10 YEARS

# THE GREAT GET TOGETHER

19-21 JUNE 2026

# EVENT TOOLKIT

A project of

THE JO COX FOUNDATION

# GREAT GET TOGETHER 2026

**19–21 June 2026**

Inspired by Jo Cox's belief that *we have more in common than that which divides us*, the Great Get Together is a national celebration of connection. Across the UK, communities host events that bring neighbours, friends, and strangers together — sharing food, stories, and friendship.

**This toolkit will help you organise your own Great Get Together and bring people together in your community.**

**› SKIP TO DOWNLOADABLE MATERIALS**

# THIS YEAR IS SPECIAL

In the days that followed Jo's murder, communities across the country responded not with fear, but with connection — **coming together across difference and choosing unity over division.**

Ten years on, Jo's message matters more than ever. This anniversary is not just about remembrance. **It is a moment of choice.** Holding a Great Get Together in your local area is a simple but powerful way to **honour Jo's legacy and show what community really means.**

Every single Great Get Together event has the power to strengthen connections between us.

*"This anniversary is a moment of remembrance, but also one of incredible possibility. Over the last decade, we have seen that connection is a choice - and it's a choice that people across the UK are making every single day.* ***By acting on Jo's belief that we have more in common than that which divides us, we can shape a more hopeful, connected future together****."*

**Olivia Field, Chief Executive at The Jo Cox Foundation**

# REGISTER YOUR EVENT

You can **register your interest in organising an event** even if you only have a rough idea of what you want to do. By registering, we'll know that you're planning to organise an event and we can offer you support.

By registering, you will:

- **Be able to request physical resources**
- **Receive information on how to apply for a mini grant of up to £100**
- **Receive emails with tips to help you organise your event**

# PHYSICAL RESOURCE PACKS

This year we're excited to offer you a choice of either a digital or physical resource pack, thanks to the generosity of those who supported our Great Get Together crowdfunding campaign.

**Register now** if you would like to receive a physical resource pack, containing bunting (first 250 packs only), balloons, stickers, posters and postcards

# MINI-GRANT FUND

We know that, for some people, cost can be a barrier to organising a Great Get Together. This year, thanks to the support of GoFundMe, we're pleased to be able to offer a mini-grant fund for the first time.

We have £5,000 to give away to cover costs like hiring a space, providing refreshments or buying decorations. These grants of up to £100 will be available on a first come first served basis and, as the number of mini-grants available will be limited, we ask organisers to only apply if they would struggle to organise a Great Get Together without receiving a mini-grant.

**Register now for the Great Get Together** to receive more information about our mini-grants, including how to apply.

# 5 STEPS TO PLANNING AND RUNNING YOUR GREAT GET TOGETHER

## STEP 1 — Decide on your activities and register your event

A Great Get Together can take many forms. It can be large or small, formal or informal — the key is bringing people together. Start simple — there's no need for anything big or complicated. The beauty of the Great Get Together is that it can be whatever you want it to be.

Incorporating an activity at your event is a great way to help people connect. Doing an activity together takes the pressure off, making conversations flow more naturally.

Simple activities often work best — the goal is to create a welcoming space where people can come together and celebrate what they have in common.

### Activity Ideas:

### Sharing food

- Community picnics
- Neighbourhood barbecues
- Tea and cake gatherings
- Shared meals from different cultures
- Community potluck where everyone brings a dish to share
- Recipe swap table where people share favourite family recipes

**Tip:** Sharing food is a great way for people to connect. It can be an amazing opportunity to learn about other cultures, as well as sharing what we love about our own.

If you have food at your event, think about how you can help people feel welcome by considering a range of dietary requirements.

## Spoken word and storytelling

- Storytelling sessions
- Poetry activities
- Intergenerational conversations sharing experiences
- Open mic sessions where people can share a short story, poem or song
- Sharing favourite memories of the local area

**Tip:** Try organising memory-sharing circles in pairs or small groups first — then invite a few volunteers to share with the whole group. This builds confidence and helps turn personal stories into shared connections.

## Creative and cultural

- Music/dance or cultural activities
- Arts and crafts workshops or collaborative art projects like creating a shared mural where everyone can add a drawing or message
- Chalk painting on pavements where children and families decorate the ground with colourful drawings
- Decorating bunting where people design flags to hang around the event
- Community photo wall where people share photos or messages
- Intergenerational art between care home residents and school children

**Tip:** Could you showcase local talent or consider inviting performances from people from different cultures in your local area? Perhaps there are local artists or groups who could run a workshop.

