

# NEWSLETTER

August/September 2016 [www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)

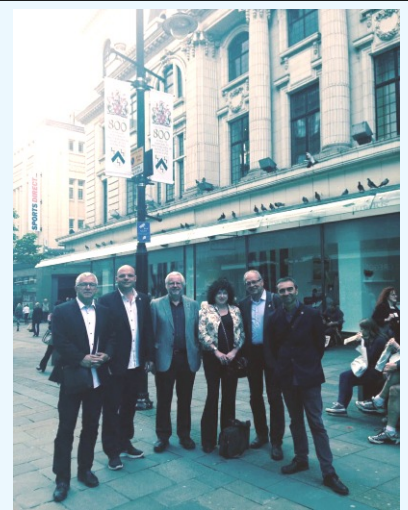
Distributed directly to over 2000 people in more than 50 "Newcastles" around the world - help reach more by sharing!



## A WARM CANADIAN WELCOME AWAITS

Our 2016 conference in Newcastle, Ontario, Canada (19-23 September) looks like being our biggest gathering yet - and for the youth conference too! There's still time to sign up - go to [www.newcastlesconferences.com](http://www.newcastlesconferences.com). The conference organising team (bottom left) and local Newcastle councillors Willie Woo and Wendy Partner (left, celebrating Canada Day early last month) are lining up a warm welcome to this beautiful country. There are new friends to make and places to see, and lots of interesting topics for us to share experiences about - check it all out:

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/2016-conference-innewcastle-ontario-canada/>



Politicians and officers from Neuchâtel visited your Secretariat in Newcastle upon Tyne last month for discussions. New plans for our "Newcastles Passport" will be shared soon.

## CULTURE ON PRESCRIPTION IN NYBORG

People in Nyborg who are long-term sick from either mild depression, stress, or anxiety can gain an improved quality of life through cultural experiences under the headline "Kultur på recept – fristed, fællesskab og fortælling" ("Culture on Prescription – refuge, narrative, and solidarity") in a new project.

Together with four other municipalities, Nyborg has received 2.1 million Danish kroner (270,000 Euros) over the next three years from a budget of 7 million kroner earmarked by the Danish Health Authority for the project. The purpose is to test and develop a Swedish model that has proven successful in making citizens better and allowing them to return to the labour market. The project, which includes several of the cultural institutions in Nyborg, is part of general strategy of Nyborg municipality to reduce socio-economic inequalities in health. "With this project we hope to demonstrate that the unique cultural heritage and rich cultural life in Nyborg can be used to forward the general well-being and the mental health of long-term sick citizens", the head of the Health and Prevention Committee Frits Christensen said. Nyborg Castle and the Museums of Eastern Funen have been key partners in developing the project that includes experiences such as making your own arrow heads and shooting with them, fencing with swords and cooking medieval food.



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY NOVÉ HRADY

The town of Nové Hradý, our Newcastle in South Bohemia in the Czech Republic, has been recognised as the most pro-family town of its size (1000-3000 population category) in the country. This is an award of the Czech Ministry of Social Affairs and Family. It's the second time that Nové Hradý has won the award – previously in 2013. There's a cash award, as well as the prestige of winning, and this is to be used to invest in further family-friendly projects in the town. The award ceremony has yet to be arranged – look out for the photos and in our next newsletter.



Contact your Newcastles of the World team for information, ideas or help:

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# MAYOR'S PROUD RECORD

Just as he steps down as Newcastle Mayor, Afzul Rehman has won the most consistent best performing mayor in the Province of Kwa-Zulu Natal at the 2016 Municipal Excellence Awards. Three years of being recognised as best-performing Mayor and now the most consistent!

We offer our congratulations to Makhosini Nkosi (far right) for his nomination as ANC mayoral candidate for Newcastle. He is a lawyer, former legal services director of the Newcastle municipality and also a member of the provincial legislature, and like Mayor Rehman is a great champion of the "Newcastles of the World" alliance.

In his final weeks, Mayor Rehman accepted the flame of democracy as it reached Newcastles on its travels around the rainbow nation, and led a major public engagement exercise to set out the improvements to services in Newcastle in recent years. The service delivery roadshow attracted thousands of members of the public.



## Chairwoman of Jaunpils Municipality Council Ligita Gintere - Latvia's representative at the EU Committee of the Regions

The European Union (EU) Council have approved the new Latvian delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) in the next five-year period, comprising 14 local politicians, representing the Latvian city and state interests.



Among the delegates is Ligita Gintere, Chairwoman of Jaunpils Municipal Council. Delegates drawn from the Latvian Association of Local Governments Council, take into account both the different types of local governments and Latvian-balanced regional representation and gender equality.

