



# Your Community Space

## GUIDE TO MAKE THE MOST OF INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS DAYS



International awareness days are a great way to engage with your local community and fundraise for your hall.

Why not have a look at [Awarenessdays.com](https://www.awarenessdays.com) they provide a free calendar of all the awareness days happening each year.

This guide shows a few examples of how you can make the most of awareness days, and tips to host an event, we hope you find it helpful.

<https://www.awarenessdays.com/>



22<sup>nd</sup>  
March  
2019

## International skipping day

Skipping ropes are relatively cheap to buy, or perhaps you could approach your local community champion – most large companies will have one as part of their corporate social responsibility to donate them

You could link up with your local primary school to do a skipathon and send the children home with a new rope, and brief survey for children to return to the school for a grand prize, such as a shopping voucher.

This would be a great way to engage with minimum effort and find out the views of your hall from your local community.



# Autism Awareness Day

April is Autism Awareness Month, and the perfect time to introduce an event that would benefit your local community.

You could get in touch with the National Autistic Society who has a website full of tips and ideas to help you promote your event.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/services/england/lancashire/enterprise.aspx>

The Autism Directory provides a database you can research to help you connect with a local group. Your local council also has a community directory.

<https://www.theautismdirectory.com/>



2<sup>nd</sup>  
April  
2019

A pop-up café is a great way to help people with the autism spectrum. It's important to take advice about how to set up the café, and provide refreshments that will cater for different dietary requirements such as gluten and dairy free.

The café can also provide an opportunity for carer's to meet and support each other.

This is an event you may wish to extend the event to once a month. It could be a vital resource for the community to help those who may feel isolated.



# The Great British Spring Clean

Run by Keep Britain Tidy, the Great British Spring Clean is all about taking action to improve the environment by helping collect the litter from your local area.

You can register to host a big spring cleaning event at [www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved).



22nd  
March -  
23rd  
April  
2019

This is a great opportunity to get the community together to clean up the local area and make it a better place to live.

Start putting up some posters advertising the event and ask for donations such as seeds and flowers. Everyone could meet up at your venue and tasks could be delegated between volunteers. Some could litter pick, whilst others plant flowers.

This is a great opportunity for local people to meet and mix whilst making a positive impact on the community.





# International Day of Families

International Day of Families is a day to remember the importance of families as a basic unit of society.

Why not run a “best mum” or “best dad” competition in partnership with the local school. Allow children to nominate their parents and carers for doing great things and allow them to get the recognition they deserve.



15th  
May  
2019

It would also be a great idea to run some local workshops aimed at bringing families together. These could be anything from more practical parenting workshops to fun family days such as craft classes.

Not only is this a great opportunity to make memories as a family but it also gives families who wouldn't otherwise meet each other the opportunity to socialise together and build stronger community links.



# Children's Art Week

Children's Art Week was started by Engage, an organisation aimed at bringing people and art together.

It is a UK wide run programme and this year, with the backing of the Arts Society, the week long event will invite schools, galleries, museums and community groups to devise and register visual arts events for children and families.



8th  
June -  
16th  
June  
2019

Helpful resources for running an event can be found online at <https://www.engage.org/childrens-art-week.aspx>

Why not run an art competition for different age categories with a prize of a family trip to the local museum or gallery, in keeping with the theme. You could display the art around your venue and host the big winners reveal.

Alternatively, you could arrange a day trip to a local venue such as a coach trip to the museum.

You could also use this week to spruce up something such as an old wall that could instead be covered in art!



# National Picnic Week

National Picnic Week is a great excuse to grab your blankets and picnic hampers and go and embrace the great outdoors.

The aim of the week is to encourage people to get together over a picnic to exchange recipes. Sharing ideas and thoughts on all things food and drink is what National Picnic Week is all about.



21st  
June -  
30th  
June  
2019

National Picnic Week is a great excuse to get the local community together.

You could link this in with the local school too, perhaps the children could bring cakes and teddy bears.

In the run up, you could also offer bakery classes to help people prep the perfect picnic foods.

You can find out more about National Picnic week at <http://www.nationalpicnicweek.co.uk/>





# International Volunteers Day

International Volunteers Day held each year is the chance for organisations and their volunteers to recognise and celebrate their success.

**VOLUNTEERS BUILD  
RESILIENT COMMUNITIES** **5th  
December  
2019**



This year, why not hold a celebratory event for the volunteers in your community. Get in touch with local charities and organisations and ask them to nominate their star volunteer. Give these volunteers the recognition they deserve.

You could also run a community wide donation by encouraging people to clear out of old clothes and food in the cupboards and bring them to you on the 5<sup>th</sup> and donate these to a homeless shelter.

How about a volunteer fair too, advertising the opportunities available locally? This would work great at local schools and colleges where students are looking for work experience opportunities.