**🔗GREAT GET TOGETHER STORY: MORE IN COMMON NOTTINGHAM WOMEN'S GROUP**

Read how a Great Get Together art exhibition in Nottingham helped women from diverse backgrounds build confidence, connection and belonging.

***"I loved the art sessions so much so it has given me the confidence and inspiration to paint a picture for our local children's hospital"***

## Sports and outdoor activity

- Group walk around the local area
- Group jogs
- Games or sports events like football, Zumba or an introduction to yoga
- Family sports activities like egg and spoon or fancy dress races
- Gardening activities such as planting flowers together in a shared space
- Treasure hunt
- Giant garden games such as giant Jenga or Connect Four

**Tip:** Boccia is a **Paralympic sport played from a seated position**, where players propel balls towards a white marker ball called the "jack." It's widely regarded as one of the most inclusive sports because assistive devices such as ramps can be used, allowing people with a wide range of abilities to take part together. Find out more

## Adapt an existing event

If there is a community event already happening in your area this summer like an established annual school summer fair, village fete, local sports day or community garden open day, you could use this as an opportunity to hold a Great Get Together event. With a little nudge in the right direction an existing community event can bring people from different backgrounds together.

If the event has run before – think about who usually comes, and who from the local community doesn't. Consider how they might be made to feel more welcome.

## STEP 2 — Choose a place and time

Where will your event happen? Pick a venue that is welcoming and accessible. Ideas include:

- Parks or outdoor spaces
- Community centres
- Libraries
- Schools
- Faith venues
- Workplaces or cafés
- On your street

**When:** This year most Great Get Together events will take place 19–21 June, near Jo Cox's birthday, but you can host yours whenever it works best locally.

**Plan ahead:** Think about whether you need permission to run your event in your chosen location:

- **Check if permission is needed** for council land, streets, or private property.
- **Apply for a temporary road closure** if you're holding a street party.
- **Inform your neighbours** about what's happening, when, and where.
- **Plan ahead** — allow six to twelve weeks for approvals for public spaces or road closures.
- **Visit** GOV.UK – guide to organising a street party for detailed guidance on permissions, road closures, licences, and hiring venues.

**Tip:** Think about how people will get there. Try to find a venue that is accessible by public transport and that offers level or easy access, as well as parking spaces for disabled people.

## STEP 3 — Invite people

Think about **who in your community you would like to bring together** and reach out to them directly. Include people from different backgrounds and local interest groups. For groups you don't know well, a quick online search can help you find contact details. **Working with other organisations can help you reach communities who might not usually attend the same events.**

- Neighbours and friends
- Schools and youth groups
- Residential care homes and nursing homes
- Faith groups
- Charities or volunteer groups
- LGBTQ+ groups
- Sports clubs
- Refugee and migrant organisations
- Arts groups
- Walking clubs
- Local businesses

### 🔗GREAT GET TOGETHER STORY: REFUGEE FAMILIES TAKE CENTRE STAGE

Read how Epsom's Great Get Together created a welcoming space where refugee families could connect, feel included, and be part of the community.

***"Today was truly unforgettable, filled with love, warmth, and a deep sense of safety. It was inspiring to see so many vulnerable refugee families brought together with the wonderful Epsom community. Thank you for creating such a special atmosphere and for all your efforts."***

## STEP 4 — Create a welcoming space

The Great Get Together is about bringing people together across communities and across difference. Make your event inclusive by:

- Inviting a wide range of people
- Planning activities that encourage conversation
- Ensuring your venue is accessible
- Greeting attendees and helping people connect
- Offer name stickers as people arrive
- Greet guests at the door — have a volunteer welcome people as they arrive and explain how to get involved.
- **Assign dedicated welcomers to sit with or introduce new attendees to others.**

**Tip:** Small gestures — like introductions or conversation prompts — can make a big difference.

### 🔗GREAT GET TOGETHER STORY: FRODSHOM BEE FRIENDS

Read how Frodsham Bee Friends' welcoming "meet and greet" approach helped recently widowed Annie feel included, build friendships, and become a local volunteer.

***"It can be intimidating for someone to walk into the parish hall on their own, not knowing anyone, so they have a policy of meeting and greeting everyone who comes to one of their events. These greeters then walk the attendee to a table where they're introduced to others and are sure to be welcomed."***

## STEP 5 — Spread the word

Let people know they are welcome. Use a mix of methods:

- Share posts on social media (see our examples in the Social Media Posts section)
- Send invitations through newsletters or mailing lists
- Put up posters in community spaces
- Ask local organisations to share your event
- Contact local media
- Register your event to promote it on our map (we'll email to let you know how and when you can do this)

Using **#GreatGetTogether** connects your event to the wider celebration happening across the UK.

