

# Nové Hradý prepares its welcome

The next gathering of the Newcastles of the World will be in the town of Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic from Monday 28 April 2014 until the closing dinner on Saturday 3 May. Mayor Vladimír Hokr and his organising team (pictured right) are well into detailed planning, and we're sure we'll have a wonderful time in this beautiful town in South Bohemia, just 1 km from the Austrian border.



The castle (above) and, below, the Napoleonic chateau, among our conference venues)

Coaches will bring delegates from Prague airport on Monday 28th daytime or the afternoon of Sunday 27th, but for those wishing to arrive earlier there will be events in Nové Hradý to enjoy over the weekend of 26/27. At the end of the conference, Nové Hradý wish to encourage delegates to visit the other Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic (Zamek Nové Hradý in Pardubice area on the way back to Prague, east of the capital). Transport will be provided. Delegates can then go on to Prague for late afternoon flights or stay in Zamek Nové Hradý or Prague overnight and fly on Monday 5th. Registration details for the conference will be available soon on a dedicated website (and linked to ours).



Topics for the conference will include how we make best use of our culture, heritage, buildings and ecology to promote our Newcastles and our lifestyles as places for people to live, to work and to visit as tourists - the "Newcastle card", best practice, regional and twin city cooperation, opportunities for developing business between us all, managing and minimising waste. Also: managing change in our communities (Nové Hradý will discuss the transition to democracy) And especially for youth delegates - unemployment, barriers and prejudice, intergenerational divisions, exchange programmes. Finally - financing the future development of our alliance.

# Newcastles News

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • November/December 2013

## INSIDE

- More Awards for Newcastle KZN
- Newcastle-under-Lyme is blooming*
- Jaunpils celebrates Latvian heritage
- Kota Bharu wins festival award*
- Akhalsikhe's tourism future
- Newcastle NSW's Cathedral Park*
- New residents forum for Shinshiro
- It's Olivier Arni's year in Neuchâtel*
- Europe's biggest hat fair in Neuburg
- Nove Hradý's reminder of the past*
- Newcastle upon Tyne business boost
- Newcastle Ontario's music festival*
- New Castle Colorado's 125th
- Nyborg Castle restoration*
- New Castle, IN's Wilbur Wright trail
- Fireworks light up New Castle, PA*
- Our common mining heritage

[www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)

## SHINSHIRO MAYOR RE-ELECTED

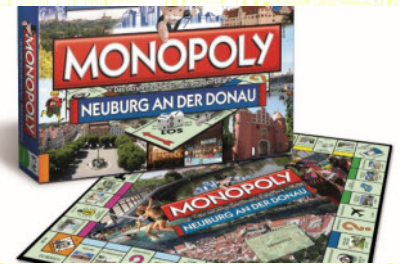


Congratulations to Mayor Ryozi Hozumi who was re-elected for a third term as Mayor of **Shinshiro City** on 10th November. First elected in 2005 Mr Hozumi attended the Newcastles summit in 2006 in Newcastle-under-Lyme UK and in 2008 in Neuburg an der Donau, Germany.

Shinshiro City will host the 2018 gathering of Newcastles of the World, being the 20th anniversary of the first summit which took place in Shinshiro. The then Mayor Yoshio Yamamoto invited a number of Newcastles to meet in his city and that was the start of the biennial gatherings.

## GAME ON !

To mark the 10th anniversary of Stadtmarketing **Neuburg**, the agency is promoting the city's very own version of Monopoly, the world-famous family board game. It's been available from October, is a great gift and is selling out fast.



## Neuchâtel's Film Festival another Great Success

Founded in 2000, the Fantastic Film Festival of **Neuchâtel** (NIFFF) has become one of the main events of the film year in Switzerland. It has a rich and diverse program, built around a core of fantasy films, but also Asian cinema and digital images. Read more inside - [www.niff.ch](http://www.niff.ch)



[www.facebook.com/nclsoftheworld](http://www.facebook.com/nclsoftheworld)



<https://twitter.com/NCLsoftheworld>

Enquiries, comments, newsletter content to David Faulkner - [david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk)

# Entrepreneurs Welcome!

Over the last few months, **Newcastle-under-Lyme** has celebrating its diverse range of local entrepreneurs with a variety of innovative events. May saw the launch of the annual Business Boost competition, now in its sixth year, which culminated in an awards evening in October. The competition awards cash prizes to local small businesses on the basis of their potential impact on the local economy. One of the main outcomes of the competition is that all businesses must submit a business plan – whilst most entrants already have one, many of them haven't looked at in years and for some, it's the first time they have really sat down and had a hard look at their business. 2013 winners included Purple Energy, a green energy company, ethical trading business Little Trove, Inspired Film & Video, dog grooming salon Posh Pugs, IT security experts Tolerant Systems, giftware firm Golddisc.com, Language for Fun and outsourcing agents Smart Strategy Marketing.

Start-ups were given their own boost with 'Enterprize', a competition offering a whole package of support, including rent free premises, to those wanting to open a town centre business. Based on the format of the popular 'Dragon's Den' TV programme, entrepreneurs had to present their business idea to a panel of three local 'Dragons' who each picked a winner to mentor for the next 12 months. The combination of the new event and the setting (a recently-restored Victorian warehouse) excited the interest of BBC Midlands Today. The winners, which include an arts café and a wedding dress shop, hope to be trading ready for Christmas.



## IT'S GOLD FOR BOROUGH GARDENERS

Newcastle-under-Lyme has come up smelling of roses in a prestigious floral competition for the 12th consecutive year. The borough won gold – the highest honour – in the small city category of the Heart of England in Bloom campaign. The awards make up the regional element of the Britain in Bloom campaign organised by the Royal Horticultural Society to encourage communities to work together to improve their local environment. Regional judges toured gardens, parks, community projects and schools in July.



