

Paxmead Fundraising Ideas

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1 Why are we raising money for Paxmead?

Paxmead Riverside Base is situated on the Thames outside Shepperton. It has been a boating centre for many years and was originally managed by the Girguiding Region Office until a few years ago. It is a boating and residential centre for Guiding and scouting groups, mainly from the local units and Middlesex but any group may use it from across the UK and further. 3 years ago its closure was being discussed, at this time Girguiding Surrey West proposed to take over the management if the site. It is a much loved and valued resource. Since December 2014 the centre has gone from strength to strength. The residential centre is full every weekend apart from Christmas and during the boating season hundreds of girls and boys learn to boat – canoe, kayak, row, enjoy the river and get wet. We run several fun days both on and off the water.

We have a residential site that has a bunk house that can sleep 24 together with a large hall and kitchen. However, during the last 3 years we know we have some work to do and as a charity we need help to make much needed improvements.

Our old boat shed, which started its life as a railway siding and is an old wooden structure, is in serious need of some TLC. We have been flooded a couple of times and it has suffered. We also need better toilet facilities which at the moment are inadequate for modern needs and disabled use.

A new outside changing facility is much needed also for mixed groups, this would increase our capacity for boating events. This would also allow us to separate boating activities from the main residential site and allow multiple users and better use of the site.

We are unique in that there are no other centres in the area that provides the same water based activities at the level we can. The children and adults who use the site get tremendous enjoyment of the activities that we can provide, but we can do more. The children can take taster sessions and if they want to take their experience further they can progress to a boating qualification. We provide training for adults to ensure that we have a steady group of volunteer instructors. We also have a loyal volunteer group, many of which have supported Paxmead for over 20 years.

We have been working hard with an architect, the local planning office and the Environmental Agency to agree a suitable, more modern, site that would prolong the life of the boating centre, recently we gained approval for a small extension to the main building to allow better toilet and shower facilities.

We now need urgent help in getting the work funded.

You will find a few ideas for fundraising further in this document.

This document should be added to and changes made where appropriate.

2 Fundraising Ideas for the Paxmead Site

2.1 Second Hand Book Sales

Ask for donations of unwanted books. Any books left over can be sold to WeByBooks.co.uk

2.2 Book Fair

Sell new books at other events

2.3 Musical Events

'Open Mic' night is a live show where performers can get 10 – 15 minutes of microphone time. They can play music, sing, read a poem, act a scene from a play – anything as long as it is suitable for children. Sign up performers in advance. Paxmead would provide the microphone and speakers but performers would need to bring any other equipment they need. Give each performer a time slot.

The event would need a good compere to create a good atmosphere and introduce the acts.

Decide if there should be refreshments in the ticket price or should they be charged extra

2.4 Tile Funding

Buy a tile, this can be a good way of raising money for our building project and it's also eligible for gift aid. Ask for a donation to put a name on the back of a bathroom tile. We could also put a virtual wall on our website.

2.5 Paxmead Cook Book

Find a catchy name 'Perfect Puddings from Paxmead' and ask for recipes from people who use the site. Our recipe donors will want to purchase a copy. Ask for a favorite recipe and if it's a family one ask for a story to go with it. There are several websites where there are free design pages and websites that print the books and bind them. Local businesses might like to advertise in it for a donation.

2.6 Tea and Cake Sale

Homemade cakes are looked at as a luxury item, or comfort food. Generally any homemade cake would have a high cost in a shop. Make sure you have plenty of bakers beforehand. We could offer to pay for the ingredients. It's important that people who are on a low budget don't feel excluded from baking for us. This could be organized together with an **afternoon tea event**. Borrow china cups and tea pots and table clothes. This event could be run on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon and take around 2 hours. Make sure there are plenty of helpers to wait at tables. Maybe this could also include a Picnic Box Auction.

2.7 Offer site for Thames River Events

Contact Devizes to Westminster with the possibility of using our toilet facilities for team support groups. Thames Festival Trust email:- contact@thamesfestival.org have events on the Thames, 2019 not yet published.

2.8 Open Day for Local Residents and Interested Local Businesses

This could be during the tea and cake sale and/or afternoon tea.

2.9 BBQ

Put this into the Paxmead calendar so that users can put the date into their diary. Agree a set admission charge before the event and ask for booking and payment before the event so that the numbers can be catered for.

2.10 Orienteer / Treasure Hunt / Night Line

Charge a small fee to purchase the Orienteer sheets and Treasure Hunt sheets. These activities do need to be written up and copied. Units have to pay to use the Night Line or other equipment on site extra to boating and residential fees.

