

Celebrating 50 years of Listening at Swansea Branch

&

20 years Prison Listeners Scheme in H.M.P. Swansea



Swansea Branch



H.M.P. Swansea

Founded in London by Chad Varah in 1953, Swansea Samaritans was the first branch to open in Wales. Opening in 1961, the demand for ‘a listening ear’ was such that in 1966 the branch campaigned for more volunteers. 50 years later the services offered to support those who are distressed, despairing or suicidal have expanded and now include contact by telephone, email, SMS and face-to-face meetings.

The Prison Listening Scheme was introduced in H.M.P. Swansea in 1991. The scheme involves Samaritans training selected inmates, called ‘listeners’, so they can support other inmates who are in distress or suicidal. Samaritans meet with the listeners weekly to offer support and ongoing training when necessary.



Swansea branch outreach vehicle

The branch runs several outreach programmes, visiting schools and local community groups giving talks about emotional health and wellbeing. They also work to raise awareness of their services by attending local events.



Eisteddfod 2011

The Samaritan outreach vehicle is equipped to enable volunteers to talk to those in need confidentially. One of the vehicle's key benefits is the opportunity to respond quickly to support communities directly affected by suicide.

Fundraising & Donations:



Situated in the Uplands, the Samaritans Charity Shop was opened in April 2002. Run by a small group of dedicated volunteers the shop accepts donations of clothes, books, bric-a-brac, games etc. If you are interested in volunteering in the shop please telephone: 01792 510954.

Each Samaritan Branch is self funding and the money made in the Shop, other fundraising events and personal donations are vital to maintain the services

**currently provided. If you wish to make a personal donation please send it to:
Swansea Samaritans. 17 St. John's Road, Manselton. Swansea. SA5 8PR.
Telephone Number: 01792 655991.**

Volunteering:

**If you would like to join our happy and diverse team please email
jacquelinesams@hotmail.co.uk or telephone 01792 655991. Open evenings are
held several times a year where volunteers will explain about training,
commitment etc.**

Past and Forthcoming Events:



**In recognition of their 50th
Anniversary Swansea
Samaritans are planning a
number of events. One of
which will be a 50 mile walk
in and around the city.**

**Swansea Samaritan Parachutes
to raise funds.**

Working in Partnership:

**Recently, Network Rail has launched a new initiative to reduce levels of suicide.
Working in partnership with Samaritans, volunteers attend Network Rail
premises raising awareness of the need for good emotional health, conducting
fact-to-face meetings when required and supporting Network Rail staff at
appropriate times.**