Councillor Elsie Bates, Cabinet member for culture and leisure, said: "We're absolutely delighted to win gold for the twelfth year in a row. "Our result is testament to the hard work and dedication shown by council gardeners, green-fingered residents, community groups, schoolchildren and businesses. "This isn't just a competition; it brings the council, residents, communities, schools and businesses together to make the borough a better place to live, shop and visit." A ceremony for local Britain in Bloom competitors took place at the New Vic Theatre in October.

## COMMUNITIES HAVE THEIR DAY

Community groups in Newcastle-under-Lyme were encouraged to improve their neighbourhoods during a national initiative. Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council staged its first Communities Day in a bid to improve residents' quality of life and strengthen community spirit. The event took place during Volunteers' Week and was also linked to the borough's Newcastle in Bloom campaign.

The borough council provided practical support to groups such as school gardening clubs, village tidy groups and friends organisations that were organising litter picks, planting sessions and small social events. A total of 39 activities were registered - over 300 volunteers took part and committed hundreds of hours of their time. Amongst other things they collected 83 bags of litter and planted approximately 1350 flowers. Disabled volunteers from the borough council's gardening club held a party in the park at Chesterton Park. The day was a great success and the plan is to make it an annual event.



*Green-fingered young people with the Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme and Newcastle's of the World stalwart Councillor Eddie Boden*

## Iconic Sculpture takes pride of place

An iconic bird's nest sculpture by Brett Whiteley has been permanently relocated from Sydney to **Newcastle, New South Wales** and takes pride of place in the forecourt of the Newcastle Art Gallery. This is a special addition to the gallery's permanent collection and is a real drawcard to celebrate the opening of the exhibition Whiteley on Water from November to 2014. The Black Totem II (1993) sculpture's move is the result of a generous donation by Wendy Whiteley (through the Federal Government's Cultural Gifts program) and recognises the gallery's support of Brett Whiteley throughout his career.

The Newcastle Art Gallery was the first public gallery to purchase a Brett Whiteley painting and later commissioned one of his most acclaimed works Summer at Carcoar (1977). The crowning jewel of the sculpture is an iconic bird's nest and fibreglass egg - it was explained that in Black Totem II Whiteley celebrates the cycle of life, of rebirth and regeneration. The Whiteley on Water exhibition has been curated in association with the Brett Whiteley Studio and the Art Gallery of NSW, and celebrates Australia's 'cult of the coastal life style'





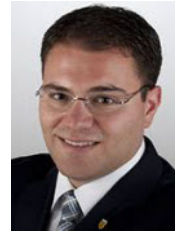
## OLIVIER ARNI'S YEAR AS PRÉSIDENT – AND A NEW ROLE FOR ALAIN RIBAUX

Olivier Arni has been appointed president of the Executive (the Conseil Communal) of the **City of Neuchâtel** for the 2013-2014 administrative year, succeeding Pascal Sandoz. He was first elected to the municipal council in 2009, and re-elected in 2012. Mme Christine Gaillard is his deputy.

Earlier this year Alain Ribaux was elected to the Council of State of Neuchâtel. With him, the canton of Neuchâtel has an experienced and knowledgeable member who will put his hard work and advocacy in favour of a cohesive and progressive Canton.

M Ribaux (left, below) was elected in 2008 to the Municipal Council of the City of Neuchâtel and re-elected in 2012 ; he chaired the City Council during the 2011-2012 administrative year. During his five years on the Executive, he led on Finance, Human Resources and Economic Development. Many will remember Alain from his positive participation in the 2008 and 2010 Newcastles of the World Summits.

Fabio Bongiovanni, pictured right, has now become a member of the Executive. Only 27, M Bongiovanni has been a member of the General Council since 2008. As a member of the Neuchâtel Youth Parliament, which he chaired in 2006 and 2007, Fabio participated in the 2008 Newcastles alliance summit.



## Fantastic Film Festival

Founded in 2000, the Fantastic Film Festival of Neuchâtel (NIFFF) become one of the core events of the film year in Switzerland. What characterizes the Festival is a rich and diverse program, built around a central axis, fantasy films, but also two other genres of Asian cinema and digital image. [www.niff.ch](http://www.niff.ch) Among the 2013 awards, best film went to Dark Touch, directed by Marina de Van (below, right) and the International Jury special award to Chimeras (directed by Olivier Beguin). Next year's festival runs from 4-12 July.



Neuchâtel's open air music festival **Festi'Neuch** takes place every summer. This year more than 30,000 people enjoyed a range of concerts and entertainment for adults and children alike, over a four day period on the different stages at the lakeside.

## BUSKERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

In August, the streets of the pedestrian zone of Neuchâtel resonate with music... it's the annual Buskers Festival. There's no need for stages or PA systems – it's just groups of musicians performing in the streets of the downtown area acoustically. Their only payment is what people put in the hat or by selling their CDs.



## Some photographs from the presentation of the ceremony of the Plaque of Honour of the Council of Europe to the city of Neuchâtel (Newcastles News, July 2013)



Victor Ruffy, délégué de la sous-commission du Prix de l'Europe, remet la Plaque d'honneur au Président de la Ville Pascal Sandoz



Cérémonie officielle de remise de la Plaque d'honneur



Le Chancelier Rémy Voiron présente la Plaque d'honneur du Conseil de l'Europe.

## Song and Dance Celebration in Latvia

This summer, members of folk art collectives from Jaunpils - choir, dance group, youth dance group "Atsperite" (Spring), vocal ensemble "Vocalica" and the town's applied art weavers all took part in one of the most important events in Latvia's cultural life- the XXV Song and XV Dance Celebration.



This is a major event lasting a week and involving thousands of participants from all over Latvia, starting with a procession to welcome participants, and ending with a concert at the "Mezaparks" open air stage with a concert of a 13000-strong joint choir. The national Song and Dance Celebration has been included in the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



## Jaunpils Medieval Feast "Lords of the Manor Marriage"



This is a local festival each August where visitors take part in different activities together with the Jaunpils castle characters - Bert, Hilda, monk Theodor, craftsmen and traders. The early music ensemble "Trakula", folk ensemble "Putni", dance group "Calendula" and artists from Riga Circus entertained visitors this year. During the day people had a chance to try shooting a crossbow and taking part in a tournament. One very challenging activity was the throwing the axe! It was a chance to step back in time.- and to enjoy music and dance all night long.

## OUR DAY OF KNOWLEDGE

September 1st is "the Day of knowledge in Latvia" when all primary, basic, secondary school pupils, teachers and parents celebrate the start of the school year. For the new academic year 2013/2014 the morning started with the ceremony, speeches by Jaunpils municipality chairwomen **Ligita Gintere** and the head teacher of Newcastle Secondary school Mr. Janis Liepiðð. In Latvia the tradition is that students give autumn flowers- gladiolus, asters and dahlias to their class teachers. For parents whose children are in classes from the 1st- 4th, September 1st is an official holiday!



## AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY OF OLDER PEOPLE

"Older people are valued and are very active in our Newcastle" says Baiba Rasa, Public Relations specialist at Jaunpils Municipality through a seniors association formed three years ago to organise culture and healthy lifestyle activities. Activities such as Nordic walking and line dancing are particularly popular. They also organise a range of events, excursions, and exchange tours, as well as lifelong learning courses and improving language skills.

"**This was our time**" "The seniors association is active in supporting the preservation of our culture traditions" says Baiba. A very interesting current project is around collecting film recordings about local people, rural cultural activities, traditional celebrations, concerts in 70s and 80s. With financial support from Newcastle Municipality and the Teterevi fund, seniors are planning to digitalise this material and make a film which they will call "This was our time". "It will be important for all generations" says Baiba - young people will see how the life in Jaunpils was more than 40 years ago, middle-aged residents and seniors can organise recollection evenings and discussions about life now and then".



## Helping to Unlock Business Potential

A new business service to unlock the growth potential of businesses has been launched in **Newcastle upon Tyne**. The city council created the first UK Business & Intellectual Property Centre outside London as a pilot in 2011 and has secured over £1.3m to provide a full-scale operational service.

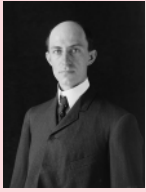
The Centre is the first of a nationwide network developed with the British Library which will help businesses and entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, protect their ideas, and become commercially successful. The service, based in the flagship Newcastle City Library, offers free access to business and intellectual property (IP) databases and publications, support on commercialising IP, advice on start-up funding, market research, company data and information on patents, trademarks, design and copyright. Through a series of events, workshops and one-to-one coaching sessions, experts share their knowledge and experience in business development and intellectual property complemented by world class resources and staff support.

Working in partnership with Newcastle City Council, Newcastle Science City and Northumbria University, the Centre has created the new service following the successful pilot phase, where over 2,500 entrepreneurs and businesses attended a wide range of events.



# “A Glorious day for New Castle”

New Castle, Indiana has opened a new trail in town named after aviation pioneer Wilbur Wright. In planning and preparation for nearly a decade, the two-mile trail provides opportunities for exercise and wildlife viewing. The opening ceremony celebrated the completion of the first phase of the trail. Beverly Matthews, Henry County Community Foundation executive director and Healthy Communities board member, said :”It’s a glorious day for New Castle. The purpose of building and creating trails is to provide outdoor recreation without motorised traffic. We dedicate the trail to all the citizens in our community, so they can walk, run and ride to better health.”



Wilbur Wright cam from the Henry County area - one of the famous American brothers, inventors, and aviation pioneers who were credited with building the world’s first successful airplane and making the first controlled, powered and sustained heavier-than-air human flight in 1903. The Wilbur Wight Birthplace and Museum is just outside New Castle.

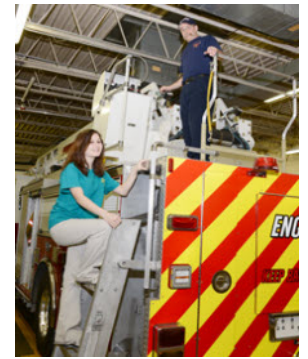


## MAYOR FOR A DAY

Sixteen New Castle Indiana High School students took part in this year’s Mayor for a Day program that gives students a close-up look at New Castle government. The students were paired with 15 department heads who took time to show them their daily jobs. Mayor Greg York coached Darius Jordan who presided over the Board of Public Works



Students had the opportunity to see the services provided by engineers, by the parks and recreation department, as well as by the police and fire teams.



MaKaelin Swim climbs up the side of an aerial truck as David Cook Jr. gives her a tour of Fire House No. 1.

## NEW CASTLE, COLORADO CELEBRATES 125 YEARS



New Castle Colorado is celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding this year, named in 1888 by English miners from Newcastle upon Tyne who began coal mining in the area.. “Our anniversary celebrations have been wonderful.” says Debbie Nichols from the town hall. “We have had four different celebrations through the year with one more to go. A motorless parade in May had over eighty horses in it, then there was a vintage baseball and Cowboy Ball in June. Everyone has been enjoying the events.”