Local and regional politicians regularly get together in Brussels to discuss political priorities and adopt opinions on EU legislation. Similarly, the CoR delegation members to the thematic committees discuss the preparation of opinions on the



European Commission's legislative proposals in areas such as energy, transport, employment, education and other key areas. Ligita Gintere is a member of the SEDEC (Social policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture) and CIVEX (Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs) commissions. Work in commissions is important because it promotes both the direct and indirect impact on decision-making and supports the interests of the local inhabitants of Jaunpils as well as the wider population of Latvia.

## Neuburg City Marketing Association reaches 300 Partners!

Founded in 2003 to help establish Neuburg an der Donau as a strong brand for investment and tourism, Neuburg Stadtmarketing has just reached the special milestone of 300 partners. CEO Manfred Hoffmann signed the 300th membership application on behalf of the traditional company Hoffmann Mineral in the town hall. Mayor Dr. Bernhard Gmehling, who has been Chairman of the City Marketing Association from the outset, said: "We are proud and happy that we now welcome the 300th member of our strong community. That this is also one of the oldest industrial enterprises of the city and at the same traditional family is, of course, is the icing on the cake".



In recent years, manager Vanessa Korn and her team have signed up more and more retailers, companies, institutions, associations and private individuals for membership.

"Neuburg has proved that it is a liveable city that supports businesses, which, in a highly competitive labour market, can attract and retain companies and their employees" said Vanessa, pictured with Mayor Gmehling (left) and Mr Hoffmann



# COUNCIL OFFICES TO BECOME PART OF NEW CIVIC HUB

Work on a multi-million pound civic hub in the centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme, England is moving ahead after planners approved the scheme. The £15.4 million (18m Euros) building will house local Borough Council and County Council staff, as well as members of Staffordshire Police. The four-storey building, which will stand to the south of Queen's Gardens, is scheduled to open in June 2017.

Once borough council staff move from their current headquarters (where the 2006 Newcastle of the World conference was hosted), the former civic centre will be demolished and the site included in the £27 million (32m Euros) Ryecroft development. That will offer major retailers larger shop units than have previously been available in the town centre as well as creating accommodation for 470 university students.



Councillor Elizabeth Shenton, Leader of the Borough Council, said: "The wider regeneration of the Ryecroft area and the public sector hub have huge significance for the future of our town. "Together they will bring about more than £40m (almost 50m Euros) investment into the heart of Newcastle; create 351 new operational jobs and 204 temporary ones in construction; boost retail turnover substantially; boost student spending in the town centre and save our taxpayers large sums through public sector organisations working together in one modern building."

## CITY HALL FACADE UNDER RESTORATION

Following on from the restoration of the clock tower, Newcastle City Council, Australia is now restoring the Southern façade of City Hall, along with the remaining eastern façade. Work will be completed in the second half of 2017. Conservation of the southern and part of the eastern sandstone façade will include windows, lead flashing, waterproof membranes, timber doors and lighting.



## STAFF MOVE INTO NEW CIVIC CENTRE

The new municipal building for Newcastle Kwa-Zulu Natal has been largely-completed and staff are being moved, department by department from the famous old Town Hall, started in 1897 at the time of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, but now in rather poor condition for the provision of services



## New Nagoya Highway bus could help residents to live in Shinshiro



Mayor Ryoji Hozumi (2<sup>nd</sup> left) helps inaugurate the new bus service

After the opening of the Shinshiro Inter Change of New Tomei highway express, Shinshiro City has started to run a direct highway bus from centre of the city to the nearest subway station in Nagoya from July 1st. It runs every day, from Monday to Friday 3 returns and weekend is 2 returns a day.

Now residents can get to the centre of Nagoya within one and a half hours using this bus. Before that it took more than 2 hours and passengers had to change several times. Many Shinshiro citizens who studied or worked in Nagoya had to live there because of the travel time. Now the city council is hoping that many of them can keep living in Shinshiro and commute to Nagoya.

## ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

There are more than 100 different "Newcastles" or "New Castles" around the globe, in many different countries and in different languages. It was the mayor of one of them, in Shinshiro, Japan, who took the initiative to bring the Newcastles together via the Newcastles of the World summit in 1998. Subsequent gatherings were held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (New Castles of Indiana and Pennsylvania) 2002, South Africa 2004 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008 and Nové Hradky (Czech Republic) in 2014. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism.

# WILBUR WRIGHT BIRTHPLACE FESTIVAL

New Castle, Indiana, USA celebrated its annual Wilbur Wright Birthplace Festival on 17 and 18 June.

Born near the city in 1867, Wilbur Wright was the elder brother of Orville Wright, with whom he developed the world's first successful airplane. On December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers succeeded in making the first free, controlled flight of a power-driven airplane - an extraordinary achievement, Wilbur flew the plane for 59 seconds over a distance of 852 feet. Today, the Wright brothers are seen as the "fathers of modern aviation". New Castle is home to the Wilbur Wright Birthplace Museum and each year hosts a festival to commemorate this aviation pioneer. <http://www.wbirthplace.com/>



## Saint Shalva Commemoration in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia



On 30 June at Rabati Castle, Akhaltsikhe (our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia) celebrated the feast day of Saint Shalva Akhaltsikheli, a most famous Georgian general who was executed in 1227 by the Khwarezmian (Persian dynasty) invaders for having refused to serve them and to denounce Christianity.