2.11 County Camp Fire

This could be organized after the Water Fun Day – make a small donation to stay to a Camp Fire. Offer camp fire food.

2.12 Special Educational Needs

SEN Schools like to take under privilege students who have an educational need to the country to aid with their education and behavior issues. Contact Surrey County Council email:- surrey.fis@surreycc.gov.uk

2.13 Local Groups for evening events

Local groups hire the hall for dance / fitness / yoga / craft classes.

2.14 Selling via E-Bay for Charity

E-Bay for Charity offers charities a low cost way of raising money. Paxmead would need to apply for a Charity Registration with E-Bay and register with Pay Pal. E-Bay lower their transaction fees for processing charity payments.

2.15 Bric-a-Brac

The only downfall with this idea is that it is likely to leave a large amount of items to get rid of after the event. However, items that have a greater value can be sold on E-Bay through their Charity serviced. We could either run an event at Paxmead or find an event where we can apply to have a stall. Look at local council as some run annual events. Look into local car boot fairs.

2.16 Charity Discounts

Suppliers can claim tax relief on cash donations or on the stock value that they donate to a charity. If we are making purchases for the site we can ask for a discount price, additional items free of charge or a cash donation. If we do receive cash we have to make it very clear where that money is being spent, this must not change or the money must be returned.

2.17 Recycling - clothes

Most towns have shops where second hand clothes and shoes can be exchanged for cash. Contact Cash for Clothes 07426 405 855. Recycling Clothes Company Ltd Crawley 01293 612 512.

2.18 Collection Tins in Local Shops

Contact local shops to see if they are willing to have a collection tin. Agree a time limit for the tin and display with a short description of Paxmead and the reason we are raising money.

2.19 Auction

Ask local businesses and shops if they can donate some items to be auctioned. Put a date in the Paxmead Calendar so that plenty of items can be collected and users of Paxmead can put the date in their diary. Find someone who would be a good auctioneer and can encourage some friendly rivalry. Could local businesses offer an item or a service – signed football shirt, ride in a vintage car? If there are any items that are left at the end of the auction organize a silent auction. Auction a promise, this could be ironing, cleaning, beauty treatments, homemade cake etc.

2.20 Sponsored canoe race.

As long as the event is relatively small we will not have to apply for permission. We could arrange for a long distance kayak relay event. Taking part in the Devizes to Westminster Canoe race would be a great idea. This would need some planning as a support crew will be needed as well as the team taking part. There are some coracle packs – this could be made into a race between groups. Each team to be given a coracle to make, and a course on the river to paddle around.

2.21 Dance Night.

Barn dancing, line dancing, Zumba, ballroom or disco – this could be any kind of dancing. We would need to find a dance instructor that would be willing to give up their time for an evening. Make sure there are plenty of seats for people to take a break. Have a dress code – loose clothing and comfortable shoes etc. The idea is to have a good time and not take things too seriously.

2.22 Extreme event

Could we persuade any of our volunteers to take part in an extreme fund raising challenge? Parachute jump, skydive, abseil, ice walk? Although consideration has to be made to the cost of taking part in some of these and does mean that sometimes the sponsor money has to cover the cost of the challenge.

2.23 It's a Knockout

Obstacle course, bizarre costumes and mad games. This can be organized on a short budget, and has been done at some larger events. Some units / Individuals will have ideas on how this can be run. Or **Silly Sports Day** make this inclusive of all age groups. Football and spoon race. Chef and Waiter race - dress up in costume and race with a loaded tray. Sack Race, three legged race, 100mm sprint, under frog where contestants crawl through an obstacle course. Tug of war, Spider race, Matchbox Race, Space hopper race. ..Depending on how this is run admission can be for individuals or teams.

3 Fundraising Ideas for County Members and Individuals

3.1 Corporate Social Responsibility Programme

Many employers get involved with what is known as Corporate Social Responsibility. This means that they support local good causes through donations of cash, goods and/or staff time. In most cases the decision to support a charity will be made on the recommendation from its staff. If your company does not take part in this scheme maybe a member of your family or friends can. There is information about Paxmead on our website and anyone from our management team would be happy to talk about the work we are trying to fund.

3.2 Match Funding

If you are raising funds for Paxmead it is worth making contact with your HR department. Some companies will match the amount of money you have raised

3.3 Employee Volunteer Awards

Companies donate small grants to staff who volunteer their time to a charity. This can be requested through your HR department. Please explain what the Paxmead Project is and how we are trying to raise funds to improve the site.