New Castle flourished in the 1890s mining coal from a rich vein in the Grand Hogback mountain. Coal, shipped by rail to nearby Cardiff and Redstone, was cooked down in high temperature ovens to produce “coke.” The coke was used to smelt or melt silver from rock in Aspen and Leadville. On February 18, 1896 methane gas in the Vulcan Mine caused a tragic explosion which killed forty-nine coal miners. Successive explosions in 1913 and again in 1918 ended coal production in New Castle. The Grand Hogback coal seam is still smoldering on Burning Mountain. Scars may be seen on the mountainsides where heat is close to the surface, and in winter steam rises in wisps along the seam. In 2004 a life-sized memorial to the lost miners was erected in Burning Mountain Park on Main Street. For more than 40 years the town of New Castle has marked its history through the annual Burning Mountain Festival.



## Fireworks in Pennsylvania



New Castle, Pennsylvania is known as the Fireworks Capital of America, and this year celebrates its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Fireworks Festival. Fireworker Antonio Zambelli ventured from Italy in 1893 to establish the Zambelli Fireworks Manufacturing Company in New Castle. Proudly known as the “First Family of Fireworks,” Zambelli is one of the oldest and largest fireworks companies in America. The magic of Zambelli pyrotechnics has been televised around the world, on the Odyssey Network, Discovery Channel, The Learning Channel and the British Broadcasting Company. Zambelli Fireworks has changed the face of the fireworks industry.

Around the same time Constantino Vitale was founding his fireworks company in Italy - a company that for more than a century passed on the rare art of pyrotechnics from generation to generation, from Italy to America. In 1922, the Vitale Fireworks Mfg. Co. was incorporated in New Castle, Pennsylvania, and quickly became one of America’s premier fireworks manufacturers. Producing over 2,000 displays this past year, Pyrotecnico (as it’s now called) is one of America’s largest and fastest growing fireworks companies.

## The Iron Curtain border crossing museum

On the border between the former Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic) and Austria, is the recently-opened **Nové Hradý**– Pyhrabruck museum of state border protection where the Iron Curtain was situated. This museum was created as part of Nové Hradý's town museum with the support of the European Union and the European Programme for the Regional Development .



At the heart of the museum are exhibits from the former border private museum in Borovany built by Radomil Marek. After his death the exhibits were offered to the town of Nové Hradý as a foundation for the planned museum. The museum gives information on the development of border protection of the country from the earliest times to the recent past. The larger part of the exhibition focuses on the protection of state borders from the Cold War when the world was divided into two political, economic and military systems.

Outside, visitors can see sections of the barbed wire fence. The exhibition is complemented by border milestones, a guard tower, and tank traps, with graphic boards displaying sketches and photographs. A detailed interpretation guide describes the history of the state border during the years 1918 – 1990.

The museum is located along the route of Cycle Trail EuroVelo 13 – the old Iron Curtain Trail (ICT) using the former military road that was built along the entire communist border in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Marcela Kotrčová** of the Newcastles of the World Organising Committee says: "I drive by this place every Tuesday to take my little one to Austrian daycare. It is quite amazing feeling to have this freedom of driving back and forth. From my teenage time, I still remember the chill of driving closer to the border - I was always afraid we would be shot by soldiers."

## KOTA BHARU -FESTIVAL CITY



**Kota Bharu** has been awarded the winner for Best Festival Award Asia Pacific 2013. The award was made during the Tourism Promotion Organisation General Assembly held in Daejeon City, Korea in September (see left - Azman Mohddaham, Public Relations Director of Kota Bharu Municipal Council in the centre)

The Best Festival that won for Kota Bharu was mainly the The Ramadan Festival attended by more than 3,000 people daily for religious activities during the fasting month.

Kota Bharu is a member of the Tourism Promotion Organisation based in Busan, Korea. There are 72 member cities in the Asia Pacific region from China, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan and Russia.

## MORE CONNECTIONS FOR KOTA BHARU

Airasia Malaysia has introduced a new flight connecting Kota Bharu directly to Kota Kinabalu beginning in November. "This is another step taken by Airasia to turn Kota Bharu airport as its hub for the east" says Azman Mohammad., Public Relations Director for Kota Bharu Municipal Council



Kota Kinabalu is the capital of Sabah State in East Malaysia, located along the northwest coast of Borneo facing the South China Sea. "It's the gateway to fascinating tourism destinations including the majestic Mount Kinabalu (the highest peak in South East Asia), Tuanku Abdul Rahman Marine Park and Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre" says Azman. The direct flight will boost tourism in both cities, and to start, the flight is three times a week.



## CREATIVE KELANTAN

The Kelantan state government has just held the exciting Kelantan International Creative Industry Festival in Kota Bharu from 31 October to 3 November.

The festival is all about to raise awareness among young people for anything creative that can contribute to the state's economy. A whole range of exhibition, sales and creative promotions have been on display throughout the festival.



# THE AWARDS KEEP COMING !

For the second year in a row Mayor Afzul Rehman of Newcastle Kwazulu Natal has been recognised as the **Best Performing Mayor** in the province. This is an annual award given by the COGTA, the central government department for cooperative governance and traditional affairs, and covers the whole range of municipal activity, from investment to customer service and from efficiency to financial management. It's a great achievement for the Mayor and his team at the municipality.



Newcastle KZN has been recognised as third best municipality in the whole of South Africa for **water conservation** programme - a critical issue for a country where there are water scarcity issues. The council has invested in the installation of Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV'S), new water meters, dealing more vigorously water leaks repairs and embarking on water information and education campaigns. Present to receive the award (above) was the Deputy Mayor Cllr Rachel Mdluli and Strategic Executive Director; Technical Services Mr Sandile Dube.