He was a member of an influential noble family which had Akhaltsikhe in their hereditary possession. Under the famous Queen Tamar of Georgia, ruler of the Caucasus during the golden age of Georgia, he held the post of Lord High Treasurer. Shalva distinguished himself particularly in the Battle of Shamkor against the Seljuk atabek of Azerbaijan, 1195, when he fought in the vanguard and captured a war banner of the Caliph. In 1206/1207, he commanded a Georgian army that took Kars from the Seljuk Turks.

At the Battle of Basian (1203) Shalva and his brother Iwane were put in command of Meskhetian vanguard and played a decisive role in the Georgian victory.

## Roll up, Roll up for the Father of the Modern Circus

Born in Newcastle-under-Lyme, England in 1742, Philip Astley was the son of a cabinetmaker who grew up to become a master equestrian, entrepreneur, war hero, pioneer and showman. In 1768, Astley created the first 42ft(12.8m) diameter 'circus ring', still the standard size used in circus across the world today.

Despite Astley's status as 'the father of the modern circus', there is limited awareness locally of his life and achievements. Organisations including Staffordshire University, Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, Newcastle-under-Lyme College, the Van Buren Organisation, Keele University, Newcastle-under-Lyme Business Improvement District (BID) and the New Vic Theatre have formed The Philip Astley Project to raise awareness of Astley within Newcastle-under-Lyme and, as a result increase residents' pride in their own heritage. A number of exhibitions, talks and film screenings are being organised by the steering group to aid the objective of raising awareness before a high profile event takes place in Newcastle-under-Lyme in 2018 – the 250th anniversary of the creation of the 42ft diameter circus ring, invented by Philip Astley.

Andrew Van Buren, of renowned local circus family, the Van Burens - a driving force behind The Project, said: "We believe Philip Astley could become Newcastle-under-Lyme's equivalent of Shakespeare to Stratford-upon-Avon, bringing more visitors to the town and with this an increased awareness of Newcastle-under-Lyme as an attractive destination."

Events that have already taken place include: the unveiling of a statue of Philip Astley, commissioned by the Van Buren family, in the Performing Arts Centre of Newcastle-under-Lyme college; a business engagement event attended by over 60 local business people; circus-themed displays and activities for children at the Borough Museum; the Homecoming Festival, featuring contemporary urban circus acts; circus skills workshops. For more information about The Philip Astley Project email [katherine.evans@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.evans@staffs.ac.uk)





## MAJOR HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN NEWCASTLE, KZN

Kwa-Zulu Natal Province Executive Committee Member for Human Settlements and Public Works Ravigasen Pillay and Newcastle Mayor Afzul Rehman, with Makhosini Nkosi and Councillor Matthew Shunmugam, have launched the important Siyahhlala-la Housing Project in the municipality.



Home to more than 1000 inhabitants since 1989, the sprawling informal settlement near the suburb of Fairleigh will be transformed into being a first post-1994 Integrated Residential Development Programme project (IRDP) where beneficiaries will be living closer to their workplaces in decent affordable accommodation and enjoying fully serviced amenities.

The Siyahhlala-la IRD project is an in-situ Informal Settlement Upgrade with an expected yield of 1 200 units when completed. The total cost of the project is over 140m rand (9m Euros)

inclusive of services infrastructure as well as access roads and public transport roads. The July launch covered the first tranche of 500-units, costing R58m (3.7m Euros). The entourage poured the first concrete on the cut platform slab of the first houses that are to be built to relocate 25 families presently on the route of a water and sewage pipeline. "This is going to be a real suburb, not a settlement," said Mayor Rehman.



The city of **Neuchâtel** has launched two ambitious and related projects. The Director of Education, Municipal Councillor Christine Gaillard, and the Director of Tourism and President of the City Council Thomas Facchinetti announced the launch of the projects to enrich the supply of tourist accommodation by the transformation of the college Sablons into a youth hostel, and at the same time to ensure quality educational accommodation in the city centre, consolidating and extending the Bellecour site by taking over and refurbishing the neighbouring building.

"Promoting Neuchâtel as an attractive city and creating a real culture of hospitality are top priorities for our City's tourism" said Mr Facchinetti. "The opening of a youth hostel has been high on the political agenda of the Council". "It is also important to us to have a municipal building conveniently located for teaching in the heart of the city". The City of Neuchâtel has for some years sought a location to build or develop a youth hostel, as there has been a shortage of cheap beds in the city since the closure of the former hostel 20 years ago and of the Oasis facility in 2004. At the same time, the Centre Scolaire des Terreaux the éoren (compulsory school area in Neuchâtel), has been spread across six colleges, and much of it is in cramped accommodation.

