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What Europe Direct Wrexham offers

Welcome to Europe Direct

Europe Direct at Wrexham Library is an information service for all things related to the European Union. From small queries about what currency is used in other European Union (EU) countries, to in-depth information on policies of the EU, we are here to help. There is a wealth of information available to you, much of it in the form of booklets that you can take away. You can contact us in a variety of ways: telephone, via email or just call in. You will find our contact details on the last page of this newsletter and, best of all, our service is free!

Ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon



Following the Irish Government agreeing to hold a second vote on the Lisbon Treaty, the Irish voters have finally voted 'Yes'. The Treaty of Lisbon was originally rejected by the Irish government.

Due to this, Poland had finally concluded the ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon. A ceremony took place in Warsaw, where Polish president, Lech Kaczynski, signed the ratification instrument.

Since the Czech Republic has fully ratified the Treaty of Lisbon, it is on its way to come into effect provided all the instruments of ratification have been handed in. The Treaty of Lisbon was originally signed by the Heads of State or Government of the 27 member states in Lisbon 13th September 2007.

The treaty will define what the European Union can and cannot do and what means it can use to solve issues. The ever changing Europe faces new challenges all the time such as climate change, globalisation and the need for sustainable energy sources. European Union states cannot deal with such issues alone but, thanks to the Treaty of Lisbon, it will instead work closely together in negotiation to solve issues, in turn leading the EU to being more democratic.

For further information on the Treaty of Lisbon, visit www.europa.eu

The fall of the Berlin Wall Commemorating Twenty Years



At midnight on 9th November 1989, East Germany's Communist rulers gave permission for gates along the Berlin Wall to be opened after hundreds of people converged on crossing points.

The wall had been erected in 1961 on the orders of Walter Ulbricht, East Germany's former leader, to stop people leaving for West Germany.

Once the Berlin Wall was breached, East Germany disintegrated. On 3rd January 1990, East and West Germany formed a new united country.

To read the full article, visit www.berlin-life.com/berlin/wall

European Day of Languages 2009

Throughout Europe every year on the 26th September as a particular focus point, 800 million Europeans represented in the Council of Europe 27 member states, are encouraged to learn more languages, at any age, in and out of school. Being convinced that linguistic diversity is a tool for more intercultural understanding, unifying European neighbours, the Council of Europe promotes cultural richness and multilingualism throughout Europe.

On this day, a range of events are organised across Europe, including events for children, television and radio programmes, language classes and conferences. Member states and potential partners are given a free hand to organise activities.



To celebrate this fantastic day, Wrexham Europe Direct held an event celebrating the diversity of Europe's Languages at Wrexham Memorial Hall. Schools from across Wrexham were invited to join us and discover languages through a variety of exciting and interactive workshops, discussion and information stands. Around 220 pupils in total participated in a wide range of workshops hosted by WJEC, CILT. Cymru, story tellers Pauline Bennet and Clive Hopwood and Glyndŵr University. With Welsh now having gained a co-official language status at European level, Welsh featured as a main language at the event as well as other European languages, including French, German, Spanish, Italian and Polish.



New Faces at Europe Direct Wrexham

Europe Direct Wrexham welcomes two new members of staff after the previous Information Officer, Stephanie, had left to work in Brussels. It was sad to see her go after she has done so much great work for Europe Direct Wrexham. However, Eleanor is now taking up the task of outreach and keeping people informed on important issues regarding the European Union.

Europe Direct can be contacted either by phone or email regarding any queries concerning the EU and Europe. Contact us on 01978 292090
Email us on europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk



School Workshops

On 14th October, Europe Direct presented 3 workshops to A level students at Maelor School. The presentation was divided into 3 key areas: history of the European Union, European Parliament and how the EU affects the individual and their life in Wales. Each area had a short film, followed by a quiz. The quizzes proved very successful. Europe Direct was also able to give the school some very useful information in the form of maps and leaflets to provide the students with more learning material.

These workshops are available to centres involved in the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification. One of the required modules covers: Wales, Europe and the rest of the World.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is an exciting qualification for students in Wales that adds a valuable new dimension to the subjects and courses already available for 14 to 19 year old students. It combines personal development skills with existing qualifications like A levels, NVQs and GCSEs to make one wider award that is valued by employers and universities.

The Welsh Assembly Government introduced the Welsh Baccalaureate to transform learning for young people in Wales. It gives broader experiences than traditional learning programmes, to suit the diverse needs of young people. It can be studied in English or Welsh, or a combination of the two languages.



MEP visit to Yale College Wrexham

On 2nd October 2009 Europe Direct attended an event arranged by the Learning Resource Centre at Yale. The Member of the European Parliament for Wales, Derek Vaughan, was invited to speak to international students in his role as an MEP.

The students, from Asia and Europe, asked challenging questions about the work of an MEP.

Europe Direct received a number of enquiries from students and lecturers concerned with funding of projects and travelling in Europe.

