

Stories from the Valleys Community Pack



What is “The Stories from the Valleys” project?

Stories of the Valleys is all about bringing to light the everyday, yet important, conversations that occur in communities, schools, colleges, the workplace, sports clubs and beyond! The goal is to create useful material that can be used to encourage people to explore and understand key issues in their community, and to create new ways of addressing these issues together.

To take part, all you have to do is go out into your local community and interview someone about an issue. For example, you might ask a friend or neighbour about their experience of how their community is changing. We call this “Citizen Journalism”. Anyone can be a citizen journalist by using our story collecting app, SenseMaker[®], to record their interviews.

This story collecting method is based on twenty years of research and experience. We now we want to open this up as much as possible as a way of bringing individuals, communities, and governments together to understand what is going on, what is going well – what not so well – and what matters most.

What this means is that you will have access to the data collected by you and by others in your community, and there will be follow up events where individuals and groups can come together to discuss what happens next? The idea is that through collecting and sharing stories, communities are able to develop local solutions to local problems, and help influence government decisions by asking “How do we create more positive stories like this, and less negative ones like that?”.

So, get involved, have your say, and make a difference
where it matters most.

<https://valleysstories.com/en>

#TalkValleys



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

What is in it for me?

As an individual

What this means is that YOU can explore the key issues in your community. You and your community decide what is important, and work with others to do something about it.

There will also be opportunities for accredited training and rewards for completing challenges.

“Exploring the stories of the past and present through the eyes of the future”



What is in it for us?

As an organisation

The project aims to provide tools and training for people, communities, and organisations to engage in meaningful conversation through “Citizen Journalism”, as well as using the data collected to bring about positive local action, and to inform work and bids based on local evidence.

We are looking for community groups, community centres, organisations, anyone and everyone can get involved.

As a collaborative project across the South Wales Valleys the information coming out of the project will be available to all those taking part. We are working to create a rich and varied set of information where people and organisations can make a small contribution of their time in return for access to something much bigger!

The information collected will also be used to inform the Valleys Task Force plan, using real life experiences to influence Government strategy.

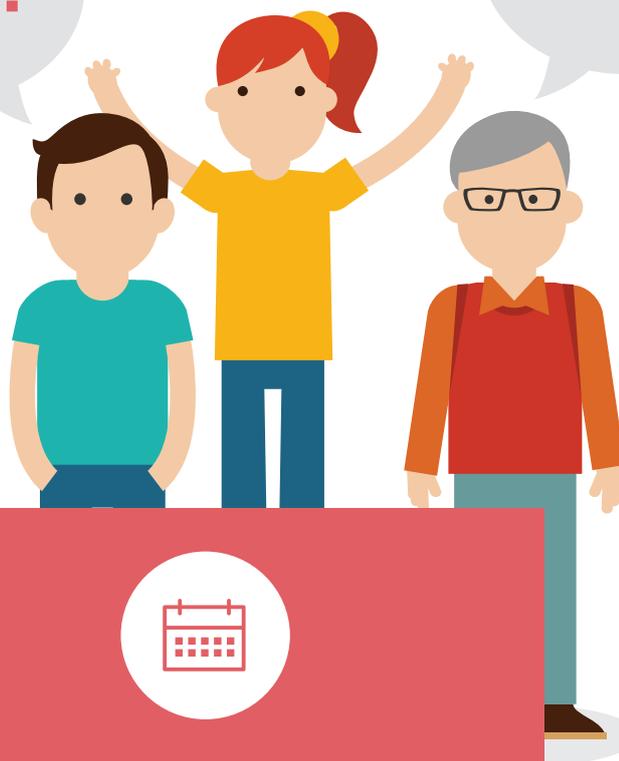
“Local solutions to local problems”



How do I get involved? What do I do?

Lots of options...

Whether you are an individual or part of a club or organisation, there are lots of ways to get involved. You can choose whichever option(s) you are most comfortable with, you can choose one or all of them!



Share a story / share as many stories as you wish.



Choose to keep a journal on SenseMaker®, i.e. share a story at least once a week. Once every two days is ideal.



Choose to interview others for their stories – become a citizen journalist!



Share the URL links with your friends and family so that they can give their stories too.

