

NEWS RELEASE

Issued on behalf of Cancer Research Wales

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE TO CHILDREN IN WALES

Children are being asked to design a card for Christmas to help in the fight against cancer. Tens of thousands of youngsters across Wales will be challenged to take part in the competition organised by Cancer Research Wales.

The competition has two categories for ages 5 - 8 and 8 - 11 and already many schools have received their packs.

The design-a-card challenge has the theme 'A Very Welsh Christmas' and the two winning designs will make up a special Christmas card which Cancer Research Wales will sell all over Wales during the 2006 Christmas season.

It is hoped that teachers and parents will encourage children to use the weeks in the run-up to and including the festive holiday break to come up with some cracking Christmas designs. All the money raised from the sale of the special card will go towards the Cancer Research Wales' 40th Anniversary £1 million appeal.

The charity's fundraising director, Maggie Hughes said "For 40 years Cancer Research Wales has guaranteed that all the money raised in Wales is spent in Wales funding pioneering cancer research projects. The charity funds major projects every year and we are proud to be playing a crucial role in developing tomorrow's vaccines here in Wales"

"The Christmas card competition will play a big part in our 40th Anniversary fundraising and is particularly important as it involves children. We would like as many children to take part as possible to provide the charity with what will be a very special card for next Christmas"

Schools, youth groups and parents interested in getting involved in the Christmas Card Competition should contact Liz Andrews at Cancer Research Wales on 029 2031 6976. Cancer Research Wales based at Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff is the only totally independent cancer research charity in Wales and in the last few years has raised more than £3 million to fund research projects.

Cancer research Wales 2005 Christmas cards are available from the charity office on Cardiff (029) 2031 6976 or via their www.cancerresearchwales.co.uk website.

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Notes for editors

- Cancer Research Wales was formed by a board of Trustees in 1966 and is the only dedicated cancer research charity in Wales.
- The charity has its headquarters at Velindre Hospital in Whitchurch, Cardiff.
- Cancer Research Wales is a separate charity from Velindre Hospital and Cancer Research UK.
- All money raised by Cancer Research Wales is spent in Wales
- The money funds scientists and their pioneering cancer research projects around Wales.
- Cancer Research Wales also funds the only dedicated cancer library in Wales at Velindre Hospital.
- The charity's patron include Huw Edwards and Nigel Walker.
- The research team is headed by Professor Malcolm Mason.
- Over £3 million has been raised by the charity in the last few years alone.

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