

## NEWCASTLES HOST GREAT SPORTING OCCASIONS

Many of our Newcastles have great sporting traditions and venues, and therefore often have the opportunity to host some of the bigger and more prestigious sports events.

At the beginning of summer, the city of **Neuchâtel** hosted a stage of the 68th edition of the renowned cycling race the "**Tour de Romandie.**" Over 10,000 people were at the stadium Maladière, which was the finish for the time trial. A 25m ramp had been set up to test the riders in the race for the finishing line.



Briton Chris Froome, 2013 Tour de France winner, won the stage ahead of the reigning world champion Tony Martin. Overall, Froome won the race ahead of Simon Spilak and Alberto Rui Costa.



**Newcastle, New South Wales**, will host four matches in the forthcoming **Asian Cup** football tournament. The tournament starts on 9 January and the first match for Newcastle's 33,000 capacity Hunter stadium is 15 January, Oman v Kuwait, followed by Japan (one of the top-ranked teams) v Palestine on 22 January. Next is a prestigious semi-final on 27 January and the third place play-off on 30 January.

The 2015 AFC Asian Cup will be the 16th edition of the AFC Asian Cup, an international football tournament organised by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC). For the first time in its history, the tournament will be hosted outside the continent of Asia, with Australia being an AFC member. The winner of the tournament will earn the right to compete for the 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup, which is to be hosted by Russia.

Newcastle United fans will have to make way for a rugby invasion next year as St James' Park, **Newcastle upon Tyne** prepares to host the **2015 Rugby World Cup**. Two of rugby's superpowers will take to the pitch in Newcastle, with double World Cup winners South Africa taking on former semi-finalists Scotland on October 3, and defending champions the New Zealand All Blacks playing Tonga on October 9. Samoa will play Scotland on October 10.



City officials have welcomed the announcement and said it will boost the region's economy by more than £14m as around 50,000 overseas visitors are expected to visit during the games. Officials said the success of the Olympic football games (where our friends from Neuchâtel saw the Switzerland team play in 2012!) had helped secure a hosting role for Newcastle in the third largest global sporting event. <http://www.newcastlegateshead.com/rwc/home/>

**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 and Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008, in Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 2012, and most recently in April 2014 in Nove Hradý in the Czech Republic. The aim of the Newcastles Alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each others' heritage and culture. Each gathering takes one or more discussion themes to ensure practical, usable outcomes, also involving our young people.

# WORLDWIDE TV AUDIENCE FOR PADDY FIELDS



Television crews from the BBC (the British Broadcasting Corporation) have been in **Shinshiro** for an extended period to create a documentary to broadcast to all over the world. The subject is the amazing rice paddy fields of Yotsuya, among the best in all Japan.

These rice paddies have been kept by human hand for many years, not using big machines nor agricultural chemicals. They're unique and rich in biodiversity, with natural matched landscape, and highly praised. The BBC will feature how wonderfully human, wild animals, bugs and water creatures co-exist in harmony.



It's a famous and beautiful Satoyama, a term applied to the border area between mountain foothills and arable flat land, developed through centuries as mixed community forests, but also as entire landscapes that are used for agriculture. These days satoyama contain a mosaic of mixed forests, rice paddy fields, dry rice fields, grasslands, streams, ponds, and reservoirs for irrigation. Farmers use the grasslands to feed horses and cattle. Streams, ponds, and reservoirs play an important role in adjusting water levels of paddy fields and farming fish as a food source.

## CLASSIC CARS ON SHOW IN NEUBURG

In late June the Danube Classic "Oldtimer" Car Rally came to Neuburg an der Donau. Over 230 classic cars from eight decades of automotive engineering took part in a drive-through control in the historic old town.

The three-day 650km classic car rally has firmly established itself within a few years and is now one of the most famous in the whole of Europe.

There were elegant cabriolets, roadsters and racing cars, including Horch, Wanderer, Bentley, BMW, Alvis and Jaguar. And the main sponsor Audi enriched the event with entries that represented milestones in the history of the brand.

For fans of the German national football team there was good news. The World Cup match against the USA was shown on a large screen in the square immediately after the last vehicle left, so no-one missed the game. And many congratulations to Germany for winning the tournament!



