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Have fun and raise £50 for BTCV

We've loads of great ideas – and each one can raise £50 for BTCV!

Will you join in and raise money for our great cause of making places greener and cleaner? All you need is here – in this one long list of suggestions! So, gather your friends and get stuck in!

SIMPLE MONEY MAKERS

1. Sunday or Saturday morning at 11am is perfect and a £5 a head donation for BTCV is probably about right. BBQ sausages in your garden or invite friends and family to a local beauty spot, perhaps one you and local BTCV volunteers have helped to improve.
2. Bake a Mississippi mud pie and sell slices to friends. Get the recipe in your fundraising toolkit - www.btcv.org/mudsweatcheers
3. Ask five friends and neighbours to make a £10 donation when you mow their lawn, trim their hedge, dig over a flower bed.
4. Plant seeds and take cuttings – then sell what grows to friends and colleagues.
5. Instead of presents at your birthday or anniversary party – ask for donations for BTCV. Then when you send out thank you's be sure to invite everyone along to a local BTCV volunteering event, so that they can get stuck in too!
6. Recycle old mobile phones for cash. Ask friends and family for unwanted phones, then send them to BTCV.
7. Turn your veggie peelings into valuable income by making them into compost, then selling it to your neighbours.
8. Open your garden to the public for donations to BTCV. You can also take part in the National Gardens Scheme (www.ngs.org) and select BTCV as your chosen charity.
9. Register with www.justgiving.com and you'll get free web space where you can show off your fundraising project. The site will send emails to friends and family too – so they can easily find out what you're up to, then give a sponsorship donation!
10. Spend a countryside afternoon scouring the hedgerows for blackberries and elderflowers – then make up batches of jam or cordial to sell to family and friends. For adults only, what about sloe gin?
11. Set up a mobile Welly-Boot Clean in the car park at Country Shows, Horse racing meetings, Point-to-points ... or wherever groups of muddy people gather. You'll need a step-in bowl full of soapy suds, clean water and loads of elbow power. Charge 50p for a dip, scrub and clean up.

OUTDOOR CHALLENGES

12. Rope in the local rugby club and stage a tug of war... over the muddiest stretch of ground that you can find. Charge spectators 50p.
13. Join in sponsored sporting events – and choose BTCV as your charity. Many council's run fixed distance races. Or start your own. Ask at your local BTCV group. If you're already a volunteer, you could always run or power-walk to a completed BTCV project as your finish point. There's sure to be others who'd like to run, walk or cycle in a good cause. For more ideas see BTCV challenge events.

14. Tell your friends that you're going to tackle the mountain of litter there is in this world ... and get them to sponsor your marathon litter pick ... on a mountain! Choose a high spot of outstanding beauty, then ask for sponsorships as you and friends seek to bring back old rubbish from beautiful places. Spot prize for someone who finds the most unusual discarded item.
15. Go fishing ... but not with a rod. Instead, entrants (£3 a go) are given a net ... and the winner is the person who, after a set time, comes back with the most surprising thing that they've managed to fish out from the pond! You can also issue set challenges such as gather six objects beginning with the letter W. As well as being an effective and sneaky way to start clearing up a pond, you can also use it to create more splashy, waterside activities. Hoop the duck in a paddling pool goes down a treat with small kids.
16. Plot out a course around a local park or gardens (with permission) – include large water - filled trays or buckets as splashy obstacles. Ask competitors to pay £1 to enter. Great fun for children and adults.
17. Make use of any expert knowledge you have on plants, nature, the great outdoors ... and give a talk to a local social group (the W.I, Rotary club and others are always keen for speakers). In return for your time – an opportunity to pass an empty Welly Boot round at the end, ready to receive donations to BTCV's great work!

DO IT WITH FRIENDS

18. Have a wheelbarrow race. Teams of two pay to compete in a wheel around town. For adults only, you could turn it into a wheelbarrow crawl, with a stop at an inn for a swift beverage at each stop. Or just for families, Dad pushes the barrow, a child has to help inside – and the course is round the perimeter of the local cricket pitch. For added fun – contestants could don fancy dress – as long as they keep it earthy. Scarecrows, badgers, frogs and caterpillars all welcome!
19. Stage a welly throw in the gardens of a local country pub. Host it on Sunday lunchtime – at a social club, after a football./cricket/rugby match. Pay 50p to enter – with a free drink to whoever throws the furthest.
20. Make new friends when you join a BTCV Green Gym and get sponsored for the weight you lose as you get fitter by helping BTCV each week. On a weekly three hour slot, you'll enjoy a warm-up and work-out as you take part in conservation activities near you. See www.btcv.org.uk/greengym for locations.
21. Hold a simple 'At Home Harvest Supper' – local ingredients only. Serve up blackberry crumble from the hedgerows and ask guests for donations for their dinner.
22. Hold a garden tools swap party. Get friends together and over coffees, select tools, seeds, and cuttings that you'd each like. For every item that you take – that's 30p in the pot for BTCV.
23. Hold a seed swap party. Give advance notice, from August onwards to your friends, (so that they can save seeds from their garden). Then, during autumn get everyone together and every swap made incurs a charge of 50p for BTCV.
24. Run an Auction of Promises event. Everyone thinks of something they could happily do for others – bake a supper, prune a fruit tree, become a taxi-service for a night. On the night, these promises are auctioned, with the money raised to BTCV.

