



...Bringing people together
to meet, listen and talk...

FAN – Friends and Neighbours

Where can I contact the FAN Charity or find a FAN Group?

Our free weekly FAN Groups meet in Cardiff, Barry, Bridgend, Swansea, Llanelli and online. Full information about times and locations and how to join visit <https://www.thefancharity.org/find-a-fan-meeting/search-all-fan-groups/>

For more information about FAN, to join our mailing list, or if you think we can work together in any way, contact the FAN Manager Sarah Duncan-Jones

Tel: 07880-630553

Email: Sarah.duncan-jones@thefancharity.org

Website: <http://www.thefancharity.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/THEFANCHARITY>

How can I support FAN?

All FAN Groups are free to attend but we are a charity and rely on funding to continue our work of developing and promoting FAN Groups. We are very grateful to our past and current funders and donors.

If you feel you are able to give, your help will mean that we can continue to host FAN Groups for free, for everyone. To explore ways to support FAN please visit: <https://www.thefancharity.org/donate-to-fan/>



FAN – Friends and Neighbours
2003 - 2023

Celebrating the FAN Charity's 20th Birthday



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Welcome to FAN at 20! The **FAN Charity** is a **vibrant Third Sector organisation** that supports **36 weekly face-to-face and virtual (online) meetings** in South Wales. A **friendly and relaxed way** for **local people** and those from **around the world** to **meet, listen and talk**. We **talk** about our **daily lives**, our **ideas** and our **experiences**. We celebrate **diversity**, help **overcome loneliness**, welcome those with a range of **health and other vulnerabilities** and offer **informal language practice** for both English and Welsh language learners. FAN is governed by **volunteer Trustees** who manage the small **staff team**. The key to FAN's growth and success are our **volunteer Facilitators** who make sure that FAN Groups run weekly and follow FAN's principles of welcome.

FAN's worth was recognised in 2021 with the granting of the **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**. There was a special mention of the rapid creation of our Virtual FAN Network during the Covid lockdown.

Once Strangers – Now Friends! The story of FAN Groups

FAN started in 2003: while in an ESOL class in Grangetown, an adult student asked how they could meet British people to practise English. Their teacher **Gill Saunders** came up with the



wonderful idea for FAN (Friends and Neighbours) Groups where people could meet for one hour a week in a spirit of friendship. The **FAN Model** ensures that each person taking part is given an equal turn to listen with respect and to speak without interruption.

FAN Groups have developed into an amazing network of diverse people in Cardiff and South Wales. In Virtual FAN people can join in, even if there is not a local FAN Group or they are unable to get out to one. It is wonderful to hear people say how much they have felt welcomed because of FAN Meetings. No-one has to come – people come when they want or when they can.

We have had people from over 120 countries taking part, of many beliefs, races, cultures and ages. We respect each person and accept they are entitled to their views. FAN attendees tell us how much friendliness and kindness they have received from others in FAN Meetings.

FAN's Vision

To promote community cohesion and social wellbeing by developing and strengthening good relations between individuals of all beliefs, races and cultures, thus fostering a spirit of kinship, mutual understanding and respect among the peoples of the world."

FAN Trustees work hard to ensure that FAN is well resourced, staffed, governed and evaluated in order to continue to grow and sustain FAN Groups across South Wales. We work collaboratively with our participants and other organisations and value, train, support and celebrate our wonderful volunteers.