

**NEWS RELEASE from**

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working for rural prosperity



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**Devon Renaissance saves Okehampton Farmers' Market**

Devon Renaissance, the rural regeneration partnership organisation for the county, has stepped in with a grant of more than £10,000 to save Okehampton Farmers' Market.

The Farmers' Market has been using Okehampton Market Hall since 2003 but the premises are no longer available and the Farmers' Market Association decided an outdoor market in the precinct of St James' Chapel would be better, giving local people and visitors access to a range of high quality local products.

But this left the Association with the costs of purchasing awnings and other equipment for 25 stalls to provide an attractive, weatherproof and easily accessible facility. Together with banners, signs, a new website and leaflets this meant a bill of £18,500.

Now Devon Renaissance has stepped in with a grant of £10,811 to help the Association realise its plans. West Devon Borough Council has also contributed £6,000.

Robin Makeig-Jones, programme manager for Devon Renaissance, said: "This is an extremely worthwhile scheme which will help local farmers to sell their products and will mean people in the area as well as tourists will be able to access the excellent foods which are produced locally."

Rachel Stephens of Curworthy Cheese in Jacobstowe and chairman of Okehampton Farmers' Market Association, said: "We are delighted that Devon Renaissance has agreed to support our plans. Without this money we would have been struggling and this means we can keep going and open our new outdoor farmers' market in October."

Okehampton Farmers' Market is held on the third Saturday each month.

Ends

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Devon Renaissance is the rural regeneration partnership organisation for the county. It is a not for profit partnership of the private sector, local authorities and community-based organisations. The organisation is funded by the South West Regional Development Agency and North Devon, Torridge, West Devon and South Hams district and borough councils. Devon Renaissance provides grant funding and works with projects to help create prosperity and jobs and improve access to services in rural areas. It has funding of £7 million over three years which is estimated to be worth £20 million to the Devon economy with match funding.

[www.ruraldevon.org](http://www.ruraldevon.org)

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