your hair a crazy colour for a week before the shave.

● **Hip hop karaoke** – Fancy yourself a Fresh Prince? Is your No Diggity in no doubt? Take your talent show to the next level and show off your best rap skills!

● **Halloween party** – The only thing better suited to fancy dress than fundraising is Halloween. So get your invites out and charge guests an entry fee to spend the night apple bobbing to *Thriller*.



## I

● **It's a Knockout** – The ultimate school sports day for adults. Fun is the big incentive here, but we'd also recommend asking businesses to donate a prize to help a good cause (and if your event gains press interest they will also get exposure). You may need materials so if you, or somebody you know works in a school or local sports centre, reach out to them. And, if you don't, perhaps ask a neighbour if they have a hosepipe you could use!



## J

● **Jewellery collection, jewellery making/selling** – If you're looking to donate high value items an auction could be the best route for you, or if your skill set lies in making why not put on a make-your-own craft session.

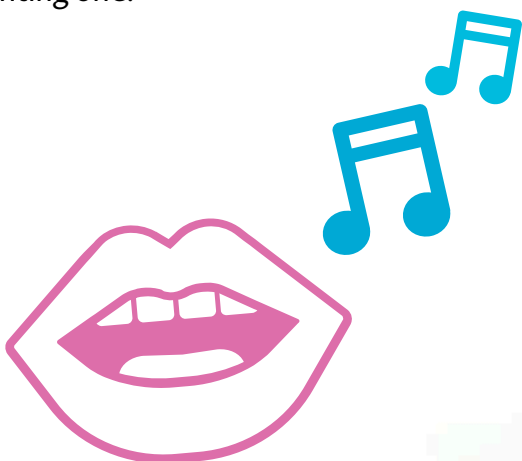
● **Jazz** – There's no such thing as too jazzy! Get your Gatsby on by putting jazz music as the centre of your fundraising. From a 1920's themed cocktail party to hosting your own Jazz Café there are so many ways to add some rhythm to your event.

● **James Bond** – The Bond films are iconic so finding fans shouldn't be hard, but a James Bond night can offer a lot more than movie watching, get ready to make a lot of Martinis.



## K

● **Karaoke night** – Time to stretch the vocal cords and get ready for a night of karaoke, love it or hate it our fundraisers have proven it's a great way to raise money. If you're on the lookout for a karaoke machine reach out to friends on social media to save money on renting one.



## L

● **Let's Get Quizzical** – From history buffs to general knowledge geniuses and from pub quiz regulars to trivia first timers. Get down and quizzical and show your competitive side while raising the vital funds needed to create a world without barriers for all deaf children. We've got you covered, from questions galore to instructions and answer sheets – everything you'll need to get top marks!

● **Ladies day** – Throw a ladies day (or evening) and get your female friends together. The first challenge will be getting a date in the diary so if this is the event for you start to ask people now about their availability. Once you've got the date, start to think about entertainment. You could have cocktails and canapés or a Mad Hatters tea party. You know your guests best so choose something that you'd all enjoy.

● **Lip sync battle** – Not musical but take your moves seriously? Addicted to the hairbrush mic? Compete with your friends for the title of Lip Sync God!



## M

● **Mow for dough** – Offer your services in your community this summer mowing lawns and bringing in the green for deaf children. All you need is some fliers and a bit of drive.

● **Mince pie and mingle** – Make your festive fun count this Christmas. Get your friends around for an evening of Christmas jumpers, mulled wine and mince pies. Charge entry or get everyone to donate and make your Christmas catch up count.



## N

● **Name the ...** – Name the teddy, bunny or bear. Whatever it is you choose, tap into people's competitive nature with a simple guessing game. Charge per entry and provide a percentage of the money raised as a prize or try to get one donated.

● **New Year's Eve dance or party** – Avoid a night of queuing and host your own New Year's Eve party. You get to control the music and the guest list and can charge less than the local pub for entry and donate the fee.





## O

● **Office collection day/office fundraising** – Short of time but eager to make a difference? Then fundraising in the office could be the right activity for you.

Fundraising activities for the office could include bake sales, office Olympics, dress down day or perhaps take breakfast orders and set-up your own tea trolley.

● **Open garden/day** – If your garden is in full bloom or you have a house with a colourful history, why not open your doors for an entry fee and host an open house. With the kitchen close by it will be easy to raise extra funds by offering refreshments and a great way to meet the neighbours.

● **Obstacle course** – Spice up your fun run by adding obstacles to the course. Perhaps include a tyre swing, mud pit and maybe you could have a separate course for children and adults to make the day a family-friendly affair.

