

## Facebook

If you are a member of a club or group you'll know how much fun it is to share interests, catch up on news, pass around photos and get to know the other members. But what happens if they, or you, move away and you don't get to see them so often?

Of course you could write, phone, email or text. Another option is to join a social network on the Internet and become a member of an online community.

Social networking sites are websites that allow people to catch up with each other, make new friends, share the latest news, photos, videos and chat – no matter where they are in the world.

There are also social network sites that have a specific theme – such as books, music, nature etc. where people can join up and interact with other people who have similar interests.

Some examples of social networking sites are:

**Google +** - Google's social network site

**My Past My Present** - [www.mypastmypresent.eu](http://www.mypastmypresent.eu) - a site where senior citizens can socialise

**Linked In** - [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) - a social network site usually used by business people

One of the most popular social networking sites today is called Facebook. Many people use this site to stay in contact with friends and family.

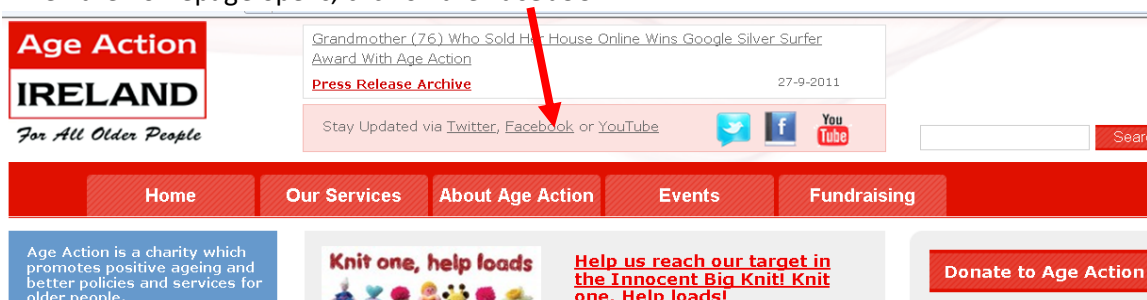
Individuals using Facebook usually set up a Facebook profile – this type of Facebook account allows you to manage your information, decide on privacy settings and keep your page private if you want to, this means that only the people you accept as 'friends' can view your information.

Many companies and clubs set up a Facebook '**Page**' account, rather than a '**Profile**' account. Facebook 'Pages' are viewable by the general public. This means that anyone can view their Facebook page, even if they are not a member of Facebook.

### Browse a Facebook page

Step **1** Go to [www.ageaction.ie](http://www.ageaction.ie)