## NEW BEACH ATTRACTIONS IN NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA

One of the greatest assets of Newcastle, New South Wales in Australia is its coastal location and its wonderful beaches. Newcastle City Council is planning a new lease of life for South Newcastle Beach with a uniquely designed skate bowl, kiosk and outdoor gym featuring in the next stage of its "Bathers Way" project.

Concept plans for stage one of the project, from Newcastle Surf Club to King Edward Park, reveal the signature widened pathway, the skate bowl jutting out into the sand and a street-style skate park that skaters can "drop into" from the shared pathway. Art installations among stylish landscaping, tiered seating and shade shelters similar to those along the Merewether-Bar Beach section of Bathers Way have also been proposed ahead of final design.

"It is exciting that we are realising our goal of connecting Nobby's to Merewether with a coastal pathway to rival any in Australia," Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said. "This is an ambitious concept to activate a long-dormant part of the coast at South Newcastle by proposing a competition-standard skate bowl as well as street-style skate facilities, and making public domain improvements that will beautify and activate the previously ungainly site between the ocean and the cliff.



"Inclusion of a new kiosk, fitness and parkour (obstacle course) equipment, and areas to stop and enjoy the view means that the South Newcastle stretch of the Bathers Way will offer something for everyone. "Bathers Way is already gaining a reputation as a must-see destination for visitors to Newcastle and the region, allowing them to take in the beautiful sites along our coastline and enjoy the safety, amenity and buzz that the shared pathway provides. "Judging by early successes, the Bathers Way could rival Sydney's Bondi to Bronte Walk and Victoria's Great Ocean Road on the bucket list of great Australian coastal attractions."



The renaissance town of Neuburg an der Donau (our "Newcastle" in Bavaria, Germany) enjoys a particularly active cultural life, which is why it is also known as "the city of culture on the Danube". The Neuburg Summer Academy is a national showcase of learning for fine arts, music and theatre. The 38th Academy takes place from 31 July to 13 August, with 34 courses and a children's academy.

See <http://www.sommerakademie-neuburg.com/>

There are record-breaking numbers this year. In each of the two weeks of the course around 300 participants from around the world visit the academy. Of the total 34 courses, 22 courses for adults and all children and teens are completely booked well ahead of the programme starting.



"Antipodes" was the name of the huge photographic installation by artist Joel von Allmen covered the walls of the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) of Neuchâtel during its restoration. But the huge tarpaulin will not end in the incinerator because recycled pieces of the giant canvas have been used to manufacture chairs, other objects and fashion accessories.



The 27<sup>th</sup> Shinshiro City Bonfire Noh festival takes place on 20 August (see above). Noh is the oldest form of musical theatre in Japan, is performed in the evening darkness, illuminated by burning torches and features actors wearing lacquer-coated wooden masks and dressed in gorgeous costumes.

An artist's moving interpretation of one of Newcastle upon Tyne's most celebrated landmarks has found a permanent home, thanks to the Lord Mayor Hazel Stephenson. Andy Farr's painting, The Response, was inspired by the war memorial of the same name which stands near the Civic Centre, commemorating the raising of several battalions of the Northumberland Fusiliers during the First World War. The Andy Farr painting shows two children in 21st Century dress embracing, and in one case being embraced by, the soldiers in the memorial as they march off to war. Now it has been bought from the artist by Lord Mayor Stephenson and handed over to the City Library.



An international carpet festival took place at Akhaltsikhe castle in June. The various culture of the national carpets were represented at the festival, among them British, Azerbaijani, Armenian and others.



## FILM FESTIVAL SUCCESS

The Neuchâtel Fantasy Film Festival (NIFFF), one of the key events in the Swiss cinema world, enjoyed another successful edition in early July. Innovative programmes and prestigious guests have helped the NIFFF to win over the public as well as the critics.



The quintessence of this festival is its richly varied programme, based on one central theme (Fantasy Cinema) and two secondary themes (Asian Cinema and Digital Images). The most successful film in the eyes of the judges this year was SWISS ARMY MAN directed and produced by Daniel Scheinert & Dan Kwan, USA and featuring Daniel Radcliffe ("Harry Potter")



# Knights of the Northern Kingdom in Nyborg

Knights from all of Denmark and the surrounding countries will gather around Nyborg Castle on the 10th-11th September 2016 to share experiences, gain new knowledge, train and – of course – take part in the great medieval pitched battle on both Saturday and Sunday.

When nobles and kings met in the past to hold court or parliament in Nyborg, they had a following of men and warriors with them. They trained and entertained the spectators with their weapon's art and war games which helped prepare them for the ferocious medieval battles.

“Knights of the Northern Kingdom” is an event that brings this to life. It is the largest gathering of medieval warriors in Denmark and the reenactors and the museum is working together to make the medieval past come alive and to make new insights into medieval military history. University guest lectures presents their research and the museum learn from the practical experiences and know-how of the re-enactors.

