



FAN – Friends and Neighbours

The FAN Charity

Virtual FAN summer 2020: key data points

Coming to Virtual FAN

43% of respondents attended FAN once a week

57% of respondents attended FAN more than once a week

Respondents are able to attend more than one Virtual FAN group a week – once you are comfortable with the technology, there are fewer physical barriers to attending and fewer competing activities.

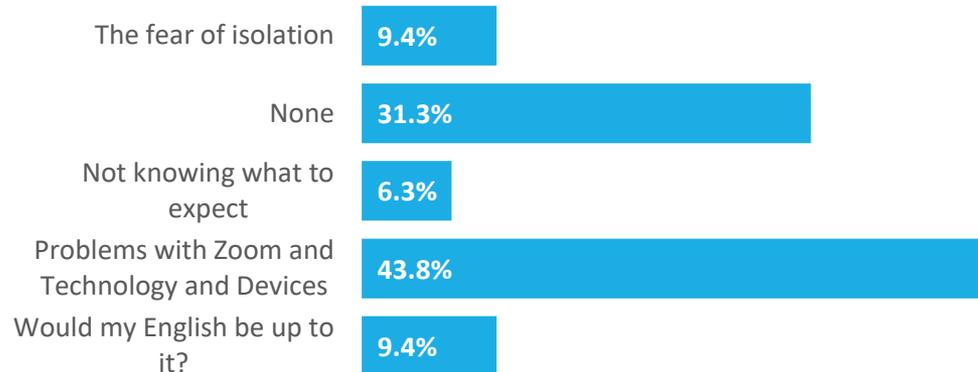
Between 6/4/20 and 6/7/20 there have been 1432 attendances at FAN



How did you find out about Virtual FAN?

74% of respondents found out about Virtual FAN by word of mouth – a friend, from FAN or from a tutor. Personal recommendation remains vital even in our new online world with new referrals coming from our work with eg REACH, ACE (Grow, Change, Live) Dimensions Cymru, Careers Wales.

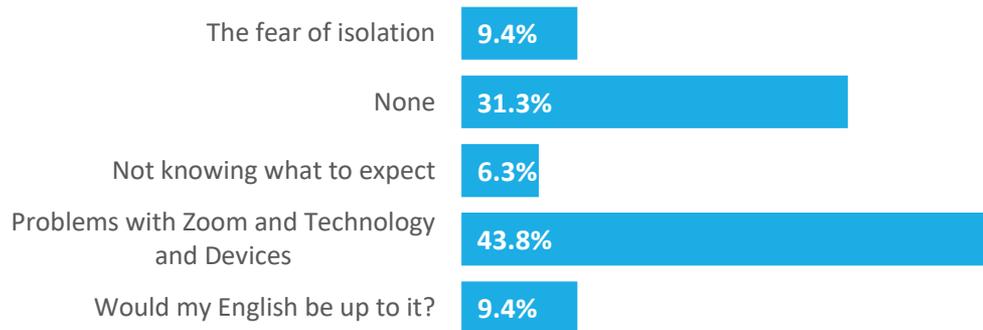
What were the challenges when you started attending virtual FAN?



What were the barriers to being part of Virtual FAN?

FAN staff and volunteers work hard to make access to Virtual FAN as simple as possible and are working with partners to break down barriers.

What were the challenges when you started attending virtual FAN?



“Love it. I would like to see it more accessible to the elderly who maybe can't get out & don't have necessary IT equipment or skills for virtual FAN. Loneliness is a huge issue that virtual fan could help with.”

Virtual FAN brings people from all over the UK and around the world. FAN has become a truly global community!

70% of attendees are from the UK. 30% are originally from more than 31 other countries including Poland, Eritrea, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, China, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Turkey, Indonesia, Ukraine, Brazil, France, Romania, Colombia, Yemen, Iraq, Portugal, Spain, Estonia, Croatia, Zambia, USA, Uganda, Zambia, Ghana, Czech Republic, Mexico, Japan, UK. With friends joining us at home from at least Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, USA, Brazil, France, Spain, Germany, Uganda, Czech Republic, Mexico, Japan as well as Sheffield, Chester, Cambridge, Treorchy – places where there are currently no FAN groups.



80% of respondents said that coming to FAN has helped their experience of lockdown. This is what people liked:

- accessible
- friendly
- lack of interruption
- stimulating discussion
- local and international people brought together
- English practice
- convenience

“I find the meeting time is my time. I don't need move off from home. It's not too long, or too short. It's a complement for my well-being.”

Some final comments from FAN participants...

“Virtual FAN is not a substitute for meeting in person, but I believe it’s a great resource for people who are housebound, or have mobility/travel issues - it has been a life saver during Covid”

“Everyone in the group worried if it was going to be small or if people didn't turn up; then we realised it was why it succeeded, because people knew it was ok not to come and they were still welcome when they did come after an absence...”

“I hope some of the Virtual FAN groups stay on even after lockdown because those who might struggle to get to FAN can still connect virtually.”

“Been a lifeline in many ways!”

“A big thank you to all Zoom facilitators and organisers and for FAN’S continual concern for involving as many people as possible”

