

Top Tips from Jenny Bailey who runs a clothes swop and an annual coffee morning with her neighbour, Judith to raise vital funds for Cobalt. To date Jenny has helped to raise over £14,000



Decide what you want to do

Before I started the clothes swap parties I asked friends if it was something they would be interested in and also if they would willing to lend a hand, we would never have been able to keep these events working without the support of friends and neighbours.

Set a date

Give yourself lots of time. Try and choose a date that's easy for people like a weekend or a Friday if you are doing something at work.

Find the ideal event space

Do you need indoor or outdoor space? Big or small? What facilities do you need? Will there be enough parking and what happens if the weather is bad? Due to numbers I host my coffee morning with my neighbour!

Set yourself a goal and share it

Once you've set a fundraising target and let everyone know. Seeing how you are progressing helps inspire people to give. You could ask local businesses if they would be willing to provide a raffle prize. I only ask once a year as they do tend to get inundated with requests but it is good publicity for them too.

Spread the word

We use bright pink posters and neighbours and friends and local shops are all great at helping me to promote the event. We have also had some fantastic media coverage. As well as an advert in the main part of the Echo, we also put it in the 'Where I Live' supplement in Monday's Echo. There is a section for most areas in Cheltenham. I also make a special effort to thank everybody who has been involved.

"As a survivor of breast cancer I know that early diagnosis can help to save lives. I have been raising money for Cobalt for more than ten years to help support the important work they do."

Jenny

Raise Money Online

Setting up an online fundraising page with Just Giving, Virgin Money Giving, Everyday Heroes is a quick and easy way to collect donations. It can save you hours of asking for sponsorship money and keeps your friends and family updated about your fundraising challenge.

Do you want to raise money in tribute of a loved one?

Using the Donate in Memory website, you can create a unique fundraising page to remember a loved one, personalised with photos and stories. Family and friends can make donations and share memories to create a lasting tribute that can be visited at any time. Visit donateinmemory.org

Are you celebrating something?

Birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and Christmas are all great reasons to fundraise. With Give in Celebration giveincelebration.org you can set up and personalise an online fundraising page for any event and ask for donations instead of gifts. You can upload photos, leave a message and invite family and friends to make a donation.

Please Share your story

Your stories can help to change lives and inspire others to fundraise and recognise the importance of the work we collectively do together. We would love to hear about your fundraising activity and why you support Cobalt.

Stay Safe

Whatever you are doing to raise money, please make sure it is legal and safe. Do you have first aid cover at your event? Is it helpful to carry out a risk assessment to help you spot any potential problems and work out how to avoid them. If you are providing food and drink, either free of charge or for sale, then you will need to follow food safety laws. Check The Food Standards Agency website for guidelines at www.food.gov.uk.

Street Collections if you want to collect money in a public place please do contact us as you will need permission from the council.

The fundraising team is here to help so if you have any questions please call them on 01242 535922.

Our promise to you

We are committed to the highest standards. We are registered with the Fundraising Regulator. We do not stop people in the street and we do not make cold calls. There has been a lot in the news recently about national charities and poor practice.

- We are honest, open and clear about who we are, what we do and how your gift is used.
- We respect your decisions about whether, how and when you would like to make a gift and indeed if you wish to cease giving.
- We will listen to your feedback and if you would like to suggest improvements please contact us.
- We never sell or swap your details with any third parties.
- We will keep your information securely and in accordance with data protection guidelines.

As a small charity our valued supporters are vital to our on-going success.

Contact details

Fundraising Department, Linton House, Thirlestaine Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 7AS.
email fundraising@cobalt.co.uk, telephone 01242 535922.

THANKYOU - We couldn't do what we do without you.