3.4 All Sports

Amateur and professional sports people and clubs run extensive fundraising, often for local causes. Do you know anyone who is part of or who plays for a club? Please ask if they are willing to support Paxmead and either make a donation, tell their club about us and ask for a donation or allow a collection tin at their events.

3.5 Office Collection

Ask your HR department / boss if you could raise money for Paxmead by collecting in your office.

4 Fundraising Ideas for Units and Districts to raise money for Paxmead

4.1 Mobile Phone Recycling

www.compareandrecycle.co.uk/ Put your phone details into the search bar and the site will compare prices from several phone recyclers and find you the best price. You can ask the parents to donate any old phone they may have and recycle.

4.2 CDS's and Video Recycling

MusicMagpie allows you to cash in old CDs, DVDs and computer games as well as some electronic items like tablets and laptops. If you enter the barcode into the box on the website or scan the barcode from your phone MusicMagpie will give you an instant price.

<https://www.musicmagpie.co.uk/>

There are other websites that you might prefer:- CeX(Computer Exchange), Zapper <https://zapper.co.uk/>, Momox <https://www.momox.co.uk/>,

4.3 Sponsored Activity

Sponsored swim, cycle etc. are common things to take part in to raise money. How about:- Phone free day or week? Giving up chocolate or watching soaps on TV?

4.4 Fashion Show

Ask for donations of unwanted clothes several weeks before your show date. Get the girls to reinvent or revamp the clothes for the fashion show. This will need to be planned before the event.

4.5 Talent Show

Hold a talent show where would-be stars have a chance to shine. There is so much talent that this should be an easy event to organize. The more performers the more friends and relatives will attend. Charge an entry at the door.

4.6 Karaoke Night

Hire or borrow a Karaoke Machine – charge admission

4.7 Supermarket Collections

Some large supermarkets will allow charities to raise money in their shop entrance to either make locals aware of the charity or to collect money with a collection tin.

4.8 Supermarket Bag Packing

Although this has been a very popular and successful way of making money some supermarkets now longer support this. The expectation was that customers would donate their spare change, however with most customers paying with a card this has become a little less lucrative.

4.9 Games Evening

Bring out the board games. Cluedo, Monopoly, Jenga, Twister, any other. Split into teams so that everyone has a go at the games they want to play.

4.10 Jewellery sale

Ask for any unwanted Jewellery to sell.

4.11 Unwanted Gift Sale

This is a good time of the year to think about organizing an unwanted gift sale.

4.12 Teddy Bears Picnic

This is a good event for younger children although we have run this for Guides and Senior Section girl and it has been a huge success. This is relatively easy to organize and a great way to support Paxmead. It can be as big or small as you want. Remind the children to bring their favorite teddy. A set charge can be made for small sandwiches, cocktail sausages, crisps, cherry tomatoes, teddy shaped biscuits and tiny cakes and fruit. Alternatively ask people to bring their own picnic and make a donation. Organize games and camp fire songs that the teddies can take part in.

4.13 Pudding Party

One of the joys of puddings is that they can be made in advance and frozen. Most people have a 'party piece' pudding. Ask for pudding donations and sell tickets before the event so that you can ensure you have enough puddings. Cut the puddings into small portions so people can try as many as they can manage. Include a hot or cold drink in the price of the ticket.

4.14 Wedding Dress Display

It's surprising how many 'brides' still have their wedding dresses, treasured but unseen. Why not have an exhibition of the dress along with short story from each bride, this can include pictures from their special day and how they met. Try to make sure you have as many generations as possible. The clothing and memorabilia will be precious so make sure they are well looked after so they are not damaged. An admission fee can be charged. Sell wedding favours.

4.15 Spelling Bee

This can be run for all age groups. Teams might already have been arranged but should ideally be between two and four people. Work out the words you want to be spelt in advance, start with easy words and getting progressively more difficult. You will need a compere and make sure they know how to pronounce each word. Give 30 seconds to spell the word – after the buzzer the teams have to reveal their word.

5 Useful websites

5.1 Find your local council

www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council

5.2 Health and Safety

www.hse.gov.uk

5.3 St John Ambulance

www.sja.org.uk

5.4 British Red Cross

www.redcross.org.uk

5.5 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)

www.nspcc.org.uk

5.6 Foods Standards Agency

www.food.gov.uk

5.7 HM Revenue & Customs (Charities)

www.hmrc.gov.uk

5.8 Gambling Commission

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

5.9 Institute of Fundraising

www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk