



## News Release

**PR 4438**

12 January 2011

**Draft**

### **Join the Library and get Free Leisure Centre Pass**

Library and leisure centres in Powys are joining forces this month to encourage people to do something new.

Information about joining the library will be available at all the county's sports and leisure centres. As part of the campaign, anyone taking-up membership of a Powys County Council library between 20-30th of January will receive a voucher for free weekend use of the squash, badminton, soft tennis, racket ball, indoor tennis and table tennis facilities at a Powys leisure or sport centre.

Eligible membership forms are available at all Powys leisure and sports centres. To redeem your voucher, simply take your completed form and proof of address to your local library.

Kay Thomas from Powys County Council's Library Service, said: "The New Year is a great time to learn a new skill or to take some time out from our busy lives. Don't miss your chance to be part of this national celebration."

The campaign is supported by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Libraries for Life programme and is part of an all Wales festival and celebration of libraries.

**ENDS**

**Editor's Notes:**

Funding was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government through the Libraries for Life programme, a three year (2008 - 2011) £10.5million scheme which aims to attract more people to use libraries through providing improved facilities and services at libraries throughout Wales.

It supports two One Wales commitments to develop, promote and modernise the public library network and to develop the use of information technology in libraries.

The latest figures from CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) for public library usage in Wales in 2009-10 show that:

- Over 330 public libraries service points in Wales are open 10 hours a week or more

- Over 14.7 million visits were made to Welsh public libraries in 2009/10 - up 5.4% from 2008/09
- The number of active borrowers rose to 681,000 - up 5.6% on 2008/09
- Over 5.2 million books are available to borrow in Welsh public libraries and over 400,000 audio-visual items (CDs, talking books, DVDs, etc)
- Over 14.4 million books were borrowed from Welsh public libraries in 2009/10
- Over 980,000 audio-visual loans were made last year in 2009/10
- There are over 2800 terminals with free internet access in Welsh public libraries
- Over 2 million enquiries were handled by public libraries in Wales last year
- Over 2 million hours of free computer use in libraries were made by the public in 2009/10
- The busiest library in Wales in 2009/10 was Swansea Central Library with 590,552 issues and 485,895 visits, closely followed by Cardiff Central Library with 575,143 issues and 439,857 visits.
- Both Swansea and Cardiff are in the top 10 of UK libraries for most items issued to borrowers for 2009/10.

**For further information please contact:**

**Am fanylion pellach cysylltwch â:**

**Emma Savage**

**Swyddog Cyfathrebu Cynorthwyol / Assistant Communications Officer**

**Cyngor Sir Powys / Powys County Council**

**Ffôn/Tel: 01597 826728**

**Ffôn Symudol/Mobile: 07769 640059**

**[emma.savage@powys.gov.uk](mailto:emma.savage@powys.gov.uk)**

Powys County Council is a unitary authority serving a population of about 129,600, covering an area of 519,700 hectares, almost a quarter of Wales.

It employs over 8,000 staff and has its headquarters in Llandrindod Wells and Shire Offices in Welshpool and Brecon.