And of course for tourists it's a great spectacle, and every year thousands of visitors come to see the knights and the battle and witness the unique atmosphere in the camp around the old royal castle. We hope to see you as well!

A United Nations flag was raised in Civic Park, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia when the UN's training arm handed over the global body's ensign to confirm Newcastle as a 'UN City' and host of the first International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders in Australasia and the Pacific region.

Alexander Mejia, Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's Decentralised Cooperation Programme (2<sup>nd</sup> left in photo) presented Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and University of Newcastle Vice-Chancellor Professor Caroline McMillen (far left) with the UN flag. See our March 2016 newsletter for the full story of how this was achieved.

## FLYING THE UN FLAG IN NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA



## “Contemporary Muslim Women: “Current Challenges & Best Practices” - a major international conference in Kota Bharu

Kota Bharu, our “Newcastle” in Malaysia, hosts an International Womens Conference from 14-17 August (coinciding with the state's Womens' Day) at Hotel Perdana - and delegates from other Newcastles are welcome.

The State Government of Kelantan, Malaysia, via the Secretariat for Women Development, Family and Welfare is presenting this conference, “Muslimah International Summit Kelantan 2016”, to share experience in implementing the policy of “Develop with Islam” supported with the theme of “Kelantan Cares for Women” for the past 25 years. It is hoped that this effort will provide opportunities for Muslim women from all over the world to learn and benefit from its experience.

Islam has transformed the status of women from being seen as a man's property to having her own personality and property. In the Malay archipelagoes, Kelantanese women were known for their active involvement in society based on Islamic way of life. Kelantanese women have been involved in local politics, social and economy since time immemorial. Since 1990, their participation in the society has been enhanced when the administration introduced the policy of ‘Develop with Islam’ to strengthened the development and welfare of women in Kelantan. New programs and activities were introduced by the State Government of Kelantan at the state assembly and parliamentary constituency levels in line.

The conference will expose participants to current challenges, policies and best practices implemented by various bodies for Muslim women all over the world, discuss current views and scenarios faced by contemporary Muslim women and draft plans towards producing best practices for women in the participants' respective country.

The conference is mainly targeted for women but men with an interest in this topic are also welcome, and it is open to all races and religions. For information, please contact: official email [miskelantan@gmail.com](mailto:miskelantan@gmail.com)



Europe's largest travelling funfair, held in Newcastle upon Tyne UK, again took place this summer. “The Hoppings”, as it's called, is held on the Town Moor in the city every year in June. It began in 1882 and has been held (nearly) every year since, featuring over 60 large rides as well as food, music and other attractions. The tradition is that it's opened by the new Lord Mayor – right is Councillor Hazel Stephenson enjoying the rides!.





# BATTLE OF NAGASHINO AT THE HEART OF SHINSHIRO'S PLACE IN HISTORY

Each year at the beginning of July, locals of Shinshiro, our "Newcastle" in Japan, commemorate the historic battle of Nagashino with the Shitaragahara Battlefield Festival, taking place at the original site. After a memorial service dedicated to those who died in battle, visitors enjoy various performances, including a drumming show and a children's samurai-costume parade. The highlight of the festival is a demonstration by men, dressed in period costume, using authentic matchlock guns, just as more than 400 years ago. Other attractions include stalls selling special foods and locally made miscellaneous goods.



During the Sengoku period (1482-1573), the Takeda family was one of the strongest clans in Japan, known in particular for its successful cavalry charges. Yet in 1575, it found itself up against something that rendered it powerless — the new western technology of firearms. In early July, allies of Oda Nobunaga and Tokugawa Ieyasu attacked and defeated Takeda Katsuyori's forces, which had besieged Nagashino castle. The Battle of Shitaragahara, also known as the Battle of Nagashino, became recognized as a turning point for Japanese warfare because of Oda's effective use of guns. It was the first battle for which firearms played a major role in victory.



## GEORGIA'S OLDEST SYNAGOGUE IS 275!

Akhaltzikhe, our "Newcastle" in the Republic of Georgia, has been celebrating the 275th anniversary of the oldest Synagogue in the country.

Guests came from many countries of the world for a day that started at Akhaltzikhe castle with concerts and other activities.



## NEW TOURIST CARD FOR NOVE HRADY

This summer Nove Hradý started a new tourist incentive card – tourists have to visit at least 2 hills and 3 monuments or tourist attractions. They can choose from 3 hills and more than 20 castles, museums and other places. When they do that they will have a small gift from the town – a special coin made by the local blacksmith.



## STANDING UP FOR NEW CASTLE, PA

We like the campaign in New Castle, Pennsylvania USA called "Stand up for New Castle!". New Visions is a movement seeking positive changes in New Castle and Lawrence County, PA. by mobilising an army of caring volunteers to take action to help their own community. It's a conversation starter, a catalyst, and a connecting agent which brings people together, builds trust, and grows pride in the community.