When the homepage opens, click on the **Facebook** Link

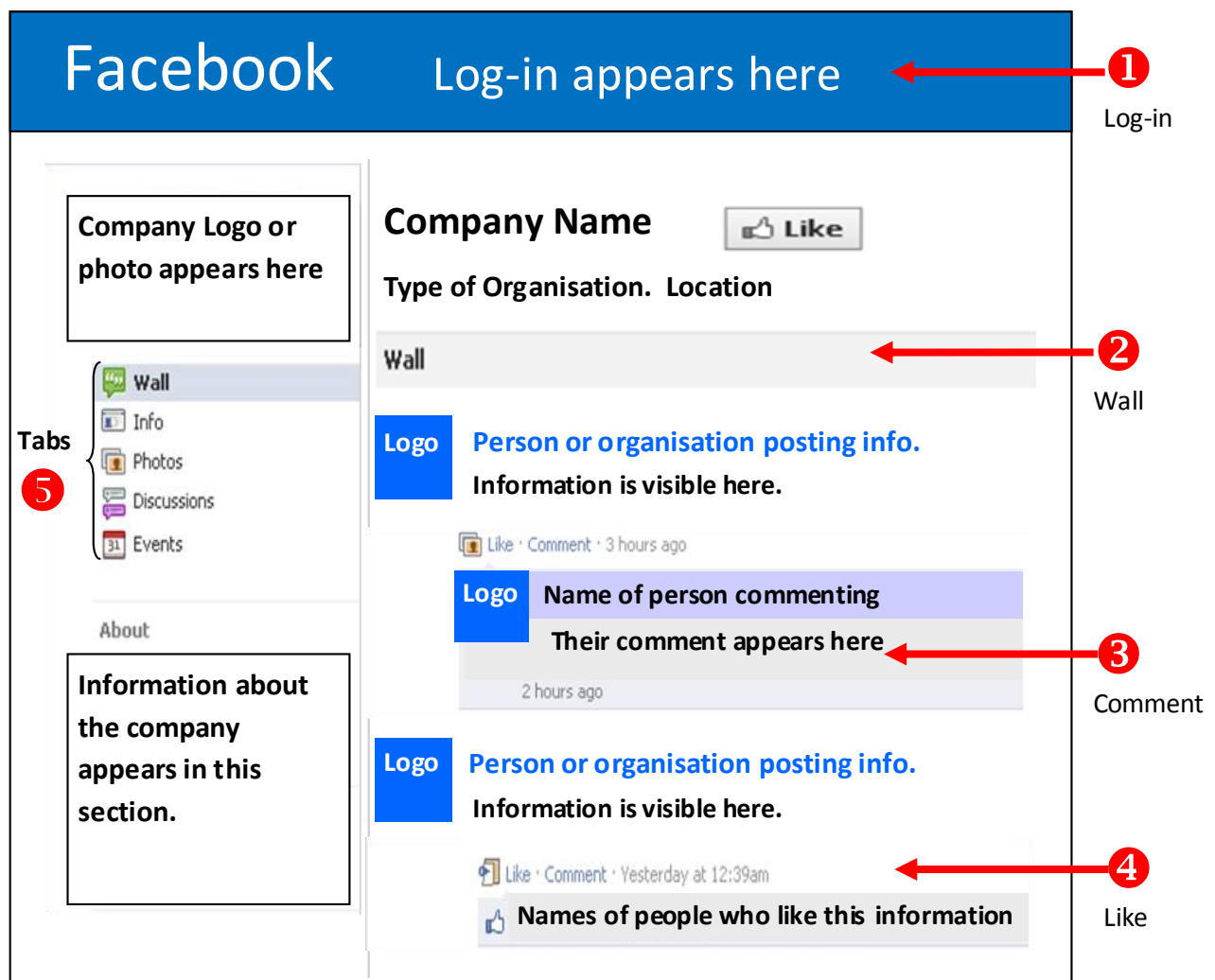


The Age Action Facebook page will appear



Step **2** Explore the page

## Facebook Page Explained



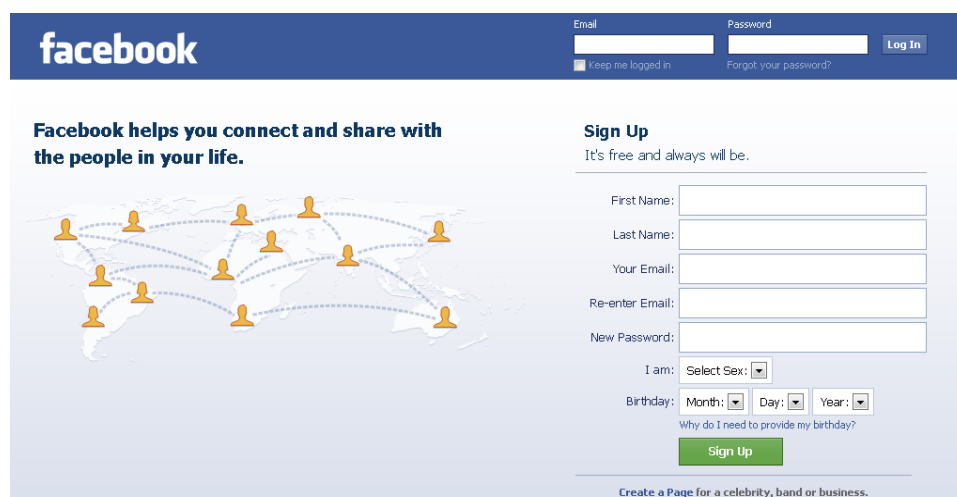
- 1 **Facebook login.** This will appear at the top of a Facebook page if you are not a member of Facebook, or are not logged in. You can ignore this.
- 2 **Wall.** This is the main 'space' on Facebook. The organisation can post information about events that have taken place, upcoming events, news of interest, photos and links to articles of interest.
- 3 **Comment.** People who are members of Facebook can 'comment' on the information on the wall by clicking on the comment button – their name, comment and how long ago the comment was made will appear on the wall.
- 4 **Like.** People can also indicate whether they like information or pictures on the wall by clicking on the 'Like' button – their name will appear beside the 'thumbs up'.
- 5 **Tabs.** You can click on different tabs to look at more information about the organisation e.g. photos they have posted, upcoming events and discussions.

## Signing up for Facebook

To join any social network you will first need to create a “**profile**” – which is a personal account, where you give some basic information about yourself, for example, your profile user name, where you're from and what music and interests you like. You can then decide whether you want to make your profile private or public. So, if you mark your profile '**private**', nobody should be able to access any of your personal details unless you approve and add them to your friends list first.

**A word of Warning:** Be careful about how much personal information you put up online, e.g. don't give out your house address or telephone number. Remember the Internet is a public resource. Only put up information you are comfortable with anyone seeing and prevent identity theft by limiting the amount of information you put online.

To use or “join” Facebook you need to **Sign Up**. You can do this by going to [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com)



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook website's sign-up page. At the top, there is a blue header with the Facebook logo on the left and login fields on the right. The login fields include 'Email' and 'Password' text boxes, a 'Log In' button, and links for 'Keep me logged in' and 'Forgot your password?'. Below the header, the main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, there is a graphic with the text 'Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.' and an illustration of a globe with several orange person icons connected by blue dotted lines. On the right, there is a 'Sign Up' section with the text 'It's free and always will be.' Below this, there are several input fields: 'First Name:', 'Last Name:', 'Your Email:', 'Re-enter Email:', and 'New Password:'. There are also dropdown menus for 'I am:', 'Select Sex:', 'Month:', 'Day:', and 'Year:'. A link 'Why do I need to provide my birthday?' is located below the birthday fields. At the bottom of the sign-up section is a green 'Sign Up' button. At the very bottom of the page, there is a link that says 'Create a Page for a celebrity, band or business.'

1. When you go to Facebook.com, you see a screen that asks you to login or sign up for a free account. Fill in the information, then click on "**Sign Up**," which takes you to a Web form.
2. Fill out the form that asks for your full name, your current status, email address, a password and your birthday. You'll also have to type in a series of letters and numbers for a security check as well as check a box saying that you understand and agree to the terms of use and privacy policy. Click the "**Sign up now!**" button when you have completed the form.
3. Wait for your confirmation email. Facebook sends this email to confirm your registration. When you get the email, click on the link in the email to confirm that you did in fact register for a Facebook account. You will then be logged into Facebook.
4. Once you have signed up you can invite people you know to become your "**friend**" on the site. When they become a friend on Facebook you have access to view their profile and they can view yours. You can send messages to your friends and share photographs; you can click on their name and view their Facebook page.