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Europe Direct Christmas Tree Decoration Exchange 2013



Children from a number of schools in Leeds were involved in the exchange and came in to the Central Library to pack and post their decorations, and to take part in festive story-telling and singing.

The decorations on our Christmas tree in the foyer have been made by children from Primary Schools across Europe, including Latvia, Poland, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

The aim of the project is for children to discover more about how Christmas is celebrated in different EU countries and to make contacts which will help them learn more about other European languages and cultures.

For example, we have learned about the Polish custom of *the breaking of the oplatek* (pronounced 'o-pwah-tek'). This is a thin wafer, made of wheat flour and water, and is typically embossed with a depiction of the Nativity scene. For table use, it is white, but coloured versions are used to make Christmas tree decorations.

On Christmas eve, each person in the household is given a piece of oplatek, which is then shared by having other family members break off a piece of your oplatek, while you do the same to theirs. During the breaking, kisses and well wishes for the season and the upcoming year are exchanged.

Winter Festival Choir Concert

The wonderful choir from Little London Primary School came to Leeds Central Library on Thursday 5th December to sing festive songs and bring in the Christmas cheer! In attendance were Councillors Yeadon, Dowson and Blake. The latter was accompanied by some children from Middleton Park Primary who were with her as part of a ['Child friendly Leeds'](#) shadowing day. The event was well attended with over 70 children and adults there to enjoy the festivities. Miss Muna led the superb singing with the enhancement of [Makaton](#). The stand out performance was the choir's highly emotive rendition of ['Oh Holy Night'](#).