<http://www.newvisionslc.org/>



## A NEW PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE FOR THE TOWN OF NEW CASTLE?

The New Castle Town Board, Westchester County, New York State has voted to accept the Wallace Auditorium at Chappaqua Crossing from property owner and developer Summit/Greenfield despite investment needed for improvements.

The decision to take ownership of the 400-seat facility comes with the hope that it will provide the town with a performing arts centre for a variety of productions and concerts and serve as a cultural hub.

Officials are also optimistic that the theatre could be rented to outside groups. The auditorium was named for DeWitt Wallace, a philanthropist and co-founder of Reader's Digest.



## Beneficial summer projects for young people in Jaunpils, Latvia

The summer holidays in Latvia are three months long, so there's a need to offer young people activities to help them spend the leisure time productively. This summer Jaunpils municipality youth workers offer an opportunity for young people to gain new experiences, useful knowledge about business, meet local entrepreneurs and develop their experience in business as well as their talents and creativity - and, of course enjoy an attractive and fun programme for summer. The municipality's public relations and tourism departments managed the project called "Youth communication and creativity for sustainable development".

This took place under the Ministry of Education State Programme for 2016 open call for proposals "Support for disadvantaged youth involvement in non-formal educational activities, encouraging their participation in society"



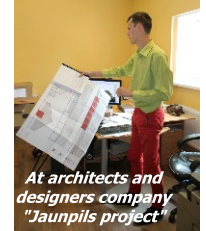
At agricultural company "Joži" led by Gunvaldis Sprōģis



Making special designed of T-shirts under the guidance of a teacher Ieva Zāgmane



Making personal portraits under the guidance of a teacher Arta Berezovska



At architects and designers company "Jaunpils project"

Project manager Baiba Rasa said that the goal was to improve young people's communication skills, develop creative thinking and stimulate interest in starting up a business for themselves.

Key measures during the 3-day training cycle of young people's non-formal education activities comprised a variety of interactive methods of promoting communication skills development. Acquired skills and knowledge have been applied in the role of games and activities. It was supported by seven different local entrepreneurs. Young people developed creative thinking, plus projects and experience for their CV - and ideas for business products and services as well as learning how to present and sell them.

To mark the end of the school year, the achievements of the students and the beginning of the summer holidays, no less than 1,700 children in Neuchâtel marched through the city, accompanied by their teachers.

The annual "Day of Youth" procession, with this year's theme "Fantastic!", crossed the city under warm sunshine to the English Garden for a range of events which the entire population of the city could enjoy!



## JESSICA RECOGNISED FOR HER VOLUNTARY WORK



A 17-year-old girl from Newcastle was one of the recipients of this year's Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers in Canada. The honour is the highest a young person can achieve for their volunteer contributions to the province. It goes to youth between 15 to 24 years old who have given their time and talents to a charitable or not-for-profit organisation or initiative and who have also inspired other young people to volunteer their time.

Jessica van der Veer was recognised for her work with the Adoption Council of Ontario's Youth Network Group. She has worked with the council since it began and volunteers with the group's advocacy, education and public awareness activities.

She has been a volunteer at Parents Adoption Learning Support since 2009 and she also volunteered each week with 5Alive, a group that helps youth with developmental disabilities build life skills.

In June the annual youth celebration event in the Amajuba District saw KwaZulu-Natal Premier Willies Mchunu accompanied by the whole KZN cabinet visit **Newcastle, South Africa**. The main celebration was held at Amajuba FET College Stadium where District Mayor Cllr Jabu Khumalo and Newcastle Local Mayor Cllr Afzul Rehman welcomed the cabinet. "Today we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of June 16, against the background of the 52nd anniversary of the Rivonia Trial Verdict" said the Premier. We celebrate these landmarks in our history not because they were happy events, we do so because they represented turning points in the struggle for freedom and democracy".

"Today our youngsters have the freedom to choose whichever career path they want to embark on, they can choose which ever language they want to speak because of the sacrifices made by our fallen heroes who fought toe and nail for freedom" said the Premier.



## VISITING THE SCENE OF THE TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE

High school students from Shinshiro City, our Newcastle in Japan, recently visited the scene of the earthquake in Kumamoto, Kyushu region in April. The earthquake killed 49 people and injured 3,000 others. Severe damage occurred in Kumamoto and Ōita Prefectures, with many buildings collapsing and catching fire. More than 44,000 people were evacuated from their homes. Communities around Japan, including Shinshiro, have rallied round to give practical help to the communities affected.





# CALL OUT FOR PERFORMING ARTISTS: MUSICIANS, ACTORS, DANCERS

Celebrate the Culture of *your* Newcastle in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia next summer

**A 5-day residency of artistic & cultural exchange**

As this newsletter goes to press, performers from Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) are putting the final touches to a programme of activity to welcome performers from the Newcastle Arts Development Organisation (NADO) in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. As mentioned in the last newsletter, the two groups have come together to create a new piece of theatre which celebrates the cultures and traditions from these two places: **Two Newcastles**.

