

Newcastles News



The Newsletter of
 “Newcastles of the World”

December 2014



Merry Christmas and Best wishes for 2015 to all "Newcastles" around the world

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR NEWCASTLES !



We wish the readers of our newsletter the compliments of the season, with some images from this year's wonderful Santa Parade in **Newcastle, Ontario**. The event started with a magnificent fireworks display lighting up the snowy sky, followed by the parade of marching bands, clowns and over 70 floats. The parade is organised by the Newcastle Business Improvement Association, and attracted a crowd of almost 10,000 people.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAYORS OLD AND NEW

On October 10 -11, local elections were held for most municipalities in the Czech Republic. In Nove Hradý, the list of sitting Mayor **Vladimír Hokr** – independent, non-party candidates - won convincingly, increasing its lead to a clear majority (55%) in the Town Council. Mr Hokr, pictured right, who was our wonderful host for the 2014 Newcastles of the World conference, was then re-appointed as Mayor, with Ladislava Bártová as First Deputy. Many congratulations to them.



Many congratulations also to **Nuatali Nelmes**, (left) who has been elected as Lord Mayor of Newcastle, New South Wales. This follows the election last month of her Labor Party colleague Tim Crakanthorp as the new Member of the New South Wales State Parliament to represent Newcastle. Both Nuatali and Tim come to their new positions from having been Newcastle City Councillors.

Nuatali took almost 43% of the vote, ahead of Independent Brad Luke who has been Acting Mayor for the past few months. Nuatali studied at Newcastle High School and then the University of Newcastle NSW; she was first elected to Newcastle City Council in 2008 and is active in a wide range of community work.



Voters in Clarington, Ontario, Canada have returned Mayor **Adrian Foster** (right) for a second term. Clarington will host our next Newcastles of the World conference in its Newcastle and we are most grateful to Mayor Foster and his colleagues for their support. In Newcastle, Wendy Partner was re-elected as Local Councillor, and Willie Woo continues as Regional Councillor for wards 3 and 4 which includes Newcastle where he lives. Congratulations to them all.



For the third successive year, Newcastle Mayor **Afzul Rehman** (pictured 2nd left) has won the award for best performing mayor in a municipality within the province of Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The Municipal Excellence Awards were held in Durban in October, and are special in that they allow local communities to have their say and vote for their municipalities in the different categories. The award recognises the great steps forward in development, administration and service delivery in Newcastle under Mayor Rehman's leadership - well done!



TAKING OUR ALLIANCE FORWARD

Welcome to our latest newsletter, the largest yet, with 18 pages and more than 40 separate news stories or features. We have grouped many items around themes that we all feel are important to our individual Newcastles - for this issue it's around revitalising our town and district centres, environmental sustainability and heritage/tourism. Thanks to those of you who contributed information or "leads"; I have also trawled websites and local newspapers as source material.

Our newsletter goes directly to over 1000 named people in more than 30 different Newcastles, and we are constantly extending this distribution list - please help us by passing it to your contacts.

By the time of our next newsletter we will have a paid project manager in place, funded by most of our "core" members, and with responsibility for delivering the action plan agreed in Nové Hradý

Action Plan for 2015/16

Develop the template for the Newcastles card/passport, gather the information needed from each Newcastle and launch the passport by the end of 2015.

Coordinate the participation of the Newcastles in a digitally-based tourism and visitor information platform, with the expectation that this will derive from the application of the "Omni City" model, working with Neuchâtel to see how it can best benefit all participants.

Develop/support at least one project of potential business benefit that involves two or more Newcastles

Ensure that every participating Newcastle has at least one school or further education establishment matched with another Newcastle by the year end.

Develop and support networks of specific shared interest, such as castle managers; tourism managers; museum managers; town centre managers; environment specialists, training managers.

Develop/oversee effective ways of sharing best practice on subjects of common interest between us.

Deliver at least one cultural project that links participating Newcastles and creates work that can be performed, produced and shared.

Organise any early advice and help that Newcastle, Canada needs in preparing for hosting the 2016 conference, and coordinate any help that is needed from other Newcastles in order to support Canada for a successful conference.

Explore opportunities for projects eligible for EU and other international funding, prepare and submit bids

Support youth councils and their equivalents to develop and sustain a shared programme of activity, with a particular focus on training and development schemes, youth exchanges, and international volunteering, all of which are eligible for support under Erasmus Plus programmes.

We look forward to an important year ahead - meanwhile, enjoy your Christmas and New Year celebrations!

David Faulkner, on behalf of the Newcastles of the World Alliance

Robert Dulfer writes from **Nové Hradý**:

"With local elections now behind us, it means that the strong commitments made at the Newcastles Conference to the alliance will be honoured in full over the next four years and we can give full local support to the network's international activities

Work on the implementation of the Newcastles Card will go forward. In addition, the Town has committed itself to develop, in coordination with David Faulkner, a user-friendly multi-lingual forum and Facebook site to help improve communications between the various Newcastles. It will help to keep the interactions between the different Newcastles alive and active between conferences.

Next to the Conference, this will be our second financial contribution to the Network this year. Last but not least, work on preparations for youth and other joint projects can now start in full and should result in at least one or two cooperation projects in 2015"



ACTION TO SUPPORT OUR TOWN CENTRES

Business improvement districts

A business improvement district (BID) is a defined area in a town or district centre within which businesses pay an additional tax (or levy) in order to fund projects within the district's boundaries. The BID is often funded primarily through the levy but can also draw on other public and private funding streams.

BIDs may go by other names, such as business improvement area (BIA), business revitalization zone (BRZ), community improvement district (CID), special services area (SSA), or special improvement district (SID).

BIDs provide services, such as cleaning streets, providing security, making capital improvements, construction of pedestrian and streetscape enhancements, running events and festivals and marketing the area. The services provided by BIDs are supplemental to those already provided by the local municipality.

NE1 Limited is the **Newcastle upon Tyne** BID, established after a ballot by over 3000 businesses in the city centre in 2008 and renewed for a further minimum of five years via a fresh ballot last year (78% voted yes). For more information check out <http://www.newcastlene1ltd.com/> or contact Sean Bullick, Chief Executive, sean.bullick@newcastlene1ltd.com



In **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, the Town Newcastle Town Centre Partnership, which is considering whether to become a BD, brings together retailers and businesses, who are all working towards one common goal – to be the best and most prosperous market town in their county of Staffordshire. <http://www.visitnewcastleunderlyme.co.uk/>



As the concept of BIDs began in Toronto, Canada, it's no surprise that **Newcastle, Ontario** has a well-established and supported Business Improvement Association. It's one of four BIAs in the municipality of Clarington, aiming to make Newcastle a great place to start your business and to build it. See <http://villageofnewcastle.ca/>.

NEUCHÂTEL MOVES FORWARD WITH NEW CITY CENTRE PLAN

The General Council of the Ville de Neuchâtel has developed and approved a new strategy for the revitalisation and development of the city centre.

