

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Introduction - Raising funds is a good communal activity for any group. It usually plays to the strengths of individual members, those good at doing, making or organising things and builds comradeship. It is always most effective when the fundraising effort chimes with the usual activities of the club or group.



Skills Bank - Keeping an informal 'Skills Bank', a list of the hobbies and abilities of individual members, will pay dividends when planning an event as it provides the starting point for the ideas around which to build your fundraising effort.

Safety - It is Paramount to ensure that whatever activity or event you are planning is safe for organisers and participants. This may sound like common sense and it is really, but undertaking a 'risk assessment' may well ensure that your event goes off without a hitch. The basic elements of risk assessment are to try to work out where safety problems might arise and to seek to counter these by careful planning.

Insurance - For large scale events, you should always ensure that you have adequate and appropriate insurance cover.

List of Potential Fundraising Events - Keep a list of ideas for fundraising this might include this A~Z :

A

Anthology of Members' work - Collate and publish a pay for anthology.

Arts and crafts fair- Put your creative talents into action and sell your works of art and words at a craft fair.

Auction - Organise your own fundraising auction. Why not auction off your talents for the day?

Art & Writing exhibition - Instead of selling your art, charge your friends and family to look at it!

B

Bag packing at local supermarket - Ask your local supermarket if you can hold a bag packing day for your group. It's a great way to provide a service to the local community while supporting us too.

Battle of the Poets - Challenge those budding Poets to a Battle or Flyte and raise money. You could also raise money with a "pay to leave" policy.

Bring and buy sale - Sell donated goods on a stall. Cakes, books, home-made jam, bric-a-brac and fairtrade goods are firm favourites.

Bike ride - Pedal for poor writers! Why not organise a bike ride and turn it into a sponsored event?

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Bingo - Organise a bingo event – devise your own calls for the numbers. Charge a fee per game.

Birthday and Occasion rhyme writing service - Write to order and raise funds.

C

Cake sales - Cake sales are a great way to raise money and awareness too. To ensure a healthy eating dimension have a variety of cakes like carrot cake and banana bread. You could even make tea and coffee!

Calendar - Whether it be the naked writer or the poem attached to the month, calendars with members' photos are a good way to raise funds.

Carnival - Organise and hold an activity filled carnival.

Caption Competition - Find a crazy, or zany photo and charge entrants to come up with the best caption, then award a small prize.

Coppers for Cash Strapped Writers - Collect all those unwanted coppers that weigh down your pockets – small change can make a big difference.

Christmas cards - Design your own Writerly Christmas cards to sell to your friends and family. Make sure your card is recycled or sourced sustainably.

Colour theme days – Bring a bit of colour into your day and raise money at the same time (charge a permission fee). Get all your friends to dress in the same colour and make a real splash.

Collections - Put those empty jam jars to good use and turn small change into a big difference.

Cross country bucket run - Feel good through exercise and through supporting us. Map out a course for your run and make sure you get sponsored too.

Create a cookbook and sell it - If you're a budding Master Chef, put your recipes into a book and sell them to friends and family.

Competitions - Devise your own competition, or use tried and tested ideas such as 'guess who the baby in the picture is.'

Concert - Gather all the talented people you know under one roof and put on a concert for friends and family. Think about a "pay to leave" policy too.

Car wash - Charge your friends and family to wash their cars.

Chocolate ban - Give up chocolate for a day, a week or a month and give the cash you saved to the Writers' Group.

Coffee morning - Organise a coffee morning – and why not make it a Fairtrade event too? You could combine it with a 'bring and buy' sale.

D

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Doughnut sale - Delight all your friends with a delicious doughnut sale. Some shops let you buy their doughnuts at special low prices so that you can sell them on for a fundraising profit!

Disco - Put on those dancing shoes and disco the night away. Remember to charge an entry fee.

Dance-athon - Dance all day in a sponsored dance-athon.

Dress down day - Ditch the conform or the suit and dress to confess.

E

Enterprise Days - Put on your Apprentice heads and come up with the marketing idea of the century! Create and sell the product you have designed.

Eco day - Dress green and do good deeds for the day, like litter picking and recycling your rubbish. Remember to get sponsored for all the activities you do.

