

# Helen Rollason Cancer Charity

## A-Z of Fundraising Ideas

### A

**Abseil:** Scale the dizzy heights of a local landmark or office block.

**Advertising Booklet:** Compile a local information booklet for distribution at libraries, shops and businesses. Include info on local attractions. Make money with adverts and discount vouchers from local firms.

**Aerobics:** Organize a sponsored aerobathon with the help of gyms, leisure centres and sports shops.

**Afternoon Tea:** Put the kettle on and get baking. Entertain guests with raffles, auctions, tombolas & live music.

**Air Miles:** Collect your own and then raffle them off.

**Aluminium Collection:** Collect empty cans and tins and sell them to a recycling company.

**Arts/Crafts Stall:** Make necklaces, dried flower arrangements, stained glass mirrors, etc, to sell on a stall.

**Art Exhibition:** Stage an exhibition for local artists. Charge entrance fee and commission.

**As New Sale:** AKA posh jumble sale. Ask everyone you know for unwanted belongings & hold a sale evening.

**Auction:** Auction off original items, taking a percentage of sales.

**Auction of Services:** Auction services of people and businesses - anything from singing lessons to dinner for two.

### B

**Badge Making:** Make badges to sell at work, to friends or at craft fairs.

**Bad tie day:** Charge your colleagues a pound to come in wearing their loudest tie. Award the winner.

**Baked Bean Bath:** Get sponsored to spend the day in a bath/Jacuzzi of baked beans. Charge friends to join you.

**Balloon Race:** Sell balloons that are filled with helium; the purchasers' name and address are written on a tag fixed to the balloon. The balloon that travels the furthest wins a prize.

**Balloon Rides:** Offer as a prize for raffle/auction, or sell trips in a chartered balloon.

**Barbecue:** Add stereo, football and rounders bats and make it a whole day's event.

**Barn Dance:** Swing into action by hiring a caller and traditional country band. Serve food & plenty of cider.

**Battle of the Bands:** Contest for unsigned bands, where audience votes on the winner. Charge bands to enter, offer cash prizes and invite record producers. Sell tickets and set up a paying bar.