The main elements are:

- * Networking the merchants of the downtown area with other stakeholders (municipal administrative, political authorities)
- * Support and promote the quality brands that act as economically attractive
- * Beautify the downtown area

The report is available to any interested person (in French):

<http://www.plrne.ch/interventions/309-14-011-valorisation-et-au-developpement-strategique-du-centre-ville-de-neuchatel.html>



Bravissimo for Business Boost

Italian style won the day as Bellini's restaurant took first prize in a new category recognising town centre businesses at the 7th annual **Newcastle-under-Lyme** Business Boost awards. The restaurant based in Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre, won the Best for Customer Experience award and a prize of £1,000 sponsored by the Newcastle-under-Lyme Town Centre Partnership. Business Boost awards is an annual competition for small and medium sized companies in the borough.

Best for Customer Experience was one of four categories in the competition which is aimed at encouraging entrepreneurship and is run by a unique partnership of local businesses, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Keele University Science Park and Aspire Housing Group.

Another new category this year was 'Recognising Social Enterprise' sponsored by the Aspire Group. First place went to Little Trove, a supplier of ethical giftware and second place to Sporting Communities CIC.

All finalists are given valuable business advice aimed at helping them succeed, aiding job creation in Newcastle-under-Lyme.

REVITALISING THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

This is a very big current issue in **Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal**. Ferdie Alberts, Director of Economic Development says "Maintaining the vitality of our town and district centres is a major concern in Newcastle especially when the new 500 million rand shopping mall opened. A number of commercial shops in the Central Business District have since become vacant".



"The problem that we have in Newcastle and elsewhere in South Africa is that town planning schemes were based on old apartheid style of thinking where residential, business and industrial uses were not allowed to be mixed. In this regard we have now gone through a process to bring in changes to our town planning scheme that allow for more uses in the CBD, including residential uses under certain circumstances.

"By bringing in residential uses we are trying to revive the CBD. There is also an incentive from national treasury (CBD improvement fund). We are in the process of applying to have our CBD approved and owners can then get a tax incentive if they improve their properties." Contact details -

PROJECTS TO DRIVE CITY DEVELOPMENT



The Economic Development Sponsorship Program Council in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** has allocated funds to five key, largely city centre-focused, projects: Renew Newcastle Creative Business Incubator, 2015 Real Film Festival, Newcastle-Open for Business, Newcastle Innovation and Clean Tech Hub, and TiNA: Destination Newcastle.

http://www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/services/tourism_and_business

The projects were chosen based on criteria that included their potential to provide economic benefit, how they will meet an identified need and/or develop strength in the local economy, how the project will help develop the relevant economic sector, and how well they support the Council's values and objectives.

The projects selected represent a variety of interests in the City and provide an opportunity to build on the innovative and creative strengths of Newcastle. Those projects focused on developing the night time economy also fit well with the city's emerging reputation as an international city for events and festivals.

Renew Newcastle Creative Business Incubator (Renew Newcastle) is a mentoring and training program, turning fledgling business ideas into sustainable, creative business enterprises. The program will deliver training workshops for Renew Newcastle participants and the broader business community, mentoring and advocacy, and opportunities for Newcastle creative industries to showcase their businesses.

The Real Film Festival (Screen Hunter) : this is a three-day community, arts and industry event showcasing documentaries, independent short and feature films based on true stories. The program comprises film screenings, industry workshops and talks, film Q&A's, panel discussions, networking events and film competitions for filmmakers of all ages and experience. The Real Film Festival vision is to become an event of national and international significance that will position the region strongly in film and arts

Newcastle - Open for Business (Hunter Business Centre) : this workshop series is tailored to encourage and support new and existing small businesses to help further develop Newcastle's night time economy. Spaced throughout the year, workshops will be set at times to maximise small business participation.

Newcastle Innovation and Green Tech Hub (Australian Energy Consultants) : the objective of this project is to establish Newcastle as a centre for innovative and clean technology start-up businesses. The hub will run as a not-for-profit organisation and offer low cost desk and workshop space for software and hardware based start-ups and build linkages with support networks for access to mentoring, support services, technical experts, researchers, and investors.

TiNA: Destination Newcastle (Octapod) : this project will encourage increased overnight visitation to Newcastle during the This is Not Art (TiNA) festival period, 1 - 4 October 2015, through the development of a national marketing strategy. It will also promote Newcastle as a tourist destination and encourage festival attendees to spend money while they are in Newcastle.

REVITALISING OUR TOWN AND DISTRICT CENTRES

The goal of **New Castle Main Street: *The Heart of New Castle*** is to promote downtown New Castle and the activities that go on there. Ongoing projects include placement of flowers, banners, and bike racks, and other improvements. Its board is divided into specialist committees, including design, promotions, and economic development.

"We're making it uniquely New Castle," Main Street Executive Director Carrie Barrett said. She described an area from 11th to 15th streets that would span the east-west boundary.

Barrett volunteered to lead New Castle's new organisation, which promises to lend more weight to New Castle grant applications. Missy Modesitt, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, is providing organisational and administrative support. Core contributors include Jeff Ray of Healthy Communities, Donna Kay of Solutions Unlimited, Mayor Greg York, Economic Development Corporation President Corey Murphy, and City of New Castle GIS/MS4 Coordinator Ed Hill.

So far, Main Street: The Heart of New Castle has found ways to support the community such as participating in downtown Christmas decorating and assisting with The Courier-Times Spirit Stroll. Economic Development Corporation President Corey Murphy approached New Castle City Council in July and asked for \$24,000 for the group, which was approved.

The mission of the project is to establish a New Castle Main Street dedicated to "renewing, growing, and promoting downtown New Castle by stimulating economic growth and fostering community pride while preserving the city's unique history," Murphy said. New Castle's Main street approach mirrors the national movement's Main Street push to strengthen commercial districts through economic development, historic preservation, city management, and community planning programs. For more information contact newcastlemainstreet@gmail.com or see <https://www.facebook.com/newcastlemainstreet>



WHAT IS INDIANA MAIN STREET?

