

September 19-23



Newcastles of the World May 2016

# NEWSLETTER

## REGISTER FOR OUR CONFERENCE IN CANADA !

<http://www.newcastlesconferences.com/newcastles-of-the-world-conference-2016>

You can register as a private individual or a group, or as part of an organised delegation from your municipality. It's also possible to attend for just part of the programme – contact Jeany Barrett about this or with any other queries you may have – [jeany@rogers.com](mailto:jeany@rogers.com) or [2016NOTW@gmail.com](mailto:2016NOTW@gmail.com)

Our main themes are:

**Creating and supporting “age-friendly” Newcastles**  
**Promoting our “Newcastles” together for business and tourism**

Also: ensuring the vitality of our town and district centres and promoting cohesion/ volunteering, philanthropy and citizen engagement

Plus special sessions for youth delegates; visits to local attractions and developments of interest - and opportunities for lots of informal discussions to share good practice and common concerns.

**Why not find out more? You'll be made very welcome!**

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/2016-conference-in-newcastle-ontario-canada/>  
#newcastlesoftheworld2016

Facebook - check out Newcastles of the World Ontario 2016

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Mayor Ryoji Hozumi and Shinshiro residents give a warm send-off to the trucks

## SHINSHIRO HELPS OUT

A public-spirited collaboration between the City of **Shinshiro** and Shinshiro Youth Council is helping the victims of the recent earthquake in Japan.

A major earthquake took place in Kumamoto on Kyushu on April 14.

There was not the same level of damage as the tsunami of a few years ago but a number of buildings collapsed and many inhabitants had to be evacuated.

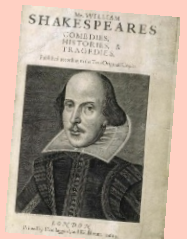
Shinshiro City quickly obtained the cooperation of a corrugated cardboard manufacturer in the city for temporary shelter to follow up a proposal by the city's youth council. The city funded the movement of two truckloads of material for help with partitioning to the stricken area.



## CELEBRATING SHAKESPEARE - ALL OVER THE WORLD

Along with the rest of the United Kingdom and many other places in the world, **Newcastle upon Tyne** has been marking the 400th anniversary of the death of playwright William Shakespeare. An exhibition in the main City Library had as its centrepiece a copy of Shakespeare's First Folio (the first published collected works from 1623) on loan from the British Library. This copy of one of the rarest documents in literary history was once owned by King George III.

The renowned Royal Shakespeare Company brought a special touring production of “A Midsummer Night's Dream: A Play for the Nation” to Newcastle in March, with some appearances of young performers from local schools and from two amateur dramatic companies, The People's Theatre from Newcastle, and The Castle Players from Barnard Castle. The anniversary reminded local people of the house in the east of the city with an image of the writer built into the gable end.





# CRUISE SHIPS RETURN TO NYBORG - at 6 days' notice!

With only six days' notice, on May 9<sup>th</sup> the city of Nyborg in Denmark welcomed the cruise ship "MV Braemar" of Fred Olsen Cruise Lines, and 791 passengers and 320 crew had the opportunity to explore the historic city.



Tourism Manager Sanne Hoffensetz Andresen says "It had been many years since the last cruise call came to Nyborg and we (Nyborg Municipality, Bureauet Nyborg and Nyborg Castle) did our best to prepare ourselves for the many guests at such short notice. Local guides and our tourist ambassadors guided the guests around the city, from our pop-up tourism information centre, and extra festivities took place around Nyborg. The Danish flag was raised on no less than 133 spots in the city centre and we welcomed the guests in a beautiful way. The visitors to Nyborg had the opportunity to see the castle of Nyborg, and get an up-close feel of the history at one of Denmark's oldest royal castles. The passengers of MV Braemar also went on guided tours at the castle and on guided city tours. Many of the passengers expressed how beautiful and idyllic our city was – and fortunately the sun was shining all day, the temperature was 21 celsius and Spring was everywhere!"

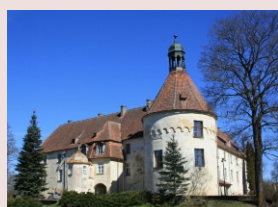


**Destination unknown:** The 791 passengers left Dover, England on May 4 on a so-called 'mystery call'. The 'mystery' lies in the fact that the passengers do not know which ports they will visit. Every morning they awoke to see a new city appearing on the horizon – and on May 9<sup>th</sup>, they woke up to discover that Nyborg, Denmark was the destination of the day!