**Beat the Goalie:** Score a goal and win a prize. Footballers pay to enter.

**Bed Push:** The 'bed' can be anything from a hospital bed to a four-poster or even a 3-piece suite!

**Beer Festival:** Stock up on international beers, food and music. Remember to check licensing laws.

**Bingo:** Hold a one-off evening or regular morning sessions.

**Board Games Evening:** Invite friends over to play Scrabble, Monopoly, Cluedo and more. Charge entrance or game fee.

**Boat Race:** Teams build model boats and race them. Alternatively, use real yachts, dinghies or canoes.

**Boat Trips:** Organise a cruise down a nearby river or canal. Include refreshments & entertainment.

**Bonny Baby Contest:** Charge proud parents to show off their offspring in the town centre. Invite the local press.

**Book Sale:** Sell old books, collected from everyone you know. Book dealers may buy leftover stock.

**Bouncy Castle:** A great way to keep kids entertained at bigger family events. Bouncing fee.

**Bungee Jump:** Raise sponsorship by flying in the face of fear.

**Burns Night:** Theme evening with Scottish dancing, Haggis, Nepes and Tatties. Admission fee.

**Bus Pull:** Gather a team & get sponsored to heave a bus through town. More teams? Make it a race.

### C

**Cake Stall:** Hold a traditional cake stand at fetes or fairs. Check health and safety regulations.

**Calendars:** Design & sell a pictorial calendar for your company. Departments/suppliers may sponsor pages.

**Candle making:** Make and sell candles at craft fairs or coffee mornings.

**Car boot sale:** Cash in your old belongings, or sell pitches. Raise more with bouncy castles, raffles, etc.

**Car treasure hunt:** Drive from clue to clue in search of the 'treasure'. Teams pay to enter.

**Car wash:** Wash cars at shopping centre or office car parks.

**Carnival:** Arrange a colourful carnival for your town, charging for each float entered.

**Carol concert:** Host a festive concert for your community. Earn extra by selling minced pies & mulled wine.  
**Carol singing:** Get a group to go door-to-door singing. Bigger public displays may require a licence.  
**Casino evening:** Hire gaming tables and a hall for the evening.  
**Chariot race:** Teams race decorated 'chariots' - anything from a horse and cart to a sedan chair.  
**Charity ball:** Raise sponsorship the sophisticated way. Organise a themed ball with DJ or live music at a hotel or nightclub. Charge for tickets, but boost your earnings with games and raffles.  
**Charity push:** Get sponsored to cover a set distance in a bed, shopping trolley, bathtub, wheelie bin...  
**Children's party:** Organise children's parties or activities, but be sure to check relevant childcare practices.  
**Christmas draw:** Sell tickets and ask local firms to supply prizes. Check regulations about public draws & raffles.  
**Classic car show:** Well-organised classic car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.  
**Clocks:** Build clocks to sell at craft fairs.  
**Coach trips:** Coach trips to London, Blackpool, flower shows, etc, are popular. Sell tickets and hold a raffle.  
**Coconut shy:** Easily arranged game for traditional fairs. All you need are a few coconuts and wooden balls.  
**Coffee morning:** It's open house for the morning. Make extra with raffles, bring and buy sales and cake stalls.  
**Collecting tins:** Trusted fundraiser for busy pedestrian areas. Charity should supply tins, stickers and leaflets.  
**Concerts:** Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire bands of musicians.  
**Cookery demo:** Invite well-known chefs to share the recipe of their success with a ticket-paying audience.  
**Copper collection:** Ask people to donate their collections of one and two pence pieces.  
**Craft fair:** Make necklaces, dried flower arrangements, stained glass mirrors, etc, to sell on a stall.  
**Cricket match:** Assemble a team and challenge your county team to a match. Charge spectators.  
**Crossword contest:** Compile huge crossword, so punters pay per clue. Each number hides a ticket for prize draw.

## D

**Dance:** Barn dances, tea dances, disco dances, salsa dances - whatever rocks your boat.  
**Darts tournament:** Challenge all the pub teams in the area to compete for cash prizes, or a barrel of beer.  
**Dinner and cabaret:** Hire a popular and spacious restaurant. Entertain ticket holders with music, comedy & magic.  
**Dinner Party:** Hold a dinner party and you can charge or ask people to make a donation.  
**Dinner Party Pyramid:** Invite eight people charge them £10 each then get them to host a Dinner party each inviting seven each and repeat this on down to the last with one person and you will raise in total £1000,000.  
**Directories:** Compile a community businesses and services directory. Raise funds through advertising.  
**Disco:** Spin the decks or hire a DJ to stage a themed disco night.  
**Dog show:** Charge proud pet-owners to show off their pooches. Ask pet shops to sponsor the event.  
**Duck race:** Sell numbered plastic ducks and launch them from a bridge. The duck to finish first wins.

## E

**Easter egg hunt:** Edible hide and seek. Charge entry fee and ask confectioners to provide the eggs.  
**Eating marathon:** Get sponsored to stuff your face with as many baked beans/grapes/pies etc. as possible.  
**Eyebrows:** Get sponsored to shave them off - they grow back eventually!

## F

**Face painting:** Get creative with face paints at fetes, fairs and children's parties.  
**Fancy dress:** Jazz up your event with a fancy dress contest. Charge entrance fee.  
**Fashion show:** Ask businesses to sponsor venue, outfits or catwalk. Charge admission and sales commission.  
**Fastathon:** Get sponsored to fast for an hour, a morning or a day. Consult your doctor first.  
**Fete:** Reach the whole community by holding a fete, or team up with organisers of an annual event.  
**Film evening:** Recreate an evening of vintage cinema by showing classic films and musicals.  
**Fireworks:** Weather permitting, firework displays are massive fundraisers. Check out safety precautions.  
**Flower arranging:** Make your own fresh, dried or silk arrangements to sell at craft fairs or fetes.  
**Flower show:** Always popular. Boost funds with competitions, advice corners & side stalls.  
**Football tournament:** Schedule fixtures and charge teams to enter. Ask local businesses for prizes.  
**Foreign coins:** Ask people to donate their leftover holiday coins. Change into sterling once you have enough.  
**Fun day:** Arrange games, music, competitions and stalls at a nearby hall or sports club.  
**Furniture sale:** Hire a large hall to sell donated furniture and old office equipment. Take sales commission.

## G

**Game show:** Host mock version of Who Wants To Be A Millionaire or The Weakest Link. Otherwise adapt board games for big audiences, and get prizes donated.

**Garage sale:** Sell off all your unwanted belongings.

**Garden party:** Sell tickets or invite guests to make a donation.

**Gardening:** Offer your gardening services to friends and family.

**Glamorous Gran:** Go in search of your area's most glamorous gran. Charge contestants to enter, and ask local hair and beauty salons to donate prizes. Invite the local press.