We have been delighted with the support and funding received from South Africa and the UK to make this piece. **Two Newcastles** represents the first in a programme of specially commissioned cultural projects that we aim to deliver over the next five years. This programme has been enabled by the vision and enthusiasm of mayors from participating Newcastles of the World who agreed at our 2014 Nové Hradý conference to support a project manager to deliver more cultural projects between our participating alliance members.

We're still welcoming members from other Newcastles, so if you're interested in joining the alliance please send an email to [david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk) and if your interest is specifically Arts and Culture, or Arts in Education based, you can drop me a line at [molovatt@hotmail.com](mailto:molovatt@hotmail.com)

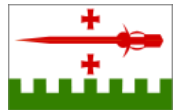
**Two Newcastles has inspired a new project idea for 2016-2017 from our friends in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia. And we're inviting arts and culture groups to apply to take part in this new initiative.**

Every year on 30th of June, the people of Akhaltsikhe celebrate the day of St. Shalva Akhaltsikheli. St Shalva (circa 12<sup>th</sup> Century) is one of the most notable military commanders in Georgian history. The day has become an important one in the Akhaltsike calendar when people from the town participate in various celebrations including sports and arts activities, exhibitions, concerts and much, much more!



Would you like to join us in Akhaltsikhe for the celebrations on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017?

Would you like to learn more about the culture and traditions of Georgia?



Are you part of an existing theatre, dance or music group with something you wish to share about your culture?

**If the answer to these questions is "yes" then we'd love to hear from you!**

We welcome approaches from arts and culture groups of between 10 and 20 performers and we're particularly interested in groups who can share stories (narrative or choreographic) and songs from their own Newcastle.

The residency in Georgia is five days (from 29<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July) and you will have the opportunity to participate in celebrations at the castle on 30<sup>th</sup> June, as well as the chance to develop partnerships with performers from Georgia and other Newcastles.

You will need to support your own travel plans to Akhaltsikhe (although we can help you to raise the money to do this); after which all your expenses will be covered by the Akhaltsikhe municipality. This includes accommodation, meals, airport transfers, local transport and guided tours.

Your trip will include cultural tourist visits to the Museum of Akhaltsikhe, Atskhuri Castle, Akhaltsikhe Lake (great for fishing, boating or simply relaxing), and a visit to the cave city of Vardzia! You will also receive a masterclass featuring the songs of traditional folk Ensemble ``Meskheti`` (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqpVLfVSB08>) – a locally based ensemble who are famous for their oldest traditional Georgian folk performances.

If this sounds like the sort of experience for you, please contact me at [molovatt@hotmail.com](mailto:molovatt@hotmail.com) by 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Your email should contain information about your group, the work you do (particularly in relation to the themes) and how this opportunity fits into your long term plans (no more than two sides of A4).

We look forward to hearing from you!



# NEWS IN BRIEF

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, New South Wales, **Australia**, Nuatali Nelmes was on hand to welcome passengers on the inaugural Fly Pelican flight between Dubbo and Newcastle on Monday 18 July.

The 2016 FESTI'NEUCH Open air Festival in June in Neuchâtel, **Switzerland**, featured The Gypsy Kings, The Cranberries, Cypress Hill and many other performers in its four days. Over 45,000 people attended - the biggest yet.



The cruise ship Disney Magic, one of the Disney Cruise line vessels, was in the River Tyne down river from Newcastle upon Tyne, **UK** twice in June, with 2700 passengers enjoying their time in the city.



*In July Newcastle Ontario **Canada**'s 9th Artists and Artisans Show took place at the Newcastle Memorial Arena (left). Over 60 artists displayed their work – plus children's area and musical entertainment.*

Young people who choose to learn in Newcastle-under-Lyme, **UK** will not only get a great education but also leave college with fewer debts. Keele University has been named as the most affordable place in the country to be a student for having among the cheapest weekly rent rates and travel costs. And Newcastle-under-Lyme College and Stafford College started consultation on a proposed merger between the two institutions. The proposed merger would see the two colleges combine with both retaining their local identities and educational characteristics and an umbrella group being formed.

The 6th Annual Newcastle (**South Africa**) Airshow was another great success in early June, the largest airshow in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.



Nyborg in **Denmark** has celebrated Danehof 2016 - the annual Medieval market, with jousting and many other activities from the days when Nyborg was the nation's capital and the Danish kings were crowned at the castle.

Eleven sites of special historic and heritage interest in Newcastle, Ontario, **Canada** were open to the public on 11th June, including fine homes and old industrial heritage buildings associated with the Massey (internationally-known Massey Ferguson) company, founded in Newcastle. "Doors Open Clarington" is part of the annual "Doors Open Ontario" initiative. Volunteers and members of the community invite the public to "Unlock Your History" by opening the doors to homes and properties that showcase its history and heritage.