**Teamwork made the call in Nyborg a success:** It is the Associated Danish Ports (ADP), owned by the Danish municipalities of Nyborg, Middelfart and Fredericia, that is in charge of securing visits from cruises and normally it is Fredericia that is the main cruise destination. As MV Braemar needed an extra Danish port at very short notice, ADP contacted the Tourism Manager on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May in the afternoon; at 6 pm she got the final confirmation and then things went very fast. "And oh, those six days were the best" says Sanne. "The cooperation and teamwork between every person, every organisation and every department went so smoothly and everybody was prepared to do their best in order for this to succeed. It was an amazing experience and we hope to get the opportunity sometime in the future".

Early this year, **Jaunpils** municipality (Latvia) established a new Public Relations and Tourism Department led by PR specialist Baiba Rasa (right, below). Its main tasks are to develop and maintain a positive reputation for the municipality and district, to implement and improve communications with the public, to develop and promote tourism at a national and international level, and the implementation of youth policy, together with public health promotion activities.



Jaunpils is now working on its local marketing strategy in two directions: to implement the actions that contribute to the development of the county and, in more targeted ways, to build beneficial relations with all the municipal groups of users - citizens, visitors and businesses. The municipality's slogan and visual identity has long been connected successfully with its castle. The new marketing approach of "Show JAUNPILS" will not only cover the products on offer, but will emphasise the values and traditions of the area that can be experienced and enjoyed - arts, culture, environment, nature, its children and young people, the loyalty and commitment of older people, and the warmth of its welcome.

Baiba says: "To find out what associations Jaunpils has in the minds of our residents and visitors mind, we created a survey. The topline results were (still) Jaunpils Castle as living testimony to our history and heritage; Jaunpils local food produce (especially cheese); and the concept of welcome, stability and home - both symbolically as well as through the locality's "Livas group" houses". "By the way" says Baiba "you can also see these wooden houses typical of Jaunpils in Australia (not far from its Newcastle!)" See images above.



Newcastle (Washington State, USA)'s "Earth Day 2016" event held on April 23 at Lake Boren Park featured electric cars, "weed warriors" and a new event in the kids' parade around the park with youngsters able to dress up as green paper trees and rainforest frogs.

The city also provided speakers, seminars and activities. The Animal Encounters petting zoo, along with other organisations promoting the environment, also offered information and activities.



# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Shinshiro City, Japan and Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Shinshiro City, Japan was delighted to have recently welcomed Mr. Olivier Arni (Conseil Communal member) and his family from Neuchâtel. It was a trip which celebrated his son Axel's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. The beautiful cherry trees were in full blossom to help them enjoy spring in Japan. M Arni met the Mayor of Shinshiro and old friends from the last Newcastles of the World conference, and the Shinshiro high school students who visited Neuchâtel last summer took part in a welcome reception.



## Nové Hradky, Czech Republic, and Jaunpils, Latvia

Teachers Marie Poláková of IV.A Gymnázium Trhové Sviny and Valentina Rubina of Jaunpils Secondary School have created a great project between them and their students, sharing information (with some wonderful photos) about their towns via the internet - see <http://padlet.com/egvers2/yosjqbfd67o1>. We and <http://padlet.com/polakovats/8f68ivqz5tqq/wish/107389155>



## Stories of Two Newcastles : A new piece of theatre to take centre stage - South Africa and UK

Mo Lovatt writes: One of the most fascinating things about Newcastles of the World is meeting people from other countries, hearing stories from other cultures, and comparing and contrasting our lives in the many places around the world that just happen to share a common place name.

Over the next two years, we will bring to life some of those stories in a newly commissioned piece of theatre called "Two Newcastles". With support and funding from both countries, UK-based theatre company, Curious Monkey, and South Africa's Newcastle Arts Development Organisation (NADO) have begun work on an international exchange which will be developed and then tour to both countries, and – hopefully – beyond!

The two groups met in July 2015 at the Swallows Partnership's Remix Lab during the National Arts Festival in South Africa. They were fascinated by each other's creative practices, their approaches to making theatre and to telling stories. An idea was born! - to connect these two places in the world through the stories of the people who live there, the traditions and songs they hold dear, and the contrasting experiences of everyday life.



This month the work began. Thanks to the ease of international communications, the two groups have been developing ideas for the theatre piece by cross-platform messaging on WhatsApp and Facebook. They have been sharing videos of their walk to work and filming their journeys as they go about their day. They have been asking questions about life in the "other Newcastle", sharing stories and songs. After only three days of workshopping these ideas an embryonic piece has emerged which is full of tenderness and humour – laughs, tears and spine-tingling moments.