**Go Kart Grand Prix:** Hold a Go Kart Grand Prix at the nearest track. Drivers pay entrance fee.

**Greeting cards:** Make and sell cards for every occasion. Find out about selling Christmas cards for your charity.

**Guess the???:** Competitors guess how many sweets in the jar, a cake's weight, etc. The closest answer wins.

**Guest speaker:** Invite a guest speaker and sell admission tickets. Boost funds with raffle & refreshments.

**Guided tours:** Take tourists and visitors on locally guided walks or trips.

**Gunge Tank:** Charge fairgoers to drop their relatives, friends or enemies in tank of last week's leftovers.

## H

**Halloween party:** Another excuse to dress up and party. Charge entrance fees and raise money trick or treating.

**Head shave:** Sick of bad hair days? Go bald for charity.

**Hook-a-duck:** Fete and fair game. Ask local companies to donate prizes.

**Hoopla:** Fete and fair game. Ask local companies to donate prizes.

**Household sale:** Sell off all your unwanted belongings.

## I

**Indoor market:** Rent out stalls to local traders, or take cut of profits.

**Inflatable:** Put a bounce into your summer fete with an inflatable fly wall, boxing ring or gladiator court.

**Irish Night:** Organize an Irish Themed Night and charge an entrance fee

**Ironing:** Offer your ironing services - at a cost.

**Ironing:** A knockout competition of singles or teams that you can bet on or and sponsor to see who is the fastest and best.

**It's a knockout:** Revive the 80s game show by inviting teams to compete in silly games in silly costumes.

## J

**Jailbreak:** Dump teams in the middle of nowhere. With no money or transport, see who gets back to base first. Charge entrance fees and offer prizes.