Newcastle, **UK**, with Gateshead across the river Tyne, has won the right to host the World Transplant Games again. After being shortlisted against Houston, Texas, the process culminated in a final presentation to 13 international members of the World Transplant Games Federation Council. The Games will now take place in August 2019 and is expected to attract up to 3,000 participants from more than 60 different countries.

The Municipality of Clarington, **Canada** (of which Newcastle is part) is to take ownership of a historic site called Camp 30. The Allies used it during WWII as prisoner of war camp. It's hoped that this site can be restored and rehabilitated.

Town Criers from around the country attended the inaugural Town Crier Championships in Newcastle-under-Lyme, **UK**. The event was hosted by the market town's resident town crier Gordon Brayford (right) "The day started with coffee in full regalia with the mayor, followed by a parade through the town centre on Saturday morning led by a marching band.



*Children are considered the weakest participants in modern road safety programmes and need special protection. In Neuburg, **Germany**, Council Officer Bernhard Pfahler took on this job, and initiated the purchase of 400 flash vests for all Neuburger nurseries and similar institutions for use on excursions and walks.*



In our March newsletter we wrote about the planned festival of classical music in Nové Hradý, **Czech Republic**. This first festival began with concerts by celebrated violinist Jaroslav Svěčený who performed at the 2014 Newcastle of the World Conference and now has a special relationship with the town – he also returns with his family for vacations. Mayor Vladimír Hokr hopes that artists from other Newcastle may come to perform in future years, including young people.

Some of the world's finest cars toured the area around the city ahead of this year's **Newcastle upon Tyne** Motor Show. The convoy included an E type Jaguar; Austin Healey 3000; VW Karmann Ghia; BMW 2002 Targa convertible; MGB Roadster; Porsche 911 Carrera and a Morgan Plus 8.







# TOUR DE FRANCE HITS NEUCHÂTEL

Near 200 of the greatest cyclists in the world came to Neuchâtel as the Tour de France, one of the world's great sporting and media events, passed through the city on 18 July. This was for the fifth time in its history, helping to make it better known abroad. After a gruelling alpine ride, the cyclists enjoyed the flat and the fresh air of the lakeside.

The entertainment set up by the city to the Place du Port and Place des Halles were a resounding success with the public and visiting tourists. And safety was assured all along the route in the city through the commitment of 850 volunteers. Many followed the Tour on a big screen screen installed by the city on the Square des Halles.



# "DANUBE CLASSIC" CALLS INTO NEUBURG

In June, the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the "Danube Classic" car rally again called into Neuburg an der Donau on the Schrankenplatz. Over 240 classic cars from seven decades of motoring gathered, followed by a great special stage at Neuburg's Audi driving experience centre. The three-day classic car rally has firmly established itself within a few years and is now one of the best-known in Europe.

From nearby Ingolstadt the cars snaked along the highways in the Ottheinrichstadt, on the riverside of the Danube, and finally to the centre of the Schrankenplatz. There, the audience saw a starting field with vintage car owners from six nations - elegant cabriolets, roadsters and racing cars, including Horch, Wanderer, Bentley, BMW, Jaguar and Alvis, together with classic brands representing sponsors Audi. See [www.donau-classic.de](http://www.donau-classic.de).



14. - 17. 7. 2016

**RETRO PRAGUE HISTORIC RALLY**

17. ročník mezinárodního závodu historických vozidel, který je zápatem do Polska Federace Klubů Historických vozidel České republiky.

KRÁSNE VOZY MŮŽETE SHLEDNOUIT NA NÁSLEDUJÍCÍCH ZASTÁVKÁCH:

Čtvrtek 14. 7. 2016	Pátek 15. 7. 2016	Subota 16. 7. 2016	Neděle 17. 7. 2016
08:00 - 18:00 hodin	08:00 - 18:00 hodin	08:00 - 18:00 hodin	08:00 - 18:00 hodin

In July a magnificent rally of vintage cars (The "Retro Prague Historic Rally") called into **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic. Residents and tourists had the opportunity to see the cars assembled outside the "new" castle - where our 2014 Newcastles of the World conference took place!



## COUGARS ON THE PROWL FOR MEDALS

Newcastle Cougars Wrestling Club, **South Africa** has proved its worth on the mats. The club recently competed in the national South African Cadet and Senior Championships in Brakpan, in the quest to dominate wrestlers from across the country. The two-day event kicked off on July 1, with Liza Chan, Eric de Wet, Danie de Wet and Maryna Janse van Rensburg sinking their claws into their opponents. Maryna secured a gold medal, while Eric clinched two bronze medals. Danie took a silver and was awarded two gold medals in the Coaching division.

## BODYBUILDING CHAMP IS BACK

The Newcastle Town Hall, **South Africa** was the location of a competition to find a new generation of bodybuilders, hoping to follow in the footsteps of local hero Mzwakhe Qwabe. Mr Qwabe, who has won tournaments around the world and is a true ambassador for bodybuilding, came back to Newcastle to promote and support the event.

