

52 (Almost)

Painless Things Your Community Can Do



Community First
Yorkshire

www.communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk

Getting started

Sometimes the hardest part is knowing where to start! From finding funding to recruiting volunteers, we know that hard work is instrumental in pulling off some of the ideas in this pamphlet.

That's why we've called them 'almost painless' because every idea and new activity depends on the enthusiasm and dedication of a few.

But if you're ever worried, just remember:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has!"

- Margaret Mead



- 1 Start a local hen-keeping or bee-keeping scheme
- 2 Look after a community orchard...
- 3 ...and buy a community apple press (make cider!)
- 4 Set up a community hub
- 5 Move your fish and chips van to the village hall car park and open the hall to eat together
- 6 [Begin a Good Neighbours scheme](#)
- 7 Set up an oil-buying cooperative
- 8 Apply for an Awards For All grant to do good things
- 9 Grow a community allotment or shared vegetable patch
- 10 Bulk-buy your essentials together
- 11 Start a local history club
- 12 Round up a community gardening task force
- 13 Start a community eBay shop
- 14 Host a community petting zoo (great for children)
- 15 Organise a 'Good Life' event or village gala
- 16 Carry out an accessibility check in your community



Ideas in action...

Run an Open Gardens event

Where? Kirkby Fleetham, North Yorkshire

What? "We did this in 2013 and raised £1700. About half of that came from entry to the open gardens and the other half from refreshments.

We had 10 gardens open to the public and it was a roaring success for the village, with repeat events planned for the coming years."



- 17 Have a community book exchange
- 18 Run monthly luncheon clubs
- 19 Set up a community choir or orchestra
- 20 Hold a monthly skill or talent sharing class
- 21 Get ready to go on community bike rides and walks
- 22 Start a community bike shed (a bit of bike TLC!)
- 23 Begin a community newsletter or website
- 24 Make your own community film
- 25 [Develop a village welcome pack or directory](#)
- 26 Host a children's treasure hunt or teddy bear's picnic
- 27 Have a scarecrow-building competition
- 28 Start a Ramblers or walking group
- 29 Host open mic nights at the village hall
- 30 Begin a film club or community cinema
- 31 Install a defibrillator
- 32 Set up a dog-walking club
- 33 Set up a Silver Surfers club and share IT skills
- 34 Watch a fitness video online



Ideas in action...

Make your own community film

Where? Bradbury Centre, Upper Esk Valley

What? "We secured a grant to produce a documentary film about life as it was in the Upper Esk Valley before the 1950s. We did all the production by ourselves and it was a huge success, involving all the families in the area, and gaining attention from the BBC and the local media."



- 35 Create a community Facebook page or group
- 36 Create a community environmental group
- 37 [Undertake a Community Led Plan or survey - set a vision and actions to improve your area](#)
- 38 Run an Open Gardens event
- 39 Put on a murder mystery night
- 40 [Set up a Men's Shed](#)
- 41 Tap into local expertise and give free talks
- 42 Advertise your community building
- 43 Publish a book on your community
- 44 Get a premises licence that covers alcohol...
- 45 ...then run an Oktoberfest (or similar)
- 46 Organise a local festival
- 47 Run an antiques roadshow
- 48 Have a village bake-off
- 49 Hold a wine-tasting evening - could link to 51!
- 50 Set up a car-sharing scheme
- 51 Open a pop-up restaurant on any theme
- 52 [Join Community First Yorkshire!](#)



Ideas in action...

Open a Pop-up Restaurant

Where? Masham, North Yorkshire

What? "To celebrate the Tour de France we held a French-themed night, charging £25 a head for a three-course meal and coffee.

We've found it is less work than a coffee morning and raises more money."



For help with any of these contact
Community First Yorkshire



Community First
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