

What has Europe Direct Wrexham been up to?

Businessline Employment Fair

With support from Europe Direct Wrexham, Businessline based in Wrexham Library organised an employment fair. With the job market presently looking bleak and the employment rate across Europe at an all-time low it is important to raise awareness of training and support opportunities available for the unemployed. Local businesses



and organisations offering opportunities on training and employment were invited to a day-long fair open to local people. Workshops on topics such as 'Interview skills', 'Creating a CV' and 'How to market yourself to an employer' were held during the day free of charge.



Let's Volunteer!

Europe Direct Wrexham and Europe Direct Llangollen organised a volunteering fair in May on theme of the European Year of Volunteering to encourage people to volunteer in their spare time. It also celebrated the people who already devote their time to volunteering.

The event was held in Glyndŵr University and hosted over 20 different volunteering organisations from across Wrexham, Flintshire and Denbighshire. The day saw a steady flow of people and some organisations signed up new volunteers.



Europe Day 2011– Sustainable future for all!

Once again, Europe Direct Wrexham organised an annual event involving children from local schools to take part in this year's Europe Day. The theme for this year's event was Sustainability and the centre worked in partnership with Techniquet Glyndŵr providing workshops as well as a perfect venue for such a theme.

Both morning and afternoon sessions were kicked off by a 'Sustainability show' hosted by Rob Wix from SCIntilate. The workshop explained how far food travels to get to our supermarkets, clocking up food miles and creating a large carbon footprint and the negatives which relate to it. Children were then split into two workshops. The first involved building fairground ride models using solar power hosted by Techniquet Glyndŵr, and the second held by Caroline Pollitt, Environment Education Officer for WCBC, who also looked into living sustainably using an interactive sustainability web to explain the topic.



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Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod

The International Eisteddfod is an annual festival held in Llangollen every July. Every year, around 4,000 people from all over the world come to sing and dance. The first International Eisteddfod was held in 1947 and since then, it has become one of the world's great music festivals.

Europe Direct centres from Wrexham and Llangollen in partnership with European Commission Representation in Cardiff attend annually to hand out free European information.

As well as the free information the stand had an interactive children's section where they could design European flags and answer quizzes for prizes. The full week's event proved to be a great success, with many people entering the tent interested in the information provided as well as children looking for materials for schools to study Europe and the European Union.



St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School – International Day

Europe Direct Wrexham held a full day of workshops on the topic of Europe and the EU. Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils took part in interactive workshops including a quiz with prizes, decorating a cotton bag on the theme of Europe and designing an EU citizen.



Rhosnesni 'We are the World Day'

Europe Direct Wrexham held multiple workshops at this annual school event. Workshops included map games, quizzes and interactive activities such as design your own European Citizen to encourage children to learn more about the EU. Children also took part in many other workshops including Salsa, African drumming, Japanese origami and falconry.



AVOW Volunteering Fair

Europe Direct Wrexham attended a volunteering fair organised by Association for Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW). The event saw many varied organisations attending to recruit local people to their organisations. This event encouraged people to volunteer and Europe Direct was on hand to hand out information on organisations which offer volunteering opportunities across Europe for all ages.



Green Light Festival

This event was held on Queen's Square Wrexham and brought together performances of dance, drama, music and song from schools and youth clubs across Wrexham, all on an environmental theme. Live performances were also accompanied by an environmental marketplace, where



local groups and organisations showcased the work they do to promote environmental education. Europe Direct Wrexham attended with an information stand to



hand out European publications on the environment and climate change. As part of this month-long event, Europe Direct centre visited several primary schools to hold workshops on Europe, the EU and Climate Change. The event was held in partnership with Raciborz, Poland the British Council and Wrexham County Borough Council.

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Flint and Denbigh Agricultural Show 2011

Europe Direct Wrexham and Llangollen attended the annual Flint and Denbigh Agricultural show. It was a great opportunity to hand out free European information, especially information on the Common Agricultural Policy.



Future Events

European SME Week 2011 3rd-7th October



Businessline, in association with Europe Direct of Wrexham County Borough Council, will this year be co-ordinating a programme of events to take place between 3rd and 7th October to celebrate European SME Week - a campaign which promotes enterprise across Europe.

Last year, 1,500 events were held throughout Europe with the fundamental aim of enabling existing businesses to share their experience and to develop themselves further. All seminars, workshops and presentations are open to newly-established businesses, individuals aiming to start their own enterprise along with students with a business interest.

We are currently in the process of finalising a series of events to take place during the first week of October, which will include business networking opportunities, an insight / update on business support, an event aimed at celebrating success and introducing new business, and a keynote presentation from a renowned speaker with a background working for a leading blue chip company.

If you would like to attend or take part please do not hesitate to contact either Europe Direct Wrexham on 01978 292090, europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk or Businessline on 01978 292092 or email businessline@wrexham.gov.uk.

European Day of Languages 2011

This year's European Day of Languages is to be held in the Memorial Hall, Wrexham, and will once again feature a variety of workshops hosts to deliver a day of activities to children from local schools.



Morning and afternoon sessions will both kick off with an interactive workshop in French from a Theatre Company, 'Whisper and Shout'. Children will then be split into several groups to attend workshops by other hosts such as Storyteller Fiona Collins, CILT Cymru, and Village Storytellers, Fred and Diana.

The day is set to be a great success and is already fully booked up. If you are looking for some more information about the event please do not hesitate to contact Europe Direct Wrexham on 01978 292090, email europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk or visit us at Wrexham Library, Rhosddu Road LL11 1AU. ³

Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2011

In Europe and the wider world, the European Parliament advocates respect for basic human rights, freedom and democracy. Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, with its Subcommittee on Human Rights, directly addresses the issue of the defence of human rights outside the Union.



The **Sakharov Prize** is intended to honour exceptional individuals who combat intolerance, fanaticism and oppression. Like Andrei Sakharov himself, all the winners of the prize have shown how much courage it takes to defend human rights and freedom of expression.

By the time of his death in the Moscow winter 20 years ago, Andrei Sakharov had built an international reputation as a nuclear physicist, human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner. His fears over the implications of his work led him to call for peaceful coexistence and later for human rights in the USSR. This led the European Parliament to found a human rights prize in his honour. In his 1968 essay on peace he wrote that "intellectual freedom is essential to human society".



The timing of the award (which is usually formally given in the December Parliamentary Session) is to coincide with the anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was signed on 10 December in 1948. The prize is named after Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov who was internally exiled in the Soviet Union for his opposition to the USSR's nuclear programme and its repressive policies. He was later elected a member of the free Russian Parliament after the Soviet Union had collapsed.

Each year the Sakharov Prize is awarded to individuals or international organisations who – like Sakharov – have distinguished themselves in the struggle for human rights. For more information, please visit www.europarl.europa.eu.

The Schengen Agreement

What is the Schengen Agreement?

The Schengen Agreement allows people to move freely between countries without border controls and without needing visas. The agreement was first signed in 1985 by France, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The abolition of border controls started on March 26th 1995 when Portugal and Spain signed the agreement and abolished checks at their internal borders.

At present, 22 EU Member States have signed the Schengen Agreement and Bulgaria and Romania are in the process of joining. Norway, Iceland and Switzerland, who are not EU State Members, have also signed the agreement and abolished their border control. However, the UK, Ireland and Cyprus have decided not to participate in the agreement and border control still exists here.



What does the Schengen Agreement mean for EU citizens?

It means:

- No queuing at airports, sea or land borders
- No more passport control checks
- That control infrastructures, for example booths for border guards and other barriers, have been removed
- That EU citizens will be given Schengen visas which grants free movement throughout the Schengen territory during its period of validity, which is 90 days.

Energy-Efficient Europe



Tackling climate change is a challenge and has been a challenge for many years. The EU's aim for tackling climate change focuses on three targets to be completed by 2020 which are:

1. Slashing greenhouse emissions by 20%
2. Drawing 20% of energy from renewable sources
3. Cutting energy use by 20%

The EU is on track for the emissions and renewable goals, but has fallen behind on reducing the energy use. If nothing is done, the EU will only achieve half of the reductions needed to reach their goal. However, the EU now has new measures to put into place which would boost energy saving and help the EU reach their 2020 goal of a 20% reduction.

The EU's proposals

The proposals include a requirement for all countries to establish energy-saving plans. Energy suppliers would be required to encourage their customers to become more energy-efficient and therefore reducing sales volumes by 1.5% annually. For example, they could help homeowners improve the efficiency of their heating systems, install double-glazing and insulate roof spaces.

The EU suggests that the governments could propose alternative ways of achieving the same results, such as funding programmes or voluntary agreements with suppliers. Governments should also reduce energy consumption by renovating at least 3% of public buildings every year and making energy efficiency a condition of all goods and services they buy. Also, governments would have to monitor the efficiency of new power plants and promote the recovery of waste heat. Consumers will be provided with free and better access to information regarding their energy use, allowing them to better manage their consumption.

Another proposal would require national energy regulators to take energy efficiency into account, in particular when approving network charges and large companies would have to undergo audits identifying ways to reduce their consumption. EU governments must approve the measures which will help transform Europe into a low-carbon but competitive economy. In 2014, the Commission will make an assessment on whether the EU is back on track for meeting the 20% energy reduction goal. If necessary, a new proposal will be made, setting mandatory national targets.



The European Commission

What is the European Commission?

The European Commission is an institution which was created in the 1950's under the European Union's founding Treaties. The Commission is based in Brussels and consists of 27 members, 1 from each of the member states, who meet once a week.

What does the European Commission do?

The European Commission has many roles:

Proposing new legislation which must aim to defend the interest of the EU and its citizens as a whole and not those of specific countries.

Representing and upholding the EU on the international stage. The European Commission is an important spokesperson for the EU during international forums and negotiations, for example during the negotiations on the International Climate Change Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol.

Enforcing new European laws. The Commission acts as "the guardian of the Treaties". It works with the Court of Justice and is responsible for ensuring that EU law is properly applied in all member states.

Implementing the decisions of the Parliament and the Council by managing the daily business of the EU and running its programs and policies. It also supervises the EU's funds and aims to ensure good financial management.



Enterprise Europe Network

Helping small companies make the most of the business opportunities in the European Union is the Enterprise Europe Network's mission.

Don't know where to start when looking for international partners? Don't have the resources to apply for EU funding? Have no idea who could finance your business? Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) is here to help. They make sure your company benefits from the EU Single Market as much as the big players do.

Their experts can help you find international business partners, source new technologies and receive EU funding or finance. And they can advise you on issues so diverse as intellectual property, going international, or EU law and standards.



A one-stop shop for all your business needs

The Enterprise Europe Network brings together business support organisations from across 49 countries. They are connected through powerful databases and know Europe inside out. What's more, they have been working together for years, some even for decades. With more than 580 member organisations EEN is always close to where your business is based.

For more information visit www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu.

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New Publications from the EU

Europe in 12 lessons

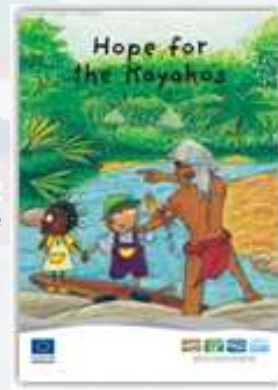


This free publication explains what the European Union is about, what it does as well as the history of the EU from the beginning. Free copies are available from Europe Direct Wrexham, based in Wrexham Library.

Children's Environmental story books

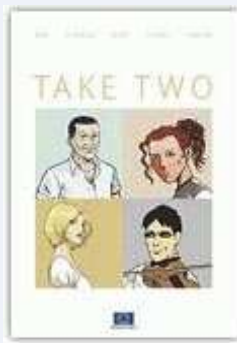


These children's story book follow the adventures of a young boy Tom and his friend, a fox called Lila, where they learn all about the environment and consequences of climate change and how to prevent it. These two books are the latest editions to the story.



Free copies are available at Europe Direct Wrexham based in Wrexham Library.

Graphic Novels about the EU



These graphic novels are full of stories of how citizens of the EU were helped by the European Union. One of the stories is set in Cardiff. These are also available from the Europe Direct centre based in Wrexham Library.



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