Eating baked beans with a cocktail stick - Challenge your friends to a baked bean eating competition – how many can you eat in a minute using only a cocktail stick?

Egg and spoon race - Are you up for an egg and spoon challenge? Race your friends and family. No cheating now!

Egg painting competition - Don't waste those eggs after the race – turn them into works of art. Sell them to raise money for us.

F

Fairtrade stalls - Go for an ethical angle to your stall and sell fairly traded goods – why not ask if fairtrade products could be sold in your tuck shop?

Fancy dress - Go crazy with the fashion ideas and create a zany masterpiece to wear for the day. Prizes for the most outrageous and colourful costumes.

Fast Day lunch - Create a simple lunch in solidarity with people living in poverty. Donate the money you save.

Fashion show - Put your creative talents to the test and organise a fashion show – why not use recycled clothes and make it an eco-show? Invite the wider community to see your fabulous designs, and don't forget to charge an entry fee.

Face painting competition - Put your artistic talents to good use and paint people's faces. You could have a themed face painting day such as of animals or characters from a book. Remember to charge for your works of face painting art.

Film night - Create your own cinema and hold a film night for family and friends. Sell popcorn and drinks and charge an entry fee.

Fireside tales - organise an imitation bonfire in a hall in dead of winter and sit round and tell fireside tales. Charge the audience a fee as well as participants.

G

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Give it up! - Get sponsored to go without something. Give us speaking for a day, computer games for a week, chocolate for a month, or give up magazines. Donate us the money you save or raise.

Good Deed It - Offer your skills and identify a good deed for a price.

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.

Guess who the baby is (from photos) - Ask for baby photos and get your friends to guess who they are. Pay to enter.

Guess the weight of... (cake, teddy) - Quiz your friends on the weight of the cake – 50p a guess.

Games: scrabble, chess, trivial pursuits etc - For all those who love the challenge of a board game – why not have a marathon board game tournament? Either pay to play or get sponsored.

H

Hula Hoop Contest - How many times can you spin the hula hoop? Organise a hula hoop-athon. Don't forget to get sponsored by the spin, or the length of time you keep the hoop going.

Hair beading, braiding and plaiting - Put your creative talents to good use. Make your friends look cool and raise money for the group.

Hopscotch - Organise a Hopscotch contest in the playground, and challenge your friends. Pay to play.

I

Indoor games - Organise an indoor Olympics. Rain won't stop play and you'll have fun challenging your friends and raising money for us too.

International evening - Hold a themed night representing countries across the world. Decorate your hall with flags from across the globe. Bring an international flavour to the food with different national dishes and entertain your guests with world music. Why not also hold a quiz and test your friends' geographical knowledge? Charge an entry fee.

It's a Knockout - Organise an It's a Knockout competition – fun for all the family. Either make it a sponsored event or pay to play.

J

Jumble sales - Reduce, reuse and recycle – the perfect opportunity to hold a jumble sale.

Jelly races - Have loads of fun with a jelly race – why not try different jelly moulds too, or even an obstacle course? Remember, you pay to play.

Jewellery making/selling - Put your creative jewellery making skills to good use and hold a sale with what you make. Share your skills with others and teach your friends how to make that perfect accessory.

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Jigsaw marathon - Have you got an eye for a jigsaw? Challenge your friends to a speed jigsaw puzzle race. Get your friends and family to sponsor you too.

Joke-athon - Have your friends in stitches with a joke-athon. How long can you keep your friends laughing? If the jokes are really bad, make them pay a fee to leave.

Juggle-athon - With three, four or five balls – how long can you keep them in the air? Challenge your friends too.

K

Kite flying - When the wind is right get those kites into the air. The kite that stays up the longest wins. Why not design your own kites and get sponsored too?

Karaoke - Impress your friends with your singing ability – try out your favourite tunes. Pay per tune.

Knitting competition - How long is that scarf? Challenge your friends to a knit-off. You could sell or auction your work of art too.

Knobbly knees competition - Expose those knees – who in your group of friends has the knobbliest knees? Pay to play.

