

●THE Dulais Valley has scooped a lottery grant to preserve and celebrate its heritage. The history of the Dulais Valley is to be collected and preserved thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The Dulais Valley Partnership (DVP), based in Seven Sisters, has been working closely with local community groups to secure Heritage Lottery Funding. The award of £49,000 will allow for the appointment of a community heritage officer to carry out a heritage audit of the Dulais Valley.

The project entitled Past is the Future aims to conserve and enhance Dulais Valley's diverse heritage by engaging communities and groups to identify, preserve and celebrate their heritage. The two-year project which began in January will include the production of a bilingual Dulais Valley heritage trail booklet, the creation of an interactive website and a portable heritage exhibition.

A series of workshops will be held with local community groups and residents to identify significant heritage sights in the area. The community heritage officer will also work with the four local primary schools and a comprehensive school in looking at what heritage means to the younger people of the Dulais Valley.

It is hoped that the project will encourage the participation of people who have not been involved in heritage before, as well as increasing volunteering opportunities in developing and supporting a legacy for future generations.

Commenting on the successful bid for funding, Stuart Douglas, project manager of the Dulais Valley Partnership said: "We are really excited and delighted at this opportunity to capture the heritage of the Dulais Valley. Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the rich and diverse heritage will be preserved for future generations."

Jennifer Stewart, HLF manager of Wales added: "This is precisely the type of local community project that we look to fund. This project will allow local people to find out more about their important heritage and in doing so will create an invaluable resource for anyone who wants to explore their past."

For further information please contact Katie Millien, Community Heritage Officer, Dulais Valley Partnership, Old Telephone Exchange, Brynhyfryd Terrace, Seven Sisters, Neath SA10 9BA. Telephone 01639 701880, email: katie@dulaisvalley.org.uk Website: www.dulaisvalley.org.uk