**Tips:**

- Well-thought-through publicity materials can help people feel that an event is for them
- Use images that show people from the different communities you want to appeal to
- Clearly communicate event details that demonstrate everyone is welcome
- Encourage people to come on their own — or invite a neighbour they don't know well (yet!)
- Use Jo's name and the *"more in common"* message in your promotion to show everyone is welcome

## Looking for more ideas?

If you'd like to explore these ideas in more depth, the following resources may be helpful:

Unlocking Connection report – explores how creativity can help build meaningful connections and strengthen relationships within communities.

Harnessing Creativity for Meaningful Connections webinar – a practical resource sharing insights and examples of how creative approaches can support connection and engagement.

# Licences, safety and insurance

When planning a community event, different activities may or may not need licences or permissions depending on what you're doing and how big the event is

**Licences and permissions** – Many activities at voluntary events don't need a licence, but it's worth checking early if you plan anything that could be licensable (e.g. selling alcohol, charging for tickets, or providing entertainment)

**Health and safety** – The UK Government 'Can-do' guide says that health and safety law does not generally impose duties on someone who is not an employer, self-employed, or employee — but it encourages event organisers to think realistically about what could go wrong and take sensible precautions. It's a good idea to do a simple risk assessment and plan for safe movement, first aid, and emergency access

**Food and drink** – If your event includes food, follow basic food safety and hygiene rules. Depending on how food is provided or sold, you may need to register as a food business with your local authority

**Insurance** – There is no law requiring insurance for a voluntary/community event, though many organisers choose public liability insurance for peace of mind. Sometimes venues or councils may ask for it as a condition of using their space

**Accessibility and inclusion** – Make sure your space and activities are accessible to people with disabilities, families, and others with specific needs

**Martyn's Law** - asks organisers of large events to take reasonable anti-terrorism precautions, focusing on awareness and proportionate planning:

- For events with **200–799 attendees**, take **basic protective steps** and consider risks
- For events with **800+ attendees**, more comprehensive measures are needed

**Refer to these links for detailed guidance:**

GOV.UK – Can-do guide to organising voluntary and community events
GOV.UK – Organise a street party

# SHARE YOUR STORY

## Work with local media

- Talk to your local press to help promote your event
- Get started by using our free, downloadable template press release with a strong photo to send to your local newspapers and radio stations
- You could also invite them to your event on the day to cover the story and take photos

## Tell us how it went

We love hearing what took place and who came to the events, and we're always looking for stories of impact and ideas to make the Great Get Together even better.

So afterwards, please tell us how your event went by emailing **info@jocoxfoundation.org**

Each year we share a simple survey with event organisers to help us understand the impact the Great Get Together is having. Everyone who fills out our survey has a chance to win a £100 voucher

You can find the survey poster in the printable materials section here.

**Please note:** the QR code and survey link on the poster will not be active until the start of June.

***"The Great Get Together restores my faith in human kindness and confirms the need to connect and interact with others"***

# FUNDRAISE AT YOUR EVENT

Like all charities, The Jo Cox Foundation relies on donations to enable us to continue to run our brilliant projects, including the Great Get Together and the rest of our vital work. If you'd like to support us, then fundraising at your Great Get Together this June is a really easy way to do so.

We're here to support you every step of the way - from ideas about what kind of event to run, to those important logistics like where to send donations! After you register your event, we're always here to help.

If you have any questions, simply email info@jocoxfoundation.org to reach our team.

## Why fundraise?

The Great Get Together transforms communities, helping to bridge divides and bringing to life Jo Cox's belief that we 'have more in common than that which divides us'. However, without support, we won't be able to keep this vital work going, which is why we're asking you to consider fundraising for The Jo Cox Foundation at your Great Get Together this June.

Great Get Together events have an incredible impact on communities with over 100,000 people attending a Great Get Together every single year. Our 2025 Impact Report shows that:

- 79% felt a greater sense of belonging
- 88% felt a greater connection to others in their community
- 86% of people are more likely to help neighbours since attending an event

By choosing to fundraise for the Jo Cox Foundation at your Great Get Together event, you can help us to continue running the campaign and keep making a difference in communities across the UK.