L

Lonely coins collection - Find a coin in the street – put it to good use and add it to a collection. Unsure what to do with those spare coins? Add them to your money box and turn your small change into a big difference.

Line dancing - Friends and family can have hours of fun with a line dancing event. You could even organise a line dance-athon. Charge a fee to take part.

Line of coins - Set yourselves a challenge to see how long you can make your coin collection. Watch as it grows.

Literary intergroup Quiz - Devise the questions, categories and have fun.

Litter picking - Get yourselves sponsored on a mass litter pick afternoon and look after the local environment too.

Loud tie day - Look to make a difference amongst your friends: see who can wear the most outrageous tie. You could even design your own tie. Only those who have paid to display can take part.

M

Magic show - Put your magical talents to good use and organise a show for all your friends. Remember to have an entry fee.

Masked Ball - Hold a Masked Ball or event and charge entry.

Matched giving - Double the money you raise fundraising by asking local businesses to support your cause!

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Money boxes - Design and paint a money box, and collect your spare change - or have a group fundraising box.

Mile of coins - Set yourself the mile challenge - what is the longest distance you can reach with a line of coins? (Bronze, silver and gold categories)

Musical evening - Show off your talents and organise an evening of musical entertainment - from singing to playing instruments. Pay what you think it's worth.

Music Mystery Night - Organise a night where each person pays to select a piece of music and everyone has to guess who has selected what.

Mini Olympics - Test those budding Writing Olympians and hold a mini Olympics with all the competitions writing oriented. Pay to play.

N

Nominate someone - to have their legs, beard or head shaved. Remember to get sponsored too, or charge people a fee to watch it happen.

Non-Christmas card money raiser - Fed up of sending out Christmas cards to people you live next to or see every week? Ditch the cards and give the money you save to the Group. You could also create one large Christmas card and get everyone to sign it.

Nature trail - Organise a nature trail, learn about your local flora and fauna and raise money too.

Nearly new sale - Outgrown those 70s fashions? Only worn something once? Why not sell or swap your unwanted things with friends? Pay £2 for each item you take.

Name the teddy - Does your mascot need a name? Charge your mates to come up with the most interesting suggestion. You could raffle the teddy at the end too.

O

Obstacle course - Have fun with an obstacle course and get sponsored too.

Odd clothes day - Turn your non-conform day into an odd clothes day – mix up those socks and Clash for Cash.

Odd job Day - Charge a fee for all those odd jobs around the community that need doing.

P

Photo competitions - If you're a budding photographer, hold a competition for interesting snaps. All entrants to pay a fee.

Pancake race - Hold your own pancake race – challenge your friends and family.

Pin the tail on the donkey - Challenge your friends to a pin the tail on the donkey. Remember to blindfold them - and no cheating! Pay to play.

Pantomime - Putting on a pantomime? Why not take a collection for us as people leave?

Plant sale - For those with green fingers, sell your produce in a plant sale.

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Poetry reading - Organise a poetry recital and invite your friends and family. Why not hold a themed poetry event, or use poems from your favourite poet? Set yourself the challenge of reciting your poem from memory. £1 per line – the longer the poem the more you raise.

Q

Quiet in the group - sponsored silence. Make people happy by remaining quite quiet for a few hours, or even a whole day. Remember to get sponsored too!

Quizzes - Devise a Quiz to test your friends' knowledge. Challenge other groups to enter.

R

Rich man poor man meal - Organise a simple lunch with a difference – a small number of randomly chosen people get an upgrade from a simple lunch to a sit down meal. Help to demonstrate inequality in the world today.

Raffles - Get friends and family or local businesses to donate prizes and raffle them off.

Read-athon - How many books can you read over a short period of time? Get sponsored per page or, for fast readers, per book.

Reason for living Night - Hold an evening where the emphasis is on writing down and discussing your philosophy for living. Who is the Guru? Pay to enter.

Relays - Organise a sponsored relay race. Add a bit of variety into the race and create an obstacle relay.

Recycling – phones, ink cartridges etc - Upgraded your mobile and unsure what to do with your old one? You can turn it into money. You can also recycle spent ink cartridges, and donate left over foreign coins from your holiday too.

Recipe swap - Interested in cooking? Why not set up a recipe swap? You can even share the produce you have made.