Indiana Main Street encourages the revitalisation and restoration of downtown areas in Indiana cities and towns. The program provides technical assistance and educational opportunities to participating communities. Indiana Main Street is the state's coordinating program to the National Main Street Center. For more information about Indiana Main Street, contact Shae Kmicikewycz at skmicikewycz@ocra.in.gov

The Indiana Main Street **Four Point Approach** involves:

- 1. Design:** Enhancing the physical appearance of the commercial district by rehabilitating historic buildings, encouraging supportive new construction, developing sensitive design management systems and long-term planning. The look of downtown, its streets, signs, buildings and store interiors is unique to each Indiana community. Main Street's goal is to work with all these elements to create a friendly, attractive place that will draw in visitors and businesses.
- 2. Organisation:** Building consensus and cooperation among the many groups and individuals involved in the revitalisation process. To ensure a self-reliant, broad-based, long-lasting downtown revitalisation program, the entire community must rally around the idea. Cooperation from both the public and the private sector is critical to achieve visible results. In addition, a separate staff and business solely dedicated to downtown revitalisation is key to achieving long-term, large-scale results.
- 3. Promotion:** Marketing the commercial district's assets to customers, potential investors, businesses, local citizens, and visitors. To keep investors, visitors, and businesses coming downtown, Main Street must reshape the community perspective of downtown as a hub of activity. Successful downtown image campaigns, as well as promotional activities that build upon the community's unique heritage and culture send a consistent, compelling message promoting the downtown area.
- 4. Economic Restructuring:** Strengthening the district's existing economic base while finding ways to expand it to meet new opportunities and challenges from outlying development. Main Street's ultimate goal is to create downtowns that are economically viable. Researching the regional market and consumer trends give Main Street organisations a realistic picture of what market mix will work for their downtown. Based on their research, Main Street organizations can begin stabilising existing businesses and recruiting new businesses to fill the gaps.

RECYCLING HIGH ON THE AGENDA IN NEWCASTLE KWA-ZULU NATAL

In **Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal**, South Africa, a new municipal dumping site will be commissioned within the next 2 years and this will be a state of the art facility where recycling will play a very important role. There are currently various smaller projects where people are recycling cardboard, glass and plastic bottles.

Newcastle is home to one of the largest PET (polyethylene terephthalate) recyclers in South Africa who recycle PET bottles and then manufacture hollow fibre which is used as filling material in duvets, pillows and toys.

ECO-CAR STARS AT SHINSHIRO RALLY

"The **Shinshiro** rally" which attracts top drivers in Japan was held in Shinshiro-shi on November 1 and 2nd and 47,000 fans visited the city from all over Japan.

A big attraction was a fuel cell-powered vehicle (FCV) which Toyota Motor Corporation released as the test car to confirm whether the course was safe before competition. President Akio Toyota took the steering wheel and demonstrated to fans the next-generation eco-car.

The remodelled FCV was being test- marketed, and it ran noiselessly, in contrast with the race cars which rent the air with the explosions of engine sound.



Lord Mayor leads the way with electric 'limo'

Newcastle upon Tyne Lord Mayor Councillor George Pattison is believed to be the first mayor in the UK to make a permanent switch to a pure electric official car, trading in his present petrol-fuelled car, which has been used by his predecessors for several years.

Used to transport the Lord Mayor to official engagements, the Nissan LEAF is fitted with a plaque bearing the Lord Mayor's coat of arms, a city council flag and the city's oldest number plate, OBB1. The groundbreaking move is part of the City of Newcastle's ongoing commitment to sustainability, the environment and delivering maximum value for taxpayers.

The council will also enjoy significant savings thanks to the LEAF's ultra low running costs of just two pence per mile (two cents per km). In addition, the LEAF - the world's bestselling all-electric car - is built at Nissan's record breaking Sunderland plant, near Newcastle, helping to secure thousands of jobs across the North East.

Meanwhile, the local authority will further boost Newcastle's credentials as an 'EV friendly' city with the installation of new electric car charging points at the Civic Centre and Mansion House, the Lord Mayor's official residence.

Councillor George Pattison, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, said: "Trading in the previous vehicle for the Nissan LEAF is a tradition we are happy to break, as we go in search of savings wherever we can find them and continue efforts to reduce our carbon footprint. The car has zero emissions and it costs virtually nothing to run, so it's an excellent addition to our growing fleet of electric vehicles. And with the flag, crest, and plates attached it really looks the business too."



Conservation Volunteers, Newcastle Australia – Nobbys Project

The ongoing support of Newcastle Port Corporation is allowing Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) to continue its positive work in rejuvenating the coastline along Nobbys and Horseshoe Beach. The Port Corporation has provided \$24,000 in sponsorship for CVA volunteers to perform ongoing environmental projects at Nobbys. International and local volunteers have been working along Macquarie Pier at Nobbys to weed, plant native species, maintain fences and access ways, as well as remove litter from the beach. The CVA volunteers also have controlled the movement of sand by installing coir logs, removing invasive weed species and replacing with native plants that assist the formation and stabilisation of coastal sand dunes. Conservation Volunteers Australia is a not-for-profit, community based organisation, established in 1982 and is recognised as Australia's leading practical conservation group. <http://www.conservationvolunteers.com.au>

NEUBURG USES HUMOUR TO GET ACROSS IMPORTANT CLIMATE CHANGE MESSAGES

Neuburg an der Donau has been co-host to an important expert conference on climate protection, together with the Regional Management Initiative for the Ingolstadt Region eV.

This year's expert conference presented a cabaret concerning climate protection. Using story-telling and humour, the comedians Georg Bauernfeind and Manfred Linhart managed to present the importance of climate protection in an entertaining way. They built a story around the well-known coarse-comic character Hans Wurst, who learns the lessons about how to look after your environment through hard lessons.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - NEUCHÂTEL IN THE FOREFRONT

The city of **Neuchâtel** has received re-certification for **European Energy Award GOLD** (eea) status, confirming the distinctions already obtained in 2005 and 2010.

The European Energy Award®Gold is the highest award given for municipal energy and climate protection activities at the European level. It is awarded to municipalities that have implemented at least 75 per cent of measures within their scope of action and have thus demonstrated an exemplary commitment to a sustainable energy future. The award requires municipalities to be audited by two auditors, national and international. Applications for certification must be submitted to the national eea commission, which forwards them to the international office of the Forum eea, the certifying authority.

In 1995, Neuchâtel was the first city in the French part of Switzerland to be certified under the Energiestadt label. With a political vision firmly committed to implementing the 2000 Watt Society by 2050, energy planning on a territorial basis with assessments every 5 years until 2035 and the implementation of its new SEAP, the city of Neuchâtel is definitely living up to its ambitions.

Furthermore, the city received the Swiss Solar Prize in 2013 for its efforts in promoting photovoltaic solar energy by making available a grant to fund all projects within the municipal territory. Building owners are able to consult the solar system register online. The City has also installed solar panels on its own buildings. Finally, in the 2014-2017 financial plan adopted by the legislative Council, the city has allocated more than EUR 40 million to energy measures to improve and refurbish its existing municipal buildings. Further information - <http://www.european-energy-award.org/home/>; email daniel.veuve@ne.ch

LEADING THE WAY WITH SOLAR PANELS

Solar panels are seen as a way of making buildings greener and more sustainable, as well as making them less dependent on the grid for power. The problem is that the blue/black panels stick out like sore thumbs and end up exiled to rooftops. The appearance is visually unappealing and this has hindered the acceptance of photovoltaics by built-environment professionals. Not anymore...

Revolutionary technology developed by the Swiss private, nonprofit technology company CSEM, based in Neuchâtel, now lets us achieve what was supposed to be impossible: white and coloured solar panels with no visible cells or connections. They can be applied on top of an existing module or integrated into a new module during assembly, on flat or curved surfaces.

They can change the colour of all existing panels or create customised looks from scratch. Solar panels can now disappear; they become virtually hidden energy sources. White is a particularly attractive colour as it is widely used for its elegance, versatility, and fresh look. But most believed that it was inconceivable because most of the light is reflected, precisely contrary to solar panel requirements. However, it's no longer a constraint and CSEM have come up with an easy, adaptable and low-cost solution.



The company says that the technology has a number of advantages beside the cosmetic. Being white, the layer keeps the solar panels at a lower temperature, making them more efficient, as well as reducing air conditioning costs. CSEM sees the technology as having not only applications in architecture, but in consumer goods such as laptops, phones, and vehicles such as cars and buses, as the layer is adapted to cover a range of colours. More information - <http://www.csem.ch/site>

Capturing our Newcastle's heritage

Co-Curating Newcastle's of the World

"Co-Curate North East" is a project run by Newcastle University, United Kingdom, with 20 groups in local schools and communities and in partnership with Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums and Woodhorn Mining Museum. The website is <https://co-curate.ncl.ac.uk>.

The project is about working with already existing online collections of heritage materials but also about schools and communities generating their own materials. We are bringing together schools such as George Stephenson High School (named after one of the great pioneers of the railways) with archives and collections and supporting groups like West Newcastle Picture History Collection who already have a large historically significant set of photographs.

"We have met David Faulkner and we are very excited at thinking about working with 'Newcastle's of the World' on developing a project with you all. We would love to connect with as many of the Newcastle's who are interested on a heritage project which could potentially be displayed in Ontario in 2016." says project Director Dr Martyn Hudson

"An initial idea is to think about a historical picture and a newly generated picture which says something about your Newcastle that you would share with each other and stream through our website. We could do this by setting up a Flickr group that could bring all of the images together in one place and to share stories from your Newcastle with us here in Newcastle upon Tyne".

If you have any queries or suggestions please contact Dr Martyn Hudson at martyn.hudson@newcastle.ac.uk or David Faulkner on david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk

ICONIC NEUCHÂTEL CITY HALL TO BE RENOVATED

The General Council of the Ville de Neuchâtel has approved a credit of CHF 3.3 million for the restoration and remediation of the Hotel de Ville (City Hall) . This iconic building has not been the subject of work for many years . The massive Neo-Classical building was erected between 1784 and 1790 under the direction of Louis XVI's chief architect Pierre-Adrien Paris. On the east tympanum of the Town Hall, Minerva and Liberty flank a shield bearing the arms of the Town; on the west – two winged and cloud-borne figures on either side of a similar shield symbolize Trade and Abundance.

The objectives of the renovation are varied:

Improving energy efficiency

Facilitate access for people with disabilities

Review the electrical and computer wiring

Restoring some parts damaged by time (wooden floor and ceiling).

And generally to make it functional and enjoyable for users of an 18th century building by making it meet the needs and expectations of the 21st century - a big challenge !



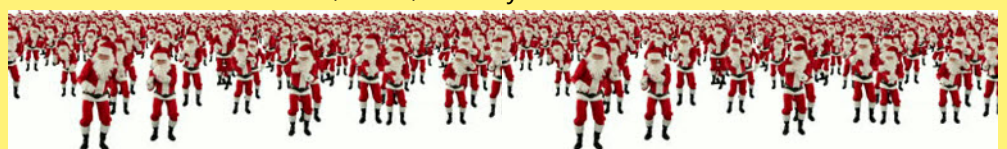
New organisation created to strengthen business and tourism in Nyborg

By January 1st a new organisation in Nyborg will be a reality. Nyborg municipality are in collaboration with Østfyns (Eastfunen) Business Council, Nyborg trades and Nyborg tourism Association creating a joint organisation. The organisation will be working on developing both business, trades and tourism and by joining all these stakeholders the goal is to strengthen initiatives that cross the different sectors.

Santa Claus lived in New Castle !

OK, we admit it - it's (probably) not true. However, it is the title of a vintage children's book.

Santa Claus's New Castle was written by Maude Florence Bellar, and published in Columbus, Ohio, USA by Nitschke Brothers in 1896.



VALUING AND PROMOTING OUR SPECIAL HERITAGE

Shipping heritage on UNESCO Register

The Tyne & Wear Shipyards Collection at Tyne & Wear Archives in **Newcastle upon Tyne** has been included on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register, a global online catalogue created to help promote the UK's documentary heritage across the UK and the world. Only 11 items have been selected from the UK's libraries, archives and museums to represent the outstanding heritage of the UK, among them the the Domesday Book, the Churchill Archives and the Alfred Hitchcock Silent Movies archive.



The Tyne & Wear Archives Shipyards Collection is a testimony to the remarkable achievements in shipbuilding and engineering produced on Tyneside and Wearside over the past two hundred years. The rivers Tyne and Wear contributed massively to the history of the UK, world shipbuilding and marine engineering, with many innovations being developed here as well as countless fine ships being built.

The records held by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums are of great significance, and fascinating both for specialist researchers and a wider audience, as they not only contain detailed company information but amazing plans, photographs, also books signed by visiting dignitaries for ship launches.

The register is part of a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) programme to support and raise awareness of archives.

Country-level Memory of the World Registers exist around the globe, helping to promote documentary heritage of local significance, but the international-level register, which features items of global significance, includes items from the UK such as 1215 Magna Carta and the Mappa Mundi.

CELEBRATING CENTENARY OF ALAMO/NAGASHINO LINK

On November 5th, the Texas, USA, General Land Office and the Alamo hosted the centennial commemoration of Dr. Shigetaka Shiga's presentation of the Japanese Monument to the famous Alamo Heroes in San Antonio.

Consul-General Nozomu Takaoka attended the ceremony. 100 years ago Dr. Shiga commissioned the monument after finding parallels between events in Japanese and Texan history. In 1575 in Japan Torii Suneemon fleeing the Nagashino Castle, **Shinshiro**, lost his life on his way back from requesting relief of the Tokugawa Ieyasu army. In 1836 in Texas James B. Bonhman lost his life returning to the Alamo to share the good news that reinforcements were on their way. In commemoration of the two heroes and their bravery, Dr. Shiga donated the monument in 1914, which was inscribed with his own poetry, to the Alamo.

In his remarks Consul-General Takaoka gave his congratulations and recognised the monument as a symbol of friendship between San Antonio and Japan.

From Japan, the International Friendship Association Junior Ambassador Delegation that visited San Antonio in 1986 to present the portrait of Dr. Shigetaka Shiga and representatives from Horai Jr. High of the Shinshiro

City Delegation, the town home to the Nagashino Castle, were present to mark the occasion. Junior Ambassador Delegation Head Ms. Isako Oikawa and Shinshiro City Delegation Head and Horai Jr. High Principal Mr. Takayuki Harata gave remarks.



