

## A

### - **Aerobic-a-thon**

Break out the leotard and the Jane Fonda video and get physical. Get sponsored for every five minutes of aerobics you can manage.

### - **Art Exhibition**

Could be a great earner if you're a dab hand with a paintbrush. Even if you're not, give it a go and pass it off as modern art.

### - **Auction of Promises**

Visit local businesses and ask them to donate their services for you to auction off. Or rope in your friends, who could promise to wash cars, mow lawns or do housework for the highest bidder.

### - **Apple Dunking**

Charge people to stick their faces in cold water in an attempt to win a Granny Smith. Who couldn't want to pay for that?

### - **Arm Wrestling**

Charge your mates - or the local rugby/footie/any testosterone driven team - to arm wrestle one another. You could even fashion a snazzy badge/ medal for the winner.

### - **Abseil**

Get a group of people to abseil down a local building in aid of your cause. You are likely to get press coverage for this type of fundraising event too.

### - **Arts or crafts stall**

Let your imagination go wild and reap the rewards. Try fundraising by making greetings cards, pot pourri or jewellery to sell.

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## B

### - **Badminton tournament**

Grab those shuttlecocks and hit the courts. Get sponsored for every ten minutes of rallying you can manage.

### - **Barbeque**

Charge neighbours, friends and family a small fee to attend your barbeque. If you get them all to bring some nibbles, costs should be kept down.

### - **Barn Dance**

If you know a farmer who can lend you a barn - then organise a night crammed full of dosy doeing. Charge per ticket for entry and organise a collection part way through the night. Alternatively, hire or blag your local community centre/ church hall.

### - **Beard Shaving**

Grab a few hairy marys and shave them. Fundraise by getting people to sponsor them to go through with it. You can shave heads, beards, backs or legs... the possibilities are great. This is only advisable for those over 18 or with the consent of an adult.

### - **Bingo**

Make your own bingo cards and invite your mates around for a few games. Charge them a pound a ticket. Prizes should be something small like sweets or promises of eternal friendship.

### **- Blind Date Evening**

Get some single folks in the same room and charge an audience to watch you give Cilla Black a run for her money. Hopefully will raise a lorra lorra money fundraising chucks!

### **- Bring and Buy Sale**

We bet you've got loads of junk in your attics and under your bed. Why not raise some money (and keep your mum happy) by organising a Bring and Buy sale? You could even charge other people to set up their own stalls.

### **- Back to Front Day**

Get sponsored to wear your clothes the wrong way round for a whole day.

### **- Busking**

If you can play an instrument why not choose a selection of your favourite songs and pick a safe and busy place to play them on repeat for the entertainment of passers by. If you are under 18 you should also get permission from a parent or guardian, and ask their advice on where they would recommend to go. Don't forget to chuck a few coins in your hat/case to spur people on!

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## **C**

### **- Cake Sale**

Let the Delia Smith or Jamie Oliver in you loose. Get baking and sell your cakes on to your family, mates, work colleagues, school o.

### **- Car Boot Sale**

All you need is a car (preferably with a boot), some things to sell and some people to buy it from you.

### **- Coffee Morning**

Bake some cakes, bring out the coffee and tea and charge for all the above..

### **- Concert**

Get some talented friends to perform in front of those less talented. Or, vice versa for a laugh. Charge an admission fee and organise a collection during the matinee.

### **- Cricket Match**

Organise enough people to make up two teams and get them to pay a small amount to take part. Organise a collection for the spectators.

### **- Cycle-a-thon**

Get sponsored for every mile you cycle.

### **- Car Washing**

Grab some willing friends and get knocking on your neighbour's doors. Tell them why you are offering to wash their car - to fund you gap year - and chances are, they'll gladly stump up a bit of cash.

### **- Chocolate Ban**

Get sponsored for every three days you can go without chocolate - or for every day without, if you're a serious chocoholic!

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## **D**

### **- Dance marathon**

Get people to sponsor you for every five minutes of boogying you manage - or for every song you shimmy to.

### **- Dry Cornflakes/Cream Cracker eating contest**

Charge a small fee to enter and move back to avoid the spraying of crumbs.

### **- Disco**

Book a hall or blag one and ask a local DJ to donate his service for free. Throw in some drinks and nibbles and hey presto! You've got yourself a disco - well, once you invite some people and charge them to shake their stuff.

### **- Dog walk**

Get some exercise and raise money at the same time. Offer your services as the neighbour dog walker and charge per dog per walk.

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## **E**

### **- Egg and Spoon Race**

Think back to your school sport's days. All you need is some spoons, some eggs, some willing volunteers and it a bit of space in which to race. Charge participants to enter, with the winner of the race being awarded a small prize.

### **- Egg Painting**

Something to have at your craft fair or fete. Set up an egg painting stool, provide the eggs and the paint and charge people to get creative.

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## **F**

### **- Fairs, fetes, bazaars, etc**

Get yourself a big space (a hall, a field or even a car park) and let your imagination go crazy. Set up a coconut shy, apple bobbing stand, races and white elephant stalls.

### **- Film show/premiere**

There are two main ways to do this. Speak nicely to your local cinema manager and ask if you can rent out a screen - or even if they will donate one to your worthy cause. Charge your friends and family an admission to watch the newest blockbuster. Alternatively stage a screening in your own home - maybe you could theme the type of films you show with your gap route? Ask people to bring their own snacks and to pay a small amount for the screening.

### **- Fashion Shows make for Fashionable Fundraising**

Depending on how ambitious you are, this could raise a significant amount.. Either grab a couple of mates and stage a show in your house. They could model clothes that you no longer want or need, which could then be auctioned off at the end of the day. Alternatively, let local clothes shops know about your fundraiser and ask them to donate clothes for the show. This

is also great publicity for them. Get hold of a hall and advertise the event well in advance - give out flyers in your town centre and post them through letter boxes.

### **- Football Match**

Ask your local team to play a match in aid of your cause. Organise a raffle at half time and get prizes donated by local businesses. Alternatively, organise a match pitting your mates against their dads and older relatives. Ask each player to pay a fee to play and buy a small cup for the winning team.

### **- Fun Run**

Get sponsored to take part in an organised race - or organise your own where you live.

### **- Fill Smartie tubes with coins**

Pass smartie tubes out to your friends and family and ask them to fill them with spare change - preferably £1 coins! Then collect them back in - you'll be amazed at how much you will raise this way and there is very little effort involved. Also, you could empty the smarties from their tubes into a jar and run a 'Guess the number' contest.

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## **G**

### **- Garden party**

Whip up some cucumber sandwiches, dust off the picnic tables and make some fresh lemonade. Charge a small entrance fee and organise a collection during the fundraising event.

### **- Go-Karting**

Organise a group of mates to head to the local Go Kart track. Inform the staff of your fundraising efforts and hope that they waive the admission fee - best to go off-peak times if you want to give this a try. Ask each person to pay a fee to enter a series of races. Award the winners a small prize each.

### **- Guess the Weight...**

Find something suitably heavy - anything from a jar full of sweets to your dog - and ask friends and family to guess it's weight. Charge 50p to enter and buy a small prize for the winner.

### **- Give up a vice**

Whether it be biting your nails, tv or your daily chocolate bar - get sponsored to give it up for a set period - or ask people to sponsor you per day.

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## **H**

### **- Hair beading/plaiting**

An idea for a stall at a fete. Charge people a small fee to make them look like Floella Benjamin.

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## **I**

### **- It's a Knockout competition**

Get some teams together and arrange assault courses, games and quizzes galore. Each team member pays a few pounds to take part - with the winning team being awarded a prize donated by a local company (or pub!).

## **Ice-cream Eating**

Buy huge tubs of ice cream and sell them by the scoop in cones on a hot day.

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## **J**

### **- Jumble sale**

Dig around under the bed and at the back of wardrobes for anything you can sell and organise a jumble sale. Get your friends to get in on the act selling their own unwanted items - perhaps they could donate a percentage of their profits to your gap year cause.

### **- Jazz Night**

A good fundraising idea if you're a jazz singer. Raise money and have a giggle at the same time by belting out some classic jazz tunes like 'Summertime'. Pass around the donations bucket to your spellbound audience and watch the money roll in.

### **- Jog-athon**

Get sponsored to every mile you complete. If it's raining outside you could even do it on a treadmill. Might be something to get sponsored for at your local gym.

### **- Joke-a-thon**

Go up to people on the street and asking them to pay you fifty pence if you can make them laugh. Best to be armed with a ready supply to hilarious jokes for this one.

### **- Jigsaw Marathon**

Get some willing people around and ask them to donate a small amount to be part of the jigsaw marathon. Each person has a jigsaw and is timed to see how long it takes to complete. Once all are completed, the jigsaws are passed onto the next team and so this continues until all jigsaws have been completed. The winner is awarded a small prize.

### **- Jewellery Making/Selling**

Buy beads and wire in bulk and get creative. Should make for some particularly profitable fundraising around Christmas time.

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## **K**

### **- Karaoke competition/display**

Rent a karaoke machine and hold an event in your local pub, college bar, or bedroom. Sell tickets, or make it a competition and charge people to enter. Get a local company to donate a prize.

### **- Kite flying**

Hold a kite-flying day for kids. Charge for tickets, and provide refreshments (ice-creams or hot-dogs, depending on the season). If you're a creative type, run a kite-making workshop before the grand kite-flying session.

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## **L**

### **- Line-dancing**

Hold a line-dancing party. Find out about all the line-dancing classes and clubs in your area (you'll be surprised at how many there are) and send out invites; charge a fiver for tickets. Get in the spirit with costumes and decorations.

### **- Longest chain of paper clips, line of coins, etc**

Get sponsored per metre - you could even get a bunch of friends together and try to break the record. Alternatively, start a line of coins in your local park or college grounds. Publicise what you're raising money for and get passers-by to add their loose change to the line. Try to make it reach from one side of the park to the other.

### **- Lawn Mowing**

Borrow a lawn-mower and drop leaflets through doors, charging a couple of quid for your services. Make sure the leaflet explains what the money is for, and people will be more inclined to pay.

### **- Luncheon**

Invite everyone in your workplace, school or street to a grand lunch (for a small fee, obviously). Make posh sarnies and nibbles. This could work especially well in an office, where people will appreciate an unusual break in the middle of the day.

### **- Lilo Races**

In the local swimming pool - Charge teams for entry and give a prize to the winner. Be aware of safety and insurance issues.

### **- Leap Frog**

Get sponsored per leap, or per quarter-hour. More fun if you're leaping over strangers, in the local park or on the beach. Tell them what you're doing; they'll either laugh and agree or walk very quickly in the opposite direction. Take photos to prove you did it!

### **- Limbo Competition**

This could work well down the pub. Charge a quid for entry to the competition, and get the bar to donate a few free drinks for the winner.

### **- Litter Picking**

People will be very willing to pay you if you're cleaning up a local park, beach or kids' playground. This is a way to help your local community while raising money for yourself, so everyone's a winner.

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## **M**

### **- Marathon events**

A fundraising classic! Hire a local hall, or see if you can get one free for a good cause. Hold a marathon table tennis, aerobics, line dancing or badminton session (in shift teams). Get relevant companies to sponsor you in exchange for publicity in the hall (local gyms, sports shops etc). Get sponsorship from friends and family too.

### **- Midsummer masked ball**

This will take a lot of organisation, but could be a very special - and lucrative - event. Go all-out to make it as posh as possible, and charge up to 20 quid for tickets. Glam it up with candles and decorations, request that guests wear black tie, give a free glass of juice in a champagne glass to everyone on arrival, the works!

### **- Midnight film shows, midnight feasts etc**

These could be held in your house. Make a feature of the fact that it's being held at midnight, with atmospheric lighting etc. Charge for entry.

### **- Mini Marathon**

Get sponsored to run five or ten miles around your town, or the equivalent around your garden. The smaller the garden the better - just make sure you change direction occasionally to reduce dizziness!

### **- Murder Mystery Night**

This could be great, especially to show off your acting skill – ask your other drama friends to help you out!

### **- Musical Evening**

Get some talented friends together and hold a concert.

### **- Magic Show**

If you're Doncaster's answer to David Blaine, put together a magic show and get paid to perform at kids' parties.

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## **N**

### **- Netball Tournament**

Get local and school teams to pay to enter; get a sports shop to donate cool prizes for the winning team.

### **- Non-Uniform Day**

People pay a couple of pounds to come to school or work in whatever they want.

### **- Name the Teddy**

Make a list of 100 names, charge people a quid to choose a name, make a hundred quid and give £25 for the correct guess. Ask your local shop can you put it in with a moneybox.

### **- Nature Trails**

Know a bit about the wildlife in your area? Charge people for guided nature walks.

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## **O**

### **- Obstacle Course**

Set up a hard-core obstacle course and charge people to race.

### **- Odd Job Days**

Lawn-mowing, DIY, carrying shopping, walking dogs... offer your services in the neighbourhood - no job too small. Dress in a superhero costume to get noticed.

### **- Outgrown Clothes Sale**

This is good if you know lots of families with kids. They bring clothes that their family has grown out of, and buy clothes that others have brought.

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## **P**

### **- Pancake day party**

Everyone loves pancakes, right? Hold a Pancake Day party for all your family and friends. Serve unlimited pancakes and hold a pancake-tossing competition.

### **- Parties**

Know some busy parents? Organise their kids' birthday parties for them in exchange for cash. Jelly and ice cream here we come.

### **- Penalty shoot-out competition**

People pay to enter; you get your hands on a signed football or some sports goodies for the winner. Get a football team or sports shop to donate the prize. This might be particularly relevant if you're doing a sports-related placement on your gap year.

### **- Pet show**

Get a pet shop to donate prizes in exchange for publicity. Why not make it an alternative pet-show, with prizes for the waggiest dog, pet lookalikes etc?

### **- Parachute**

Raise sponsorship - you'll need enough to pay for your parachute-jump; the rest can go towards your gap year. Contact friends, family, colleagues, your parents' colleagues, and local companies.

### **- Photo Competition**

Charge people to enter. Get a camera-shop to donate a prize and judge the comp - good publicity for them.

### **- Plant Sale**

Requires forward planning. Buy a packet of seeds for a quid, plant them, and when they're looking impressive, set up a stall and sell the plants for a quid each. From little acorns, mighty oaks shall grow..

### **- Pool Competition**

People put money in a pot to enter; the winner takes half of what's in the pot, you take the other half!

### **- Picnics**

Sell tickets in advance; with a little imagination you can make great, fun picnic food from cheap ingredients.

### **- Photography**

Are you handy with a camera? Earn money by taking photos at parties and other events.

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## **Q**

### **- Quizzes**

Quizzes are very popular and hence a good way to make money. Pubs are the usual venue, but you could also hold one at a local college, at a day centre for older people, or in a town or village hall.

### **- Quiff competition**

Warning: only try this if you want to bring large numbers of Elvis fans out of the woodwork.

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## **R**

### **- Races**

Be imaginative - think sack-races, baby races, electric wheelchair races, stiletto races... charge people for entry and get a local company to donate a prize.

### **- Raffles**

Get friends and local companies to donate prizes. Go for cool, unusual prizes like a day in a spa, a go-karting session or a takeaway pizza.

### **- Rapping contest, show or sponsored event**

You could organise this at a youth club or skate park, and get your younger siblings and their mates involved.

### **- Read-a-thon**

Get sponsored to read books - this works best if you're someone who never normally reads.

### **- Rugby Match**

Charge spectators for tickets. For extra crowd-pulling power, play in a costume...

### **- Rounders Tournaments**

Charge teams to enter, and award a sport-related prize - or a slap-up post-match picnic - to the winning team.

### **- Rowing**

Get sponsored to row on a rowing machine; aim to row the equivalent of crossing the channel.

### **- Recycling**

Recycle cans for money! Some places will give you up to a penny a can. Do a massive Blue-Peter-style appeal and get your friends, family and neighbours to give you their empty cans. You could make a fair bit, and help the environment too.

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## **S**

### **- Scoff-a-hotdog competition**

Who can eat two in the shortest time? Who can eat the most in two minutes? Charge people to enter, with a free meal (donated by a local restaurant?) for the winner. You'll be surprised how many people enter a competition like this.

### **- Shakespeare marathon**

Get sponsored to over-act your way through the complete works... in a public place!

### **- Silly games afternoon**

Egg and spoon, silly races, wet sponge throwing... use your imagination.

### **- Sports contests**

Again, think creatively. Any sport can bring in the money - either charge individuals or teams to enter with the hope of winning a prize, or charge spectators to watch.

### **- Strawberry and cream tea party**

Pick-your-own works out cheapest. Hold the party in your garden on a sunny day and charge for tickets.

### **- Sponsored Silence**

Could you talk for England? Reckon your family and friends would pay good money to shut you up for a day? A sponsored silence is a really easy fundraising activity to organise, and can make you a fair bit.

### **- Sports Day**

Organise a sports day at your workplace, school, or college. You'll be surprised how many grown-ups jump at the chance to don a PE kit and get involved.

### **- Squash Tournament**

Charge people to enter. Get a sports centre to donate five free sessions on the squash court for the winner.

### **- Swear Box**

Get your mates or colleagues to put 50p in the box if they swear.

### **- Swim-a-thon**

Get sponsored per length. If you're a fit swimmer, try to swim the equivalent of crossing the Channel (or half-way across).

### **- Scavenger Hunt**

People pay to enter. They each receive a list of items they need to scavenge. Give a prize to the person who brings all the items to you first.

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## **T**

### **- Teddy bears' picnic**

Charge families for tickets, and publicise it through playgroups and primary schools. Don't forget to bring your own teddy!

### **- Theme days/evenings**

There are loads of possibilities. You could hold a '70s night or a Superheroes evening. Charge people to take part..

### **- Theatre Performance**

Why not show off your talents and get others involved and charge a small fee for entry.

### **- Throwing wet sponges at a person in stocks**

Great at a summer fair!

### **- Top of the Pops show**

Put on a fake TOTP, with talented types impersonating their favorite band or artist. Works best at a school or college.

### **- Treasure hunt**

People pay you for the first clue. You lay a trail of clues, with a top prize at the end.

### **- Tuck shop**

Buy cheap multi-packs of chocolate bars and crisps and sell them at extortionately inflated prices. This works well at offices and factories, as well as schools and youth clubs. Sell home-made cakes and cookies too if you've got time to bake them.

### **- Tennis Tournament**

Hold your own mini-Wimbledon. People pay to enter, and the winner gets a prize donated by a local business. Sell champagne and strawberries-and-cream to the spectators.

### **- Themed Dinner Party**

Charge people to attend - try your parents' friends.

### **- Tug-of-War**

Teams pay to enter, with the hope of winning prizes. Teachers vs students, boys vs girls, or one town or village vs another could be fun.

### **- Twister-a-thon**

Get sponsored to play an all-day game of Twister with your mates. People will donate more if you're doing it in a public place - your embarrassment is always worth more!

### **- Tombola**

This would work best at a fete or special event. Just put the tickets in a box and shake well. Get local businesses and family friends to donate prizes.

## **U**

### **- University Challenge**

Pit your university, school or college against another one.

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## **V**

### **- Variety show**

Does your Dad play the didge? Can your dog dance the tango? Put on a variety show with a difference!

### **- Volleyball Tournament**

This could work well on the beach in summer-time. Promote it through a loud-speaker, and get teams to pay to enter. Get local businesses to donate prizes for the winners: try the nearest ice-cream van.

### **- Vegetable eating**

Does your family despair of your unbalanced diet? Get them to sponsor you to eat your greens.

### **- Video-a-thon**

Rent a bunch of classic movies and play them back-to-back for 24 hours. Print schedules and hand them out to your friends and acquaintances, who'll hopefully turn up and pay to watch their favourites. Offer a discount for those who last the whole 24 hours. Don't skimp on the popcorn.

### **- Vegetarian Evening**

Cook all your favourite veggie recipes and pay people to come eat them. Don't just target veggies - meat-eaters will come too, out of interest.

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## **W**

### **- White Elephant stall**

Sell anything and everything you can get your hands on at a fete, jumble sale or car boot sale. You'll be amazed at what people will buy...

### **- Who's that baby**

Get old baby-photos of your mates or - much better - your bosses or teachers. Stick them up around your school or office and get people to pay to guess who they are. Needless to say, you'll need a quality prize for the winner.

### **- Window Cleaning**

Spend a weekend cleaning windows for your neighbours or local shops. Fundraising Tip: Ask for donations rather than charging a set fee and you may get more money.

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## **X**

### **- Xylophone Marathon**

What do you mean, we're having trouble thinking of fund-raising ideas beginning with X?

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## **Y**

### **- Yoga Marathon**

Get sponsored to do yoga for a day. You'll be so bendy by the end of it that you can charge people to watch you tie yourself in knots. Bonus.

### **- Yo-Yo competition**

Get people to pay to enter; hand out small prizes for duration and tricks.

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## **Z**

### **- Zany Dress Day**

People at your office or school pay a quid or two for the chance to come dressed as celebs, as animals, in their team's strip, or all in pink...