S

Slam - Hold a poetry Slam and even invite both teams and individuals to enter for a fee.

Soak the Presenter - See if you can convince your facilitator or Chairperson to get in the stocks and get wet! Get people to pay per sponge.

Stalls - Set up a variety of stalls, from plants or cakes to recycled goods, and create your own mini £1 bazaar.

Sponsored ideas / events – dye hair green / walks - Remember when organising a fundraising event to think about adding a sponsorship element – it's a great way of collecting your money. Think of clever ideas that your friends and family can sponsor you for.

Salsa Dancing - Put on those dancing shoes and find a salsa partner – and dance away.

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Staged events/performing arts - Thinking of putting on a show? Invite your friends and family and donate money from ticket sales to us. Get them to pay what they think it's worth. You could even perform our very own play Degrees of Change, available to download from our website.

Swap shop - Tired of your clothes, toys and books? Then organise a swap shop and exchange the things you are bored of with something different.

Swishing - Admire a friend's outfit – then engage in a new craze of swapping unwanted clothes for someone else's cast offs. Make an evening of it with snacks and drinks, and ask for donations to join.

Spell-athon - Do you have a head for spelling? Then organise a spelling competition or spell-athon. Challenge yourself to a certain number of words – and why not get sponsored too?

Scrabble contest - Challenge your friends to a Scrabble competition. Each competitor pays to play.

Swim-athon - Swim the distance. Get sponsored per length... or per mile!

Shoe shine - Do a good deed for the day and offer your shoe shining services for a fee.

T

Talent contest - Hold a contest to showcase the talents of your friends and family! Organise a collection or charge at the door for entry.

24 hour fast - How long do you usually go without eating? Why not give up something you really enjoy for 24 hours? Get sponsored too.

Tombola - Get friends and family to donate gifts and organise tombola. Only numbers ending in 0 or 5 will win a prize!

Treasure Hunt - Create a treasure hunt and challenge your friends to find what you have hidden. Pay to play.

Teddy bears' picnic - Organise a teddy bears' picnic, invite friends and family.

Three legged race - Team up with a friend and challenge other pairs to a three legged race. To make it more fun, why not do it in fancy dress too? Each team pays to play.

U

Ugly face pulling competition - A prize for the most outrageous face – make sure you get photographic evidence! Each entrant pays to play.

Underwear Out Day - Get sponsored to wear your underwear on the outside for a day (make sure it is clean!).

V

Vintage Wine Evening - Quite like Hyacinth Bucket's Candlelight Dinners, this could be a hoot if organised with verve and vim.

Scottish Association of Writers - Group Fundraising Guide

Virtual Olympics - Use the internet to set pay for participation competitions and see who wins.

Virtuous Giving - Set up a list of virtuous projects and see how much you can raise by getting people to put money where their mouths are.

W

Welly throwing competition - Put your shot put skills to the test and see how far those wellies will go.

Walk-athon - Set yourself a goal and walk the world for us – shorter distances are OK too!

Word search - Create a themed word search and challenge your friends and family. Remember to charge a fee.

World food day - Get together with friends and prepare and sell different dishes from around the world.

Write-a-thon - Organise a fun intergroup fundraising event with competitions.

X

X-Factor Competition - Celebrate all your talents by putting on a show – Britain's definitely got talent. Organise your own talent show and invite friends and family too. Have a "pay to leave" policy just in case.

Xmas in July - Hold an event such as an Xmas Party but in July.

Y

Yes Day - Where people are sponsored to say yes to doing anything 'with in reason' and get paid to do those undone tasks.

Yo-yo competition - Have you got a talent for yo-yoing? Then put your skill to good use and get sponsored.

Yodelling competition - If yodelling is your thing, then either get friends to pay you not to do it, or get sponsored instead!

Z

Zodiac Evening - Hold a night where proceeds are raised by having fortunes told and astral charts predicted.

Zoo quiz - Create a zoological quiz and test your friends' and family's knowledge of the animal kingdom. Remember to charge a fee too.

Zany clothes day - Instead of a dress down day, dress up! Charge a fee and wear a zany costume that will brighten everyone's day!