

Creative Rural Communities is the Vale of Glamorgan Council's rural regeneration initiative and works with communities to develop innovative projects and ideas that will benefit the long term social and economic wellbeing of the Vale.

Since 2004 we have helped to improve the quality of life in rural areas through funding projects that support:

- Improved services for the rural economy and population • Village renewal • Tourism activities
- The conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage • The diversification of farming families into non agricultural activities
- The creation and development of micro-enterprises

From the opening of five coastal campsites to the launch of a new heritage trail celebrating the life of one of the area's most colourful characters, 2012 has seen to date, the introduction and development of both new and existing projects which help to improve the quality of life in the rural Vale. Here are a few recent highlights...

PERFECT PITCH COASTAL CAMPING



While the Vale of Glamorgan is home to an array of quality accommodation providers, there has been an increasing demand for more sites that cater for campers and travellers on a budget.

At the end of 2011 we launched the Coastal Camping pilot scheme, offering local landowners assistance with planning, funding, licensing and practical advice needed to set up trial campsites.

With the recent launch of the Wales Coast Path and the Vale of Glamorgan playing host to the 2012 National Eisteddfod, this summer was the ideal time to encourage visitors to pitch up their tents and see what the area has to offer.

Five local landowners took part in the trial, with each new campsite welcoming campers for up to 28 days. Perfect Pitch Coastal Camping

was endorsed nationally by the Guardian, Daily Express, Western Mail, Visit Wales and www.coolcamping.co.uk, and supported locally by regional press including the GEM series, South Wales Echo, Glamorgan Gazette and Buzz Magazine.

Over 600 campers pitched up at one of the five new campsites over the summer, making the most of all the local amenities and exploring the Vale's unique heritage during their stay. The Heritage Coast Campsite in Monknash has since been granted planning consent to operate as a permanent site from 2013.



WALKING IN IOLO MORGANNWG'S FOOTSTEPS



To celebrate the life and work of Iolo Morgannwg, an architect of the Welsh nation, a new 6.5 mile walking trail was launched at this year's National Eisteddfod.

Iolo Morgannwg (1747-1846) was a romantic poet, antiquary, literary and historical forger, and one of the most extraordinary characters to have lived in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Starting at the Old Hall in Cowbridge, the walking route encompasses 12 sites around the Vale of Glamorgan and a number of Iolo's old haunts including The Bear Hotel which Iolo frequented during his youth and Stalling Down, the beauty spot that played host to the first meeting of the Gorsedd of the Bards, designed to raise the profile of the Welsh language and culture.

The new walking trail, developed with the support of Professor Geraint E Jenkins, an eminent expert on Iolo Morgannwg, gives visitors the opportunity to explore the history behind some of the Vale's most beautiful sites.

Walking trail booklets are free to pick up at Costa and The Bear Hotel on Cowbridge High Street, The Bush Inn in St Hilary, The Blue Anchor in East Aberthaw and St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit Major.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

COMMUNITIES COME OUT IN FORCE



Residents of the rural Vale have been given the opportunity to share their views at a number of community consultation events held by Creative Rural Communities.

The consultations aim to encourage residents to express their thoughts on what they particularly like or wish to see introduced and improved in their communities. Feedback from the discussions is later used to help identify and develop future community projects with

support from Creative Rural Communities.

Past attendance at these events has been great and residents' participation highlights the strength of community spirit across the rural Vale. Three rural villages piloted the consultations, Ogmores by

Sea, Peterstone Super Ely and Bonvilston. Following their success, a further six consultations have since taken place in Ewenny, Dinas Powys, Cowbridge, Colwinston, Llandow and Michaelston-Le-Pit.

As a result of these community consultations,

several projects are being progressed in villages across the rural Vale, including new benches in Peterston Super Ely and projects focusing on new play areas, mobile cinemas and community libraries are currently underway in other villages.

If you think your village would benefit from holding a community consultation then please get in touch.

Contact: Mari-Wyn Elias Jones on 01446 704637 or mwelias-jones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk /

Jane Williams on 01446 704755 or jewilliams@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

RURAL CINEMA TRIALS

Cinema is a theme which is frequently raised at our community consultation events across the Vale.

Earlier this year, a training session took place at Dinas Powys Parish Hall whereby 24 community representatives from across the rural Vale were invited to attend a talk from Moviola, the South and West's Rural Multiplex.

Moviola supplies films and operates a network of 90 community run cinemas across Dorset, Devon, Hampshire, Somerset and Wiltshire. The session covered everything from audience development and film programming to how to set up and utilise the equipment.

In order to meet the demand for cinemas in the rural Vale, a new set of equipment will soon be purchased through the Rural Events Network in order to introduce trial cinema screenings at community venues such as village halls and pubs.

If the screenings are deemed a success, the venues will be entitled to apply for funding to buy their own set of equipment under the Rural Hubs Grant Scheme.

If you are interested in getting involved in community cinema then please get in touch.



