

On Yer Bike!

Leeds Library and Information Service, West Yorkshire Playhouse and Leeds Museums and Galleries joined forces with Peer Support Service for people living with dementia. The collective resources of these organisations form the basis of a unique cultural partnership enabling people with dementia and their partners to explore the cultural life of their city in safe and supportive environments. The group is currently engaged in a programme called **On Yer Bike!** exploring the history and personal memories of cycling, and celebrating the Tour de France's visit to Yorkshire this summer.

We began a recent workshop by visiting Leeds Art Gallery and exploring two French artists – [Auguste Rodin](#) (1840 – 1914) and [James Tissot](#) (1836 - 1902). After visiting the Art Gallery, Colette, one of our librarians, talked about growing up in the South of France (below left). The group listed as many countries as possible where the French language is spoken and they also talked about the wide range of regional languages in France. Each member of the group was invited to say their name, where they live, and what their favourite colour is in French. To enhance the cultural theme three ukulele players from Otley were invited to play and sing some French songs (below right); Colette accompanied the musicians on the keyboard. The group joined in singing 'La vie en Rose', 'Au Clair de la Lune' and 'Frère Jacques'. The workshop ended with a little French gouter: café, thé et petits gateaux!



The Grand Départ was a great success!

It is estimated that at least 2.5 million people lined the routes for the two days that the **Tour de France** was in Yorkshire. The crowds were so big that they held the race up in places! A staggering 250,000 people were in **Leeds** to witness the **Grand Départ** on Saturday 5th July, adding to such an unbelievably enthusiastic atmosphere that race director Christian Prudhomme was led to describe it as "**the grandest Grand Départ ever.**"

The first stage ended with a 'sprint finish' in **Harrogate** and was won by the German rider **Marcel Kittel**. The British favourite **Mark Cavendish** crashed and was unable to continue in the Tour.

Next day the riders tackled some of this country's toughest hill climbs during Stage 2 between **York** and **Sheffield**. Some 60,000 people were on **Holme Moss** on the Yorkshire/Derbyshire border and the highest point on the stage at 1,709 feet. Last year's winner Team Sky's **Chris Froome** who unfortunately would have to abandon the race during stage 5 said, "The home support is absolutely unreal. Going up Holme Moss I had goosebumps, there were such massive crowds. It was incredible." This stage was won by the Italian rider **Vincenzo Nibali** who, at the time of writing, looks set to win the Tour overall. If he does, he will become only the sixth rider to have won all three Grand Tours - The Tour de France, the Giro d'Italia and the Vuelta a España

[BBC Sport – Tour de France 2014: Grand Départ in pictures](#)

Tour de Leeds Libraries ~ Get on your bike - Get books!

23rd June - 4th July

Popular local children's author **Tom Palmer** (right) snapped on his bicycle clips and cycled his way around **all the libraries in Leeds** as part of a special **Tour de France author tour - on wheels!** Tom was greeted at each library by groups of children from local schools, who heard him talk about his love of books, the joy of reading and **how libraries changed his life**. Tom also read a special short story he wrote to celebrate the **Grand Départ in Leeds** - involving a young girl, her bike, a visit to the **library** and a wonderful adventure. There were also opportunities to pick up useful resources and information from **Europe Direct** at each library. Tom also produced a brilliant **resource pack** for schools, which was funded by **Europe Direct** and is available to download from Tom's website at <http://tompalmer.co.uk/tour-de-leeds/>



The pack includes: Wordsearch; Le Grand Départ Reading Comprehension; Setting a story in Leeds; Writing a story is like riding a bike; Reading safety; English – French speaking aloud activity; Lizzie Armitstead's Reading Chat Poster; Our Reading Chat – a template to make your own posters; Bike Wheel Book Review – a template for younger readers; Yellow Jersey Book Review – a template for older readers; Library Treasure Hunt; Booklist.

Kirkstall Festival

Saturday 12th July



The 2014 Kirkstall Festival took place on Saturday 12th July in the picturesque grounds of the 12th Century Kirkstall Abbey. People of all ages were kept entertained by a range of attractions, including a fairground, over 100 stalls, comedy, live music, and a procession.

Europe Direct Leeds attended as part of Leeds Library and Information Service's contribution to the event with a stall displaying **Europe Direct** items. We ran a couple of quizzes. One invited festival goers to test how much they know about their rights as a European citizen, for a chance to win a £25 book voucher. They could also take the '**European Flag Challenge**', and name the countries to which the flags in our bunting belong.



Horsforth Gala ~ Community Gala and Family Fun Day

Saturday 28th June

Horsforth Gala is a well-established event that attracts at least 5,000 people. It brings local communities together with a large variety of stalls set up to provide a fun atmosphere. The gala started with a parade that runs from the local high school, down through the shopping area along Town Street, then along Hall Lane and into the park where the gala is based. There were many stalls run by businesses and charities as well as a family fairground, bouncy castles, candy floss, hot dogs and other activities, including and 'beat the goalie'. There was also entertainment throughout the afternoon in the 'arena', including children performing gymnastics, brass bands, and a dog show. **Europe Direct Leeds** attended as part of Leeds Library and Information Service's contribution, which took along one of its mobile libraries.

The Library's presence definitely made a positive impact on the Gala. We got the opportunity to engage and consult with the local community - approximately 30 children, 12 young people, over 50 adults and 20 older people. A big thank you to our staff who delivered two very popular and enjoyable interactive **rhyme and story sessions**. We also participated with children and parents in the interactive 'parachute game', by skipping and singing along with them! The children were also involved in making badges and colouring-in as part of the **Summer Reading Challenge**. The large Connect4 was particularly popular. **Europe Direct** information was promoted and flag **bunting** was displayed outside the mobile. The children and families enjoyed going into the mobile, where some parents took the opportunity to read to their children. We managed to issue over 20 children's books and dealt with some renewals. Staff tweeted during the day and photographs were taken as well!



Storytime at Horsforth Gala!