

Give a Hoot!



Make an owl

24 April – 6 May

MindWell

Join us in making an owl and share your hopes, dreams and expectations for the future of Leeds

Leeds Playhouse – 1001 Stories Takeover, Year of Culture 2023



Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk/news](http://www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk/news)  
for more about this campaign

**LEEDS**  
YEAR OF  
CULTURE **2023**

# Get involved



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**We're inviting people aged 60+ to take part in our Give a Hoot! campaign.**

Get creative and share your hopes, dreams and expectations for the future by making an owl to add to our 'wish tree', which will be on display at Leeds Playhouse between 24 April and 6 May as part of the 1001 Stories event, a two-week creative takeover by older people.

**Every owl we receive represents someone who gives a hoot – the more hoots the better!**



## 1. How to make your owl

So long as it fits in the palm of your hand, you can create your owl using whatever materials you can find or have lying around at home. Crochet, painted, hand-drawn or origami – the more creative, the better.

If you are stuck for ideas, you'll find some inspiration on page 4, instructions on how to create an origami owl on page 5, along with the story behind our 'Give a Hoot!' campaign on page 8.



## 2. Include your hopes, dreams or expectations

Don't forget to include a message with your owl. You could write this on the owl itself or send your owl with a note. Here are some prompts if you're stuck on what to say:

**If I could change one thing about Leeds for older people, it would be....**

**For a better future, we must...**

**I hope that in future...**

You can make a note of your message here:

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### 3. Send your owl off to roost!

Once you're happy with your owl, drop it off at one of the below community libraries any time before Friday 14 April and we'll do the rest. Owls can be dropped off near the library desk – speak with the library attendant if you're unsure.

#### Alternatively, you can:

- Bring it to Leeds Playhouse during the takeover event.
- Send us a photo of your creation via Twitter [@MindWellLeeds](https://twitter.com/MindWellLeeds) using [#GiveAHoot!](https://twitter.com/hashtag/GiveAHoot!)
- Email us a photo of your creation to [mindwelleeds@gmail.com](mailto:mindwelleeds@gmail.com)

The 'wish tree' will be on display at the Playhouse from 24 April to 6 May. Unfortunately, we can't guarantee the return of individual creations.



### Participating Libraries

- **Headingley Community Hub & Library**, 9B North Ln, Headingley, Leeds LS6 3HG
- **Seacroft Community Hub & Library**, Deacon House, 1 Seacroft Avenue, Leeds, LS14 6JD
- **Compton Road Library**, The Compton Centre, Harehills Ln, Leeds LS9 7BG
- **Reginald Centre Library**, 263 Chapeltown Rd, Leeds LS7 3EX
- **Moor Allerton Library**, Moor Allerton Centre, King Ln, Leeds LS17 5NY
- **Morley Library**, Commercial St, Morley, Leeds LS27 8HZ
- **Rothwell Library**, Rothwell, Leeds LS26 0AG
- **Hunslet Library**, Waterloo St, Hunslet, Leeds LS10 2NS
- **Garforth Library**, Lidgett Ln, Garforth, Leeds LS25 1EH
- **Central Leeds Library**, Calverley St, Leeds LS1 3AB
- **Armley Library**, 2 Stocks Hill, Armley, Leeds LS12 1UQ
- **Pudsey Library**, Church Ln, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 7TY
- **Horsforth Library**, Town St, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5BL

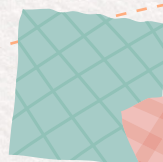
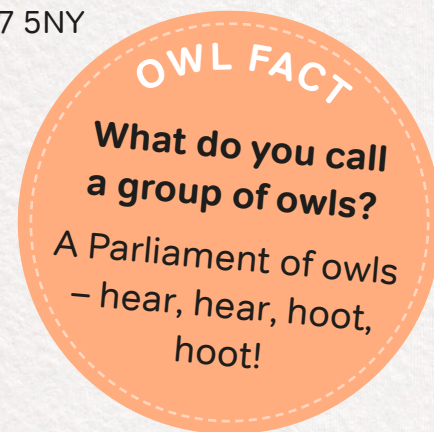


