

VoNCon aims to bring people together and help reduce loneliness and isolation by organising board gaming, tabletop and role playing events in the Vale of Neath and the surrounding area. Alongside smaller regular events we will also organise a biennial (every two years) board game convention to further promote these goals, and have a positive impact on the local area.

VoNCon - short for "Vale of Neath Convention" - offers a different way to socialise and meet people. Board gaming, tabletop and role playing games are a great way to interact with others, foster new connections and develop meaningful relationships.

At a time in history where we have experienced collective trauma through a worldwide pandemic, where the cost of living crisis is real and is affecting everyone. Where there are volatile situations across the globe and people are as divided as ever, we want to help bring people together. There is a real need and desire for opportunities and spaces to socialise and come together, with many people wanting to socialise and connect but not knowing where to start.

There are individuals who don't have the right kind of environment or venue available for them to socialise in. Not everyone enjoys sports or attending pubs, some people don't drink alcohol and others don't feel comfortable or safe in venues that sell it.

There is currently nothing available for this demographic in the Vale of Neath. No opportunity offered to help them gather and socialise with others, without spending a lot of money to do so. The majority of spaces where people can gather and interact, such as gyms, soft play, cafes, pubs, etc, have high entry fees or expect visitors to purchase something whilst at the venue.

Board game cafes are great spaces for our kind of socialising but they essentially exist as a business looking to earn and make a profit for the owners. Coffee mornings work for some people, but can be the stuff of nightmares for others. Trying to make small talk with complete strangers can be difficult, however it can be harder for some Neurodivergent people, those with social anxiety and just anyone who has found themselves isolated for some time.

VoNCon is here to provide all the ingredients for people to come together and interact with each other more naturally. Through our project “Fostering Friendships through Tabletop Gaming” we will help create fun, loving and happy memories through tabletop gaming events that the community can look forward to.

We will be putting engaging games on the table for people to interact with one another in a more natural and relaxing way. We are utilising and booking established community spaces that are warm, safe and inviting. We are developing partnerships with local community groups, coordinators, charities and businesses who share our values and have similar aims to ours. We are curating a board game library and recruiting volunteers to help teach these games and run Dungeons & Dragons sessions where possible.

VoNCon has the extraordinary potential to produce a real positive lasting impact on individuals and the community as a whole, but in order to achieve this we need you. We need people to get inspired, get involved and get in touch. We have an exciting journey ahead of us, so Grab your Ticket to Ride and jump on board.