## P

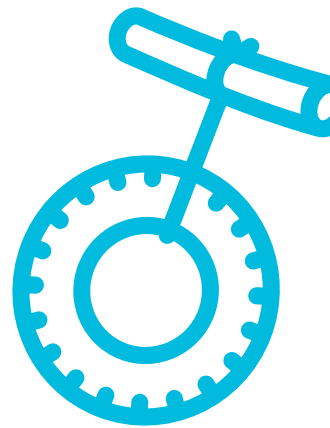
● **Pamper day** – It's likely your friends are already spending money on pampering so why not plan a day that offers the break people need and leaves them feeling good in more ways than one. Are you a trained beautician, masseuse, hairdresser? We need your skills. If pampering is more of a hobby we'd suggest staying away from haircuts! But why not have your friends over for a night-in? You could even make your own beauty products which will help keep guests entertained and expenditure low.

● **Pukka pancakes** – Make the most of your pancakes! Tuesday or Pancake Day. We don't mind what you call it as long as you flip for us.

● **Payroll giving** – asking the public to sign up and donate via their wage.

## Q

● **Quintessentially British Day** – Bunting, tea and corgis are just a few things that spring to mind, perhaps for you it's afternoon tea, marmite or maybe Sunday roast and Stephen Fry? Put on a celebration of all things quintessentially British. You can charge entry and raise funds with a tombola and bake sale. Just beware of wearing Wimbledon white, British weather will be guaranteed.



## R

● **Raffle** – A raffle is great to have at a fundraising event like a fun day, or as part of your fundraising for a wider event. Just charge a fee for tickets and the winner gets a prize. This could also work as a standalone fundraising activity. Just beware of offering unwanted gifts as prizes, your friends may recognise them!

● **Ready steady swim** – Make a splash in the pool with your very own swimathon. Everyone of any age or ability can get involved. You can join the challenge on your own, in a team or with your class or colleagues.



## S

● **Sweepstakes** – ‘Who will win the Grand National? The World Cup? Wimbledon?’ If sporty sweepstakes are your bag, then enter the pot with a small donation and try your luck. Whoever wins gets a prize! Already doing a challenge event? Create a ‘Guess my time?’ sweepstake as an easy way to top up your money!

● **Spinathon** – Sweat your way to success with a different type of marathon. Get those legs working with a static bike ride. Make it big by getting teams involved and ask your local gym to host.

● **Skydiving** – Our supporters are brave. Despite the obvious fear factor, skydives are one of our most popular fundraising activities so join our dedicated fundraisers, get in touch and start organising your skydive today.

● **Sponsored silence** – If you’re a chatter box who finds being quiet a challenge then perhaps raise funds with a sponsored silence. Just remember, don’t be quiet about the cause and your fundraising before or after the event.

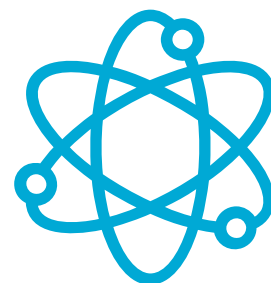


## T

● **Tug of war** – Will you be stronger than your friends?

● **Tuck shop** – If you’re the type to cause lunchbox envy in your colleagues then it’s time to set up shop. Find simple budget recipes and you’ll be making muffins for a tenth of the cost of the local coffee chain, this means you can charge your colleagues a budget-friendly price while giving them a chance to support a good cause.





## U

● **University Challenge** – Pit yourself against your local university competition, and open it up for students and the public to view. Ticket costs will help you raise funds and remember to speak to your student union who will likely be happy to help you organise (particularly in RAG week).

● **Uniform-free day** – While best avoided if you're a fireman, a uniform free day is a great way to raise funds at school, or let your office relax a little with a dress-down dress code. Swapping your usual uniform for fancy dress could help you raise even more money.



## V



● **Valentine's Day** – Lots of single friends and a penchant for matchmaking? Then organise a singles event from speed-dating to a full blown Valentine's Ball. The best part of this is that even if you don't get a love match you know that people can go home happy knowing they have supported such an important cause. Don't have the resource (or willing participants) for a singles event? Why not bake some love-themed goodies for the office? Or throw an alternative Valentine's Day event, whether it's fitness or food, make the theme 'what you love' and ask for donations from friends who attend.