The **Newcastle Retail Mall**, opened last year, took top honours at the **South African Council of Shopping Centres** annual Retail Design and Development Awards at its annual congress recently, taking the national award for the best new shopping centre.

Developed at a cost of R400 million by Zenprop Property Holdings and Durban businessman Vivian Reddy, the mall was officially opened last year by South African **President Jacob Zuma** (pictured left with Mr Reddy). It was the first regional shopping centre in the northern KwaZuluNatal industrial hub and has 38 000m of retail space, over 2000 parking bays and 88 shops, including anchor tenants Checkers, Game, Pick n Pay, Woolworths and Edgars. Construction was carried out in just 12 months, creating 1500 jobs and another 1500 permanent jobs.

The President had stressed the importance of stimulating investment away from the main economic centres such as Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town to towns such as Newcastle.



And another award just announced in early November - most credible integrated **development plan** in KZN.

Newcastle Municipality has installed **outdoor fitness equipment** in new state of the art play parks in Crawford street central and Madadeni section 4! And there's new AstroTurf soccer courts so that youngsters can play almost at any time of the day.

## Celebrating the heritage of the Rainbow Nation

Heritage Day is a South African public holiday celebrated on 24 September when South Africans recognise the diverse cultural heritage that makes up the "rainbow nation". It is the day to celebrate the contribution of all South Africans to the building of the nation, their culture and the diversity of their beliefs and traditions, in the wider context of a nation that belongs to all its people.

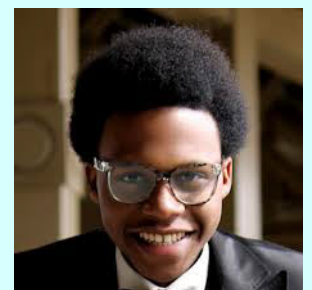
In KwaZulu-Natal, 24 September was known as Shaka Day, in commemoration of the legendary Zulu King, Shaka who played an important role in uniting disparate Zulu clans into a cohesive nation.



In September young people filled the **Newcastle City Council** Chamber to let Councillors know directly what issues affect them most. The occasion was the City Council Policy Cabinet session which meets each month and involves members of the public speaking directly to Councillors about different issues affecting the city. This topic was '**Seeing Newcastle Through Young People's Eyes**'.

In the weeks leading up to this event, the youth council gathered views from hundreds of young people in the city asking what is important to them. "We asked what people love about their city and what they think can be improved" said youth council member Matthew Otubu (pictured right). These results have been written up into a report which was presented to the Policy Cabinet meeting. They will be combined with other research work that has been collected from different organisations working with young people in the city. Youth Councillors also made a presentation at the beginning of the meeting

## YOUTH VOICE



# Businesses vote YES again



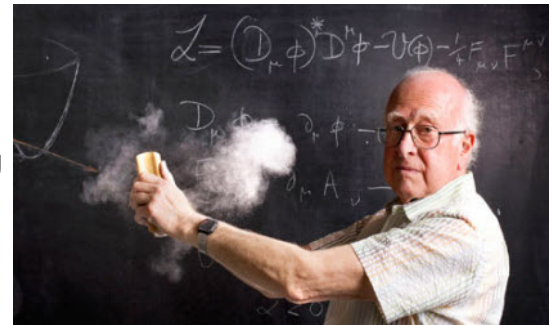
Businesses in Newcastle city centre have voted to renew the term of business improvement district company NE1 Ltd for a further five years - over 78 % voting in favour. The vote secures the continuation of NE1's projects delivered to date including: the "Alive after Five" initiative for extended retail hours; the Central railway station redevelopment; the Newcastle City Marina and the Space 2 centre for young people, and it allows NE1 to embark on its 2nd phase of work until 2019.

NE1 Ltd is a business-led organisation chaired by David Quinn, Managing Director of the famous Fenwick's store.

A world-renowned physicist who was born in the west end of **Newcastle upon Tyne** has received the city's greatest honour - the Freedom of the City. Professor Peter Higgs, after whom the "Higgs boson" particle is named, was approved for the honour at a meeting of Newcastle City Council in September and received the award at a special gathering at the Civic Centre that month.

Prof Higgs, born in 1929, predicted the existence of the particle, one that gave everything mass. For the next five decades scientists set about trying to "see" the Higgs boson particle - a search which culminated in a particle consistent with it at the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva. The particle explains how our universe became something from nothing, and also what happened in the milliseconds after the Big Bang that created the building blocks of the universe that make up everything we see today. Scientists rank it with the discovery of the electron which led to everything from the moon landing to the mobile phone.

## FREEDOM OF THE CITY FOR THE HIGGS BOSON PARTICLE MAN



## Restoration for the Black Gate

Newcastle's treasured 13th century Black Gate, the historic gatehouse to the Castle, is being transformed into a world-class attraction in a two million Euro Heritage Lottery Funded restoration project. The whole building will be opened up to the public for the first time to create a new visitor venue for the city featuring a permanent exhibition, learning centre, shop and café. A state of the art lift on the exterior of the Black Gate, sanctioned by English Heritage, will allow visitors to easily access the three floors of the unique medieval building.

The Black Gate was a formidable addition to the exposed western side of the defensive walls in 1247 by King Henry II and gave access to the Castle precinct where the Keep still stands today. These buildings are rich with stories from Newcastle's past and form the literal 'new castle on the Tyne' at the heart of the city's heritage.



Early building work has already unearthed many of the hidden stories hidden within the fabric of the site, including an 1880 copy of the Bayeux Tapestry hidden behind nineteenth century bookshelves. There is even some original graffiti by musical hall legend George Formby, who left his signature behind on a wall on one of his many visits to the city.

