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Business & IP Centre

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Free business start-up workshops

Over the last nine months **Leeds Central Library's Business & IP Centre**, supported by **Europe Direct Leeds**, has been involved in delivering **free business start-up workshops** throughout Leeds. In partnership with Leeds City Council's Business Development team, Leeds Chamber of Commerce, the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Jobcentre Plus, WGN accountants and Leeds City Credit Union, Business & IP Centre staff delivered 15 workshops.

The workshops were mostly held in branch libraries and were an opportunity for anyone thinking of starting a business to find out more about the support available to them in Leeds. Some attendees had already started up and were looking for help in growing their businesses.

Brief presentations included how to market and promote a business, dealing with book-keeping and accounts, potential sources of funding, further free workshops, business information resources and why an awareness of intellectual property is important to all businesses.

Each workshop offered an opportunity to network with the speakers and other attendees and the response to the workshops was very positive. "Relaxed atmosphere, clear information" and "Gave me the confidence to go into business" were typical comments from the feedback received.

Leeds Business Week (23rd – 27th September). was a packed programme of business events led by the "Yorkshire Mafia" business support and networking group. During the week staff from the **Business & IP Centre** led two further start-up workshops in Headingley and Chapeltown which were well attended; and also started the first of the next series of free **Enterprise Club** workshops. These workshops are held fortnightly in the Central Library, each two-hour session focussing on a particular aspect of starting and running a business. Further workshops are being planned around Leeds which will stretch into 2014, giving potential entrepreneurs in Leeds the information they need to start their first business.



Central Library - Information Centre

Calverley Street, Leeds LS1 3AB

Tel. 0113 247 8282

Fax. 0113 395 1833

europedirect@leeds.gov.uk

<http://www.europedirectleeds.org.uk>

<http://www.twitter.com/europedirect>

<http://www.facebook.com/europedirectleeds>



the big draw! the big draw! the big draw! the big draw!

On Saturday 19th October, parents and children joined us in the Children's Library for an afternoon of drawing on an enormous scale! They drew giant buildings, including the Eiffel Tower, The Shard in London, and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. They also imagined buildings of the future, which came to life on our huge sheet of paper. There was also storytelling and fun games to play.

The turnout was fantastic with high numbers of people coming to the library especially to take part. Families worked together to talk about the different buildings and draw them, sharing intergenerational knowledge. They used library books as inspiration as well as their smart phones to show the children where in the world these buildings are located.

We had a large group of Brownies join us who were half way round **the owl trail** www.leedsowltrail.com. They had decided to come to our Big Draw event as part of their day out in Leeds.

Throughout the session we shared stories with the children and they chose the books that they wanted reading, which was really popular with the younger children.

This European themed drawing exercise pulled together **The Big Draw** www.campaignfordrawing.org/bigdraw/ **The Family Arts Festival** www.familyartsfestival.com and **Europe Direct**. The families really enjoyed looking through the free Europe Direct booklets, leaflets and stationery, and they took a lot of the materials home with them. We also met a lot of targets with respect to joining new borrowers, issuing books and promoting services and future events.

All in all, 17 under 5's, 25 children of primary age, 7 young teens and a couple of older teens attended, together with some 45 adults.