**Jazz festival:** Play your own brand of jazz, or stage a show for local musicians. Sell tickets and refreshments.

**Jewellery making:** Buy your own beads and get threading. Sell your products at markets and craft fairs.

**Junk mail:** Collect all your junk mail and sell it to a recycling company.

## K

**Karaoke:** Arrange your own Pop Idol contest. All you need is a machine, a room and a well-stocked bar.

## L

**Left-handed day:** Try doing everything with your left hand for the day.

**Line dancing:** It's all the rage. Just make sure you have a caller and plenty of drink!

## M

**Marathons:** Get sponsored to run a traditional 26-mile race.

**Medieval evening:** Themed evening of medieval food, jousting and entertainment.

**Mile of pennies:** Make a mile of pennies in your town centre. Ask shoppers to help by donating their coins.

**Mini-Olympics:** Invite everyone you know to compete in traditional & silly sports. Charge entry.

**Mufti day:** Introduce dress down day at work. Colleagues pay a fee to leave their suits at home.

**Music concert:** Entertain the crowds with your own recital, or hire bands of musicians.

## N

**Nature trail:** Offer guided walks to natural beauty spots.

**New Year resolutions:** Get sponsored to stick to your new year's resolutions.

## O

**Open garden:** Open your garden to visitors. Sell tickets, refreshments, plants and vegetables.

**Opera night:** Stage an opera evening in your area, or arrange a trip to see a big London production.

**Ornament sale:** Set up a market/fair stall. Alternatively, plan your own event and charge for pitches.

**Outward bound:** Go climbing, hiking, camping, etc, in preparation for your trip. Seek sponsorship.

## P

**Paintballing:** Organise paintballing challenges at locally run centres. Players pay to enter.

**Pancake race:** Get flipping on Shrove Tuesday. Charge teams to enter, and spectators to eat.

**Pantomime:** Your chance to play the ugly sister. Stage a production with friends, family and colleagues.

**Parachute jump:** Daredevils only. Get sponsored to take the plunge.

**Parties:** Pick a venue, a date, a theme... and party on. Sell tickets and charge for extras like food.

**Personalised gifts:** Sell uniquely personalised gifts for special occasions.

**Pet show:** Charge proud pet-owners to show off their cats, hamsters, bunnies, mice, etc.

**Petrol tokens:** Trade in petrol tokens for gifts, which can be used as raffle or competition prizes.

**Pick a cork:** Fair game. Pick a numbered cork out of a board. If the number's a winner, claim a prize.

**Pick a ticket:** Fair game. Pick a numbered ticket from a bucket. If the number's a winner, claim a prize.

**Picture framing:** Frame and sell prints of local scenes, or pictures relevant to your charity.

**Pimms Party:** Host a summer Pimms party for a charge.

**Plant a tree:** Seek sponsors for a "plant a tree" scheme.

**Plant sale:** Sell donated plants or rent out pitches to traders.

**Playstation play-off:** Organise a league of players and compete on a certain game. Charge entrants.

**Play your cards right:** Fair game made famous by Bruce Forsyth. Guess higher or lower 6 times running & win a prize.

**Pledges:** Gather pledges of support, donations and services. These could be auctioned or raffled off.

**Pop concert:** Hire a venue and invite local bands to play. Sell tickets and set up stalls.

**Postage stamps:** Collect and sell foreign and unusual stamps to dealers.

**Private tuition:** Whether it's French or Flamenco, sell your skills with private lessons.

**Programmes:** Get businesses to advertise in event programmes. Number programmes & use as raffle tickets.

**Promotional gifts:** Sell promotional gifts with your Charity/organisation logo on.

**Pub games night:** Stage a championship of traditional pub games - darts, skittles, dominoes, cards, etc.

**Puppet show:** Pull in the crowds with a traditional Punch & Judy show, or something more innovative.

## Q

**Quizzes:** If your local doesn't run a pub quiz, set one up. Test the regulars on pop, trivia or sport.

## R

**Race night:** The race is run on a large screen after all bets have been taken. A typical evening consists of eight races. Props (and film) are supplied by race operators. Some gaming regulations apply.

**Raffle:** Ask local firms to donate prizes and sell tickets. Check raffle laws with charity.

**Raft race:** Teams compete by building their rafts and racing over a set distance. Teams pay to compete.

**Ramble:** Take to the countryside for a mass walkabout. Throw in a theme (fancy dress, singles, three legged, Easter), and charge for entry and refreshments.

**Recipe book:** Publish favourite recipes from local restaurants and chefs.

**Recycling collections:** Collect paper, aluminium, glass, etc, and sell on to recycling companies.

**Refreshments:** Sell teas, coffees, sandwiches, biscuits, cakes, etc, at any fundraising event.

**Roll-a-ball:** Fair game where player rolls a ball through a hole at the end of a bowling-type alley.

**Roll-a-coin:** Fair game where player rolls a coin down a shute, aiming to land on a playing card.

**Roll the dice:** Roll six sixes and win a car! You need a big event... and car sponsor to make this worthwhile.

## S

**St Andrews Day-30<sup>th</sup> November:** Organize an event around the day Golf or Dance etc.

**St David's Day 1<sup>st</sup> March:** Wear a Leek and get sponsored. Have a Welsh night.

**St Georges Day-23<sup>rd</sup> April:** A Traditional English meal. Morris dancing. Wearing a red rose.

**St Patrick's Day-17<sup>th</sup> March:** Hold a Ceilidh dance or just an Irish and Irish themed event.

**Safari supper:** Travel from restaurant to restaurant, having a different course at each stop. Ask restaurants to support your efforts, but set cover charge to include all food and your cut.