The following day at the San Antonio City Council meeting, Mayor Ivy Taylor received the Junior Ambassador Delegation and the Shinshiro City Delegation and recognized the events surrounding the centennial celebration. Consul-General Takaoka also spoke, praising the City of San Antonio for its leading role deepening the ties between Japan and the U.S.

The battle of Nagashino was a crucial one in Japanese history and the deployment of gunners was a turning point in the history of samurai warfare. After the battle, the castle fell into ruin. The site was protected as a National Historic Landmark in 1929, the first time for a former castle site. Located on a fork of two rivers, all that remains of the castle today are remnants of moats and some stonework.

MALAYSIA YEAR OF FESTIVAL 2015



Following the momentum of Visit Malaysia Year 2014, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture Malaysia, has designated next year as Malaysia Year of Festivals 2015, or MyFest 2015, the theme being "endless celebrations". **MyFest 2015** heralds the country's biggest ever fiesta of celebrations, events and happenings all year long through out Malaysia; encompassing all genre including culture, shopping, festivals destination marketing, food and other themed events.

MyFest 2015 branding MyFest 2015's logo was launched in **Kota Bharu**, Kelantan on 18 September 2014 by YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture Malaysia. The iconic Rebana Ubi drum in the logo which originated from Kota Bharu, Kelantan represents the common use of drums during festivals by the various races in Malaysia.

In Kelantan state , three big events will be highlighted during MyFest 2015 as follows:



14 – 15 MARCH : INTERNATIONAL DRUM FESTIVAL

The international drum festival showcases various drum performances and drum-making workshops. This programme helps to promote Malaysia's culture and arts as a platform to pass the knowledge of drum-making to the younger generation. The events will be held at Stadium Sultan Muhammad ke IV, Kota Bharu

6 -7 April : SILAT CARNIVAL

Silat which is the famous Malay martial art is popular in Kelantan. This silat carnival features 400 exponents of the silat or Malay martial arts from Malaysia and around the world. Events include performances of the Silat, exhibition, self defence seminar and martial arts demonstrations. The Silat Carnival will be held at Dewan Jubli Perak MPKB-BRI in Kota Bharu.



25-30 MAY : KELANTAN INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

Kite or "WAU" is the giant kite found in the state of Kelantan. It is handmade and beautiful decorated by skilled kite makers. From the famous Wau Bulan (The Giant Kite) to Wau Merak, Wau Puyuh and Wau Kuching, watch an assortment of kites take to the skies in this festival. The events will be held at Pantai Getting, Tumpat, Kelantan, a half hour journey from Kota Bharu



GLOBETROTTER GAIL LINES UP MORE NEWCASTLES

We know of a handful of people who have lived in two of our Newcastle's, but now we know of one who has lived in three! Speaking about the Newcastle's of the World to members of a club near Newcastle upon Tyne, David Faulkner was told by a member of the audience about his daughter Gail who has lived in **Newcastle upon Tyne**, **Newcastle-under-Lyme** and now **Neuchâtel**.

So we made contact with her, and **Gail Bamford** told us: "Following 16 years in the steel industry I recently resigned from the job with which I relocated here to Neuchâtel from Newcastle under Lyme. My plans for 2015 are to take 9-12 months out from my career to pursue a longstanding desire to travel a little with my own wings (rather than on hectic business trips!) and along the way to give something back via some charity volunteer placements which I am in the process of arranging. My plans so far involve mainly countries within Africa."

"I hope to visit at least one more Newcastle along the way, perhaps Newcastle in South Africa which is amongst your list! I'm hoping to return to live in Neuchâtel following that period of time, and am keeping an apartment here to that end. Now that I'm aware of your Newcastle's Alliance I'm very interested to follow it and to continue to receive the newsletters wherever I may be in this coming year!"



LOTS TO ENJOY IN NEUBURG AN DER DONAU THIS FESTIVE TIME !

Neuburg an der Donau residents and tourists always know that they have a great Christmas and New Year to look forward to.



First there's the festive skating rink on Schrankenplatz and the Christmas market on Karlsplatz in the upper Old Town Historical "Christkindl Markt" (Christmas Fair). The square is filled with booths offering freshly baked gingerbread, roasted chestnuts and Gluehwein (mulled wine). Within the castle walls visitors can admire a display of traditional arts and crafts at the so called "Lebende Weihnachtswerkstatt" (Christmas workshop).

But there's always a thought for the less fortunate at this time of year. For the last 15 years the Neuburger Tafel e. V. has been one of the most important charity associations in Neuburg. This year, for the first time ever, the so called "Drei Tafeltage" (three charity days) took place at the Christmas Fair. There citizens could donate food products such as noodles, sugar, oil and flour for deprived persons. Also, the association "Asylum seekers are citizens" has started a new campaign for Christmas. Citizens have been asked to make donations of biscuits and other food items at the City Marketing for distribution before Christmas.

The coming year will see several major events, starting with Winter Swimming in the Danube at the end of January with about 2000 participants swimming a distance of 2.5 miles in 2-3 degrees "hot" water of the Danube - a small number of about 20 people even in their bathing trunks!



Soon after, on February 8th, Neuburg is going to celebrate carnival with a parade through the city centre. But this year there will be some big changes. For the first time ever all carnival companies, the city of Neuburg and the City Marketing office are going to organise the event,

working together. The focus will be on the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the carnival company "FG Burgfunken". In addition the three most creative parade floats will be awarded prizes by a jury.

Looking further ahead to warmer weather, the last weekend in June and the first weekend in July will attract thousands of people to our Renaissance Castle Festival. If you want to take part, you should decide very quickly as the hotel capacities are limited.

FOOD AND HISTORY HAND IN HAND CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN NYBORG

Kongens Fadebur/The Kings Pantry is a network of local farmers, food companies, small shops and restaurants who, in collaboration with Nyborg Castle, are developing new products conveying the story of **Nyborg** as the centre of the Danish realm in the middle ages.

Since early 2012 where the project was founded by Nyborg Castle, The Kings Pantry have become a great success. By now its 35 members have launched more than 30 new products – modern food and products rooted in history either by their ingredients, the way they are prepared or the story on their label. Some of these product are exclusively to be found and bought at the producers, in small local shops or at Nyborg Castle while others have hit the shelves at Coop-stores all over the country and hopefully more will follow. By now, for example, more than 300.000 bottles of beer telling the story of Nyborg Castle and town have been sold. To Nyborg Castle it's 300.000 business cards reaching new visitors and making Nyborg better known to a broader public, and to the brewery (Ørbæk Bryggeri <http://www.oerbaek-bryggeri.nu/>) – it's good for business and their brand.



