

First Superwoman event in Newport sells out

Superwoman, the businesswomen's networking and fundraising group run by Bethan Darwin, of South Wales law firm Darwin Gray, has sold out its first event in Newport within days of being announced.

The two-course fundraising lunch at the Crown at Celtic Manor on Thursday April 29, with drinks reception sponsored by Gocompare.com, proved so popular that it's prompted the organisers to arrange a second fundraising lunch event for women across South Wales the following week.

James Sommerin, who won the Welsh heat in the BBC's Great British Menu 2009, is executive chef at both the three AA rosette

Crown at Celtic Manor and the Michelin starred Crown at Whitebrook, will be on hand to greet the Superwomen at the lunch.

Hayley Parsons, founder and chief executive of Gocompare.com and winner of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce Woman in Business Award 2009, said: "When Bethan asked us to get involved we were very happy to do so and to nominate the Joshua Foundation as the charity for the lunch.

. "It's great tribute to women in the area that despite the economic climate they are keener than ever to help other people."

Newport photographer Hazel Hannant is

also supporting the event and her photos will appear on the Superwoman website www.superwoman.org.uk.

The £25-a-head cost includes £6 which will be donated to the Welsh-based charity The Joshua Foundation to help provide holidays and experiences to children diagnosed with terminal cancer and their families.

The second lunch has been arranged at Holm House in Penarth on May 5 with Rosie Swale Pope as guest of honour.

On April 5, the 63-year-old adventurer starts a bold bid to run 26 marathons in 26 days to raise funds for the South Wales based children's hospice Ty Hafan, finishing the last of her runs on April 30l. The lunch, which Rosie sees as a finale to celebrate the end of her marathon of marathons, will also raise money for Ty Hafan.

• Superwoman, the networking and fundraising group for South Wales businesswomen was set up by solicitor Bethan Darwin in 2005. It has raised thousands of pounds for charities both in Wales and abroad. It has also provided inspiration to women across South Wales and encouraged them to celebrate their achievements. The website for Superwoman is www.superwoman.org.uk.