If you would like help getting started please contact us at: hello@valleysstories.com

<https://valleysstories.com/en>

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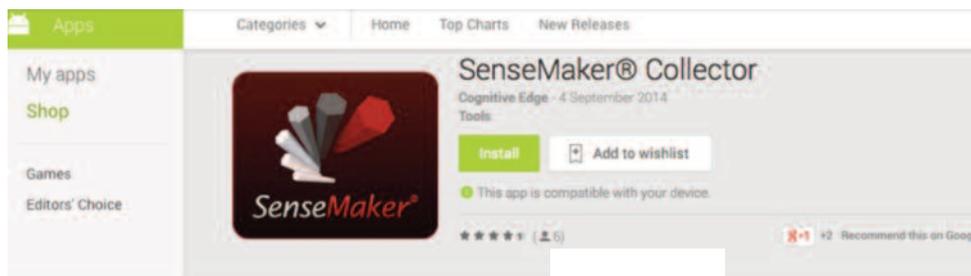


SENSEMAKER

I'm interested, how do I get started?

Instructions for downloading and using the iOS and Android apps

1. Launch your iTunes/App Store or Play Store on your mobile device or computer.
2. Search for 'SenseMaker'.
3. You should see the following results:



SenseMaker
By Cognitive Edge Pte Ltd
Open iTunes to buy and download apps.

[View More by This Developer](#)

Description
SenseMaker® enables organisations to better understand the environment in which they work by gathering the micro-narratives of day-to-day conversations along with answers to questions about shared micro-narratives. Responses to different sets of questions about day-to-day experiences provide insights into the way people understand their world and identity across selected contexts. As such, SenseMaker® provides an advanced decision support tool for commercial organisations, NGOs and governments.

[View in iTunes](#) [SenseMaker Support](#)

SenseMaker Explorer
By Cognitive Edge Pte Ltd
Open iTunes to buy and download apps.

[View More by This Developer](#)

Description
SenseMaker® Explorer for iPad, provides access to material collected through SenseMaker® Collector for iPad and iPhone, iOS and web capture. Through simple visual representations, it provides access and basic analysis of material collected with SenseMaker® Collector in the form of text, recordings and images. It is part of a suite of sense-making tools that provide quantitative approaches in what has been a qualitative field.

[SenseMaker Explorer Support](#)

4. Download the one if you're on Android, the two if you're on iOS. Please note that the Android app is for collection only. The iOS apps provide data collection (Collector) – iPhone and iPad – and exploration (Explorer) – iPad only.
5. Once you've downloaded the app it will ask you to input some profile data. Please provide your information and when it asks you for a "Link ID" please enter the last 6 digits of your mobile number. We will not share this information with anyone else, or use it to contact you.
6. For **SenseMaker® Collector**, we've created the Activity code: **VTFCommunity** – where the option reads 'Download Activities', key in: **VTFCommunity** (case sensitive)
7. After the code has been downloaded, tap 'Select Activity'. The activity will be listed; select it to continue.
8. Start entering data to get yourself familiarised with the flow, or start showing it to your audience and getting them engaged.
9. For iPad **SenseMaker® Explorer**, tap 'Library', and enter the Download Code: **VTFCommunity**
10. Tap on each triad, dyad or Stones to display the data signified to it. Draw a 'rubber band' around any cluster or pattern that interests you to view percentages, number counts and narratives.

<https://valleystories.com/en>

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Who has set up the research?

The project is delivered as part of the Valleys Taskforce, which was setup by the Welsh Government to support community-led transformation in the Valleys. Stories of the Valleys is delivered in partnership with the Cynefin Centre, to help people influence and make decisions about their communities.

Privacy, Ethics and Safeguarding

When you share or collect an experience, we won't keep any record of personal details. Privacy is important to us and we promise to respect your personal information. We collect all information lawfully in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We ask that you please do not record the names of other individuals, or street names in your story.

Please note that if any risk of serious harm is disclosed and picked up by the research team, necessary safeguarding steps may need to be taken. If you are taking part as an organisation, please follow your safeguarding policy. If you are taking part as an individual and have any concerns or like to discuss this further, please contact: bsmith@interlinkrct.org.uk

Contact

For more information please visit our website: valleysstories.com/en

If you have any questions about the community – based efforts, get in touch with us at: hello@valleysstories.com

If you have any questions about SenseMaker® and the methodology, get in touch with our Cynefin Centre contact, Jules.Yim: jules.yim@cognitive-edge.com

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