The first phase of the project took part in the UK as part of The May Exchange, a collaboration between Curious Monkey, GIFT (Gateshead International Festival of Theatre), Ladies of Midnight Blue /Harambee Pasadia and ZENDEH – a new initiative designed to make an international splash in the North East of England during the month of May by exchanging cultures through art and conversation. We're delighted to have been invited to be part of this fantastic new programme. You can find out more about The May Exchange on <https://www.facebook.com/themayexchange/>

In August, the South African group will visit Newcastle upon Tyne to continue the work and to experience first-hand what they've, so far, only seen through the eye of a lens. This is all part of the process that informs the work – how do we see our place in the world? how do others see it? how do we see their home? In 2017, the Tyneside group will visit Kwa Zulu Natal for a mirrored experience.

Curious Monkey is an award-winning theatre company based in Newcastle upon Tyne. They have won critical acclaim for their ability to bring to life the hidden stories that deserve to be told. Their work gives voice to the underrepresented and marginalised, raising awareness of the issues they face. The company makes professional theatre which is relevant, accessible and deeply meaningful within our communities as they continually ask the deeper questions about our world.

NADO is a group of township theatre makers from Newcastle, Kwa Zulu Natal. They work together as an ensemble, six days a week, on very little resources, yet resulting in work of incredible quality. Their work is political, provocative and passionate as they retell stories of township life. With NADO there is no room for self-consciousness - being creative is part of the human condition – their joyous acapella singing and visceral performances will blow you away.

We can't wait to see what emerges as these **Two Newcastles** join together in one creative force. For more information about this project and to discuss other arts and culture ideas, please contact [molovatt@hotmail.com](mailto:molovatt@hotmail.com)

*We are extremely grateful to the following organisations for their support and enthusiasm for **Two Newcastles**: Arts Council England | The Mayor of Newcastle, KZN | Waka Waka Africa North East | Dept of Library, Culture and Amenities, Municipality of Newcastle, KZN | International Newcastle | The May Exchange.*





## NEUBURG'S WINE TAKING ROOT

The growing of wine in Neuburg, Germany can be traced back to Roman Times. A few decades ago hobby winegrower Josef Tremml started the revival of this old tradition by planting a hundred vines on a hillside next to the Danube, the so-called Eula Valley. Now he has turned his hobby into a business by planting another 600 vines on 990 square metres in Laisacker, a suburb of Neuburg.

After Mr Tremml had planted the new vines Mayor Bernhard Gmehling revived an old custom baptizing the vineyard and the winegrower with water.

## TOP DELICATESSAN FOODS PRODUCER OPENS IN NEW CASTLE, INDIANA

Just 18 months ago after Boar's Head Brand officials hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of their new meat processing facility just south of New Castle, Indiana, they have now conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by several state and local elected officials and other community leaders.

Sarasota, Florida-based Boar's Head Brand, one of the nation's leading providers of premium delicatessen foods, celebrated the opening of its new 150,000 square foot, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility by welcoming Indiana Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb; president of the Henry County Board of Commissioners Ed Yanos; New Castle Mayor Greg York; members of the Henry County Council and New Castle City Council; local economic development officials and others.

The new Boar's Head facility will be fully operational by June. New Castle - Henry County Economic Development Corporation President and CEO Corey Murphy led the local effort to bring Boar's Head to Henry County.



Boar's Head was founded in 1905. The company offers more than 500 products ranging from premium delicatessen meats, cheeses and condiments to an array of Italian delicacies, hummus and foodservice items

The plan is to hire upwards of 200 people at the facility. Specifically, the New Castle plant will process poultry, pork and beef products. "This is a very big deal," Mayor York said. "This is going to help our community tremendously. This is a family-owned company and we're just excited to be part of the family."



## BUILDING THE LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF AKHALTSIKHE

New tourist signs and light boxes have been installed in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia. They help to direct visitors to tourist destinations. This is being matched by a huge programme of no less than 21 infrastructure projects which are being implemented throughout the city this year - sewerage systems, roads and bridges and a new nursery school.

Tourism is increasingly important to the local economy, built around the attraction of the magnificent Rabati castle. The creation of quality access and utility services supports tourism as well as benefiting local residents.



The Historical Society of New Castle in New York State held its "Castles of New Castle" Annual House Tour on May 19. Since the Town of New Castle's incorporation in 1791, its residents have been beneficiaries of its rich and varied history.