Several of the participating food manufacturers have been able to enlarge their sales and businesses due to The Kings Pantry and the project has created a lot of attention for Nyborg castle and town in general. The Kings Pantry is a way of making history matter to a lot of different people and in a way where the local community gains new jobs and a stronger sense identity by using their cultural heritage.

The Kings Pantry also plays an important role in the Christmas preparation and celebration with lots of events where locals and visitors can taste or buy the products. For example they are represented at the annual Christmas fair (Jul i den gamle Kongeby/Christmas in the old royal city) taking place the 12th-14th of December at the town square, in the great hall of Nyborg Castle and at the cosy Mayors Yard.

<http://julemarked.nyborg.dk/>

YOUTH PAGE



The Youth Assembly in **Shinshiro** is to be formalised and recognised as part of the city's decision-making structure.

Mayor Ryoji Hozumi (pictured left) has always taken a special interest in young people's issues; he is championing the move and committed to it in his last election manifesto.

The youth assembly will cover ages from high school students up to young people in their twenties. There will be a range of committees to ensure maximum reflection of the views of the young people of the city.

As a consultative body of the mayor, the assembly will carry out consultation and research to help develop youth policy. The city will provide a budget significant enough for effective promotion of youth policy.

The youth participants from Shinshiro at the Newcastles of the World conference 2012 came back with a wish to take this forward having seen that there is a "Youth Council" in many other countries, enabling young people to play an active part in their communities.

It's called "New Castle" school, but it's not *in* New Castle !



We thought there was a New Castle in South America - Uruguay to be exact - because we heard of the New Castle School. Teacher María Fernanda Butula explains "Our school was founded 35 years ago. It started as a kindergarten, called "El Castillito" (Spanish for "The Little Castle"). The name comes from the building looking like a castle. Years later, we expanded to cover the whole primary school. Then we added English courses and the name changed to "New Castle School". Ten years ago we expanded again to high school.

We are located in a small city called "Las Piedras", near Uruguay's capital city Montevideo. We would still be pleased to hear of any Newcastle who would like to link one of their schools with our school." So, over to our readers ...

Jaunpils - the municipality for young people

Young people are our future! This year was very special in the youth field in **Jaunpils**. Since the beginning of 2014 the municipality has been working with a youth specialist to assess the quality of life for local young people through questionnaire-based research. Soon the municipality will establish a youth council, following several meetings and great events. The "Forum of Jaunpils Youth" gathered together young people, NGOs, local politicians, local entrepreneurs and municipality specialists. Through the group work and a World Cafe event they were discussing problems and seeking solutions.



10 YEAR OLD SCHOOLBOY DESIGNS CHRISTMAS TRUCE COMMEMORATIVE SCULPTURE

Prince William has praised as "stunning" a schoolboy's winning design for a monument marking the First World War Christmas Day truce 100 years ago when gunfire gave way to football. A drawing made by Spencer Turner, 10, of Farne School, **Newcastle upon Tyne** has been turned into a gleaming piece of national artwork symbolising the moment opposing soldiers on the Western Front stopped fighting and played football.

The "Football Remembers" monument at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire depicts the hands of an English and German soldier clasped in friendship inside a steel representation of a football.



REMEMBERING THE NEWCASTLE EARTHQUAKE

At 10.27am on Thursday 28 December 1989, an earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale struck **Newcastle, New South Wales**. Twenty five years later, Newcastle Museum remembers this catastrophic event in a powerful and intimate exhibition *Earthquake Then and Now* from December. To early February. The Newcastle earthquake was the most serious natural disaster in Australian history, resulting in 160 people hospitalised, \$4 billion in property damage and 14 deaths. It not only shook the physical structure of the city but also the lives of everyone involved.

Museum Deputy Director Julie Baird says the impact of that fateful day is still felt by many people today. "Recording the stories of the people photographed for *Earthquake Then and Now* was a deeply moving experience. While every story was unique, a common theme of resilience, community and courage emerged through the shared memories.

"The exhibition includes 25 large scale new portraits of people holding photographs taken in the earthquake aftermath. They capture the diversity of experiences on that day as well as the impact they had on people's lives. It allows visitors to see the passage of time for our community and our city. A number of the exhibition participants; paramedics, doctors, business owners, a baby born at the time of the earthquake, scientists and survivors will join us at the opening to share their stories."

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum will also host three performances of Paul Brown's *Aftershocks* which commemorates the heroes, victims and events that put the city in the record books. The first performance will start at 10.27am on Sunday 28 December to mark the hour the earthquake struck.

Christchurch Cathedral will hold a special commemorative service at 3pm on Sunday 28 December.

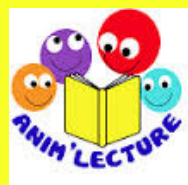
Earthquake Then and Now is open until 8 February 2015



CITIZENS SUPPORT READING

On 1 November 2014, the City of **Neuchâtel** presented for the first time the Citizenship Award. This prize was awarded to a group of citizens who initiated the movement "Anim'lecture" whose goal is to go to meet the children and young people on playgrounds with books to encourage them to read and do their reading.

The aim is to convey the pleasure of reading in order to promote social integration, to maintain dialogue between generations and prevent illiteracy.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Former Mayor of **New Castle, Pennsylvania** Tim Fulkerson has announced he will be a candidate for Lawrence County Commissioner (the most senior elected post in the County) in the May primary elections. Fulkerson, a New Castle city councilman, will seek one of two Democratic nominations. He served as New Castle Mayor from 1996 through 2003 and co-hosted the 2002 Newcastles of the World conference. He came back on the Council in 2013.

Visitors to **Newcastle upon Tyne**: November: Greg Thompson, the new Bishop of **Newcastle, Australia**. October: Ryosuke Nakamura and Takeshi Togashi, on secondment from Aichi Province (location of **Shinshiro City**) to the Japanese Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. They were studying two main subjects – the relationships of regional airports to their local communities, and the principles behind Youth Councils in the UK (and Newcastle's in particular).

Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak visited **Kota Bharu** in October. He went to Kampung Jubakar, Tumpat, to meet the Kelantan Siamese community, then attended the Asar prayers at the Simpangan Mosque in Simpangan, Tumpat, visited the Pondok Simpangan Islamic education centre near the mosque and then attended a meet-the-people session at a community centre in the Pengkalan Kubor state constituency.

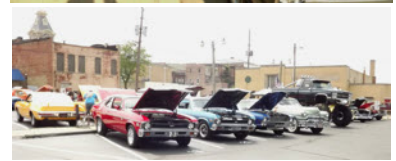
BROAD STREET CRUISE-IN GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

The City of New Castle, Indiana has a proud history of "cruising Broad Street" – a regular parade of classic and cherished cars along the main East-West downtown street. The parade celebrates America's love of cars and of driving. Broad Street has been the Number One place for cruising for more than three decades in Central Indiana but its history dates back well over a century! The city is best known for being the home of the Maxwell Motor Car. Maxwells were among the earliest motor cars on American roads, creations of Jonathan Dixon Maxwell, a native of Howard County, Indiana. The Maxwell was produced from 1904-1925 and became Chrysler Corporation!