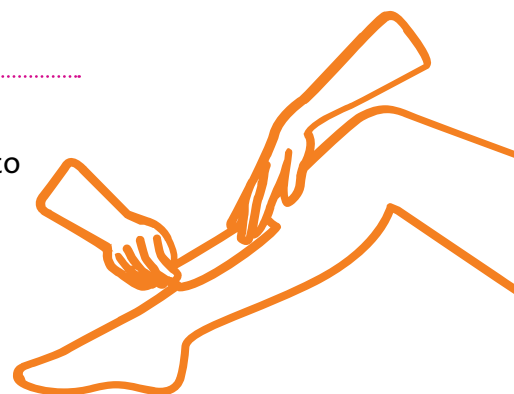
● **Vintage** – Got enough vintage shirts to set up your own stall? Got an eye for finding furniture gems online and at car boots? Why not organise your own vintage sale and donate proceeds to help create a world without barriers for every deaf child. If you don't have enough time to organise your own stall why not organise a vintage clothes swap, people pay a small fee for entry and you raise funds on the day with activities and bake sales. Perhaps sell homemade lemonade to keep people refreshed while they swap.



## W

● **Wax it** – It's a classic fundraising technique that provides an interesting insight into how much your friends are willing to pay to hear you shout 'ouch'. A packet of wax strips (and maybe some aloe vera) is all you need to raise money with a wax-off.

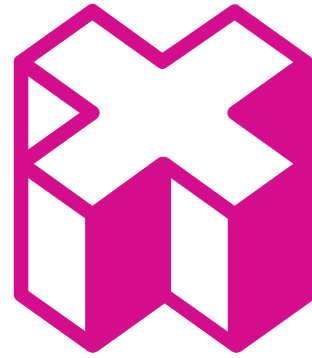
● **Wear it** – People like to laugh, so give them an incentive to sponsor you by letting them nominate and select what you wear.



## X

● **X-Factor competition** – Fundraising is all about doing what you can to make a difference, so if you can hit the high notes like Mariah then an X-Factor style competition could be right for you. If you're not the singer in the group stick to hosting, and if you can't find the talent to compete why not host a night to watch the show. You can put a sweepstake on the show, from who'll be the first to go to how many times the phrase 'I didn't like it, I loved it' gets used. The prize can be a percentage of the money raised or a non-monetary prize of your choosing.

● **Xbox/Playstation/console night** – We hope you're sat comfortably because a gaming fundraiser could leave you up all night, but make this gaming session one that matters by inviting people to play for a donation.



## Y

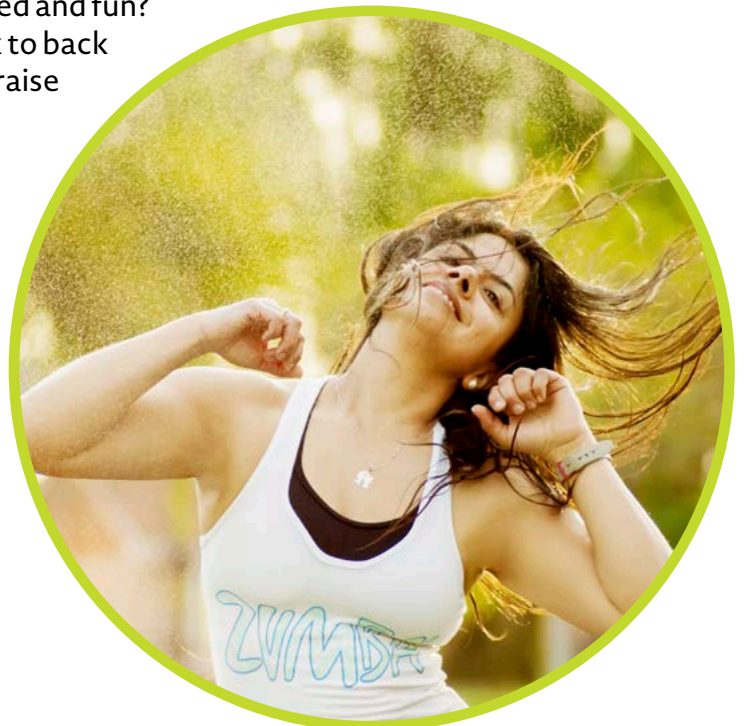
● **Yoga marathon** – Know your tree pose from your downward dog? Lots of fundraisers use skills they already have to successfully raise money. So if you are a self-confessed Yogi why not run a not-for profit class, your pupils will not only have invested in their own health but also have the added satisfaction that they have made a difference to other people's wellbeing too.



## Z

● **Zumba** – Looking for something fast paced and fun? Take on a Zumba challenge. From two back to back classes to four push yourself to the limit to raise those pounds for deaf children.

● **Zip wire** – Adrenaline junkie or willing to face a fear? There are zip wires up and down the country and all offer a different experience, so do your research and find the challenge that is right for you (and most likely to encourage friends to sponsor you).





**Thank you for helping us  
be there for every deaf child.**

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The National Deaf Children's Society is a registered charity in England and Wales no. 1016532 and in Scotland no. SC040779.