This dynamic history is reflected in the houses and residences that the people of New Castle call home. Evidence of the town's early rural Quaker past to its present incarnation as a thriving suburban hub - all can be seen in the wonderful homes featured on the tour. For more information go to <http://www.newcastlehs.org/event/castles-of-new-castle-house-tour-2/>



# THE WORLD COMES INTO THE CLASSROOM IN JAUNPILS

In May Jaunpils Secondary School's teachers and students hosted an international seminar "The world comes into the classroom." Guests were from Tallinn Mahtra Elementary School (Estonia), Kražante Elementary School (Lithuania) and Secondary school Nr.2098 of Moscow (Russia). The conference programme included a variety of educational and experience-oriented activities related to global education such as waste recycling.

Jaunpils Secondary School teacher Valentina Rubina had created this as an e-twinning project for her students, but whilst familiarity with information technology and social media is important for young people, so is developing and maintaining face-to-face contact for personal growth.

Teachers were also able to share their knowledge and experience on modern methods and themes in education.



Guests meet chairwoman of Jaunpils municipality *Ligita Gintere* in Jaunpils medieval castle, and teachers share their experiences.

## YOUNG PEOPLE MEET INSPIRATIONAL LEADERS

During the annual careers week Jaunpils Secondary School students met representatives of many different professions and occupation - cinema , aviation , medicine , logistics. One especially inspiring session for the sharing of business knowledge and experience for the young people was with **Aigars Jakovels**, Vice President of airline company "SmartLynx". Mr. Jakovels (left) had previously been a deputy of the local municipality, so he is a person who local people are proud of.

Another inspiring meeting for local teenagers in Jaunpils was with the famous New Riga Theatre actor and the Order of Three Stars Cavaliere **Andris Keiss**. During his acting career Mr. Keiss (left) has been in sixty plays (over 3000 performances!) and twenty films. Mr. Keiss was in Jaunpils only for a weekend visit but he says that if everything were possible he would like to transfer his theatre from the capital Riga to Jaunpils and live in Jaunpils! What a dream!



Jaunpils Secondary school junior class folk dance group presenting Latvian dances to guests



## STUDENTS GET TO BE MAYOR FOR A DAY IN NEW CASTLE, INDIANA

A group of New Castle (Indiana, USA) High School students got an extra day out of class the Monday after Spring Break. They weren't taking the day off from learning, though. A dozen NCHS seniors job-shadowed New Castle city department heads to find out what it takes to keep the city's gears moving every day.

The New Castle Breakfast Optimist Club has sponsored 'Mayor For A Day' every spring since the late 1990s. Coordinator Mark Herbkersman worked with teachers James Thurston and Bill Wessler to help local teens see behind the local government curtain. "The Mayor For a Day Program gives participants a new appreciation for their hometown, and helps them to feel a sense of pride in their community," Thurston said. "Seeing what goes on on a daily basis is much more interesting and memorable than anything the students might simply read in a textbook about local government." In the photo, Police Chief Brad Catron gives a tour of the department to school seniors.



A delegation of forty young **Neuchâtel** politicians from all sides met recently to express their support for the Neuchâtel-West merger, to be voted on 5 June. "The merger is strength and opens the door to a promising future", said the delegation members supporting the proposed merger between the towns of Corcelles-Cormondrèche, Neuchâtel, Peseux and Valangin.

A merger of the four represents an investment for the future, said the activists who wish to leverage larger projects and ensure a future in line with the times. Schools, public transport, also sports and cultural facilities, are all expected to benefit.

To join the action to the word, a cannon sounded at the end of the press conference!



## BREAKING DOWN THE OCCUPATIONAL BARRIERS IN NEUBURG

"Girls' Day", the annual event in Germany when girls who are interested in technical occupations get the opportunity to find out more about them, took place this year on April 28. It is well supported in Bavaria, including in Neuburg, where the visit opportunities included the local airbase, with a chance to look at jet engineering and the role of a pilot, but also the duties of air traffic control and the aerodrome's fire department.



# NEWCASTLE, SOUTH AFRICA'S ROADSHOWS

Mayor Afzul Rehman of **Newcastle, South Africa**, his team of councillors and senior officials have recently completed a very successful public consultation programme. The Development Plan/Budget roadshows are an annual event to which the Mayor visits all 31 wards of the town, presents the budget to the community and takes questions and feedback. So the community is encouraged to participate in real dialogue and discuss service delivery issues.

Each event attracts hundreds of members of the public - can any Newcastle match this as an example of engaging with the public!?



In early May, the Bavarian Government announced that the asylum camp in **Neuburg** will be closed on January 1, 2020. The camp was established in 1975 and has since then been the home to about 500 people from all over the world asking for political asylum.



Up to the end of World War II the area with its buildings, the so-called Lassigny barracks, was the home of an infantry regiment and other military units. Its history came to end with Hitler's defeat in 1945. With its closure, the city of Neuburg, together with the district Neuburg-Schrobenhausen, will be able to buy the area and the buildings, partly owned by the Bavarian State and partly by the Federal Government of Germany, to establish a branch of the Technical University in Ingolstadt.

Before the first students can move into the hostels and the university college can start its lectures in 2020 the Council of Neuburg has already decided to establish an integration campus for asylum seekers in a building in the historic part of the town. Mayor Bernhard Gmehling is sure that the university with its students will enrich life in Neuburg and will contribute to Neuburg growing in the years to come.



In **Latvia** the 8th of May is celebrated as Mothers' Day and the various activities such as concerts and the town's annual Spring fair are used as the platform for the **opening of the tourism season** in the locality. The **Jaunpils** fair is full of attractions such as workshops, singing and dancing, and the tourism operators participate with workshops and souvenirs.



## BLUEPRINT FOR POINTING THE WAY

**New Castle** is one of 6 **Pennsylvania** municipalities selected in 2014 as a "Blueprint Community", a revitalisation and leadership initiative that serves as a catalyst for creating sustainable communities in the region. One element of the programme involves the Blueprint Community Initiative team and local students from the New Castle School District working together to promote local entrepreneurship.

The wayfinding sign project recruits local students to create signs as an element of the Riverwalk project, in the Central Business District of New Castle. The signs, directing visitors to local points of interest downtown and in local neighbourhoods, were planned and designed by the 12 and 13-year-olds and are in their final stages. Throughout the year, the students focused on basic entrepreneurial skills and attributes and have become proficient at advanced vinyl-cutting and computer illustrating techniques. "We want to start young and help promote an entrepreneurial mentality," said Matt Staniszewski, director of Community and Economic Development for New Castle.

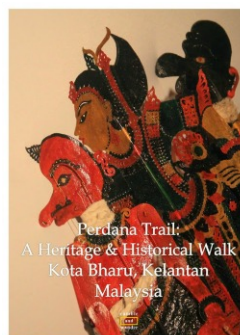
As described in our last newsletter, **Nyborg Castle, Denmark** is going to be restored and rebuilt over the next couple of years. More than 30 international teams participated in an international architectural contest. The winner has now been announced. It is CUBO Architects from the Danish city of Århus that will be in charge of the process of revitalizing the entire castle area including the castle and Torvet – the great square in front of the castle. The building process is planned to begin next year, and to be finished in 2019. Prior to this a lot of archaeological excavations will take place at the construction sites that will hopefully increase knowledge of the castle, the city and the history connected to it.

The **New South Wales (Australia)** State Government has postponed a decision on a proposed merger of **Newcastle City** and Port Stephens councils. Before making a decision on any local mergers, the government will review an alternative proposal by Port Stephens Council to merge with Dungog Shire Council. "We will have to wait until that review process is completed," Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said. "Newcastle City Council would prefer to remain as a stand-alone council but nominated Port Stephens as our preferred merger partner in the event of forced amalgamations. We are in good shape either to stand alone or be merged into an entity that could become a global city encompassing port, airport, defence, university, industrial and health hubs.



# KOTA BHARU'S SHADOW PUPPETS

Hotel Perdana, the first premier hotel in Kota Bharu, has undergone a major transformation into a luxury 5 star hotel. The hotel's architecture prominently displays unique carvings where rich Malay heritage is kept alive, blending with a touch of modern luxury in a classic décor. General Manager En Muhammad Taha Zainal has initiated the "Perdana Trail : A Heritage & Historical Walk" programme to allow guests to learn more about the local culture, heritage and history.



The tour includes Gelanggang Seni - cultural centre of Kota Bharu which has a wide variety activities such as kite flying, wayang kulit (shadow puppetry) performances, Rebana Ubi drum performances and many more.

The Kelantanese are very proud of their special Malay shadow puppet theatre called wayang kulit. The puppets are made from buffalo hide, painted with translucent colors, and mounted on bamboo sticks. They are held up behind a white screen which is placed in front of a light source, so you only see the shadows performing on the white cloth screen.

You might think shadow puppetry to be a sedate undertaking, but not in Malaysia. The show is accompanied by music performed with the serunai (flute), often supported by clashing cymbals and heavy with drums. The Tok Dalang is the master of narration who will tell the stories of kings, warriors and adventures in the original Kelantanese dialect, with a unique voice for each character. In a way, these are the Shakespeare of south east Asia, telling stories from the Indian classics like the Ramayana, and like Shakespeare, there's comedy mixed with high drama.



An Australian-first contemporary library, cafe and bar will combine cutting-edge technology with quality food and beverages at the Civic Theatre of **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.**



Civic Digest, a partnership by Newcastle Region Library and Civic Theatre, represents an evolution in library service delivery with digital screens, apps with library-provided content and high quality WiFi available in a café setting. Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the project reflects Council's commitment to achieving a smart, innovative and revitalised city. "Civic Digest will be a virtual branch of the Library and help breathe new life into the Civic precinct as a creative hub for people to engage with information and culture," Councillor Nelmes said. "The recent opening of the law courts and the development of the University of Newcastle's NewSpace campus will see thousands more converge on the Civic precinct each day".

## NYBORG CASTLE IN THE MOVIES !



The broadcasting company Danmarks Radio (DR) has used the castle for a series of programmes that will be shown on national television over the next couple of years. In 2017, a new national history in twelve episodes will be shown prime time on the main channel of DR. The episode covering the middle ages will focus on the formation of the Danish parliament and the first Danish constitution – the coronation charter of 1282. This episode has been filmed on location in the same room in Nyborg Castle as the parliament met in the Middle Ages.

Hosting the programmes is the internationally recognized actor, Lars Mikkelsen.

Earlier this year, important scenes for the national Christmas calendar series were filmed at the castle and in May more important scenes for a series on the faith of the Danes in the past 1000 years are also going to be filmed at the castle by DR. It is a great way to tell the history of Nyborg and Denmark to the whole population.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Brampton Museum in **Newcastle-under-Lyme, England,** opened its doors after hours to celebrate the UK-wide festival "Museums at Night". (It was also marked in Newcastle upon Tyne where 70 venues were open on the 13/14<sup>th</sup>) Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. . . . .very unlucky for some! Particularly unlucky for the Knights Templar, the famous Christian military order, whose members began to be rounded up for execution on Friday 13th October 1307.

The Knights Templar in England were based at Keele, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, and the museum has been investigating their fascinating local history with a range of activities - Medieval Knights in combat; Templar Knights Trail around the museum; "Become a Templar Knight"; medieval crafts and activities for families. Plus a Templar Knights of Keele lecture by Dr Robin Studd - who the regulars at our conferences will know was a Newcastle-under-Lyme councillor for many years and represented Newcastle-under-Lyme at Newcastles of the World gatherings.





## NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD ON SHOW IN CANADA!



Businesses, politicians and community groups - including Newcastles of the World - presented at the annual Newcastle Chamber of Commerce Home and Lifestyle show in mid May at Newcastle Memorial Arena. It was another great show, and a big thank you from the organisers and exhibitors to all the volunteers who helped make it happen.



## SHINSHIRO POWER TRAIL



In April, the annual Okumikawa Power Trail was held in the mountains around Shinshiro City. About 750 trail runners gathered from all over Japan for this testing race, completing a total distance of 70km, mostly 4,000 meters above sea level - but at least they were running in a beautiful setting!

This race was an important one to select representatives from Japan for the trail running world championship in Portugal in October, so the race attracted a high quality field of runners.

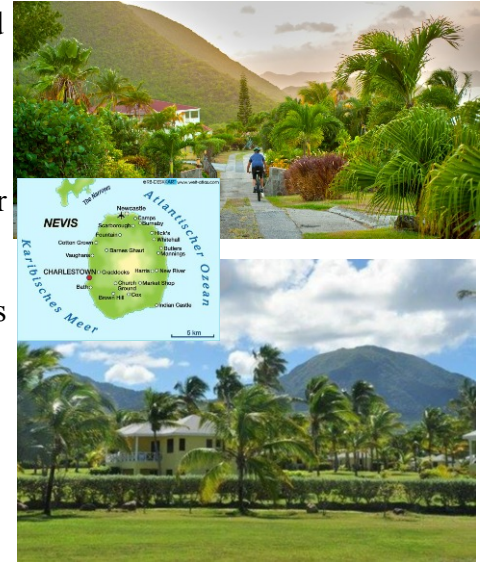
## LEARNING OUT ABOUT ANOTHER NEWCASTLE - IN THE CARIBBEAN

The two-island country of St Kitts and Nevis lies in the northern part of the Leeward Islands group of the Lesser Antilles in the Eastern Caribbean. The two islands are separated by a channel some 3 km in width. Newcastle is a village on the northern coast of the island of Nevis; it's the capital of Saint James Windward Parish.

The village is just to the east of the Newcastle Nevis airport, and in fact much of the village had to be moved over when the runway of the airport was extended a number of years ago. One building that unfortunately was demolished was a 17th century colonial fortification called the Newcastle Redoubt.

Surrounded by coral reefs and outlined in sandy white beaches, the island of Nevis is dotted with palm trees and picturesque estate houses and is home to the Mount Nevis Hotel and Beach Club in Newcastle, established in 1989 and formerly a lime plantation. Today this premiere hide-away is the perfect oasis from which to enjoy great views of the turquoise sea or the mountainous hills of St. Kitts to the north.

The Newcastle fishing village is one of the most long-standing ports in Nevis. During the late forties and early fifties, it was used by sailors as a dock to transport people, sugar cane and other various commodities between Nevis and St. Kitts.



## ANDY HEADS UP NEW FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Newcastle-under-Lyme College (NULC) has launched a new Football Academy headed up by ex-Stoke City captain, Andy Griffin. The NULC Andy Griffin Football Academy is a two-year programme for young players who have aspirations to play football at a high level or work in the football industry but also appreciate the importance of their education.

The intensive programme, which begins in September, is aimed at youngsters who are currently playing at a high club level, involved in county trials or at a professional football academy and who want to study for A levels or a qualifications in Sports Coaching, Development and Fitness. In addition to a robust academic timetable, students will participate in at least nine hours of football coaching a week, including training sessions and a weekly game.

At the helm of the Academy is Head Coach Andy Griffin, ex-Premiership footballer and former Stoke City Captain who played at Champions League level with Newcastle United and for England at under-18 and under-21 levels. He had the benefit of working with some of the games most recognised and flamboyant managers, including Sir Bobby Robson, Kenny Dalglish, Harry Redknapp and Ruud Gullit, and hopes to draw on this experience in his new role.



Andy Griffin of Stoke City (above) and below scoring a famous goal that enabled Newcastle United to beat Juventus in the Champions' League





# GEORGIANS WELCOME NEW TURKISH CO-OPERATION



At the end of April, the Mayor of **Akhaltsikhe** City Hall Giorgi Kopadze (*pictured left*) hosted a delegation from Ardahan (Republic of Turkey).

The mayor of Ardahan, Mr. Faruk Koksoy identified that Akhaltsikhe has very rich tourism potential and said that the cooperation in this field would be very important for both cities. The mayors have also agreed to communicate fully and effectively with each other to help grow economic links.



# BLACKSMITHS MEET IN NOVÉ HRADY

Robert Dulfer writes: In August 2016, the Region of South Bohemia is funding an 8-day blacksmith meeting in our **Nové Hradý**, South Bohemia. Master Blacksmith Daniel Cerný is the main man for the forging-side of the action, while the Town of Nove Hradý and the Rozmberk Society are taking care of the rest of the logistics. The meeting in Nove Hradý will take place from Saturday 13 August to Sunday 21st.

We expect that seven or more Czech blacksmiths, two Austrians, one Belgian, and three blacksmiths from the USA will participate. During this time, the blacksmiths will give public demonstrations in our smithy but also work together in making an about 2 metre high "Forged Nails" sculpture. That work will be partly done in the smithy but for a large part also in Daniel Cerný's "Smithy in the Peatlands".



above - blacksmith Daniel Cerný;  
below - the Nové Hradý smithy



Afterwards, it is expected that most of the group will continue to the annual international blacksmith meeting Hefaiston at Castle Helfsteyn, Prerov, Czech Republic. The Forged Nails sculpture will be put on permanent display in front of the smithy. Blacksmiths from other Newcastles will be welcome to join the event. You can contact Robert via [dulfer@rozmberk.org](mailto:dulfer@rozmberk.org)



# GREAT SUMMER EVENTS COMING UP

June is the month in the **Town of New Castle, New York State** for the annual "Art Around Town" in Chappaqua. The town will be brimming with colour and creativity to celebrate art and the wonderful art galleries and merchants of the town. The festive opening night including wine, food and activities for all ages is on June 2nd <http://www.nwartistsguild.org/>



The 6th Annual **Newcastle Airshow** takes off on 4 June, the largest airshow in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. It's one of only a few such aviation events that the South African Airforce partake in, and this year the Silver Falcon aerobatic team is back. Menno Parsons, will wow the crowds with his Mustang Sally, his Tiger Huey ZS-HGC Helicopter & the Aero L-39 Albatross fighter jet.

The Newcastle Airshow is a family event for all culture groups as well as aviation fans - and with food stalls, a beer garden and exciting exhibitions it promises family fun all day long. <http://www.airshownewcastle.co.za/>



**Festineuch**, the big music festival of Neuchâtel will take place from 9-12 June with many internationally known performers such as the Irish rock band "The Cranberries" and many others. But the festival always try to make time to promote new local artists and give them the opportunity to present their work. <http://festineuch.ch/>

The 2016 edition of the **NIFFF** (the Neuchâtel International Fantasy Film Festival) will take place from 1-9 July - details at <http://www.niff.ch/2015/site/en/welcome>



This July the USA's "Fireworks Capital" **New Castle, Pennsylvania** will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of its famous Fireworks Festival. Kick-off will be Friday, July 8 with the Wounded Warriors of PA concert at the Riverwalk Ampitheatre. On Saturday, the main festival will begin and end with fireworks by Pyrotecnico. Activities will include all day children's amusements, trackless train and new this year, ZIP LINE and Mini-Makers Faire!



**Zelie's visit to Neuchâtel**



Daniel Veuve of Neuchâtel (pictured on the right, with Zelie and Marco Paolini) writes: "We had the great pleasure to welcome Zelie Guerin, from the Alliance Secretariat, during three days in April. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better, to let Zelie discover our city and, of course to work on several of the projects of the Alliance. We finalised the details of the "Newcastle Passport" in our city and it should be effective soon.

"We look forward to welcoming friends from other Newcastles. Many contacts were possible in the field of culture. Zelie met Mr. Robert Bouvier, Director of the Théâtre du Passage, in Neuchâtel and Ms Anaïs Emery, Artistic Director of the Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF). Collaborations between these important cultural actors and institutions in Newcastle upon Tyne were discussed". Zelie adds: I very much appreciated the warm welcome provided by our friends in Neuchâtel, the work of Daniel and Marco in organising my programme, and the chance to see their beautiful city".

**Robert Dulfer of Nové Hradý created and manages the interactive "Newcastles Forum" for us (see <http://www.newcastlesforum.com/>)**

**He asks us: "Tell me where the Castles are ?"**

"I am updating and making the forum a bit nicer, so I went looking for a nice picture of a castle. I checked many Newcastle websites, saw many castles in town heraldry (shield), or nice overgrown palaces, but what is missing is an imposing castle. Remember, for many of us our joined name is our main public asset. But the name points to more than just a name of a town. Making a new castle points to what once was a very important historic development. Centuries later, emigrants who left their country for a new town in a new country thought that their "old" New Castle town was important and dear enough to name the new town after it.



*Nove Hradý's old castle (above) and new castle*



Therefore, the Castle part of New Castle is an asset that perhaps we should try to jointly develop and market better. Rather than "just an association of similar named towns" who try do something together, we should also try to capitalise on the joined asset of what once was a new and impressive castle, even if it does not exist anymore.

All Newcastles, please ask a few of your school children, as a joint class project, to find me a collection of both historic and current pictures or drawings of YOUR castle. The best is the oldest historic drawings or paintings, then something from early 1900s and something recent. Tell me why your town is called New Castle, when your new castle was built, if there was an old castle before that, etc. This does not have to be very long, maybe just a half a page on history and 10 to 20 images. Collect and save the images or scans in high quality, but send me a low-quality copy for the web" - [dulfer@rozemberk.org](mailto:dulfer@rozemberk.org). Later, we'll try to form this into a book "Newcastles' Castles". *(David adds here: a number of castle managers may be interested in sharing how they all manage and promote their castles. Let us know if you are one of them.)*

The Newcastles of the World project management team has developed the Passport scheme for visitors to each Newcastle to promote tourism, friendships across cities and receive exclusive offers. These could be special discounts from local businesses, including discounts by local hotels and restaurants, a meal with a host family, a guided tour, a meeting with the Mayor, an exclusive visit to a historic building, or other offers.

May we ask those Newcastles who wish to participate in the first stage of the Passport scheme to contact Zelie as soon as possible with the name of your Administrator for the Passport if you have not already done so? We can then get started together on this exciting opportunity to promote tourism across our Newcastles.

**YOUR TEAM**

Contact us for information, ideas or help

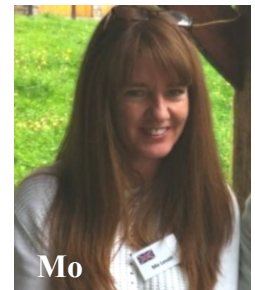
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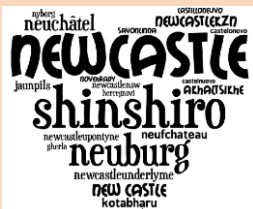


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**Newcastles of the World**



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 Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2012. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism.