

**15 February 2011**

**Press release**

## **Rural events meet the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

A Council-led initiative in the Vale of the Glamorgan, the Rural Events Network (REN), is launching its new website this weekend to help local events organisers save money, and gain invaluable advice on organising events in the Vale.

The Network will be launching the new website to its members at the Cowbridge Farmers Market on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February between 10am and 12noon. It is hoped the new dedicated website will increase the profile of the Rural Events Network and the support it offers local event organisers in the rural Vale.

Sarah Jones, events officer for the Vale of Glamorgan council, said “Rural events big and small have a great impact on a local community. A show, fair or village fete brings together people from across the south Wales region, increasing tourist numbers and showing what the area has to offer. Through encouraging people to work together and share creative ideas, events create a sense of community spirit, which in turn increases community cohesion.”

Members and prospective members will be able to see the new website for the first time at the REN stand at the market. The website has been designed to bring members together so they can share ideas more effectively and to give more detailed information about the Network to event organisers that are thinking of joining

Sarah continued; “I am delighted to be launching a new dedicated website for Rural Events Network. I am extremely happy with the response that REN has had so far from its members and I hope the website will add to the success we have had so far.

“The new site will allow members easy access to information as well as being the first port of call for new members.

“As we continue to grow we are hoping that more and more event organisers will share their experiences and therefore help to create a range of diverse and entertaining events across the rural Vale.”

Polly Wilson, event organiser for the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, said: “Over the past few years the Rural Events Network has helped us immensely primarily in cutting our outgoings. Working closely with Sarah Jones we discussed the type of equipment that we use each year at Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, for example gazebos, fire extinguishers, handwash units and the Network have been able to source this equipment for us free of charge.

“It is a great facility that we are so lucky to be a part of. Sarah has a wealth of knowledge to share and if we can all contribute with our own pearls of wisdom, the events in The Vale of Glamorgan will become even stronger.”

REN, which was set up in 2009, supports its members by offering free hire of event equipment and free networking and advice sessions.

Event organisers in the rural Vale can become members of the network and take advantage of the equipment available which includes gazebos, two way radios, high-visibility jackets and hand wash units.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Rural Events Network please contact Sarah Jones on 01446 704737 or [sejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:sejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

**Ends**