***"It showed that no matter what our background we all have something in common. We are all human."***

# How to fundraise

Here are some ideas for fundraising at your event:

- Provide refreshments and ask for donations, whether it's a cup of tea, a glass of lemonade or a full-blown bake sale
- Hold a raffle with two or three small prizes
- Put out donation bowls around the event where people can put any cash they'd like to give
- Set up a GoFundMe page and send it to people when you invite them so that they can donate online

# FAQs

**Once I've collected donations on the day, how do I get them to you?**

If you're collecting money on the day, you can:

- Send us a cheque (made out to The Jo Cox Foundation)
- Send the funds by BACS (contact us at info@jocoxfoundation.org for our bank details)
- Make the payment by card via our website
- Donate it via your GoFundMe page (if you've set one up)

**I'd like people to donate online rather than with cash, how do I organise that?**

Setting up a fundraising page on GoFundMe is a quick and easy way to allow people to donate online. Simply follow the instructions below:

1. Go to gofundme.com/start and choose 'The Jo Cox Foundation' as your charity
2. Follow the instructions to create your page
3. Share the link so that people can donate

THE JO COX FOUNDATION

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER
INSPIRED BY JO COX

gofundme

# Fundraising Guide for the Great Get Together

We're proud to support your involvement in the Great Get Together, led by The Jo Cox Foundation. Taking place from 19–21 June 2026, this UK-wide celebration brings people together in the spirit of Jo Cox's belief that we have more in common than that which divides us.

Whether you're hosting a small gathering or a larger community event, this guide will help you set up your fundraiser, spread the word, and play your part in building stronger, more connected communities.

## Scan to start your fundraiser

or visit **gofundme.com/start** and choose 'The Jo Cox Foundation' as your charity

## Building out your fundraiser

- **Set your target:** Start with £500 if you're unsure -- you can change it anytime.
- **Add a photo, title and story:** Clearly explain why you're fundraising, share any key details, and let supporters know why their help matters.
- **Go live:** Confirm your details and click "Complete Fundraiser" to publish. Once live, your fundraiser is ready to start receiving donations.

## Simple ways to fundraise at your event

- Invite guests to make an **optional donation instead of charging entry**
- Display your **GoFundMe QR code** on tables or near food
- Run a **simple activity** like a bake sale, raffle or quiz
- Share a **short message** about why you're supporting The Jo Cox Foundation

## How to share your fundraiser

- Share privately with friends and family first via **WhatsApp or email**
- Post your fundraiser link on **Instagram, Facebook, TikTok or X**
- Use your **QR code** so people can donate easily at your event
- Share **photos and updates** to keep momentum going

# AFTER YOUR EVENT

## Complete the Great Get Together survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out our survey. Your feedback helps us understand the impact of events across the UK and improve support for organisers.

## Pay in any funds raised

If you collected donations during your event, please remember to pay these in. Every contribution helps support the work of the Jo Cox Foundation and enables us to support more initiatives that bring communities together.

## Keep the momentum going

Events that bring people together celebrate what unites us and help build stronger communities. As our Moment to Movement report shows, a single event can also spark longer-term action.

The **More in Common Network** connects local groups and partnerships across the UK who champion Jo Cox's "more in common" message and work to strengthen connection across difference.

If hosting a Great Get Together inspires you to support your community throughout the year — whether by joining an existing group or starting something new — explore our More in Common work and get in touch to find out how you can get involved.

THE JO COX FOUNDATION

THE GREAT GET TOGETHER
INSPIRED BY JO COX

# SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

When posting on social media, you could include messages such as:

***Join us as we celebrate connection, community and kindness at our Great Get Together.***

***📅 20 June 2026***
***#GreatGetTogether***

*Inspired by Jo Cox's belief that we have more in common than that which divides us, we're hosting a Great Get Together -* ***everyone is welcome.***

***#GreatGetTogether***

***Proud to be hosting a Great Get Together for the 10th anniversary this year!***

*Joining communities across the UK to celebrate what we have in common.*

***#GreatGetTogether***

***A cuppa, a chat, a chance to celebrate our amazing community 🌸 Join us 19–21 June for the Great Get Together.***

***#GreatGetTogether***

*We're bringing people together this June for the Great Get Together!* ***Come along to share food, stories and friendship with your neighbours.***
***#GreatGetTogether***

**Tag: @jocoxfoundation**

**Hashtag: #GreatGetTogether**

# Resources

## Digital Resources

*Please use the following images and graphics in any way that suits you to help promote your event.*

**Logos**

- Great Get Together logo
- Great Get Together logo (reversed)

**Web Banner**

- Great Get Together web banner

**Social Media**

- **Instagram:**
  - Great Get Together Instagram post
- **Facebook:**
  - Great Get Together Facebook post
- **LinkedIn:**
  - Great Get Together LinkedIn post
- **Twitter/X:**
  - Great Get Together Twitter/X post

## Printable Resources

*Please follow the link below to download our printable resources, which you are free to use in any way that suits you to help promote the Great Get Together.*

*These include **posters, postcards, leaflets, selfie frames, roller banners, conversation menus and stickers**.*

**Printable Resources**