# An 'Event-ful' time for Newcastle-under-Lyme

The last few months have been very 'Event-ful' in Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre! Musical May began with the Lymelight Festival, a celebration of local talent bringing together musicians, bands, artisans and food producers to showcase music and arts in the area. The month ended with the well-established and popular Jazz & Blues Festival, which this year was organised by the Town Centre Partnership, with support from the Borough Council.

A major event in June - dubbed "The Homecoming" - was inspired by Philip Astley, the father of modern circus" who was born in Newcastle.

This year see the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of this pioneer - a great reason to have launched a spectacular event, with the help of Arts Council funding, which it is hoped will become an annual celebration. Visitors were treated to a full day of stimulating and inspiring performances from some of the country's most exciting new performing arts companies taking place throughout the town. Local video production company Junction 15 filmed the event so check out <http://vimeo.com/101411789> to enjoy the fun of the circus!



Spain, New York, India - in July visitors to the town enjoyed a trip round the world in dance and music. From bhangra to ballroom, hip hop to Hollywood there was something to suit everyone - and even chance to have a go...if you felt brave enough.

Upcoming events include a Food, Folk and real Ale Festival, another first for the town, and a heritage fun day to mark the re-launch of the recently refurbished market.



## New Vic theatrical treasures in prospect

In 2009 an amateur metal detectorist struck gold in a field in Staffordshire, England. It was the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon treasure ever found. On display at Staffordshire's Potteries Museum and Birmingham's Museum and Art gallery, it's been visited by hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world.

Inspired by this treasure, the New Vic Theatre of Newcastle-under-Lyme is currently developing a festival of theatre and events: its own own hoard. Working in association with the National Theatre Studio, it has commissioned 21 pieces of work from some of the country's most important writers, artists and theatremakers.

The festival will feature a verbatim documentary play telling the story of the hoard's discovery in the words of those involved in it; other new plays for the distinctive in-the-round theatre; digital artists making sound and video installations for indoors and out; theatre makers creating theatrical adventures on buses and in fields; twelve five-minute plays to be performed

Arts Council England, who have made a rare 'Exceptional Award' to support the ambitious vision for this initiative say that this project, combining art and heritage, is a rare beast. The level of international interest in the project means that it is hoped to attract international audiences, and perhaps even to take the artworks out internationally in the future.



# NOVE HRADY AND NEUBURG STRENGTHEN LINKS THROUGH VISIT



Newcastles of the World brings new contacts and new friendships. Having met together in Nove Hradky at the conference, representatives from Nove Hradky, mainly young people, subsequently visited Neuburg to build on their links of association and learning. Here **Michal Jarolimek**, one of the organisers of the youth conference this year, writes about the visit.



"Our delegation consisted of **Mayor Vladimir Hokr** (our organiser, guide and translator) and most of local school choir Fermata and its conductor; some teachers of our primary school; the Director of the Kindergarten, two members of our municipal assembly, employees of the local information centre; a group of students from the Trhove Sviny Grammar School and our colleague of the NotW Conference team **Robert Dulfer**.



We were warmly welcomed by **Neuburg Mayor Bernhard Gmehling** who told us all about the city's culture, heritage and functions. In the beautiful chapel, where Mayor Gmehling introduced our Fermata choir to local students from the Maria-Ward-Realschule, the choir (who also performed at the opening of the Conference in Nove Hradky) sang, and, as then, received warm and prolonged applause for their outstanding performance.



Afterwards a bus took us upstream of a nearby hydroelectric plant. Here we took five historical rowing/fishing boats with their captains. We went through the lock dropping a good five meters down to the water level downstream of the dam. From there we floated over a 3km stretch back to the town centre. During that trip members of the choir spontaneously started singing again with great fun and at the end one of the students even went overboard to enjoy the water!



At the end our friend **Marie-Luise Stadler** of the Neuburg Jugendparlament, who we met at the April NotW Conference came to greet us. At eight o'clock, we left and arrived safely back in Nove Hradky around two o'clock at night.



We want to thank not only the Mayor but also **Rüdiger Vogt, Eva Lanig, Bettina Häring & Elfriede Müller** who were looking after us all day. I believe that for me, and all participants in this trip, it was not only the highlight of the school year, but also very a inspiring experience. Based on the positive feedback from the participants, I would like to express the hope that in the future there will be similar tours to other towns of the Newcastle community".



# NEWCASTLE NSW LORD MAYOR RESIGNS

Elected Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Australia Jeff McCloy (right) appeared at a hearing of the New South Wales Independent Commission Against Corruption in mid-August relating to "Operation Spicer", an investigation into allegations of corrupt conduct in the 2011 elections. Tim Owen, the New South Wales Member for Newcastle, and Andrew Cornwell, Member for Charlestown, each admitted accepting amounts of \$10,000 from McCloy. As a result, both resigned from Parliament.



Subsequently Mr McCloy resigned as Lord Mayor of Newcastle, with immediate effect. He said his resignation was due to ongoing controversy over his appearance before ICAC, which he said "may affect the proper functioning" of Newcastle City Council. Councillor **Brad Luke** (left) is Deputy/Acting Lord Mayor until new elections can be held.

## PRIDE IN NOVE HRADY'S FIREFIGHTERS - 140 YEARS OF SERVICE

This summer, the Nove Hradý Volunteer Fire Fighters Association celebrated its 140th year of existence. Established in 1874, the Association is the oldest in the district of Ceske Budejovice (South Bohemia)! It rapidly became an important part of the town community, also organising theatre plays and other events. The Association and its members give presence in full uniform at all major town events and religious holidays, in particular on the name day of Holy St. Florian, guardian of the firefighters. These traditions continue to the present day, with the Association and its firefighters still forming an integrated part of the town of Nove Hradý.



## LAUNCH OF BUSKERS CORNER IN KOTA BHARU

On a Friday evening in June Kota Bharu came alive with the launch of "My Buskers Corner Kota Bharu" at the city's Clock Tower. The programme was launched by the The Honorable Dato' Seri Arpah Abdul Razak, Chief Secretary General of the Ministry of Local Government, Malaysia.

Busking activities are becoming popular in Kota Bharu for youngsters who gather together in groups and show their talents like singing, playing musical instruments, dancing, drawing live pictures and simply doing street magic. The Kota Bharu City Council came up with the idea of establishing a special place for the youngsters to perform their talents.

The Clock Tower, situated by the bank of Kelantan River is a popular night spot among the locals and tourists who come to see the buskers' performances while enjoying the beautiful scenery of the river at night. During the ceremony, several groups of Kota Bharu buskers joined the performance in front of a large crowd, and a display of fireworks lit up the sky.



# Firefighter's courage recognised

It was extreme bravery and dedication that saw Newcastle Municipality firefighter, Zanele Sibisi saving a man trapped in a 50cm wide bulk water pipe. Ms Sibisi was a finalist in The Centrum Guardian, a national scheme that recognises people in South Africa's emergency and rescue services who go over their call of duty to make a difference and save a life.

Jameel Butler, Marketing Director of Scott Street Pharmacy, where the incident occurred, eluded that it is very seldom you find a person who still provides selfless service in this world. "Ms Sibisi placed her life in danger just to save a person she hardly knew. That is being selfless and committed to the people you vowed to serve, such brave quality should be recognised and encouraged" said Mr Butler.

Project sponsors Centrum Multivitamin said that plans to educate the community about living a safer life while promoting Ms Sibisi as the new Centrum "Ambassador" are underway.

When asked about her bravery leading Firefighter, Zanele (centre of photo) said she did not see herself as the hero but only as a person who was doing her job. "I just wanted to make sure that the man was brought back to safety so that he can see his loved ones".



## Parliament and Public Participation Workshop

At the recent Newcastles of the World conference in the Czech Republic, one of the themes of importance to all was increasing knowledge of, and participation in, the democratic process.

The Public Participation unit within the Newcastle Municipality together with the Public Education office within the Parliamentary Communication Services hosted a four day introduction to Parliament and Public Participation workshop in July. The aim was so Parliament can facilitate public participation in its processes, with a vision that councillors and their ward committees can be enlightened and take and share this information with the people within their respective wards.



Addressing ward committees, Newcastle Municipality Speaker Cllr Mandla Zikhali said "it is imperative for community leaders to understand the operations of government, so they can inform their communities about the role they should take in assisting these departments in making sure they perform their duties as public servants".

"South Africa's freedom charter embraces Public Participation and guarantees citizens involvement in all their decision making and in its policies. Public participation in governmental processes is therefore an integral part of South Africa's democracy", said Sbongile Sithole from the National Parliament.

"All spheres of government are guided by the Batho Pele principle that clearly states that all organs of the state within each sphere must provide effective, transparent, accountable and coherent services to the people", continued Sithole.

## IT'S BACK - "MUT ZUM HUT" FESTIVAL IN NEUBURG - 26-28



For the past 15 years, the very best milliners and hat designers have been attracted to Neuburg for the famous hat festival, with over 15,000 hats to look at and try on. <http://www.mutzumhut.de/en/>

# NEWS FROM NYBORG - A BUSY SUMMER!

## Danehof 2014 a great success

Over the weekend of 5/6 July Nyborg once again relived the splendour of **Danehof**, the Danish medieval parliament, and the medieval court when Queen Margrethe I visited her castle bringing along her 7-year old son Oluf – just like in 1377. Knights, soldiers, craftsmen and merchants gathered around the old castle. The tournament square in front of the city hall once again witnessed the knights in a melée and a joust with solid lances. The craftsmen and merchants of the 21st century were to be found in the city streets and at the foodmarket by the church just like they would have been in the Middle Ages, when suppliers from the Kings pantry also were present

<http://www.danmarksrigeshjerte.dk/events-og-oplevelser/danehof/galleri-2014/>

This summer Danehof in Nyborg had 45,000 visitors and among them two fellow "Newcastlers" from Jaunpils! **Kristine Liepina** and **Inga Krūtaine** spent the whole weekend in Nyborg exchanging ideas and thoughts with the home team on how to communicate history through events + involving volunteers.

## Nyborg Voldspil – 75th anniversary

Nyborg Voldspil – Denmark's oldest outdoor theatre - celebrated its 75-year anniversary this summer, playing the classic "My Fair Lady" for almost 20,000 people. Nyborg Voldspil originated in 1939 where the local amateur-actors played in front of Nyborg Castle. Later on they moved to the huge ramparts of the old fortified city. Nyborg Voldspil plays an important part in the city's cultural life engaging hundreds of locals as actors/musicians/scene constructors/seamstresses and more. There's an outdoor show/musical every summer and a family play every winter in the old mill at the city square. Today professional actors and musical performers play the leading roles.



## The best hotel in Denmark

Some of Denmark's best family and conference-hotels are to be found in Nyborg. And this summer **Hotel Hesselet** – a family owned conference and spa-hotel by the coast (<http://www.hotel-hesselet.dk/>) received the TripAdvisor Travellers Choice 2014 award. The five hotels in Nyborg have formed a unique cooperation called "**Destination Nyborg**" (<http://www.destinationnyborg.dk/>). Destination Nyborg aims to establish Nyborg as the number 1 meeting place in Denmark with a central location, good infrastructure and excellent facilities. The Hotels are very different, ranging from a renaissance castle to a small family owned city-hotel to the big conference hotels, but together they form a strong unity regarding marketing and branding, the possibility of housing guests and conference participants and due to their differences they are able to offer all kinds of solutions for customers.

## A busy September weekend

September 13/14: Nyborg hosts several events. "Knights of the Northern Kingdom": Around the castle warrior-re-enactors set up their camps. When nobles and kings met in the past they had a following of men and warriors with them. They trained and entertained with their weapon's art and war games which helped prepare them for the ferocious medieval battles. The cultural history connected to the knight is an underlying basis of Nyborg Castle's presentation of Danish medieval history. This warrior caste lived according to special rules and cultivated a warrior art that makes the knight the European equivalent of the Japanese samurai. Only through "modern day warrior's" studies of the sources and subsequent testing is it possible to make this art and knowledge come alive. Today knights from Northern Europe meet at Nyborg Castle to practice, show off their skills and reenact a full medieval battle.

If medieval knights are not your scene you can visit "bella italia", a show with more than 1000 Italian cars (Maserati, Ferrari, Lancia, Lamborghini, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Autobianchi, & more). If you're more into sports you can watch the runners in "Broløbet" (The Bridge run) - 12.000 runners cross the great Belt bridge in a half marathon ending up in Nyborg. <http://www.brolobet.dk/>

**NORD**  
for a cleaner  
tomorrow

## EU environmental award to Nyborg company NORD

NORD is one of Nyborg's largest industrial enterprises working to ensure a cleaner environment globally. NORD specialises in the disposal and detoxification of chemicals and other hazardous substances in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. On June 16 the Danish Minister of

Environment presented NORD with the EU environmental award for international business cooperation. NORD has developed an international platform and solutions model for a responsible and environmentally secure clean-up after ship fires at sea. Their solution implies collecting, sorting and secure destruction of all sorts of waste and contaminated water and it also implies no more dumping of shipwrecks on different beaches. NORD's work ensures that the marine environment in the future will not be exposed to highly contaminated waste.

# MARKING MANDELA DAY



July 18 marked a very important day not just in South Africa but across the globe. This was the special day when people honoured the global icon, the late Former President Nelson Mandela. The date is now designated "Mandela Day" by the United Nations but of course with it has a particular meaning in the country that he led to freedom and democracy.

Newcastle Municipality celebrated Nelson Mandela Day in several very different ways. But all of them represented a call for action for people to take responsibility for making the world a better place, "one small step at a time", just as Madiba did.

Seven destitute families from Newcastle received fully furnished houses in honour of Madiba. On 18 July Newcastle Municipality officials and stakeholders were involved "hands on" in constructing houses in different parts of the municipality for these families, which were identified through the Office of the Mayor.



- The Office of the Municipal Manager adopted the Kubheka family. Mr and Mrs Kubheka residing in Mndozo, ward 6. Mr and Mrs Kubheka live with their five children in a dark shack covered with holes and plastics. One child is disabled and requires special treatment.
- Development Planning and Human Settlements adopted the Jiyane family residing in Maskraal, ward 31. Ms Jiyane lives in a one room shack with her two boys. One boy is disabled from neck down and cannot move nor speak.
- Technical Services adopted the Ntshalintshali family residing in Madadeni Section 7, ward 14. Domestic worker Ms Thipa and her fiancé and their four children live in a one room tent.
- Corporate Services adopted the Mthunzi family residing in Osizweni, ward 17. The family consists of six members and none of them are working. Two members of the family are living with chronic illnesses and are taking medication.
- Community Services adopted the Khumalo family residing in Osizweni, ward 10. 84 year old Gogo Khumalo, the sole breadwinner lives with her grandson and unemployed daughter in a dilapidated house with no glass in the windows.
- Electrical/Mechanical Services adopted the Khumalo family residing in Osizweni, ward 8. Mrs Khumalo is a 54 year old unemployed widow who lives with her four children and five grandchildren. She is dependent on her grant money and two members of the family are chronically ill and only one is taking medication.

• Lastly, Financial Services adopted the Hlatshwayo family residing in Mndozo, ward 7. The family has been living in a one room shack.

In many parts of the world, other towns and cities marked Mandela Day with volunteering and fundraising on behalf of local communities and for more disadvantaged people at home and overseas. **Newcastle upon Tyne City Council** has announced plans to celebrate Nelson Mandela's legacy with a special Lord Mayor's award recognising people across Newcastle who help bring communities together. The awards will go to the individuals or organisations that have made a real difference to community understanding and helped maintain Newcastle's excellent record in cultural relations.



# ONE MILLION UP FOR THE GREAT NORTH RUN



This year, the Great North Run will be the first event of its kind in the world to reach its one millionth finisher, ahead of marathons and half-marathon events in London, New York, Berlin and elsewhere. On 4th September, the NewcastleGateshead Quayside and the River Tyne will be transformed into a huge outdoor arena for an Opening Ceremony, marking the start of the official countdown to the millionth finish of the Bupa Great North Run on 7th September. <http://www.gnrmillion.org/gnr-million>

Award-winning North East author David Almond has written the story and there's an exceptional creative team, led by Artistic Director Bradley Hemmings (co-Artistic Director of the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony). Narrated by local actors Jill Halfpenny and Tim Healy, the Ceremony tells of the sporting and industrial heritage of the North East of England and features live performances by Newcastle's very own Dire Straits legend Mark Knopfler, Mercury Prize nominees The Unthanks, and the electrifying Lords of Lightning.

With a cast of hundreds of performers, a giant floating sculpture, fireworks, and video mapping onto the Sage Gateshead, this is a spectacular story of energy, endeavour and inspiration.

## AKHALTSIKHE'S NEW MAYOR GIORGI KOPADZE

Akhaltzikhe has its first directly-elected Mayor. Giorgi Kopadze was the Georgian Dream Party candidate & won a convincing majority.

Mr Kopadze was the head of the Georgian Dream's regional organisation and earlier had been an Acting Mayor of Akhaltzikhe. Akhaltzikhe was one of the 12 cities of Georgia that was given the opportunity of electing its own mayor rather than by appointment.



### OTHER AKHALTSIKHE NEWS

A large Group of more than 100 members of the Jaqeli family from different parts of Georgia visited the Rabati castle of Akhaltzikhe. They are considered as historical owners of the fortress. From 1578, the Samtskhe area, which the Jaqeli controlled, became a target of Ottoman expansion, and the Jaqelis after a futile resistance, conveniently apostatized to Islam. They were made hereditary pashas of Akhaltzikhe, a position which they retained, with some brief intermissions, within the family throughout the unceasing wars between the Ottomans, the Iranian dynasties and the Georgian rulers down to the eventual Russian conquest in 1829.

Nowadays tourism plays a crucial role in the development of Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The PR department of the Fortress has led on research to produce a full list of hotels in the region. Over a two-week period from mid-July NGO Green Academy and Akhaltzikhe Fortress carried out a joint project to develop a tourist route linking Uraeli Gorge and Niala fields. The famous Zemo Vardzia monastery has just been renovated. It's planned to make a list of all historical sites of the region. The authorities of the Fortress are taking part in a TV programme "Tourism in Samtskhe Javakheti" and some talk shows will be held in future on TV broadcast from the castle.

### CELEBRATING CANADA DAY



On July 1, Newcastle residents celebrated Canada Day with a bang. Families and friends enjoyed various events such as a giant waterslide, jumping castle, face painting, a balloonist clown, arts and crafts, and a temporary tattoo station. Also, Tara Watchorn, 2014 Olympic Gold Medalist with the Canadian Women's Hockey Team, accepted an Appreciation and Recognition award. In addition, Sacha Visagie, a local and up-and-coming singer, rocked the day away. During the evening, families also enjoyed a fireworks display co-ordinated to music, overlooking Lake Ontario



## How do people from one of the smallest Newcastles of the World celebrate its Anniversary? Jaunpils' Public Relations Specialist Baiba Rasa tell us

"During each weekend of May local people and visitors celebrated the 5th Anniversary of Jaunpils Municipality. It was established by joining of Jaunpils and Viesatas parishes on 1st July 2009, when the government began the territorial reforms.

The celebration began with the late Spring Fair on May 11th – with lots of things to do, trying local products, traditions and crafts. There were creative workshops and competitions – such as to find out which of Newcastle's women are the fastest knitters! Men could try the heavy stuff - driving tractors and fire engines (*why not ladies?* – ed)

On the 17th Jaunpils participated in the traditional Night of Museums. Jaunpils museum had special offers for visitors called "Treasures of Jaunpils in amber light" with castle tours, workshops and a concert.

Next day, families and foster families gathered together on the nature trail in the nearby hills to celebrate the traditional Day of Families.

Teams of LLC, authorities and other companies took part in an unusual race for this Day of Sport and Friendship (the Council was 3<sup>rd</sup>).

The 25th of May in Jaunpils was called the Day of Small Villages. Local amateur and folk art groups, representatives of Municipality Council, politicians, members of NGOs and visitors went to small villages. That day was very special and gave a lot of positive emotions to local people of being together, enjoying concerts and having fun.

31st of May was the Closing Event of the Anniversary. During the day everyone had a chance to visit local entrepreneurs. In the evening most part of the inhabitants joined in a solemn procession and enjoyed a gorgeous concert on an open air stage, eating special cake and dancing all night long!"

The Chairwoman of Jaunpils Municipality **Ligita Gintere** summed up what the celebrations were about: "People are the treasure of Jaunpils. People, who cultivate their soil with love, work hard on a daily basis, and know how to forget about the work at time of holidays."



## Benchmarking for Better Performance

Jaunpils Municipality Council has joined with the Latvian Association of Local Governments in a project called "Smart Governance and Performance Improvement of Latvian Municipalities". The Chairwoman of Jaunpils Municipality Council **Ligita Gintere** explained that the project "gave a new opportunity to evaluate our current performance, as well as think about what we can improve, learning from Polish and Norwegian experience and networking between municipalities." The overall aim of the project is to strengthen institutional capacity and develop human resources at national, regional and local levels, with a focus on marketing and on service to communities.



## So what was Newcastle Ontario councillor Willie Woo doing in his black suit, white shirt, ruby tie and ... red stilettos?

He was one of a number of male councillors who participated recently in the 6th annual "Walk a Mile in her Shoes" The men's walk against domestic violence is organised locally by Bethesda House, a local shelter for abused women. This year's walk raise nearly \$10,000 for the shelter. Pictured from left to right, Councillors Willie Woo, Joe Neal, Mayor Adrian Foster and Councillor Ron Hooper.

# 1214 ... And Neuchâtel became a city

## Commemorating the 800th anniversary of the charter franchises

In 2011 Neuchâtel celebrated 1000 years since its founding and its first castle - and this year the city has been celebrating the 800th anniversary of its historic charter. The Lords of Fenis came to rule and first adopted the name Neuchâtel, in 1214 according their subjects a franchise charter establishing their independence as a city. This document gave the city economic and social benefits, with a degree of management autonomy promoted to the bourgeois inhabitants, being the source of common policy.

800 years later, Neuchâtel is a thriving town, having developed from being a small town to the capital of one of the 26 states of the Swiss Confederation.

This important anniversary was marked with a solemn meeting of the General Council (Legislative Authority) on March 31. On April 4, in the presence of an audience of celebrities, the exhibition "1214 ... and Neuchâtel became a city" was opened. In addition, a book on the charter franchises was published in collaboration with the Archives of the City of Neuchâtel.

A round table discussion on "Sense and modernity of the Charter of 1214" was held on April 5 and free concerts were given by various musical ensembles, downtown and in the concert hall.



## Neuchâtel International Choral Festival

The International Choral Festival of Neuchâtel is a competition for amateur choral ensembles from around the world, which takes place every two years. This year, the Festival, in early August, showcased 450 singers from 13 countries in Europe, South America and even China



## Major European Time Frequency Forum meets in Neuchâtel



Organised by the University of Neuchâtel (through its Laboratory Time Frequency), the Swiss Centre for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM) and the Swiss Foundation for Research in Microtechnology (FSRM), Congress EFTF 2014 was held in Neuchâtel from 23 to 26 June 2014.

The Forum, the largest in Europe, dedicated to the time-frequency technologies brought together some 400 researchers, manufacturers and applications developers from around the world, working in fields ranging from telecommunications metrology, via satellite positioning, management of energy distribution networks, or time bases computers and mobile phones.

The Buskers Festival in the pedestrian area of Neuchâtel celebrated its 25th anniversary this August



# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ART SHOW IN NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO

Newcastle Memorial Arena was the venue for the town's annual Art Show, attracting over 1500 people from as far away as North Carolina, Nova Scotia and Alberta.

This year free booth space was provided to seven art local art students to promote and sell their creations. There was a great line up of musicians, starting with a rock and roll band, country and western, folk music and finally two classical musicians plying the audience with a wonderful compilation of Beatle's songs.

A framed piece of Art was presented to the 1500th guest, Bob and Joanne Sauve of the small hamlet of nearby Solina, Ontario.



## NEW CASTLE, INDIANA IN LINE FOR 200 NEW JOBS

There's news that a meat processing company will build a plant in Central Indiana, USA where it could have 200 workers within the next few years. New Castle-Henry County Economic Development Corp. President Corey Murphy says the project by Boar's Head Meats includes an initial investment of \$80 million. The New Castle Courier-Times reports the company is buying nearly 65 acres in an industrial park near New Castle. The Florida-based company processes delicatessen meats and has been looking at the New Castle location for the past few months.



After a year's absence because of bad ground conditions, Newcastle upon Tyne's famous "Hoppings" Fair returned in June - for a 132nd year. It's the world's biggest travelling funfair, located on Newcastle's Town Moor for nine days in June, and attracts around 500,000 people.

The fair began as a Temperance (no alcohol) Fair in 1882. It was timed to coincide with "Race Week" at Newcastle Racecourse, during which the Northumberland Plate horse race was run.

Several origins have been suggested for the name. Most relate to dancing, the word "hopping" meaning a dance in Middle English language (old fairs included dancing). Another idea stems from the clothing which the travellers used to wear - that being of old, sack-like tops and pants. Clothing often became infested with fleas from the animals that travelled with the fair! People were often seen "jumping" or "hopping" about itching from the bites which they received. Or more likely the name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "hoppen" meaning funfair.