Photo by Paula Solloway

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For more creative activities, advice about how to stay well and information to support your mental wellbeing, visit MindWell, the mental health website for people in Leeds at [www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk](http://www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk)

# Owl inspiration

Here are a few inspiring handmade owls we found to kick-start your creativity! Some even have online instructions so we've included the links. You can also find lots of free or very reasonably priced instructions for owls at [www.lovecrafts.com](http://www.lovecrafts.com)



[www.projectkid.com/yarn-owl-craft](http://www.projectkid.com/yarn-owl-craft)

[www.instructables.com/Cute-Owl-TP-Roll-Containers](http://www.instructables.com/Cute-Owl-TP-Roll-Containers)



[www.instructables.com/Cute-Pinecone-Owl](http://www.instructables.com/Cute-Pinecone-Owl)



[www.lovecrafts.com/en-gb/p/ozzi-the-owl-crochet-pattern-by-cara-engwerda](http://www.lovecrafts.com/en-gb/p/ozzi-the-owl-crochet-pattern-by-cara-engwerda)



[www.instructables.com/Cute-owl](http://www.instructables.com/Cute-owl)



[www.instructables.com/Easy-Origami-Owl-Video-Tutorial](http://www.instructables.com/Easy-Origami-Owl-Video-Tutorial)

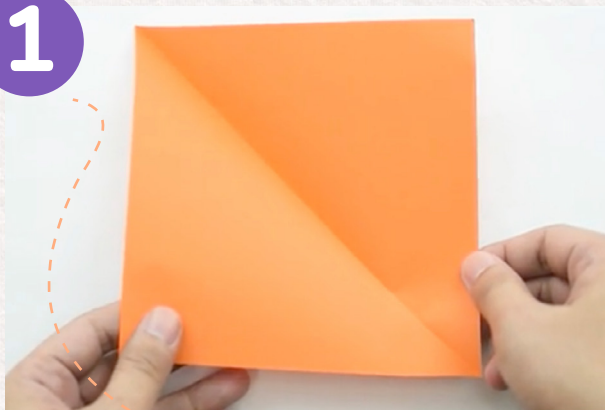


# How to make an origami owl



You can follow these instructions to make a simple origami owl, or go to [www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Origami-Owl](http://www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Origami-Owl) to watch the video tutorial where they also have a more advanced option to try.

1



**Fold a square piece of plain or patterned paper in half diagonally, then open it back up.**

Bring one corner over onto the opposite corner, creating a diagonal fold from one corner to the other. Crease the fold before opening the paper to lay flat.

**Tip:** If you're using a piece of paper that only has colour on one side, start with the paper colour-side down so that the white side is facing you.

2



**Bring the left and right corners in about halfway to the centre, folding the top.**

Fold each of the 2 corners on either side of the crease halfway to the middle to form the wings, which will look like small triangles at the upper half of the paper. Line up the edges of the folds so that they're parallel with the centre crease.

**Tip:** Try to fold the left and right corners the same amount on both sides so that the wings are even.

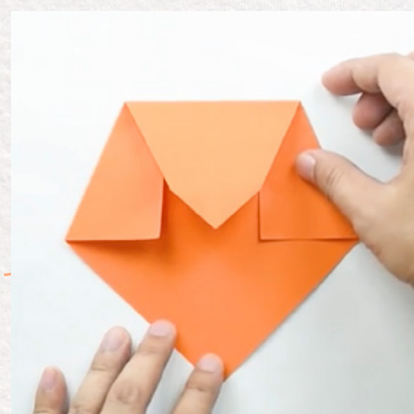
3



**Fold the top corner down to the middle of the paper.**

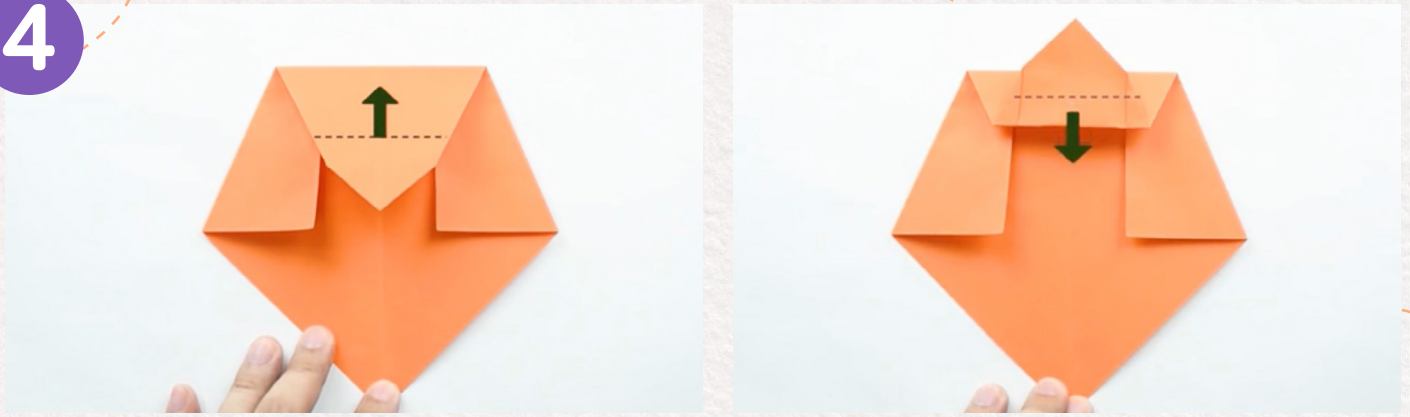
Bring the top corner down to make the head of the owl. Crease it so that the tip of the corner hits the exact centre of the paper.

**Tip:** Line up the corner with the bottom of the wings when you fold it down.



*half way there...*

4

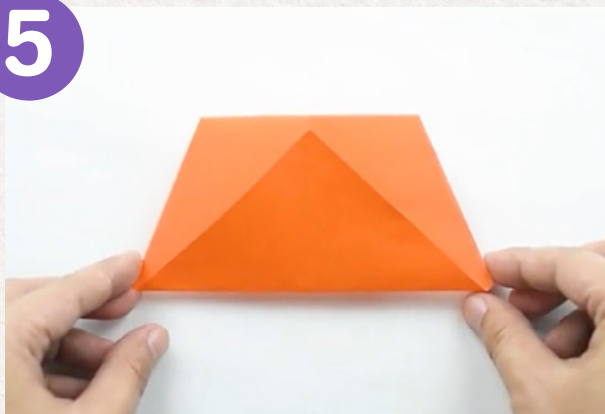


**Fold the corner back up to the top, crease it, then fold the tip halfway down.**

To make the head of the owl, bring the corner in the center up towards you so it lines up with the top edge and crease the fold. Then, fold the corner back down about halfway to create the beak.

**Tip:** Bring the corner down past the bottom edge of the head when you're making the beak.

5

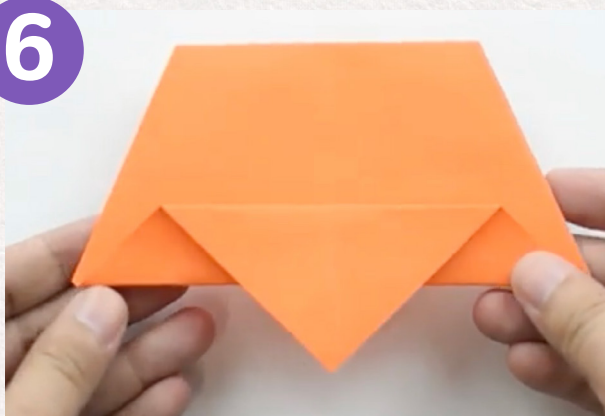


**Flip the paper over and fold the bottom corner up to the top edge.**

Turn the paper so the back is facing you. Bring the bottom corner up, aligning it with the flat edge at the top of the owl before creasing it.

**Tip:** Make the crease at the base of the owl as straight as possible and parallel to the top edge.

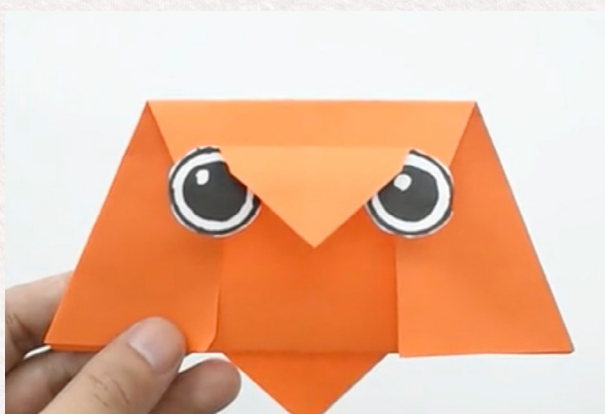
6



**Fold the corner back down, so the tip hangs over the bottom edge.**

Bring the corner down just slightly further than the bottom edge of the owl. Crease it, so it stays in place, forming the tail.

**Tip:** If you don't fold the corner down past the edge, you won't be able to see the owl's tail from the front.



**You did it! Now all you need to do is add some eyes and a bit of decoration!**

You could even write your message in the space on the back.



# Free origami workshop

**Where:** Leeds Playhouse

**When:** Tuesday 25 April & Tuesday 2 May

**Time:** 11am - 2pm

You're invited to join us at Leeds Playhouse to learn how to fold origami owls and explore the fascinating myth behind the 1000 origami cranes. No need to register, just turn up, join in, and leave whenever you need.



Playhouse Square, Quarry Hill,  
LS2 7UP (opposite bus station)



- Free event for people aged 60+ in Leeds
- All materials provided
- Two informal, guided workshops – drop in whenever suits
- Part of the '1001 Stories Festival' programme



1001 Stories is a revolutionary two-week takeover where older people perform, exhibit and express their stories of lives lived to the fullest.

Join us for a celebration of older people's vast creativity, shared through passionate and unexpected performances, exhibitions, music, dance and more across Leeds Playhouse. Everyone is welcome at our ground-breaking celebration of age and ageing.

1001 Stories is a collaboration between The Performance Ensemble, Leeds Playhouse, Leeds Museums and Galleries and Leeds Older People's Forum for LEEDS 2023.

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# Why origami?

Origami is an ancient Japanese art form that involves folding paper into intricate designs without the use of scissors or glue. The art of origami has been practised for centuries and is now enjoyed by people all over the world.



One of the most well-known origami myths is the story of the 1000 origami cranes.

According to this myth, folding 1000 origami cranes will grant the folder one wish. The story became popular after Sadako Sasaki, a young girl who survived the bombing of Hiroshima, began folding cranes while she was in the hospital, hoping to recover from leukemia.

Although Sadako did not reach her goal of folding 1000 cranes before she passed away, her story inspired others to continue folding cranes as a symbol of hope and peace.



We want to create as many owls as we can to show that older people give a hoot and have something to say about the future of the city. Who knows, we might even make it to 1000 owls and be granted a wish!

# Why owls?

Instead of cranes, we're making owls to represent the people of Leeds. Owls feature on the Leeds Coat-of-Arms and can be spotted all around the city on buildings and signs. In fact, there are twenty-five owls on the official Leeds Owl Trail!

Learn more about the link between Leeds and owls at [www.leedsowltrail.com/owl-map](http://www.leedsowltrail.com/owl-map)



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