ARMCHAIR SUPPORTERS

25. Get crafty and paint and stick bookmarks and cards that you can sell to friends. Use nature as your inspiration and try card collages from dried flowers or simple potato prints that pick up a leaf outline. You also paint wellies for a fee too!
26. Start a home collecting tin for BTCV – and surprise yourself at how 50p's dropped into the tin really add up. Download the money tin template for collecting 50p's and put your tin in the kitchen, or wherever you tend to turn out your handbag and get into the habit of one day a week, emptying out into it those 50p pieces. Get your template at www.btcv.org/mudswatchers
27. Sell unwanted items on ebay for charity where we have our own page and then choose to donate 10% to 100% of your final sale to BTCV.
28. Register with www.everyclick.com and BTCV will receive money from this website each click through you make, as you search and shop online as normal.
29. Invite a few friends round for a board games afternoon – and adapt the games so that there is some money-raising potential for BTCV. If you play bridge, then play for a penny a point and donate the proceeds to BTCV. Scrabble lovers must pay 10p every time they choose to swap their letters ... or put down an s!
30. Set up a book and magazine club with friends. Borrowing from your home library ... means a donation of £1 to BTCV.

GREAT FOR KIDS

31. Hold a Muddy Beasts Contest – divide kids into teams, and let them go wild splashing mud (if the real thing is too, well muddy, use imitation splats from joke and toy shops). The kid with the least mud wins! Parents pay £1 to enter their children into the contest. Sell mini mud cakes (basically any small cakes, with chocolate icing) and chocolate milkshakes.
32. Ask your child's school to hold a mufti day in aid of BTCV – children to wear outdoor clothes inside-out.
33. Children over 10 can create great face-paint designs on other children. So get the kids to join in when you have a face painting stall at a county show – charge £1 for beautiful butterflies and scary spotted toads!
34. Go down into the woods today ... and have a Teddy Bear's Picnic! Round up everyone at your child's toddler or pre-school group for a fun morning. Children who bring along a teddy are free, but everyone else pays £2, to go to BTCV. Keep up the fun with hide and seek and toddle races too!
35. Stage a fancy dress party – theme, British Wildlife. Little squirrels, badgers and dormice all give a donation (or rather, their parents' do!) and enjoy traditional games with a twist. Pin the tail on the fox anyone?!
36. Run a wildlife drawing/photography competition at your child's brownie group/school class, £1 to enter. Could a local museum showcase the winners?
37. Stage a conker competition. Go into the woods to collect conkers in September and October ... then charge each child 40p for a conker on a string – and let battle commence. (Handy tip: string generally frays, so use bootlaces and, to speed things up, make the holes using an electric drill.)
38. Have a whole week when you get out into the great outdoors – and encourage children to join in by sponsoring them not to watch TV. Each day they stay TV free, you put £1 per child into a BTCV collecting tin!

39. Make a coin collecting box out of natural or recycled materials (try plaited willow or papier-mache or corrugated card. Everyone in the family tips the loose change in their purses into the collecting box every Sunday night.
40. Brownie, Beaver and other youth groups can have oodles of fun in the BTCV great cause. Take a team of kids on a nature study trip to collect interesting leaves ... then back at base get out the glue and card and turn them into beautiful bookmarks and birthday cards to sell to family and friends.
41. Hold an outdoor cook-out. Get into the woods and charge £2.50 for an outdoor bonfire feast – strictly no BBQs allowed. Let the children have fun gathering twigs and building the fire. Suggested menu: sausages, fruity kebabs and toasted marshmallows.
42. Ask supermarkets if you can pack for shoppers, in return for a donation for BTCV. Outside in the car park, offer to get the mud and dirt away with a shoe shine/welly boot wash.

IDEAS FOR AT WORK

43. Hold a 'Wear your Wellies to work' day – everyone pays a minimum of £1. The best ideas are the most simple! Email everyone at the start of the week and put up a small prize for the person with the wackiest wellies ... or who has the bottle to wear their boots at the most 'inappropriate' moment – like meeting an important client for the first time!
44. Name that tree! Compile a nature quiz and charge 50p to enter. Download the quiz from the fundraising toolkit - www.btcv.org/mudsweatheers. Winner gets a tree sapling.
45. Operate an 'earthy language' box. Fine people 10p a pop each time they swear.
46. Go outdoors at coffee time. Ask an outdoor enthusiast to bring a Storm Kettle and brew up in the nearest piece of green space; charge staff for teas, coffees and hot chocolate! Buy your Storm Kettle at our online shop.
47. Pay to go home early on Friday – with the option of going to a local outdoors event.
48. Give everyone 6 sunflower seeds. Then ask everyone who has grown the seeds to bring the cuttings back to work. Colleagues then buy these for 50p each – and the person whose then goes onto be the tallest wins a small prize and the pleasure of having a really big plant in their home/garden!
49. Bake then sell muffins at work ... and get everyone to guess how many minutes of great outdoor BTCV volunteering work you'd need to do to burn off the calories in a muffin. Send an email round later with the answer ... and the contact details of a local-to-you BTCV project.
50. Hold a dress-down day at work: everyone pays £2 to go casual.

Celebrating 50 years of
MUD, SWEAT & CHEERS!

**BTCV is the world's largest team of green volunteers.
 Be part of it here - www.btcv.org/mudsweatheers**