**Sale of Christmas gifts:** Sell Christmas cards, wrapping, gifts, food and drink.

**Santa's Grotto:** Pull on your white beard and brush up you're ho, ho, ho.

**Scavenger hunt:** Variation on the treasure hunt where participants have a list of items to collect.

**Scrap metal:** Collect scrap metal and sell it to a scrap metal dealer or re-cycling plant.

**Shoe shine:** Get down on your knees at your nearest train station or shopping centre.

**Shopping coupons:** Trade in loyalty points for money or goods (to be used as prizes).

**Silver collections:** Ask supporters to donate their loose change collections.

**Sit in a bath:** Get sponsored to spend the day in a bath of beans/maggots/tea, etc.

**Skittles:** Make an evening event out of this traditional pub game.

**Skydiving:** Free fall your way back to earth - for sponsorship.

**Slimming contest:** Arrange with local slimming clubs. Participants get sponsored £1 for every pound lost.

**Slippery pole:** Fair game where competitors pillow fight while sliding along a slippery pole.

**Sponge throwing:** Players pay to chuck sopping wet sponges at whoever's in the stocks.

**Sponsored silence:** Mum's the word. Stay silent for as long as you can.

**Sports competition:** Whatever your game, organise a tournament. Sell tickets, and organise stalls, raffles, etc.

**Stage play:** Raise the curtain on a local Am Dram production.

**Stationary cycle:** Don't fancy the map reading? Forget cycling to Paris, but cover the same distance at the gym.

**Strawberries & cream:** Bring the taste of Wimbledon to your event, with this summery refreshment.

**Street entertaining:** Get juggling, tight rope walking, fire eating, knife throwing, unicycling...

**Swap shop:** Put unwanted items in touch with loving homes. Charge swappers to participate.

**Swear box:** Spend a £1 for every \$@\*£\$! Uttered. Put a box at home, at work and at the pub.

**Swimathon:** Get sponsored per length, mile, minute, hour...

## T

**Tabletop sale:** Indoor variation on the car boot sale. Charge for table hire.

**Table Tennis:** Arrange with sports clubs or youth clubs a sponsored competition.

**Talent competition:** Discover Britain's next big thing with your own talent show. Charge entry and offer prizes.

**Teddy Bear's picnic:** At home or any where organise a tea party and sell or raffle the Bear's.

**Teddy Bear skydive:** Find a high building or platform and charge say 50p for kids to see there Bear's skydive.

**Teddy Bear's tombola:** Have a tombola of Teddy Bear's and or other soft toy's

**Ten-pin bowling:** Bowling alleys often have special rates for big groups & charity evenings.

**Tin can alley:** Traditional fair game. Knock down the stack of tin cans and win a prize.

**Tombola:** Pick a raffle ticket out of a barrel and match it with a ticketed prize. Fair & fete favourite.

**Toy sale:** In the run up to Christmas, toy sales can be big fundraisers.

**Treasure hunt:** Sniffing out the clues, teams compete against each other to discover the 'hidden treasure'.

**T-shirts & clothing:** Market your charity, club, company by producing a range of promotional clothing.

**Tuck shop:** Sell sweets, crisps, cake, drinks, etc, at a children's event.

## U

**Underwear party:** One for the adults! Charge guests to come wearing it, or take commission for selling it.

**University challenge:** Have a sponsored competition at school or work or hire a local hall or you can charge an entrance fee.

**Unwanted presents:** Arrange a post-Christmas sale of unwanted gifts. Ask traders to donate a cut of their takings.

## V

**Valentine Ball:** Organize a valentine ball.

**Variety show:** Comedians, magicians, singers, dancers & musicians all under one roof.

**Vehicle rally:** Well-organised car and bike shows are great crowd pullers and fantastic fundraisers.

**Visits:** Organising visits to local places or tourist destinations.

## W

**Walks:** Lead organised walks to historical spots and places of interest. Ghost walks are also popular.

**Waste paper:** Collect waste paper and sell to recycling companies.

**Water sports:** Let others splash out as you splash in. Teach water sports or get sponsored to take part.

**Waxing:** A hair-raising experience for the boys. Get sponsored to wax your legs or chest.

**Weight of the cake:** Fair game. Pay to guess the weight - and win the cake if you're right.

**Welly throwing:** Fun for every fete and fair. Throwers compete to see whose welly goes furthest.

**Wheelbarrow race:** Get as many people as you can and have a wheelbarrow derby.

**Whiskey raffle:** Charge a pound a ticket, and pick a winner for every 25 sold. Check licensing and raffle laws.

**Windscreen wash:** Charge to wash windscreens at service and petrol stations. Ask permission first.

**Wine & cheese:** Ask supermarkets to donate the wine and cheese. Sell tickets, and produce to take away.

**Wine tasting:** Hold tasting sessions for wine companies. Charge commission on wine sold. Arrange a raffle.

**Woodcutting:** Offer to prune trees or chop firewood for friends and family.

**Wood working:** Make and sell your own woodcrafts, or give woodturning/woodcarving demonstrations.

## X

**X-Factor:** Hold your own competition and get sponsors for the event and charge an entrance fee.

**Xmas evening:** Stock up on crackers, pudding and mince pies. Break with tradition by holding it in July!

**Xmas hampers:** Make up and sell your own Xmas hampers. Include food, drink, toys and gifts.

## Y

**Yacht racing:** Participate in regional or national events. Seek sponsorship from local clubs and businesses.

**Yard of ale:** Challenge yourself and others to a lengthy drinking contest. Charge entry fee.

**Yoga:** Have a sponsored yoga competition.

**Yoyo:** Have a competition in schools or work for the best yoyo tricks.

## Z

**Zodiac evening:** Invite a guest astrologer for a star-studded fundraiser. Charge for entry and horoscopes.

**Zany clothes day:** Get sponsored to wear zany clothes for a day.