NEW EQUIPMENT FOR RURAL EVENTS NETWORK

Since 2009, the Rural Events Network has been giving event organisers in the rural Vale the opportunity to share ideas and experiences in addition to hiring event equipment free of charge.

Membership has gone from strength to strength and the Rural Events Network has now risen to over 100 members. This summer, the network has invested in a wide range of new equipment including

20 gazebos, a new PA system, an array of children's games and a huge spider dome, which at 8m wide certainly attracts attention! The new equipment made its debut at the Cowbridge Book Festival earlier this year and has

since been used at a variety of large and small scale events across the rural Vale.

In order to join the network, members need to organise a non-profit making event in the rural Vale that is open to everyone.

For more information and to book equipment visit ruraleventsnetwork.co.uk





PRIDE IN OUR HERITAGE



www.illtudsgalileechapel.org.uk

Creative Rural Communities has recently approved grants for heritage, including £70,000 and £64,635 for projects to assist with the restoration of Old Place and Galilee Chapel in Llantwit Major respectively.

The St Illtud's Church project aims to renew the currently roofless Galilee Chapel and bring it back to use as a visitors centre for education into Celtic Christian studies. In addition to providing an appropriate exhibition space for Celtic Christian stones, an archive room, toilets and a tea room are also being developed through the funding. The Heritage Lottery Fund has also awarded a grant of over £500,000 towards the project.

Old Place, a 16th century, Grade II listed monument,

was recognised as one of the most under threat buildings in Wales. It was previously owned by the Vale Council who sold it to a local stonemason with a passion for restoration. He has since received a grant of £70,000 from us to restore and stabilise a section of the castle, making this process viewable to the public.

The restoration project is also receiving financial support from Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service.

COMMUNITY FOODIE

Community Foodie is a project to identify, develop and support community food growing in the rural areas of the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Torfaen.

Our aim is to strengthen communities by increasing the amount of produce grown and consumed locally, in doing so developing valuable skills, promoting healthy lifestyles and bringing people of all ages together.

If you are interested in growing food or if you're a landowner who wants to explore growing opportunities, please contact **Rob McGhee** on 01446 704835 or rmcghee@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.



GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

We have a variety of grant schemes with grants of up to £70,000 available to support:

- Farming families to supplement their income by diversifying into other business areas.
- Physical external improvements to your village where these needs have been identified by the communities themselves.
- Projects that help to 'green' community facilities through energy waste reduction or the generation of renewable energy.
- Investment in natural, cultural and built heritage.
- Diversification of existing facilities such as a pub, shop or community space to offer new services for the community.
- New footpaths to link villages, people and places.

In the last year Creative Rural Communities is pleased to have financially supported the following projects:

| | Total Project Cost | Total Creative Rural Communities Grant |
|---|--------------------|--|
| BASIC SERVICES | | |
| St Athan Gathering Place – Blackout blinds for community cinema | £1,239.36 | £783.55 |
| St Brides Church Hall – Community library resources | £1,967.67 | £867.55 |
| NEW OR IMPROVED FOOTPATHS | | |
| Wenvoe – Twyn Yr Odyn | £5,506.93 | £3,854.85 |
| Llangan to Colwinston | £6,515 | £4,560.50 |
| St Mary Church | £11,996.84 | £6,696.84 |
| Hensol Bridle Path | £16,951.25 | £11,865.88 |
| Nash Point | £14,214.50 | £9,950.15 |
| HERITAGE | | |
| Cowbridge Charter Trust – Town Walls restoration and storytelling circle | £22,310.22 | £15,617.15 |
| Vale of Glamorgan Literary Society – Ballads project | £6,810.00 | £4,767.00 |
| Llantwit Major Old Place – Restoration | £98,602.83 | £64,635.39 |
| Llantwit Major Galilee Chapel – Restoration | £101,204.97 | £70,000.00 |



Total Project Cost

Total Creative Rural
Communities Grant

VILLAGE RENEWAL

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Rhoose Celtic Way Community Hall – Solar panels | £7,500.00 | £5,250.00 |
| Peterston Super Ely Community Council – Park benches | £2,975.76 | £2,083.03 |
| Penllyn Village Hall – Refurbishment | £5,700 | £3,990 |
| Colwinston Community Centre – Energy efficient heating | £3,103.20 | £2,172.24 |
| Pendoylan Village Hall – Energy efficient heating | £9,175.54 | £6,422.88 |
| Southerndown All Saints Church – New windows | £3,884.32 | £2,719.02 |
| Dinas Powys Murchfield Community Centre – Improved lighting | £2,394.00 | £1,675.80 |

FARM DIVERSIFICATION

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Phil Dando Racing – New race horse training facility | £59,690 | £40,000 |
| Stable Cottage – Creation of horse rug wash facility | £8,934 | £6,253 |
| Little Hamston Farm – Creation of three day eventing centre | £58,916 | £40,000 |

CONTACT US

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www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk



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