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Europe Talk

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Latest News

New Year? New You?

Have you thought about your new year's resolutions yet? Why not think about starting to learn another language? You can sign up for our language exchange at http://europedirectleeds.org.uk/?page_id=1277

Not sure which language you'd like to learn? Have a look at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/> for some tasters.

Busy busy busy

Our latest events

We have been busy over the past few weeks...

2011 is the European Year of Volunteering, coming ten years after the UN's International Year of Volunteers. To celebrate this we part-funded and attended a conference on "Volunteering in Europe", held here in Leeds, on 7 December.

The main questions at this event were:

- What is volunteering?
- What is quality volunteering?
- What is volunteering and what is an internship?

All these were cries for a definition – there are many definitions already out there – multiply those by 27 and you get the European perspective! No, it's not that bad – we know that the European Commission is working on it as part of their agenda for 2011.

Several delegates from Leeds's partner cities within the European Union attended the conference and brought new perspectives to the table.

Speakers

Speakers included Antonia Mochan, Head of Media at the European Commission's UK Representation; Mike Locke, Director of Public Affairs at Volunteering England and Tom Leftwich from the Office of Civic Society.



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Don't Miss Out Hot Topics in Europe this month

Volunteering
Student protests
Debt

WebNews Monthly Picks



We like these links...

The EU: What's in it
for me?

[http://www.the-eu-
and-me.org.uk/](http://www.the-eu-and-me.org.uk/)

The European Year of
Volunteering
[http://europa.eu/volunt
eering](http://europa.eu/volunteering)

Leeds Volunteer
Centre
[http://www.do-
it.org.uk/](http://www.do-it.org.uk/)

Leeds Partner Cities
[http://www.leedsinitiati
ve.org/international/pa
ge.aspx?id=18646](http://www.leedsinitiative.org/international/page.aspx?id=18646)

And another one...

Christmas came early

Last weekend, on the 11th of December, we held our annual European Christmas party for families.

Matthew Bellwood, a storyteller from Leeds, entertained families with European Christmas stories. One of those was the legend of Saint Nicholas and the Butcher, in which Saint Nicholas rescues three children from an evil butcher. He is now known as the patron saint and protector of children.

Later on during the afternoon children were able to meet Santa Claus and received little gifts to cheer them up while they are waiting for Christmas Day. They could also leave their wish list with Santa, make paper angels and snowmen and decorate Christmas cards for their friends and family.

There was lots of Christmas food available after meeting Santa and everyone had a fantastic time.



You can learn more about European Christmas traditions, including food and who brings the presents, on the following websites:

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chris
tmas/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/christmas/)

[http://goeurope.about.com/cs/festival
s/a/christmas.htm](http://goeurope.about.com/cs/festivals/a/christmas.htm)

[http://myeurope.eun.org/ww/en/pub/
myeurope/home/activities/culture/chr
_res.htm](http://myeurope.eun.org/ww/en/pub/myeurope/home/activities/culture/christmas_res.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas
_worldwide#Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christmas_worldwide#Europe)

We wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

The team at Europe Direct
Leeds would like to wish all
their readers happy holidays
and a good start into 2011!

Thanks for reading our
newsletter every month,
letting us know what you
think and making our work
life even more interesting.
See you next year!