The Black Gate has remained unoccupied since the Society of Antiquaries moved to the Great North Museum. Building work is due to be completed by the end of the year and will be followed by the installation of new permanent exhibition telling the site's unique story. The project is due to be completed by May 2014.

## Cycling boost for city

Newcastle has won a £5.6m Government grant in a boost to its ambitions as a cycling city. The city council secured the money through the Department of Transport's Cycle City Ambition Fund, which will go towards improving the city centre for pedestrians and cyclists as part of a ten-year plan to improve routes and facilities across Newcastle.

The funding will pay for a host of improvements over the next two years as part of a ten year strategy to make Newcastle a 'city fit for cycling'. The council worked with active travel charity Sustrans to draft the bid which is being supported by the local universities and the hospital trust. The council's public health team will work across the council, and across the life course, to encourage cycling by providing revenue to promote and provide information, training, and support to families and communities and to increase cycling opportunities. The proposals support both walking and cycling and will transform local neighbourhoods into people friendly areas.

The Strategic Cycle Route Network is the backbone of the bid creating new and better routes for people to cycle safely and smoothly into the city centre and encouraging everyone to get on their bikes. Making it easier, safer and more pleasant for people to walk and cycle around the city will not only bring big health benefits but will help boost the economy by helping people to get to jobs and making the city more attractive to investors. Councillor Nick Forbes, Leader of Newcastle City Council, said: "The popularity of cycling has grown massively here in recent years, with more and more people choosing to get on a bike"







# NEW RESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY FOR SHINSHIRO

A Residents' Assembly has been set up in Shinshiro City to bring new focus on the city and its needs. Around 400 citizens attended the First Meeting of Residents' in early August, together with the Mayor.

Members of Shinshiro Youth Meeting played an active part and Takeshita, a representative of Shinshiro Youth Meeting, made a presentation about what is good about Shinshiro City and what is needed to improve the city (for example, to stop the outflow of the young, reuse old unoccupied houses, improve transportation etc..)

## SHINSHIRO YOUTH GROUP'S VISIT TO NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

Fifteen students from Shinshiro, Japan visited Newcastle upon Tyne, UK for four days in August for a programme of visits around the city area and for a workshop and social activities with members of Newcastle's Youth Council (see top photo).

They even made a guest appearance on the community stage at Newcastle's annual mela (multi-cultural gathering) at Exhibition Park where they sang and played two songs for the audience. "They returned to Shinshiro with happy memories of such a positive experience" said Tomoko Tamai, one of the trip leaders.

A few weeks later the report presentation was made to the Shinshiro Youth Meeting.



## COUNTY WEST SHOWCASED AT NEWCASTLE ROOTS EVENT

Large crowds enjoyed a day of art and music as the waves lapped on the shores of Lake Ontario, Canada. Newcastle's 6th annual music and art weekend festival is the signature event of the season.

Headlining this year was classic blues performer Rick Fines, one of Canada's leading blues, roots music and slide guitarists and a veteran of the folk and blues circuits in North America.

The two days featured exceptional live music for young and old, impressive artist wares, demonstrations, kid's activities and a variety of food.



And here's a name that Newcastles of the World delegates from last year might recognise - County West is a local band led by 17 year old Jake Vanhaverbeke who performed at the festival and have just celebrated their first release.

Remember our 2012 delegate and friend Sylvia Vanhaverbeke?



## Australians Visitors Take in the Galleries

Newcastle upon Tyne was pleased to host a visit in September from Ron Ramsey, Director of the Regional Art Gallery of Newcastle, Australia and his colleague Lauretta Morton. They visited local museums and galleries and met the management team of Tyne and Wear Museums, and there have been discussions around possible future collaborations. Ron and Loretta were in the UK to support the "Australia" exhibition at the Royal Academy, London which included a painting from their gallery of Newcastle in its early days as a settlement. Ron and Lauretta are pictured here with Godfrey Worsdale (centre), Director of BALTIC Gallery for Contemporary Art, the largest outside London.

# Chief Executive Appointment Confirmed

Lord Mayor Councillor Jeff McCloy has confirmed the appointment of Ken Gouldthorp as the permanent General Manager of the City of **Newcastle, New South Wales** for the next five years. Mr Gouldthorp has been the interim General Manager and in this time has guided the council through some difficult budget decisions and begun implementing the Council's delivery plan. He has over 20 year's experience working in senior roles in State and Local Government as well as the private sector, most recently including as CEO at Toowoomba Regional Council and Mackay City. Toowoomba Council has an annual budget of \$550 million, staff of 1,700 and an asset base of \$3 billion.



## A Showpiece for the City

Cathedral Park in Newcastle, New South Wales is being reinvented as a beautiful, contemporary and engaging public space, with improved access, new pathways, signage and viewing decks. Located in an attractive position within the city centre and adjacent to Christ Church Cathedral (which attracts 80,000 visitors a year), Cathedral Park is the site of Newcastle's first cemetery and the resting place of 3300 of the city's early residents. It's one of the most under-utilised spaces in Newcastle, but it boasts some of the most breathtaking views of the city's beaches and harbour. Lord Mayor Jeff McCloy said that the high visitation and the area's rich history provided a wonderful opportunity to create a true showpiece for the city. "The Cathedral Park area is near and dear to many in Newcastle and we are carrying out the sensitive work to restore Newcastle's first cemetery in a way that will honour and preserve the memories of those laid to rest here and reflect what is an important part of Newcastle's history. The Cathedral Park project is an important part of our overall plans to revitalise the city centre."

## CBD Looking Good

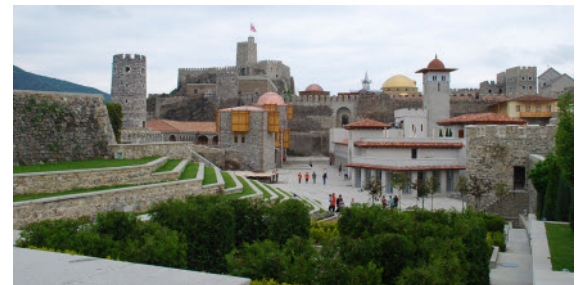


The City of Newcastle, New South Wales and Newcastle Now's popular Facade Improvement Scheme is already transforming the Central Business District with the first of the buildings now completed on Hunter Street. Businesses contribute one-third, with the city council and Newcastle Now the rest. This is the first of eight projects currently underway in the CBD. With the successes of the scheme being realised, a second round of funding has been confirmed by the City of Newcastle and Newcastle NOW.

Newcastle NOW is a business-led body which is advocate for the CBD and its business interests, funded through a City of Newcastle business rate levy which is collected from over a thousand businesses in the inner city area

## Akhaltzikhe's Tourism Future

A public discussion was held recently at the Centre for Civic Engagement in **Akhaltzikhe** on future plans and present obstacles for tourism development in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia. Speakers included Tamar Gogoladze, Deputy Governor of the region and Giorgi Cherqezishvili, Manager of Akhaltzikhe's Rabati Castle. Representatives of local government, owners of local and regional guesthouses, tour guides, tour operators and media representatives attended.



The Samtskhe-Javakheti region is distinguished by its ancient settlements and numerous archaeological sites such as the newly rehabilitated Rabati Castle. The region's historical and cultural richness creates a favourable environment for the development of tourism. However, the conclusion was that a lack of hotels, a lack of entertainment facilities, the low-standard transportation system, poor infrastructure, a lack of competent personnel in the field of tourism, the difficulty of obtaining medical care in locations of higher altitudes and a lack of readily accessible online information for potential visitors to the region represent the main obstacles for tourism in Akhaltzikhe and its Samtskhe-Javakheti. Marketing was raised as another issue of importance. "We need to provide customers with tour packages that meet modern standards, improve customer services and offer high-quality food and, most importantly, feature traditional Meskhian dishes and display regional artwork. The skills of new tour guides must be developed and we need to raise public awareness about the advantages of tourism development," indicated Giorgi Cherqezishvili. At the end of the discussion, participants developed clear recommendations for regional tourism development as well as ways for continued communication and collaboration.

Giorgi sent us some information about activity in Akhaltzikhe, "Within our historic fortress area, during the year we were able to organise a huge range of events – sports events such as wrestling and street basketball being very popular. Our football team became champions and were awarded a Cup and Diploma by the Samtskhe - Javakheti Regional Football Federation. We celebrated "Akhaltzikheloba"- the Day of Shalva Akhaltzikheli (a famous Georgian military commander); also "Tamaroba", the day that recognises Tamar the Great; and we also organised a concert dedicated to the Independence Day of Georgia"



"Our Fortress hosts international projects such as exhibitions, TV shows, conferences and seminars, and together with the National Museum of Georgia we promote contacts with schools, universities, colleges, and different travel companies in Georgia. At the heart of our tourism activities is the promotion of the culture and history of Samtskhe - Javakheti region, through our architectural and cultural monuments, our martial arts and our crafts, and through the display and analysis of archaeology."

# OUR MINING HERITAGE



## MINING THE INSTITUTE

LECTURE, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME 2013-2014

One thing that links many of our Newcastles, especially in the English-speaking world, is the history and heritage of coal mining, and the migration of miners and mining engineers between countries.

The North of England Mining Institute in Newcastle upon Tyne, one of the world's most important mining archives (<http://www.mininginstitute.org.uk/>) has begun a project to map this migration and its impact on the communities where mining developed. Its core aim is to map and understand those leaving the Great Northern Coalfield in the North East of England. The Institute hopes to engage schools and communities in this project both in North East England and overseas, and to provide a website which records stories and place names associated with this migration. Schools might wish to research the origin of the name of their town or city (where it is linked to the discovery and development of coal mining), chart the development of the industry and their community, perhaps do some family history work around those who worked in the mines. So the Institute hopes that it may be able to link schools and communities that share place names or a history of migration. One aspect is to plot names on a world map and develop stories around this.



Supported by  
The National Lottery  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

through  
the National Lottery Fund

REECE  
FOUNDATION

Already there is interest from the Newcastles in Australia and South Africa (the South African national mining museum is in Dundee, close to Newcastle, Kwazulu Natal). Coal Ridge High School in New Castle Colorado will be taking part and hopefully other New Castles in the USA and Canada too. Let us know if you would like to take part.

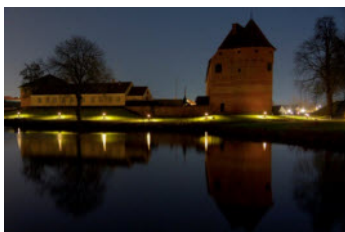
## NYBORG CASTLE TO BE RESTORED AND EXPANDED AS NEW INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ATTRACTION

A big new project is set to regenerate the concept of Nyborg (the Danish "New Castle"), both the castle and the town, as the medieval capital of the country. Nyborg castle and town together comprise a unique historic monument from the Danish Middle Ages, with its well-preserved medieval town plan, with the castle and ramparts in the centre of the town. This is where the first constitution in Denmark was signed and sealed on July 29, 1282, the Danehof Parliament was held here, and the Danish kings and their courts stayed for centuries.

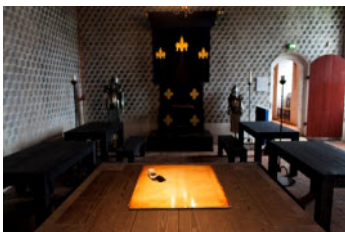


The Museums of Eastern Funen, in cooperation with the Municipality of Nyborg and the Agency for Palaces and Cultural Properties have joined forces to tell the rest of the world about Nyborg and to develop a vision that will secure the future of the existing buildings, add new architecture in the form of a visitors' centre, and create a new connection between the castle and the town.

Nyborg's mayor, Erik Christensen, the Director of the Agency for Palaces and Cultural Properties, Anders V. Møller and the Director of the Museums of Eastern Funen, Erland Porsmose, revealed their building plans at a major launch event in September. To recreate the sense of past greatness and to teach about the unique heritage of Nyborg, a new wing will be added to the castle that will function as a visitors' centre. The existing castle will be restored and a castle courtyard will be recreated with four surrounding buildings or walls.



The connection between castle and town will be emphasized by a new bridge to the castle grounds, approximately where it was in the Middle Ages. The tournament ground will be reestablished, and the land between it and the castle grounds will be enhanced to make a visual link between the town centre and the castle.



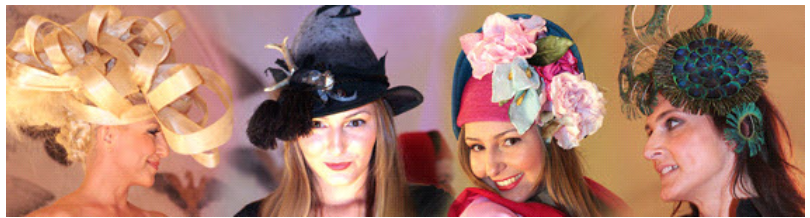
During the preliminary phase, the Realdania Foundation will finance studies and programming. This phase will be followed by one or more architectural competitions, with an expected end date of summer 2014. The aim is to complete the whole project by 2017. It is still uncertain what the final budget for the project will be, but it is expected to be over 100m Danish kroner (over 13m Euros). The new visitors' centre is expected to attract over 100,000 guests per year, and the increase in visitors will also mean that shops, restaurants and hotels in Nyborg will probably need to hire more staff!

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

"Borgen" is a Danish political drama television series that has also become very popular in the UK and elsewhere. It tells the story of a charismatic politician who unexpectedly becomes the first female Prime Minister of Denmark. That's where the coincidences start. "Borgen" mean "the Castle" - the nickname of Christiansborg Palace, which houses all three of Denmark's branches of government: the Parliament, the Prime Minister's Office and the Supreme Court. The main character, played by Sidse Babett Knudsen is called Birgitte Nyborg ("New Castle" of course) - and there's more. Her full name in the drama is Birgitte Nyborg Christensen. So what? Well the real-time Mayor of the Danish Newcastle is called Erik Christensen ..... What's going on here?



Mayor Christensen



**Europe's largest hat fair** took place in Neuburg an der Donau at the end of September. Over 10.000 people attended the different parts of the programme over two days in the famous castle. For 14 years the best milliners, hatters and designers have been drawn to the beautiful Renaissance city. Over 15,000 hats were available to look at, try on - and of course to buy! The inventiveness of the headdress artist seems to be inexhaustible. And every year they surprise you with new creations.

There's also fancy jewellery - gold, silver, glass, silk, wood and felt, combined with gemstones or beads - hand-made and crafted with great attention to detail. In addition to the stunning hats, and jeweller you can also see exceptional textile design, ranging from original bags to shoes, shawls and belts and all kinds of ornamental feathers and much more ...



**CHANGING ATTITUDES TO ENERGY USE** The symposium "Energiewende" dealing with different topics concerning behavioural change in the use of energy took place in Neuburg in October. This event was attended by almost a hundred representatives from universities, local energy managers and representatives of electricity boards.



We wrote in our summer newsletter about the Audi Motoring Experience Centre which will open in Neuburg in April of next year. The latest news is that the Centre will also host a new department of Ducati motorbikes - the Ducati company was taken over by AUDI this year.



## BAR/RESTAURANT OPENS IN HISTORIC BUILDING



October saw the much-awaited opening ceremony of the new restaurant "Rennbahn" in the centre of Neuburg after renovation work taking three years. The new owner spent almost 3m Euros to renovate this historic building, which dates back to about 1850.

It has the largest stammtisch in the city. Stammtisch means a table reserved for regular customers for meetings, discussions - and for food and drink! (Stamm = tribe, tree trunk; Tisch = table).



**Wort-Klang-Bild** (word-sound-picture): This is an annual event in Neuburg in October, which involves a large number of local artists. They perform in many different locations of the Altstadt - the historic part of town - in genres from singing and music to prose, poetry, puppetry, painting, dance and theatre. One of the venues is the magnificent castle (right) - we don't really need an excuse for publishing a photo of this architectural gem of the Renaissance period.



**ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD:** In 1998 the Mayor of Shinshiro in Japan took the initiative to invite representatives of seven Newcastles to his city. They have continued to meet every two years - in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (Indiana/Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008 and most recently in Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in July 2012. Newcastle upon Tyne-based John Nicolaou had come up with the idea in the mid-1990s to link those English-speaking communities who share the name "Newcastle". He contacted writers and photographers in Newcastles around the world and compiled a book which was published in 2000. The aim of the Newcastles alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each others' heritage and culture. Each gathering has taken a discussion theme to ensure practical, usable outcomes, also involving our young people.