

## NEWS RELEASE

Issued on behalf of Cancer Research Wales

(Suggest file pic of last year's switch on)

Date November 18 2005

### CHRISTMAS CASH FOR CANCER CHARITY

A CANCER charity is set to cash in at a Christmas lights switch on in Cardiff.

Cancer Research Wales will be receiving a record breaking donation from the Whitchurch Traders' Association when they switch on the Christmas lights this week. (WED 23 NOV)

The charity would usually receive any left over money from the Whitchurch Christmas lights fund, but this year will be gaining almost all the money, as very few repairs to the lights are needed.

The majority of the traders make a donation each year to help fund the Whitchurch lights – renowned as one of the best festive displays in South Wales – and all that money is this year going to Cancer Research Wales.

This Wednesday's switch on in Merthyr Road is set to be a festive extravaganza, with a host of attractions in the village before the lights are officially switched on by Red Dragon FM presenter Claire Lloyd.

The proceeds of the annual Christmas Lights raffle will also be donated to Cancer Research Wales, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary next year.

Based at Velindre Hospital in Whitchurch, all the money raised by Cancer Research Wales is spent in Wales, funding pioneering cancer research projects carried out by [scientists in Welsh hospitals](#).

The charity is also being helped out by pupils from Whitchurch High, who are giving up their free time to take part in a bucket collection during the switch – on.

Hairdresser George Lazarou, chairman of the Whitchurch Traders' Association, said:

“This is a great community event. Cancer Research Wales is a big part of the Whitchurch community, as its headquarters are based here. It's a really important charity which I think many of us will probably need at some point in the future.”

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Alan Bevan, who runs the Post Office in Whitchurch, said: “This event has got bigger and better every year. It’s very family orientated, and everyone gets involved. It’s great that Cancer Research Wales can benefit from all the festivities.”

Elizabeth Andrews, assistant fundraiser at Cancer Research Wales, said:

“We are delighted the Whitchurch traders are supporting a local charity in the run-up to Christmas. Businesses throughout Whitchurch village have generously donated prizes for the Christmas Raffle, with tickets available at our Cancer Research Wales shop, Merthyr road.”

## **Notes For Editors**

- Cancer Research Wales was formed by a board of trustees in 1966
- The charity’s headquarters is at Velindre Hospital in Whitchurch, Cardiff
- All money raised by Cancer Research Wales is spent in Wales
- The money funds vital research projects, doctors and scientists in Welsh hospitals
- Cancer Research Wales also funds the only dedicated cancer research library in Wales
- The charity’s patrons include Nigel Walker and Huw Edwards
- 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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