OPEN GARDEN EVENT

By inviting people into your garden, you could in turn help someone across the world grow food to feed themselves and provide for their family by giving them the seeds and training they need.

The Bakewell Oxfam Supporters’ Group organise an open garden event each summer and it now raises more than £3,000 a year.

Time of year: between mid March and early June, why not do it on a Bank Holiday? National Gardening Week is 10-16 April.

1. Find a good variety of gardens that you want as part of your event and contact local groups who might be interested. Make sure they are reasonably close together so there’s not too much walking involved.
2. Liaise with the garden owners and find a good date to host your event.
3. Start publicising the event including designing posters and handbooks or map, include any interesting information for example personal stories from the owners or rare plants in the garden. Talk to the local press to get your event.
4. Talk Health and Safety with your Regional Fundraising Manager and sort out risk assessments and Public Liability Insurance
5. Working out how entry is going to be paid for and enforced. Could each person who has paid wear a sticker? How about a £3 or £4 entry fee?
6. Sort out refreshments – could local businesses donate supplies?
7. Signpost all the gardens clearly so it’s easier for visitors and will draw in passersby. Get volunteers at each location and allocate clear roles.

Teodora Ayson and her husband Jerondio are 54 years old. They lives in Esperanza, on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines and have 4 children who have all now left home. They take care of two grandchildren. Jerondio and Teadora are both vegetable and rice farmers and have half an acre of vegetable gardens. They inter-crop a huge variety of veg including cucumber, green beans, peppers, jute, loofah, green chilli, eggplant, squash and banana. They learned about inter-cropping and making organic fertilizers at Oxfam’s Climate Resiliency Field Schools.

"When I see my plants growing in my garden I think to myself “This is money”. When other gardeners see their plants aren’t doing so well they might give up and let them die but I never give up on my garden, I keep tending to every plant until it succeeds."

"Although we were receiving help we still worked hard for ourselves to improve our lives. We’ll stay here forever now. We really like it here."
BARBEQUE, PICNIC OR SUMMER PARTY

Fact: National Barbeque Week is the first week in June and International Picnic Day is 18th June

Perfect events for the summer – you’ve just got to hope that the rain stays away! The good thing about BBQ, picnic or summer party is that you can scale up to include the whole community or have a small gathering with a few friends

1. Pick a location and a date for your party. What will you do for entertainment?

2. Think about how your event will raise money – will you charge entry, ask for donations or charge for food. Start sending out your invitations and promoting your event

3. For larger events talk to your Regional Fundraising Manager about risk assessments and health and safety requirements

3. Make sure you have all the materials you need on the day. Your Regional Fundraising Manager will be able to send you Oxfam bunting and banners.

4. Make sure you have enough helpers on the day. Enjoy the event!

5. Pay your fundraising to Oxfam

Tips

- You can make it a ‘bring and share’ party where each guest brings a different food or drink item to share.

- Why not charge to play fairground games?

- Serve some Pimms or fruit punch and serve summer recipes

- Bring a bear picnic theme is a hit with young children and families (and there is nothing stopping adults bringing their favourite bear too)

Credit: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

The women of Nawoyatir village sing and dance in celebration of the arrival of clean water.
**PLANT SALE**

Fact: Plant Conservation Day is May 18th, Earth day is April 22nd

If you are a keen gardener why not sell some plants as a fundraiser? Between end of April and June is a good time of year to host your sale.

- You could grow some seedlings, take cuttings or sell full plants.
- Plants in bloom will sell well so have a think about what will be in full bloom at the time of your sale.
- You could also sell other gardening equipment, fertiliser, spare pots or seeds.
- Why not sell fruit and veg from the garden or cut roses, sweet peas, onion flowers or other flowers.
- Some popular plants include: tomatoes or seed potatoes, lobillia, geraniams, fushias – the poached egg plant is a winner to. You could also consider doing a plant swap with an entry fee instead of a sale.
- Add homemade refreshments to raise even more money, and you could sell craft items or second hands good on other stalls.
- Get children to make their own garden in a shoebox and have a little competition on the day.

*Some of our fundraisers' own plant sales Raised over £1,000*