



Newcastles News

The Newsletter of the
"Newcastles of the World"

March 2016

Sent by email to over 2000 people and organisations in over 50
"Newcastles" - please share it with your contacts too!



MUNICIPALITIES DISCUSS MERGER

Two of our Newcastles of the World have, coincidentally, become involved in discussions to merge with their neighbouring municipalities.



On February 8th the legislative authorities of **Neuchâtel** and of three nearby Swiss villages, Corcelles-Cormondrèche, Peseux and Valangin, decided in principle to amalgamate. After this first positive step the population of the four municipalities will have to make this decision by referendum on June 5th.

The authorities are convinced that this merger would provide many advantages. Confronted by more and more technical, legal and financial challenges, they consider that a wider approach and a common treatment of many issues would allow greater efficiency.

The new municipality – still called Neuchâtel – would experiment with a new form of direct democracy with six "citizen's assemblies" (assemblées citoyennes) in the former villages and in several quarters of the present city of Neuchâtel for decisions about very local issues and with the facility to refer and adopt proposals addressed to the municipal legislative.

The "new Neuchâtel" would have about 45,000 inhabitants, an increase of 10,000 on current numbers.

In Australia, the City Council in **Newcastle, New South Wales**, has been responding to proposals from the state government to reduce the number of municipalities to achieve efficiencies and savings and to improve service to residents. The Council has stated a preference to stand alone, but if, as expected, mergers are to take place then it will most likely be with the smaller Port Stephens Council to the north, giving a combined population of 230,000.

The Council has commented on the naming of the new entity which they believe should be The City of Newcastle or The City of Greater Newcastle. They would like to retain the title of Lord Mayor for the political leader of the new council, and for that position to be filled by public election and not appointment. Consultation is continuing.

Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes confirmed that if a merger were inevitable, the city's preference was to merge with Port Stephens Council "as our regions have similar demographic profiles and we would be able to create a global city, encompassing port, airport, defence, university, industrial and health hubs".



CANADA'S WELCOME AWAITS YOU!



A warm Canadian welcome awaits you in Newcastle, Ontario at our conference from 19-23 September. There's interesting discussions to take part in, much of common concern to share and learn about, friends old and new to meet, and some fascinating places and activities to enjoy.

See page 2 for more information.



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Nove Hradý (above) and Neuburg an der Donau (below) - see page 12



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Culture, business, tourism, youth, sport and more....

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COME TO CANADA !

**NEWCASTLE, ON THE SHORES OF LAKE
ONTARIO, IS READY TO WELCOME YOU
TO OUR 2016 GATHERING**



September 19 - 23

www.newcastlesoftheworld.com



Top left - our organising committee - and below them Mayor Foster and his council members from the municipality, ready to welcome you.

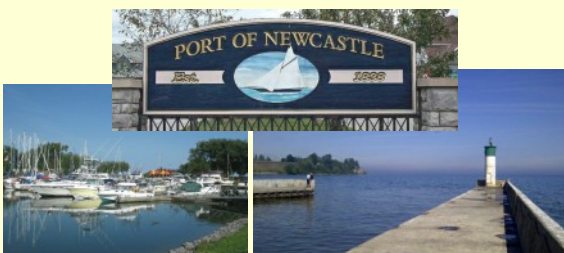


Newcastle Community Town Hall, (above, with gardens pictured below) our main conference venue, built by Daniel Massey of Massey-Ferguson fame.



Our conference welcomes delegations or private individuals who are resident or otherwise associated (past or present) with any "Newcastle" or "New Castle" from around the world, who wish to visit new places, make new friendships and share knowledge and experiences on matters of common interest to our communities.

OUR MAIN CONFERENCE THEMES : The challenges and opportunities created by an ageing population; plus how we promote our Newcastles to prospective tourists and investors - and how we make the Newcastles' "passport" work for us all. There will be a youth conference in parallel, with both its own programme and shared sessions.



Local attractions in the area - a fine port/marina; lots of opportunities for lovers of nature and wildlife; some attractive homes - old and new ; the Firehouse facility for young people.



CONTACTS for more information: hosts Jeany Barrett (jeany@rogers.com) & Jen Stycuk (jstycuk@clarington.net) or 2016NOTW@gmail.com or David Faulkner david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk
<http://www.newcastlesconferences.com/NOTW-Registration-Form-Accessible-Fillable.pdf>

International travellers will fly into Toronto (left), only 80km from Newcastle - so there's a chance to add some time before or after the conference in this fascinating, exciting city. Transport to and from the airport is included.



Our main conference hotel



TOURISM & BUSINESS

A business team from the Newcastle upon Tyne, UK area has just returned from a visit to **Newcastle in South Africa** as part of a Trade Mission to the KwaZulu-Natal province - and new business opportunities have been created.

Pictured are Newcastle KZN Mayor Afzul Rehman, third from right (with his team to the right of him as we look) and to the left Richard Swart and the delegation from the UK. They are standing behind the commemorative stone from the 2004 Newcastle of the World conference in South Africa.



AKHALTSIKHE PROMOTES ITSELF AT INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EXHIBITION

The City Hall of **Akhaltzikhe** Municipality, Georgia, took part in the EMITT (20th East Mediterranean International Tourism and Travel Exhibition) in Istanbul, Turkey recently, where they had the chance to introduce the city to many organisations, tourist agencies and cities of different countries. Many were able to discover Akhaltsikhe for the first time and were impressed with its nature, beautiful castle, and of course the Meskhetian cuisine and wine which visitors to the stand were able to sample!

Mayor Giorgi Kopadze (pictured in the centre of the first photo on the left) met Officials of Istanbul, other mayors of several cities and other interested groups, and many of them expressed their interest to visit Akhaltsikhe and find out more about it. Akhaltsikhe had several expressions of interest from them about becoming a twin city with them, and some of them will be visiting Georgia during the coming year.



NEUBURG'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Neuburg, Germany has won a prestigious "designers of the energy transition award" award for pioneering work in energy management. Earlier this year, Stadtwerke Neuburg was recognised by the Bavarian government for its exemplary role in developing decentralised energy systems. Now Neuburg has received a special prize, presented by Bavarian Minister of State Ilse Aigner, for the design and implementation of the city's district heating system.

Pictured are Mayor Dr. Bernhard Gmehling (left), Minister Aigner, and plant manager Prof. Richard Kutteneich (who some may remember was in the Neuburg delegation to our Newcastle of the World conference in South Africa in 2010).



SHINSHIRO'S NEW LINK TO TOKYO

On 13th February the city of Shinshiro came closer to Tokyo (now about two and a half hours) with the opening of a new 55km section of the Shin-Tomei Expressway connecting Osaka and Nagoya with the capital. This is good news for Shinshiro as it is expected not only to bring in more visitors but also to be an economic stimulus to the city and surrounding smaller rural areas, as well as improve access should natural disaster occur.

The ShinTomei Expressway is Japan's biggest road project and is designed with gentler curves and slopes than the existing Tomei Expressway, making it a safer, more comfortable, and environmentally-friendly highway than before.

The Expressway runs parallel to the old Tomei Expressway, and together with Isewangan Expressway and Shin-Meishin Expressway it forms a series of parallel routes from Tokyo to Osaka, via Nagoya and Kyoto.



The Canadian Municipality of **Clarington** (which includes **Newcastle**) has contributed \$814,000 to community improvement grants and projects in its urban areas. The programme supports improvements and upgrades to properties and businesses in Clarington, helping make the community a more attractive and functional place to live.

The Municipality offers grants to cover projects such as new signage and heritage façade upgrades. Clarington has Community Improvement Plans for its three historic downtowns of Orono, Newcastle and Bowmanville. "We estimate that the grants have spurred at least \$3 million of investment in our community" says Director of Planning David Crome.

TOURISM & BUSINESS



JUNGLE RAILWAY RE-OPENS FROM KOTA BHARU

Train service 27, Malaysia's Jungle Railway, is now back onto its full route with the section in north eastern Kelantan province rebuilt and reopened after the floods of December 2014. The railway is known by various other names - the East Coast Line, East Line or the East South Route. It runs 526km from Tumpat, near the Thai border just north of **Kota Bharu**, our “Newcastle” in Kelantan state, down to Gemas in Negeri Sembilan where it joins up with the west coast line running all the way from Singapore to Bangkok via Johor Bahru, Kuala Lumpur and Penang. Wakaf Bharu is Kota Bharu's other station on the route.

The jungle railway track was built in stages between 1910 and 1930. The ride is full of atmosphere as you observe the comings and goings of the locals at the in-between stations and take in the views of rice fields, scenic kampungs and traditional rural life in Kelantan. Passengers can step off to pick up some snacks and drinks at the stops, where there are wonderful photo opportunities – announcements are made as to the length of time the train will be stopped, but the flagman looks for stray passengers before he gives the engineer the green flag. The coaches are very comfortable with reclining seats and air conditioning. For train fans, the Jungle Railway used to offer the excitement of old-style train travel, although the trains are now quite new. The entire line is a single line, hence various delays when the mail train is moved to a loop to allow express trains to pass.

NEWCASTLE, SOUTH AFRICA'S NEW COMMUNITY TOURISM INITIATIVE

The Newcastle (South Africa) Community Tourism Organisation (CTO) was launched recently, hosted by Sibonelo Nzimande, Manager of Tourism, Development and Marketing of the Newcastle Municipality and with guests from various bed and breakfast establishments and guest houses in and around Newcastle. “There are local strategies in place to support tourism development, as this will provide us with international exposure with other Newcastles of the world. The municipality's Strategic Executive Directors are looking into marketing bed and breakfast establishments differently,” said Mr Nzimande.

Transport and logistics was the biggest challenge for the town. “The municipality is working tirelessly to have scheduled flights in and out of Newcastle, which will result in an increase in travel, business and job opportunities,” he said.



Nhlanhla Madonsela, Siephan Atterbury, Sibonelo Nzimande, Johan Pieters and Ferdie Alberts.

Johan Pieters of Champ Marketing was elected chairman, with other executive committee members Sibusiso Mkhulise – Vice-Chairman, Nhlanhla Madonsela – Secretary and Siephan Atterbury, Treasurer.

Mr Pieters elaborated on the benefits of being a member of the CTO:

- A link from the CTO website to members' websites will be established.
- Members will receive a certificate of membership to be renewed annually.
- Members will be included in the Newcastles of the world passport.
- The CTO will assist with tourism grading of guest houses and establishments.

Mr Nzimande and Mr Pieters spoke proudly about the tagline of the CTO for Newcastle - “Work. Play. Stay”

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN NEW CASTLE, NEW YORK STATE

Chappaqua Crossing, a development combining high-end retail stores, office space, luxury and affordable housing and community facilities, broke ground at the beginning of March in the Town of **New Castle, New York State**, USA. The start is with a \$50 million retail village component of the plan, with office space to follow, as well as a cultural centre and improved roadway infrastructure to benefit the entire community.

Chappaqua Crossing was designed with careful consideration for the natural setting and the classic Georgian architectural style of the original headquarters building for Readers' Digest, an iconic symbol for generations of American readers, and presents a harmonious backdrop for its unique, new multi-faceted development.

The developers will also lease the property's Wallace Auditorium as a municipal performing arts centre for \$1 a year with the option for the town to acquire the facility. The original Georgian - style brick building with signature cupola opened in 1939 and has been a prominent landmark.



CULTURE AND HERITAGE

RENOVATION OF HÔTEL DE VILLE, NEUCHÂTEL

Last year we reported that work was starting on a major renovation of the historic Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) of Neuchâtel. The work has been going well and the quality of the work by the stonemasons and other skilled tradesmen has been impressive.

Important discoveries of beautiful mouldings and hidden ornaments have been revealed and further funding has now been approved by the municipality to complete additional restoration work that was not in the original budget. This includes the grand staircase, monumental woodwork in the elevator space, furniture restoration, and decorative work in first floor rooms.

“The restoration process undertaken to date made us even more appreciative of the great heritage value that the City Hall represents” said President Thomas Facchinetti and Chancellor Rémy Voirol in their report to the council.



NOVÉ HRADY'S FESTIVAL PLANS

Nové Hradý is to create what will be an annual festival of classical music, musical instruments and cultural projects for South Bohemia's Novohradská border region, building upon the town's current association with celebrated violinist Jaroslav Svěcený.

Mr Svěcený performed at the Newcastles of the World Conference in 2014 and has been involved in further visits and appearances since.



The 2016 festival will focus on Baroque music, including excerpts from works by composers linked to Nové Hradý. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will be the focus of the 2017 event, and in 2018, it will be composer Joseph Haydn. The first festival will take place from July 29 - August 2, 2016. It will introduce Mr. Svěcený accompanied by three different music instruments in three different historical buildings. The first concert on Baroque music with violin and harpsichord will take place in the theatre hall of the New Castle. The second concert will be held in the nearby pilgrimage church in Dobra Voda, performing pieces for violin and guitar. The third is expected to be in the monastery in Nové Hradý, and Jaroslav Svěcený will present a combination of violin and accordion, with the accordion being one of the most popular and traditional musical instruments of the region.

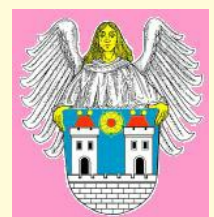
The festival will also be an opportunity for young pianists who will perform works by composers associated with Nové Hradý (Tomasek, Janacek, Haydn). In addition, it will offer public discussions with Svěcený who will present his lecture on violins with a demonstration of a very rare and valuable violins.

The objectives of the annual festival, which it is hoped will have a Europe-wide reach, are to bring unique musical gatherings and meetings based on the genius loci of Nové Hradý as a city that bridges different cultures, a city of science, and of young people, and to offer a high-quality music experience for locals and tourists in this important border region. The festival will also introduce the violin in unexpected combinations with other music instruments, and, through music, will highlight historic monuments and buildings and remember important figures of musical history and their direct link to the Nové Hradý region and to the Counts of Buquoy.

This will promote rural South Bohemia as a holiday destination full of cultural events and activities, and bring classical music to young people through personal contact with the violinist Jaroslav Svěcený.

For 2017, Nové Hradý aims for the participation of artists and visitors from the different Newcastles around the world, for example Bavarian Neuburg an der Donau, Swiss Neuchâtel, Latvian Jaunpils, Japanese Shinshiro, Danish Nyborg and the Newcastles from England, South Africa, Australia, Canada or the USA.

Mayor Vladimír Hokr said: "Every mayor is certainly happy when they hear about their town having a distinctive spirit, radiating positive energy and being unique in its own way. We are also very pleased that our city and region delights Mr. Svěcený equally, so that together we can build this annual music festival. I am sure it will find a receptive audience and create an opportunity to motivate young performers to further their musical growth."



CULTURE AND HERITAGE



Jaunpils Municipality in Latvia is renovating the fine old building “Ergēlnieki” to provide better services for residents. The social services team will be on the first floor of the building, which will also incorporate a customer service centre and will see the relocation of planning, property and finance, as well as the family court.

The renovation will be complete in March and will improve the working conditions for employees and provide a better experience for service users.

ART AND FAITH DISPLAYED IN NEUBURG’S SPECIAL EXHIBITION

From 12th May until 7th August visitors to the famous renaissance castle of **Neuburg an der Donau** in Germany can see a special exhibition of Count Ottheinrich’s great illuminated Bible and the treasures of the Neuburg Palace Chapel.

In fact, two priceless works of art and faith are at the heart of the Kunst & Glaube (Art and Faith) exhibition: the richly illustrated magnificent manuscript of the Ottheinrich Bible, an epoch-breaking work of world renown, and the monumental Bible cycle of the chapel, an outstanding monument of the Reformation in Germany.

In total there will be 150 works on loan from major examples of book art, easel painting, sculpture and goldsmith’s art, all enriching the precious sight. The period covered by the exhibition extends from the first illustrated New Testament in German to the oldest-equipped for the Protestant rite church in Germany.



From the exquisite late Gothic court culture of Duke Ludwig the Bearded, the brother of the Queen of France, up to Count Palatine Ottheinrich, the Renaissance princes and supporters of the Reformation, the exhibition examines a century of artistic innovation, rich history and religious reform.

The magnificent Schloss Neuburg, forever associated with Count Ottheinrich, Count Palatine of Palatinate-Neuburg from 1505 to 1559, is the perfect setting for the exhibition about a period of history which shaped the debate about faith at the dawn of the Middle Ages to modern times.



RESTORING THE MAYOR’S YARD

Alongside the great project for the restoration of **Nyborg** Castle, Denmark, the old Mayor’s Yard is also going to be restored. Nyborg Municipality has been granted one million Euros for its restoration that will revitalise the entire neighbourhood surrounding the castle. This year the roof is going to be replaced as well as interior renovation, and parts of the old exhibition area will begin a makeover to a modern museum visitors’ centre. The building (pictured right) was founded by the mayor and merchant, Mads Lerche, in 1601, but older buildings have existed on the ground. In fact, it is placed

just next to the castle along one of the main routes into the city that probably date to the late 12th or early 13th century. In its present shape and placement it forms part of the city-plan of King Christian III when he reorganised the city in the middle of the sixteenth century to make it his residential city.



The Mayor’s Yard, which now forms part of the department Nyborg Castle of Museums of Eastern Funen (Østfyns Museer), is going to be an important place in making the history of the old royal city come alive during the rebuilding project of the castle and afterwards. The castle, the Mayor’s Yard and the entire neighbourhood surrounding the castle will form a whole to help visitors experience the fascinating history of the first real capital of the Danish kingdom.

Whereas the exhibitions of the castle will make use of the most modern technology, the Mayor’s Yard will be a “touch and feel” museum with lots of workshops and with volunteers bringing the medieval and renaissance past of Nyborg to life.



NOVÉ HRADY CELEBRATES ITS FRENCH LINKS

South Bohemia has a particular association with France through its history, and Nové Hradý decided to organise a week-long programme of French culture in November. This included talks, a photographic exhibition, poetry and a concert reminiscent of the famous French chanson singers.

Most of all it featured perhaps the most characteristic aspect of French culture – good food and drink! French cuisine and wine tasting was arranged by the chef of the castle restaurant “Rotunda” Miroslav (Mirek) Dusek.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

NICKELODEON MUSEUM ON THE WAY IN PENNSYLVANIA

In 1888, Ben Wonskolaser left his home in Russia for the United States of America, settling in Ohio. Elder sons Harry, Sam and Albert - who shortened the family name to Warner - were fascinated by motion pictures. In 1906 they purchased a copy of the 1903, 12-minute silent film "The Great Train Robbery," and spent \$150 to purchase a movie projector. They began showing the film in tents at county fairs and storefronts in mill towns until they opened their first permanent theatre — a nickelodeon named The Cascade — on Feb. 2, 1907, at 18 S. Mill St. in **New Castle, Pennsylvania**. Deciding that more money was to be made in distributing and making — not merely showing — movies, the brothers moved on first to Pittsburgh then to California where they settled in Hollywood and created the famous Warner Brothers empire.

"They didn't spend a lot of time in New Castle but they left their mark," said Jerry Kern, president of the Warner Film Center which is set to open in the city once completed. Jerry has been developing this idea for over 20 years now, and soon it will come to fruition. The nonprofit organisation plans to open a replica of the two nickelodeons that the Warners operated in New Castle, and give patrons a feel for the city, which at the turn of the last century, thanks to its tin mills and other manufacturing activities, was one of the fastest-growing cities in America.



"We're not opening a modern-day movie theater with plush seats and first-run films. We're showing the public what we believe they would have seen at The Cascade and Bijou, the nickelodeons opened by the Warners in 1907" says Jerry. New Castle's nickelodeons were never extravagant movie palaces, he noted, and lights and film quality were generally poor. The Cascade, the first theater leased by the Warners had been the bar of the Knox Hotel. It opened with 99 folding chairs borrowed from a nearby funeral home. The Bijou opened a month later in the hotel's former restaurant. For 5 cents, patrons could see a movie.

Alongside the same location of the nickelodeons, modern patrons will be able to see films on three screens including, "The Brothers Warner," a 90-minute documentary by Cass Warner Sperling, granddaughter of Harry Warner, and "Days of Thrills and Laughter," a film on the early days of movie making. The attraction also offers the "Warner Wall," a timeline of the Warner family.

Kern has been involved with the project since 1993 when he attended a book-signing in Pittsburgh where Warner Sperling was autographing her book, "Hollywood Be Thy Name." He showed her photographs of the Neisner Building at 18 South Mill Street, in danger of being torn down.

IMAGINING THE ROUTE TO GREENLAND

In Denmark, during the school winter break, traditionally there are a lot of activities at the museums. This year **Nyborg** Castle took the opportunity to tell the story of the crusade to Greenland planned by King Christian II (1513-1523), taking visitors back in time when the world had not been fully discovered and the kings and princes of Europe were competing to find the sea routes to Asia and the prospect of rich trade.



It was the age of the so-called great discoveries. The Danish kings tried to reach Asia by sailing to the north-west. Halfway there were the former lands of the Danish king on Greenland, which was believed to be a peninsula on the Asian continent.

All studies of old maps and books testified to this. By the time of Christian II, contact had been lost with the former Scandinavian settlements on Greenland and it was believed that Greenland had been lost to the heathens. Some claimed the pygmies had sailed to Greenland on raids. Therefore the king received a papal bull declaring the expedition a crusade.

The fleet was ready in 1521 but never set sail. However, the amazing experience at Nyborg Castle allowed visitors to imagine what this voyage would have been like at the time - planning your own journey by making maps, learning how to shoot birds with bow and arrow, tasting dried fish from Iceland and seal from Greenland, seeing some of the monstrous and strange animals believed to inhabit the North Atlantic, and then learning how to circumnavigate the world and discover that it is in fact round! Visitors learned about the huge Danish empire believed to exist in Asia.

To read more about this Danish chapter of the age of discovery, read chapter two in this link:

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CULTURE AND HERITAGE

ONE MILLION STARS TO END VIOLENCE



Newcastle, Australia's contribution to the international arts project, One Million Stars to End Violence, was launched at the Newcastle Region Library at the beginning of March. 5000 woven stars hang from the ceiling in the library, and Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes and One Million Stars project founder, Maryann Talia Pau, launched the exhibition ahead of International Women's Day.

"The installation aims to raise awareness of violence against women, bullying and racism," said Councillor Nelmes.

One Million Stars to End Violence is an international peace project that uses stars, which Talia Pau's ancestors relied on to navigate the Pacific Ocean, to symbolise light, courage and solidarity. It began in Melbourne in 2012 following the murder of ABC employee Jill Meagher.

The artist aims to unite people around the world to weave 1 million stars for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The 5000 stars project has been coordinated by Libby Levy and Anne Kempton from Timeless Textiles in Newcastle.

"I learned about the project through my daughter and grew excited by the prospect of a non-violent and peaceful way of connecting people to communicate about the violence around us," Levy said.



"The project is rippling out across Newcastle to small groups and schools who are joining together to make stars." To keep up the production of stars, free weave workshops have been hosted at Timeless Textiles and pop-up workshops at Newcastle Region Library throughout March.

"Each star symbolises light, courage and hope to end all forms of violence in our community. The aim in Newcastle and the Hunter is to create 10,000 stars by March 2017 in support of the initiative, so the library launch celebrates the half-way mark," Councillor Nelmes said.

"Taverns, Taprooms and Tippling Houses" of New Castle, Delaware



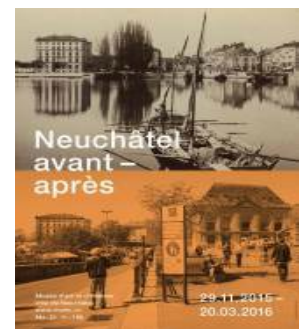
Since the 18th century New Castle, Delaware's inns and taverns have welcomed visitors with unparalleled hospitality. The tradition continues today. On May 21 residents and visitors are encouraged to spend a day in Historic New Castle visiting the taverns of old, listening to music from the Revolution to the Civil War, and experiencing the best of living history with traditional artisans, a colonial brewer, and re-enactors.

They can also tour private homes and gardens that are rarely open to the public. Experience the New Castle of yesterday and today during a Day in Old New Castle - America's Oldest Continuous Home & Garden Tour.

Overlooking the Delaware River, the vibrant community of New Castle is where the famous William Penn first set foot on American soil on October 27, 1682. It remains one of the most important Colonial/Federal villages in America - second only to Williamsburg, Virginia in the number and authenticity of its historic structures.

Back to the future in Neuchâtel!

The municipal "Musée d'art et d'histoire" in Neuchâtel is currently showing a fascinating exhibition of photographs of the city. The main idea has been to present two views of about one hundred different locations in the city: one picture was taken between the late 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries and the other was taken today trying to find the same angle and perspective. So this is a great opportunity to find out how it was yesterday, to show the impressive development of the city in the latest century and to emphasize the permanent link between the city and its lake. (<http://www.mahn.ch/neuchatel-avant-apres>)



Check out the rich cultural attractions of Kota Bharu and Kelantan province in Malaysia

<http://kelantan.attractionsinmalaysia.com/>



HERITAGE AND TOURISM

COMMEMORATING THE 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE'S MAYORALTY

2016 is the 800th anniversary of the creation by royal charter of King John of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK)'s mayoralty. The Council is marking the anniversary through a programme of civic celebration, education and reflection. The aims of the year are to raise knowledge of the history, heritage and achievements of the city through its civic leadership; to enhance local identity and pride, and to encourage reflections on civic governance (past, present and future). The key strands of the programme are:

A major educational element delivered by Tyne and Wear Museums.

An exhibition at the main City Library (involving material from the British Library's Magna Carta exhibition)

A civic programme of events – giving this theme to the existing annual programme, together with additional events

A programme of talks and presentations, starting with Local History Month.

Partners include the Freemen of the city, the Universities and various educational and cultural organisations.



The amazing story of a 1713 viola



Last month, the historic Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Chappaqua (part of the **Town of New Castle**) in New York State hosted a very special event.

“Journey From Leipzig: The Story of a 1713 Viola da Gamba” featured artist Mark Kramer in solo works for the viola by Diego Ortiz, Tobias Hume, Monsieur de Sainte-Colombe, Robert Schumann and Johann Sebastian Bach. It was an evening of music and anecdotes in which a rare three-hundred-year-old viola da gamba was showcased through an extraordinary repertoire from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Made by Johann Gottfried Schmid in Leipzig, the instrument's fascinating history has been chronicled as it journeyed through time and around the world. With an important connection to the legendary Hoffmann dynasty of instrument makers, Johann Sebastian Bach and a 19th-century German cellist; a wonderful story unfolds about music, instruments and their place in a changing world.

Having survived centuries of use and escaping two world wars, it is a miraculous story full of amazing coincidences and unexpected circumstances. In a very personal and intimate program, this extraordinary treasure was brought to life through a captivating narrative with beautiful music spanning the centuries.

HOTEL COLLABORATION STRENGTHENS NYBORG'S TOURISM OFFER

It has now been almost a year since the tourism organisation Bureauet Nyborg was established – the unifying unit of tourism, business and retail. So what are the city's tourism aims and plans?

Nyborg as the place for your holiday : As a destination for spending your summer holiday Nyborg has many qualities. The main one is of course Nyborg Town and Castle – both town and castle are from the Middle Ages, and were the power centre of the Danish kings for hundreds of years and the place where the kings hold their courts. One could say that Nyborg is the first capital in Denmark and the castle was the first official royal residence. Also Nyborg has a coastline longer than the one in Barcelona and most of it consists of beach and sand and great water in which to swim. The objectives in the tourist office is to make Nyborg a holiday offer with a lot of different local activities and a base from where the tourists takes their day trips to experience all the attractions on the island of Funen – and, with just one hour's drive by car, tourists can reach LEGO world in Billund and the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen.

Nyborg as the centre of Business tourism : As a tourist destination Nyborg differs from the other destinations on Funen. Being Denmark's meeting place for kings and queens and important people for more than 800 years, Nyborg is known in Denmark and abroad for being the preferred place for meetings, conference courses and other events. Business tourism therefore plays an important role in Nyborg and in 2015 it provided a turnover of DKR. 1 bn.

Also the five hotels in Nyborg are widely known for collaborating with each other in their common aim of attracting business tourism. That is why they have established “Destination NYBORG” - a unique collaboration between the five conference hotels and accommodation facilities in Nyborg. Set within a radius of just 2.5 km, they are able to offer 1200 beds, 70 conference rooms and 1400 free car parking spaces in a homogeneous and trusting collaboration.

In regard to business tourism the objective of the Bureauet Nyborg is to support “Destination Nyborg” in attracting more business tourists, also from abroad.



They look forward to welcoming you all in Nyborg – the heart of the Kingdom of Denmark.

YOUTH

Nobel Prize Laureate Visits Newcastle



Muzoon and Malala

Newcastle upon Tyne, UK was privileged to have Muzoon Almellehan and Malala Yousafzai visit Newcastle's City Library recently. Malala is now known throughout the world as a brave Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. She is known for human rights advocacy for education and for women in her native Swat Valley in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of northwest Pakistan, where the local Taliban had at times banned girls from attending school.

On the afternoon of October 9 2012, Yousafzai boarded her school bus in the northwest Pakistani district of Swat. A gunman asked for her by name, then pointed a pistol at her and fired three shots. In the days immediately following the attack, she remained unconscious and in critical condition, but later her condition improved enough for her to be sent to the UK for intensive rehabilitation.

In Newcastle she met with Syrian refugee families who have recently arrived in the city, including Muzoon Almellehan, a 17-year old whose family left Syria in 2013.

Living in the refugee camps, Muzoon realised that many girls were being married off and dropping out of the camp school or not going to school at all, so she soon became an outspoken campaigner for education. The two girls are now firm friends and live in the UK where they focus on their education, but they are determined to work together to ensure that Syrian children, especially girls, can go to school in safety.

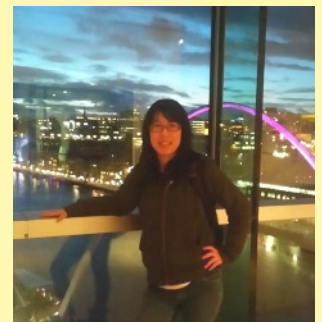


SHINSHIRO'S KAORI ENJOYS UK PLACEMENT

Kaori Shimizu from Shinshiro City is back home after spending four weeks in Newcastle upon Tyne, improving her English, finding out more about the city, and making new friends

Her study programme was arranged by International House who placed her with a local family in the city.

Kaori was able to meet representatives of the Newcastle Youth Council (left) to exchange knowledge and experience. She also spent time at Space 2, one of the city's youth projects, and, with the help of Mo Lovatt of Newcastle's of the World's Global Schools Project, visited local schools to talk about Japan and demonstrate Japanese calligraphy.



PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME

March each year brings a very special annual arts competition and festival to Newcastle under Lyme (United Kingdom) - one that has been going for over 80 years! The Newcastle Festival of Music, Speech and Drama is organised by volunteers and provides a valuable performance opportunity in speech, drama, and music for young people. It aims to provide a well organised and enjoyable festival and a platform for amateur performers of any age, to demonstrate their talents.

It's for anyone who can act, recite, play an instrument or sing, or is in a band or choir, giving them a unmissable chance to perform in front of a live audience. Budding composers and poets are also catered for with competitions to perform their own creations, or have them performed on their behalf. To find out more, check out <http://newcastlefestival.org.uk/index.html>



RURAL EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN JAUNPILS

In Jaunpils, Latvia, the organisation "Life and Health School in Nature" has successfully implemented a project called "health school in nature". Musical instruments, gymnastic mats and outdoor games, equipment have been used to provide activities for young people through a rural festival and creative camp. It brings children from urban areas to experience and enjoy the beautiful countryside of the Jaunpils area and to learn new creative skills.

School celebrates 200 years

ANNIVERSARY TIME

Newcastle East Public School in **Newcastle, New South Wales**, Australia has been celebrating its 200th anniversary this year with a special series of events. It is the oldest continuously running school in Australia, established in 1816 by a convict on conditional pardon, Henry Wrensford.

Wrensford started the school with eight girls and nine boys attending, aged from three to thirteen, in a government-owned hut. At this time, the settlement consisted of no more than 400 people, mostly convicts, and the students were the children of these. Today's site overlooks the Newcastle Central Business District, two blocks from the Christ Church Cathedral that also housed the original school at one time.



Former Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard visited the school at the beginning of February to launch a new book about the history of the school. Principal John Beach, pictured right with Ms Gillard, and former Principal Mervyn Hall, has been at the school of 250 students since 2002 and said the community was "very excited" about celebrating the milestone after years of preparation. "The school is very significant in the history of education in Australia," he said. Find out more - <http://www.newcastleeast200.com.au/history.html>



A hundred years ago the **New Castle – Henry County Public Library, Indiana, USA** received a permanent location through a generous donation from the famous industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. This enabled New Castle to be one of 64 communities receiving a "Carnegie" library

The New Castle-Henry County Public Library is celebrating the centenary this year and has begun with a public event featuring music, historical displays and a lecture by Jacob Speer, the Indiana State Librarian. Speer said: "Many people thought because of the Internet, libraries would change or go away, but instead, they really embraced it. In essence, the library is about providing information to the community that they serve, and they continue to be needed".



New Castle Library Director Winnie Logan noted that at the dedication on January 18, 1916, the ceremony had a musical performance and the state librarian as a speaker, a tradition that continued a century later. She explained how industrialist Andrew Carnegie gave away most of his fortune and donated lots of money toward building libraries. She presented a new portrait of Andrew Carnegie, to hang on the mantle above the fireplace on the upper floor. The current building, which includes that original Carnegie library, opened in 2006.

"Whatever agencies for good may rise or fall in the future, it seems certain that the free library is destined to stand and become a never ceasing foundation of good to all the inhabitants," Andrew Carnegie once said.

Celebrate 100 years & growing.



"WE DO IT OURSELVES!"

The "We do it ourselves" competition programme for voluntary groups in Jaunpils, Latvia has reached its fifth year anniversary. It is organised by the organisation "Rats" and funded by the local municipality. During the five years, groups have carried out no less than 53 projects, benefiting the volunteers themselves but of course the residents and visitors most of all. This year the organisation "Meadowsweet" association's project "Love stone paths and new breath" was recognised for its work.



FOLKLORE CARNIVAL IN NOVÉ HRADY

MASOPUST is the colourful annual Winter Carnival of Nové Hradý, our “New Castle” in the Czech Republic. The Carnival has taken place in early February for the past 60 years.

One of the main features is the tall hats decorated with crepe roses worn by the carolers.

Singing traditional carnival carols, the masopustníci ask for permission from the mayor to parade through the town, singing and collecting treats as they go. Other carolers wear outfits made with scraps of material. The performance and costumes all have religious and folklore symbolism.



CHILLY DIP - WARM HEARTS

It was warm hearts and cold extremities again for the brave and kind people plunging into the icy waters of Lake Ontario in Newcastle, Canada to raise funds in the annual New Year Polar Bear Swim.

This year the funds raised support Autism Durham and the Sick Kids Foundation for research into pediatric liver disease. Polar bear swimmers wear swimsuits only, no nudity and no wetsuits.

Local resident Heather McFarland and her family have been organizing the Clarington Polar Bear Swim for 12 years and have raised \$86,000 to date. Ms. McFarland’s oldest daughter, Katie, was born with liver disease and in 2004, at the age of one, had a life-saving liver transplant.

JAUNPILS THANKS POLICE VOLUNTEERS

Jaunpils municipality (Latvia) has been saying thank you to volunteer police helpers. There’s a strong tradition of volunteering in Jaunpils, and the police volunteer helpers are particularly appreciated.

Jaunpils County Council Chairwoman Ligita Gintere expressed the gratitude of the local community to the volunteers for their vital work at a recent civic gathering.



DONAUSCHWIMMEN 2016 BREAKS ALL THE RECORDS

What better than a swim in the river Danube on a cold winter’s day? Over 2000 residents of Neuburg do exactly that every year, and the 2016 event was the biggest and best yet.

Organised by the Wasserwacht Neuburg, the Donauschwimmen lures not only individual swimmers also many clubs and associations who liven the event even more with with imaginative floats, costumes and masks, many of them raising money for charity as they go.

On 30 January 246 clubs and 2240 swimmers created new records for participation. After the swim there’s an evening carnival and lots of opportunities to enjoy food and drink to compensate for the cold weather and lost calories



PEOPLE



HERITAGE CHAMPION IS RECOGNISED

It was announced on Australia Day (26 January) that Bob Cook, our "Newcastles of the World" champion in **Newcastle**, New South Wales, has been honoured with an Order of Australia award. This is for service to heritage preservation and the community, particularly as president of Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association. Many congratulations, Bob! He says that heritage is important because "you have to understand your past to understand your present and future. I think we should recognise heritage more and care about the things that people have done in the past."

Bob spent 36 years working at the former BHP steelworks and four years as a Newcastle councillor. He said it was important to "remember and value" Newcastle's industries and history as a working town. "The steelworks and most of our industries have gone, but we have to make sure the future generation understands their importance."

Find out about the Industrial Heritage Association here - <http://www.niha.org.au/>

Miho Ishino, who has been Shinshiro City's main link to Newcastles of the World for several years, and a moderator of Shinshiro Youth Meeting, was married last month. We're told that as it seemed that she was enjoying her single life so much, that was a big surprise to everyone in Shinshiro!

More than 150 people came to their wedding party to celebrate with the bride and groom on 14th February. We're pleased that Miho will continue to work at Shinshiro city hall on international projects. We wish her and her husband all the best for the future. She is now Miho Moriya.

CONGRATULATIONS MIHO!



The Doghoz family in their Newcastle home. Pictured from left to right - front row: Maria age 8, Ahmad, Talia age 6, Lina, Silia age 4. Back row: Rex Pattison and Sylvia Vanhaverbeke co-chairs of the St. Francis of Assisi Family Resettlement Committee.

WARM WELCOME TO CANADA FOR SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY

After preparing for the imminent arrival of their Syrian refugee family for over two months, the St. Francis of Assisi Family Resettlement Committee of **Newcastle, Canada** had only three days notice before meeting them at Toronto Airport in February.

Sylvia Vanhaverbeke, co-chair of the resettlement committee (and delegate at the 2012 Newcastles of the World conference) says the Doghoz family really found them. The committee was formed last year and worked with the Sisters of St. Joseph in nearby Peterborough to sponsor a Syrian refugee family.

When Ahmed Doghoz found out his family was being sponsored by a group in Newcastle, he immediately looked up Canada and Newcastle. "I saw beautiful things," Ahmed stated. "I was excited and happy".

Doghoz explained that with his wife Lina, their three daughters and his parents he left Syria for Jordan in 2012. Since then they lived in Amman, Jordan, just outside a refugee camp. While Jordan provided the family safety from war, Doghoz was not legally allowed to work or have a driver's license.

Having a sponsoring group took away all the worries of relocating to a new country according to Doghoz. From the sponsor side, it's a privilege to be able to assist people, Sylvia stated. Doghoz calls her his Canadian sister and said he felt he has known his new Canadian friends all his life. In a year from now, Doghoz, who is able to speak some English, hopes to be more fluent in the language and have a job. In Syria he was a sales representative for a company that sold food and cleaning products. Now the adults in the family are learning English and the children are at Newcastle Public School.

They have temporary accommodation in a loft apartment and a more permanent home is being sought. Lina Doghoz choked up when asked about her parents' safety back in Syria, so that is still a worry for the family.



SHINSHIRO MAYOR BRINGS YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER AT 25

Coming of Age Day in Japan means that 20-year-olds can vote, drink and marry without parental permission, and has been celebrated since at least A.D. 714. In Shinshiro City, Mayor Ryoji Hozumi, as part of his youth policy, has brought together young people in the city marking their 25th year. The occasions have allowed young people to discuss the future of their community and their own contribution to its wellbeing and development.

SPORT

NEUCHÂTEL HOSTS INTERNATIONAL SKATING EVENT



Swiss Ice Skating and the Neuchâtel Figure Skating Club hosted one of the major events in the synchronized ice skating calendar on the weekend of 30-31 January. Teams competed for the prized Neuchâtel Trophy. This is an International Skating Union event, with competitions for senior, junior, novice and mixed age teams.

The senior event was won by team Paradise from Russia, with Les Supremes from Canada in second place. The junior event was won by team Chicago Jazz from the USA. Team Snowflakes from Switzerland won the Mixed Age event and Team Bernettes (centre, below), also from Switzerland, took the novice title.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SURFEST

The 31st Surfest in Newcastle, Australia took place in late February. It's Australia's largest surfing festival and for Surfest 2016 Newcastle hosted 11 different surfing events attracting more than 700 surfers from around two dozen countries.

The top seeded surfers were crowned main event winners in front of record crowds, with World Surf League Championship Tour competitors Matt Wilkinson taking the Maitland and Port Stephens Pro and Sally Fitzgibbons winning the Women's Pro. The Final day was held in great conditions with light winds and clean four-to-six foot waves at Merewether Beach.

But it's not just all about the pro-surfers. What separates Surfest from many other professional surfing events is the emphasis placed upon community and grass roots surfing competition. In the past few years, Surfest has stretched its wings to run events in all three local government areas that cover the Hunter coastline – Newcastle, Port Stephens and Lake Macquarie.

Find out more - <http://www.surfest.com/about/>



NOVE HRADY KARATE CLUB TAKES HONOURS

The Karate Club of Nove Hradý in the Czech Republic is one of the most successful in the country and members have competed and won medals in regional, national and international events.

Martin Hermann (bottom left), who established the club in 1993 and is its chairman and driving force, is himself a winner of many medals in international karate championships. Martin says that the main focus is working with young people. "We are trying to fill a meaningful leisure activities for children and youth to 18 years in extracurricular activities outside the gym to represent the karate section, the gymnastics club and the town of New Castle".

He thanks the local schools, coaches, parents and supporters who have helped the club grow, and also the Nove Hradý municipality for its backing. Of course, the success of the Club is bringing recognition to Nove Hradý.



MORE NEWS FROM AROUND THE NEWCASTLES



CASTELNUOVO MAYORS MEET

In Italy there are around 30 "Newcastles" - or Castelnovos (some are Castelnovo), and several of them meet from time to time to share information and ideas.. Our friend Alberto Soli of Castelnovo Rangone (second from right in front row) coordinates the various towns and cities, has sent us this photograph of the gathering of mayors past and present in **Castelnovo del Friuli** in early March.

ROBOTS IN NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

An exhibition called "Robot" at Life Science Centre, **Newcastle upon Tyne**, United Kingdom features over 40 robot models, cyborgs and androids - full size models, heads and toys - from television and films from the past 60 years, from Robocop and Terminator to Star Wars.



BIRDLAND HOSTS THE BEST JAZZ

One of Europe's most distinguished jazz clubs is the Birdland Club of **Neuburg** in Bavaria, Germany. The club recently hosted the famous Dutch Swing College Band (below second right), who are themselves possibly Europe's oldest jazz band, certainly the most famous (Birdland calls them "The Rolling Stones of Jazz!"). Birdland is known to jazz lovers across Europe and has hosted such all-time greats as Stéphane Grappelli, Nat Adderley and Chris Barber. Check this link for the club's history, its awards, its chairman and driving force Manfred Rehm, and the European Jazz Academy that it hosts for aspiring jazz musicians - <http://www.birdland.de/> And you can buy great CDs produced by the Club.



DA VINCI DRAWINGS ON SHOW

Ten of the finest drawings by Leonardo da Vinci from the British Royal Collection are in a special exhibition in **Newcastle upon Tyne**, UK at the Laing Art Gallery until 24 April.

The works have been selected to show the extraordinary scope of the artist's interests, from painting and sculpture to engineering, zoology, botany, map making and anatomy, as well as his use of different media.



FIELD MUSTARD FESTIVAL IN SHINSHIRO

The Field Mustard Festival is held in **Shinshiro City** in early March. Pure-yellow field mustards bloom beautifully and proudly as far as the eye can see.

The two venues, one in Kamihirai District and one in Omiya District, have agricultural products and local specialties on sale, field mustard picking and more, and bustle with visitors.

HELPING DESERVING YOUNG PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

Fundraising in Newcastle upon Tyne - including at the Rugby World Cup dinner and among local rotarians - raised 54,000 rand (about 3200 euros) to support the bursary registration fees of 18 students in **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal**. There are many worthy young students in Newcastle, South Africa who have the potential to develop and improve themselves by further study for vocational and other qualifications but who lack the funding from their families to support their studies.

The Newcastle Municipality has therefore implemented a scheme where they assist these students to pay for their registration fee. The Municipality however only has a limited budget for this and there are many more students than the funds available. The Mayor has championed an appeal to companies and individuals to act as sponsors by paying the registration fee. The amount per student is 3000 rand - let's see if we can get supporters from other Newcastle's involved later this year to help next year's students.



NEWS FROM THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD TEAM

PROGRESS REPORT TO MAYORS/LEADERS - HIGHLIGHTS

Budget on target

Alliance is consolidating core members and making contacts in new Newcastle

Support for Canada with Conference Preparations

“Newcastles Passport” close to launch

Global Schools project under way

Youth Councils report due soon

Cultural Project attracts external funds

Castles project being scoped

Newcastle Forum launched to share ideas and good practice

Quarterly newsletter issued regularly, with distribution over 2000

Website improved, including introduction of Events Calendar

Large growth in reach through Facebook and Twitter

PRIORITIES UNTIL OUR CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER

Do all we can to support Newcastle, Ontario in making their conference a well-attended success for them and for us all.

Complete and launch the Newcastles Passport Scheme.

Consolidate our membership

“Twelve Castles” project linking education, culture and heritage is being scoped for discussion at the Conference

Keep spreading the word about Newcastles of the World!



As requested by the mayors, we have created an **events calendar on our website** - something to factor into your holiday journeys to other Newcastles of course, to promote your events and to take account of when planning them. We also feature the events on Facebook and Twitter. Check out:

<http://newcastlesoftheworld.com/events-calendar/> Email your events to newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com

THE NEWCASTLES PASSPORT

May we ask those Newcastles who wish to participate in the first stage of the Passport scheme to contact Zelig 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.

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.



Zelig

YOUR TEAM

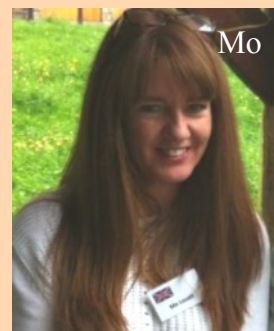
Contact us for information, ideas or help

ZELIE GUERIN: zelie@internationalnewcastle.org.uk

(for project management, tourism, business)

MO LOVATT: molovatt@hotmail.com (culture/schools)

DAVID FAULKNER: david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk
(coordination of Newcastles of the World, communications,
development of the alliance, general enquiries)



Mo

ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD



In 1998 the Mayor of Shinshiro in Japan took the initiative to invite representatives of seven “Newcastles” to his city. They have continued to meet every two years – in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (Indiana/Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008, Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 2012 and most recently Nové Hradky in the Czech Republic in 2014.

The aim of the Newcastles alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each others’ heritage and culture. Each gathering has taken a discussion theme to ensure practical, usable outcomes, also involving our young people.