

Fundraising by Uttoxeter Group

Over the two and half years since losing our son Jonathan to suicide in May 2011, we have done quite a lot of fundraising.

We initially sold some of Jonathan's belongings with the help of his two best friends.

Our friends then hosted a Bring and Buy sale at their home. We had lots of items donated by family, friends and the local community. We baked cakes and sold homemade chips and tea and coffee. Held a raffle and had a tombola stall. My cousin is a qualified therapist and did hand and arm massages for £2 and she was kept constantly busy throughout the afternoon.

We then did a car boot sale with items left over from the Bring and Buy. We have done another two car boot sales since. We are now often offered items for future car boots or raffle prizes as the local community are aware of our activities through the Parish Magazine and local free papers who kindly give us free publicity. We find that Car Boots are also an opportunity to advertise SOBS and it is surprising how many people have been touched by suicide or know someone who has. We always take SOBS Leaflets with us.

We hosted an Evening with Elvis Presley at the JCB Clubhouse. We got the venue for free and Mark Clay the tribute artist provided the disco as well. The night was a sell out and after Phil said a few words about how SOBS supported us following Jonathans death and how we planned to open a local group, we sold out of 4 books of Raffle Tickets. A lady also gave us £50 on the night. She told us she had Bipolar and that she had attempted suicide several times. She said that her Daughters may need us one day which was very upsetting. Phil's works Union also donated £250 because of the publicity the event bought.



We have a retired neighbour who volunteered to be sponsored to compete in the Dovedale Dash in 2012 and then he did a sponsored Sky Dive in 2013.

We ran a "Splat Ball " stall at the Uttoxeter Lions Lark in the Park Summer Fair. This involved throwing squiggly balls at a target. We gave a prize every time. Again although the takings were not large amounts it was an opportunity to advertise the charity.



We did a Cake stall at the Uttoxeter Christmas late night event. We had so many cakes and biscuits to sell it. It was a fun night and more importantly we had several people ask us about the charity and some took away leaflets.

A cousin celebrated her Ruby Wedding and held a raffle at the party. We sold out of 4 books of raffle tickets and the entertainer gave us £50 donation and a guest gave us £50 as well.

We held a ladies only night at a local pub. It was a buffet followed by a talk and samples by the Chocolate Tailor who makes handmade bespoke chocolates. We had lots of raffle prizes donated and were able to give a table prize to every table as well as sell raffle tickets. The lady on each table who's birthday was closest to the night got to take the plant table decoration home.

We have got events planned for 2014 starting with a men only night in March/ April time, Car boot at Easter and in September, Another Tribute Night with Elvis and Michael Buble in June, Cake Sale at work, a stall at Lark in the Park and another Ladies only night in the summer called Wine and Roses where we will be wine tasting, have nibbles and then two local florists are going to create 4 rose displays which will become raffle prizes. The florists are giving their time for free.

Hope this gives some ideas and inspiration. Just learn by our mistakes- never underestimate just how many raffle tickets you can sell.