At the cruise you'll see great classic cars, custom cars, street rods, collector and speciality vehicles, and more! There's no fee to drive in the Cruise, no admission charge to watch it. Anyone can cruise but the emphasis is very definitely on the classic and speciality cars.

It's more than just a drive-past – it's an all-day event with a car show, a bike show, the cruise in the evening, lots of food vendors, things for all the family the family to do. Plus there are bands and DJs, music entertainment up and down the route, some perform outside, the others at venues on the inside. Prizes are awarded to the best retro car & best retro dress.

The City of New Castle has recently formed a new committee and for the future the Cruise will be organised on a scale just like the City's Memorial Day Parade. "This is very important to our community and we hope to see it grow bigger and bigger every year" says **Mayor Greg York**. For more information see *New Castle Broad Street Cruise-In* on Facebook.

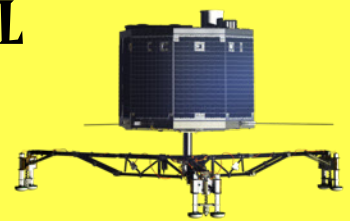


COMET LANDING'S DEBT TO NEUCHÂTEL

The city of Neuchâtel played its part in allowing the world to see the comet Churyumov - Gerasimenko recently, because the Philae landing module was equipped with cameras designed and manufactured in Neuchâtel by CSEM.

Philae is the robotic European Space Agency lander that accompanied the Rosetta spacecraft until its designated landing on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, more than ten years after departing Earth. On 12 November 2014, the probe achieved the first-ever soft landing on a comet nucleus. Its instruments obtained the first images from a comet's surface, sending back data that will be analysed to determine the composition of the surface.

The lander is named after the Philae obelisk, which bears a bilingual inscription and was used along with the Rosetta Stone to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics.



JAUNPILS - A HEALTHY ATTITUDE TO HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES

Jaunpils Municipality I Latvia is committed to promoting a healthy and more active life style among its citizens and has been recognised in this category of "European Municipality of 2014"

Since spring Jaunpils Municipality Council has employed a Public Health Promotion Specialist - the young and enthusiastic physiotherapist Andris Prikazs. He has developed an extensive programme for young and old to be active all year long. There's a 0700 morning gym, also an evening public gym, Nordic walking (see photo below), therapeutic exercises, jogging and more.

Andris has also been organising a range of sporting events such as Nordic Walking festival and a Sport week for the town etc. "We all feel better and happier!" says Baiba Rasa

Receiving the award, below left in photograph: The chairwoman of Jaunpils Ligite Gintere, with Vija Ziverte, Austra Sipeniece, Sandra Šteina.



Newcastle Flies the Flag for Best Night Out

Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre is a great place to visit at night, a national accreditation scheme has confirmed. It has been awarded prestigious Purple Flag status by the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) for excellent management of the evening economy.

The award features a national set of standards broken down into five themes – well-being, movement, broad appeal, place and policy – and celebrates clean and safe places that provide good bars, clubs, restaurants, arts and cultural attractions and transport links. It is similar to the Green Flag for parks and is backed by the government, police and business.

It is recognition for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Newcastle Town Centre Partnership, Newcastle Partnership Against Business Crime, Staffordshire Police and other partners who work closely together to ensure the town is well organised at night. Councillor Tony Kearon, Cabinet member for safer communities, said: "I'm delighted that Newcastle town centre has achieved this gold standard and has all the elements in place to offer a good experience for different groups of people, not just for those drinking alcohol"

The assessor marked "fruitful" partnership working and licensing regulation as above average and praised the use of mobile first aid units and street chaplains. Other achievements include activities to improve the appearance of the environment and the provision of taxis.



Many changes have taken place in the town over the last 10 years and there now is a diverse offer in the town, from quality restaurants to live music as well as cocktails and dance floors.

Inspector Mark Barlow, from Newcastle Local Policing unit, added: "Achieving this national accreditation shows our ongoing commitment working with partners to keep the town centre of Newcastle a safe place for people to visit. We will continue this work to maintain and exceed this level."

CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS AND NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

A sense of life, euphoria and flamboyant play summed up the Disability Sport Day recently hosted by the **Newcastle Kwa-Zulu Natal** Municipality Special Programmes unit on 11th December 2014. This is one of the platforms that the municipality utilises for engagement and interaction with people living with disability.

The day included full participation from all those present in a variety of sporting codes such as umlabalaba, netball, wheelchair basketball, tug of war, goal ball, fun walk and 100 metres sprint.

On completion participants received a certificate and winners were awarded with medals and trophies, and to add the cherry on top, ten basketball wheelchairs were handed over to the disability forum by Government Department of Sports and Recreation.

There was praise for the great support, commitment and admiration that government has for the disabled. "We love you as the Newcastle Municipality, come up with your own programmes, let us hear from you and we will support and advance whatever course you have" said Chief Operations Officer Mr. Errol Mswane.

Discrimination of people living with disability was raised by Mrs. Maphalala from the Office of the Provincial Premier. "We need to wash out all forms of discrimination; for the disabled discrimination often begins at home in communities, schools and the workplace" said Mrs. Maphalala.

This day came as the culmination of the recently launch of Disability zones forum including of five zones in Newcastle (Osizweni, Blaauwbosch, Madadeni, Inner City and Charlestown), each with clear defined and distinguished elements - namely community participation, team work, strategic programmes, strategic partnership, and community development respectively. During the event each zone was awarded with a certificate to reflect their mission for participation encouragement and recognition.



NEUCHÂTEL - CHOCOLATISSIMO!

Neuchâtel chocolate was in the spotlight for a whole week in November, with the first of a new Festival, called *Chocolatissimo!*. It was seven days dedicated just to chocolate with tasting sessions, displays, music, workshops, even theatre!



"This project embodies the determination of the City Council to be proactive in promoting tourism in Neuchâtel," said Olivier Arni, Mayor of the Council.

"Chocolatissimo promotes the rich history of chocolate in Neuchâtel, and our many excellence confectioners and chocolatiers. Brands such as Wodey-Suchard, Walder and Schmid have great products and are valued and special ambassadors for Neuchâtel"



Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has announced plans for a mixed-use retail-led scheme based in the Ryecroft area of the town which will help breathe new life into the town centre.

Proposals for the site – which could result in an initial investment of more than £40 million into Newcastle and create hundreds of jobs - include up to 100,000 sq ft of new retail and leisure floor space; student accommodation hub; retirement housing; and car parking.

LINKS WITH FRIENDS IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA



In building our connections with **Akhaltzikhe**, the "Newcastle" of the Republic of Georgia, we were delighted to have a visit and meeting with Alexandra Hall, the British Ambassador to Georgia, who gave her personal backing to developing these links.

She is pictured (third left) with the Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne Councillor George Pattison. Others in the visiting party were (from the left): Tamara Kapanadze (Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Georgia), David Gigauri (Vice-Chair of the British-Georgian Society) and (on the right) Mako Abashidze (Director of the British-Georgian Chamber of Commerce).

Topics discussed included university links and opportunities for trade as well as possible visits to and from Akhaltzikhe.

Jaunpils twins with Gremi

Jaunpils Municipality in Latvia has established international twinning links with Gremi village, Kvareli Municipality in the Kakheti region of the Republic of Georgia, 175km east of the capital Tbilisi. In December chairwoman of the municipality Ligite Gintere visited the new friends in Georgia to sign the twinning agreement. Gremi has a 16th-century architectural monument – the royal citadel and the Church of the Archangels; close by is Georgia's largest wine cellar – 7.7 km of tunnels and galleries!

Georgian Musicians make Neuburg their home

Walter Friemel explains: "In 1992 the Georgian Chamber Orchestra took part in a music festival in Schleswig-Holstein (the northern part of Germany near the Baltic Sea). From there they did not return to Tbilisi but went to Ingolstadt in Bavaria where the Audi Company together with the Council in Ingolstadt had already rented flats for them. In those days Ms Liane Isakadze was their conductor and solo violinist."

"In 1993 they were invited by **Neuburg's** cultural department to give a concert in our city. In the mean time I made contact with some members of the orchestra, because I wanted to offer music lessons (violin, cello, piano, jazz piano, singing) at my Volkshochschule (adult college). The same musicians still teach there today!

"Neuburg founded our own chamber orchestra in 1994, *the Ensemble del Arte*, which is managed by my wife Anne Friemel and the cellist of the orchestra, Mr David Tskadaja. The main part of the orchestra consists of Georgian musicians. There are also a few members who play in orchestras in Munich or Nuremberg."

"For the past four years Ariel Zuckermann has been the conductor of the orchestra, and soloists with a world-wide reputation are invited to give concerts. The concerts (5 to 6 each year) take place in the beautiful 300 year-old Neuburg Kongregationsaal".



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE PRESENTS MANDELA AWARDS

To commemorate the anniversary of the death of Nelson Mandela, **Newcastle upon Tyne** City Council has presented the first Nelson Mandela Awards, for those individuals and groups in the local community who work for peace and justice and who help bring people and communities together as he did.

Newcastle was one of the first UK cities to grant Nelson Mandela freedom of the city in 1986 during apartheid.



The winners, presented with their awards by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle at the City Council meeting on December 3rd are: Musa Hassan Ali and Evelyne Mbatkop Nana of the West End Refugee Service; Gaby Kitoko of African Community Advice North East; Peter Sagar from "A Living Tradition" (supporting the Roma Community); Abu-Tayeb KhairDeen of the Islamic Diversity Centre; Margaret Allen and Suki Bell of Monkchester Road Community Centre; Elswick Community First Panel; Fenham Association of Residents.

Leader of the Council Cllr Nick Forbes said: "Nelson Mandela will be remembered for the way he brought communities together and we want to mark the anniversary of his death by celebrating what his inspirational message means to Newcastle today. There are many in our community who devote their time and energy to community relations and we want to recognise them."

NEW GRAFFITI BRIGHTENS UP SUBWAY IN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

PEDESTRIANS can now enjoy a brighter walk into a town centre following the unveiling of new subway art. The walkway under Ryecroft is the third of three in **Newcastle-under-Lyme** to receive a makeover in a bit to reduce unsightly graffiti.

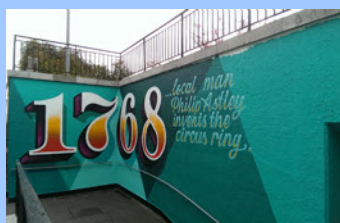
Andy Cooke, who runs Hanley-based art and fashion store Entrepreneurs, was tasked with creating the urban-style artwork, with the contemporary circus as a brief. Andy settled on using the father of the modern circus, Philip Astley, who was born in Newcastle, as inspiration for the work.

"The theme was the contemporary circus and I've got to say we're all very happy with the results," he said. "It is an incredible thing to see and it is something a bit different for the people of Newcastle to enjoy. "The feedback has been really positive from Newcastle Borough Council and people we've spoken to in the town."

Andy said Entrepreneurs had worked with students from St John Fisher Catholic College to come up with ideas and designs for the work. "We held workshops with the kids and explored a lot of different routes before settling on the designs," he said. "We wanted something abstract, but with a modern element. We kept everything within the brief we were set. There is a very urban and very European feel about it. It is almost like you could be stood in Berlin or Paris. It is something different and I really like it."

Newcastle Borough Council has used £107,000 secured from Sainsbury's Supermarket through a planning agreement to fund the subway art projects.

The refurbishment of Enderley Street tunnel had already taken place and artist Grega Greaves (right) had transformed Bridge Street subway with paintings relating to industry, countryside, music and the railway line.



ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD: In 1998 the Mayor of Shinshiro in Japan took the initiative to invite representatives of 7 Newcastles to his city. They have continued to meet every two years – in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (Indiana and Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008 in Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 2012, and most recently in April 2014 in Nove Hradky in the Czech Republic. The aim of the Newcastles alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each others' heritage and culture. Each gathering takes one or more discussion themes to ensure practical, usable outcomes, also involving our young people.

SHARED PRIORITIES AND BEST PRACTICE

We have agreed to share information and best practice, and to support each other in any other practicable way to further our principal common interests, which we have identified as;

- * To create employment opportunities, especially for our young people, together with the skills development that underpins it.
- * To development new initiatives that provide affordable housing for those in our communities who need it.
- * To address the gap in communication and involvement between local leaders and institutions and the people and communities who they are there to serve.
- * To support services that recognise an ageing population, meeting their needs but recognising the experience that older people have and the contribution that they can make.
- * To sustain the viability of our town centres/district centres in the face of out-of-town and online retailing.
 - * To develop new uses for our historic buildings and identify the resources to carry this out.
 - * To protect and sustain our environment, including our surrounding agricultural land and forestry.
- * To further our additional interests (more important for some Newcastles) of building a clear civic identity; tackling inequalities, discrimination or disengagement; developing a more cohesive and welcoming society

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SEND US YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

<http://newcastlesoftheworld.com/best-practice-information/>



..... and finally SOME SEASONAL IMAGES FROM OTHER NEWCASTLES AROUND THE WORLD:
 Clockwise from top left: Lighting up the castle - Castelnuovo Garfagnana (Italy); Saint Nicolas Festival and Christmas lights - Neufchateau , France; Image from the annual Cascade of Lights, Newcastle, Pennsylvania, USA; Santa Lucia Festival, near Nyborg (Sweden)

