



THE MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER FROM  
EUROPE DIRECT LEEDS

**Europe Talk**  
[www.europedirectleeds.org.uk](http://www.europedirectleeds.org.uk)



ISSUE

66

September/  
October 2014

## The European Day of Languages has been celebrated every year since 2001 on 26th September

A range of events are organised across Europe: activities for and with children, television and radio programmes, language classes and conferences. One of the day's main messages is that language skills are a necessity and a right for EVERYONE. The overall aim is threefold:

1. Alert the public to the importance of language learning and diversifying the range of languages learnt in order to increase plurilingualism and intercultural understanding;
2. Promote the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe, which must be preserved and fostered;
3. Encourage lifelong language learning in and out of school, whether for study purposes, for professional needs, for purposes of mobility or for pleasure and exchanges.

This year, **Europe Direct Leeds'** contribution to the Day was a series of **language taster sessions** at Headingley Library, to the north of the city. During three one hour sessions, people had the chance to learn simple words and phrases in German, Polish and Spanish.

Children at Quarry Mount Primary School in Leeds, where over 50 languages are spoken, also celebrated linguistic diversity during the Day. A short film can be viewed on our website at <http://europedirectleeds.org.uk/archives/6041>

**Europe Direct Leeds'** ongoing contribution to language learning is our **Language Exchange** which aims to help adult language learners to practice their new language skills. This can be between two native speakers or as part of a group that brings together native speakers and learners. You can find each other by registering with us and we can even book a table in the library for your meeting!

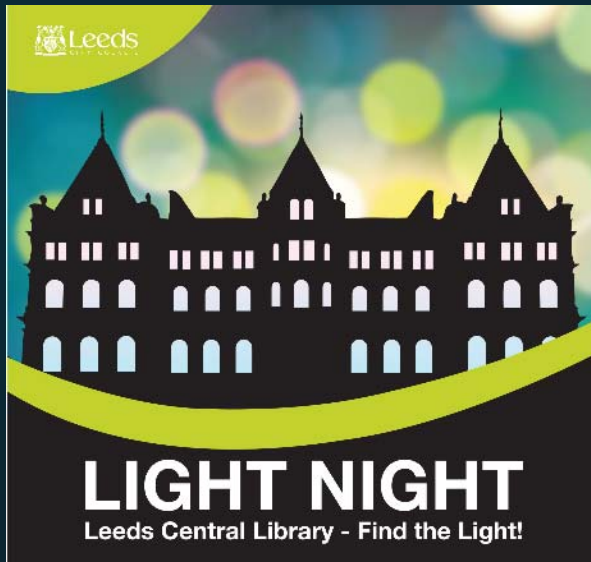


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The Central Library's Light Night reception (above centre) included Europe Direct banners and publications. Creating paintings by spinning paint (top right). Interactive theatre and storytelling (right). The Civic Hall (left centre) and the Town Hall (bottom left) are bathed in light.

## Light Night Leeds 2014 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

For ten years running, local organisations and venues have come together, as the dark nights draw in, to shine a light on Leeds and the arts and culture that it has to offer. Artists transform the museums, galleries, theatres, library and open spaces into temporary showcases for their work, which includes light installations, street theatre, music, performance, film, dance, exhibitions and other family friendly activities. It's a chance for local people and visitors to experience the city in a different and exciting way. And many did so, with over 7,700 people coming through the doors of just one of the venues, the Central Library! Some of the activities they could get involved in here were: 'How the Light Gets In', an interactive storytelling installation which explored the ways in which words can and cannot lead us through the dark – both the literal dark of the winter months and the dark that everyone encounters when life gets hard; 'Wish Upon a Star' was created by the very talented Leeds Art Library craft group during origami inspired star-lantern making workshops. These were collected together to form a fabulous installation in the corridor on the top floor of the library, where visitors could enjoy gazing amongst the stars and were invited to write a few words to describe how the installation made them feel and make a library wish; 'Spin Art' - budding Damien Hirsts were able to create unique works of art by spinning fluorescent paints .