Your MEPs

Dr Kay Swinburne, Conservative Party

Tel. 02920 616031

Email kay.swinburne@europarl.europa.eu

Mr Derek Vaughan, Labour Party

Tel. 02920 227660

Email contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk

Mrs Jill Evans, Plaid Cymru

Tel. 01443 441395

Email jill.evans@europarl.europa.eu

Mr John Bufton UK, Independence Party

Tel. 01597 811231

Email johnbufton@tiscali.co.uk



Photo: Derek Vaughan (foreground) browsing the Europe Direct EU publications

Beyond the Crisis: Design for a Sustainable Future Conference

This conference was planned as one of the major events of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009. It was held in Brussels on 23-24 November 2009.

Conference objectives

- To develop an understanding of design thinking as a multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary process that bridges creativity and innovation, culture and the economy.
- To identify how Europe's sustainable competitiveness can be strengthened by developing both design skills and awareness of the importance of design thinking for successful innovation.

Themed European Years

Each year, the EU chooses a theme for a campaign aimed at raising public awareness and to drawing national governments' attention to the issue. The themes are chosen several years in advance. Examples of previous years include: languages, worker's mobility, equal opportunities for all and intercultural dialogue.

2009 was concerned with Creativity and Innovation.

2010 is the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The European Commission has information for further reading.

For more information visit www.ec.europa.eu



EU Information and Assistance Services

Jobseekers, Enterprises and Businesses

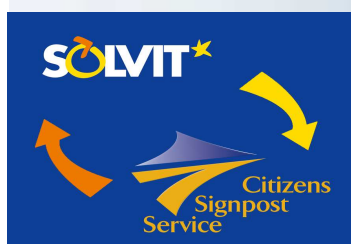
In the current economic climate, many people are struggling with finding a job and businesses need all the help they can get. Here are few organisations that aim to help people find jobs and provide advice to businesses.



Citizens' Signpost Services (CSS)

CSS is a team of independent legal advisors providing free advice on your rights within the EU.

Advice can be provided on such issues that may arise when you are either travelling, moving to or studying in Europe.



Solvit offers a similar kind of service and the two are linked. Solvit, however, tends to offer solutions to enterprises with cross-border problems.

Visit solvit at www.eu.europa.eu/solvit/



Enterprise Europe Network

This organisation aims to help European Businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). They provide free advice on a range of business and innovation support services.

Visit them at www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu



Eures is an organisation aimed at providing advice for jobseekers. It helps with a range of issues such as working abroad, recruitment services, cost of living and finding a school.

In addition, Job Mobility Portal lists all job vacancies available around Europe.

Eures also helps employers wishing to recruit workers from overseas.

Visit them at www.ec.europa.eu/eures



Europe Direct is a local contact point, based in Wrexham Library, for the general public who may be interested in any issues concerning the European Union, its policies and treaties and issues concerning Europe. There are around 500 Europe Direct centres throughout the EU. You can either call or email for advice or drop in.

Europe Direct also provides a range of information for students.

Many Europe Directs provide a wide range of useful and interesting publications and free resources for schools and anyone interested in information regarding the European Union and Europe.

Visit www.wrexham.gov.uk/europedirect, phone us on 01978 292090.

Email us: europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk

Young People and Students

More and more young people choose to travel and study abroad. The following information networks offer advice on all the issues concerning cost, travel laws and information for studies.

Europass is an organisation that helps jobseekers, people seeking further education and students present their skills and qualifications so they can be recognised in other countries.

Europass is also linked with an organisation called **Naric** which is also aimed at gaining recognition for qualifications from countries around the EU.

Visit them at www.europass.cedefop.europa.eu/



ECTARC (European Centre for Training and Regional Co-ordination).

This centre is based in Llangollen and provides information about living and working in Europe, how to improve your English and gain work experience in Wales. It is well-known for the Leonardo da Vinci exchange programme, offering placements for young people looking to temporarily live and work abroad.

They arrange host families for student exchange and work programmes stay. They are always in demand for host families in built-up areas such as Wrexham.

If you are interested, visit them at www.ectarc.com

Telephone on 01978 861514.



Erasmus enables higher education students, teachers and institutions in 31 European countries to study for part of their degree in another country from three to 12 months.

For more information, visit www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus



EU Bookshop

On 16 October 2009, the EU bookshop launched its digital library, its online collection now containing every document published by the EU since 1952 – a whopping 110,000 publications. With the archives now included, the digital library contains no fewer than 12 million scanned pages in 50 languages.

One of the oldest documents in the library is a speech from September 1952 given by Jean Monnet – a leading figure in the early days of European integration – to the Assembly that later became the European Parliament. The digital library was created in response to overwhelming demand for digital versions of out-of-print publications.

Visit them at www.bookshop.europa.eu



Publications and free resources for schools

Europe Direct offers a wide selection of free resources and publications in many European languages, including Welsh, upon request. They cover a wide selection of issues concerning Europe and the European Union, e.g. environment and climate change, enlargement, European Parliament and institutions and health. These are available to all and are completely free of charge. We welcome enquiries from schools and colleges. There are also other resources such as maps of Europe and many promotional items.

To request free information, please email Europe Direct at:

europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk

for a list of publications available and an order form.



Please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone, email or come and talk to us in person in the Library.



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