

Newcastles of the World

Newsletter No. 17 - November/December 2016

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

A GREAT CONFERENCE IN CANADA !



A big thank you to our friends in the lovely town of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** for hosting our conference in September – it was perhaps the best yet, well-attended (lots of young people), with great discussions and ideas, and a lot of fun making new friends and enjoying new experiences. We were made welcome by the whole community, and our hosts worked so hard - they really deserved their post-conference party (see right).

You can see lots of photos from the conference on pages 2 and 3 and read the report on our website www.newcastlesoftheworld.com



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FROM ONE NEWCASTLE TO ANOTHER DOMINIK TAKES OUR MESSAGE FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC TO INDIA !



Dominik Čeněk from the **Nové Hradý** area ("Newcastle" in the Czech Republic) visited India and has taken the opportunity to call into **Hosakote** (near Bangalore) which is also "Newcastle". He is an ambassador for our alliance and met local officials to tell them all about us and seek their interest and support. This is how we grow! Hosakote (sometimes written as "Hoskote") is a town of over 50,000 people in the urban centre and in the neighbouring rural hinterland - we will welcome their involvement in Newcastles of the World, if they follow up Dominik's visit.

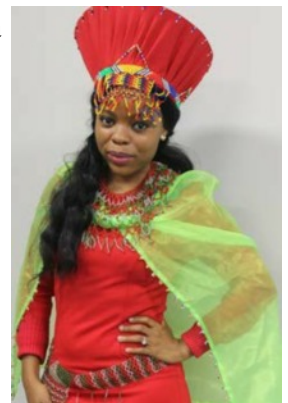


Ligita Gintere, who leads the Council in our Latvian Newcastle, **Jaunpils**, pictured at the castle at the town's book festival in September.



Right- Newcastle South Africa celebrated Heritage Month in September in colourful fashion.

Left - the famous US artist Robert Indiana's tribute to **New Castle**, his place of birth. See p 12 for more about him.



Below - Images of autumn (fall) from the northern hemisphere - the first two on the left from **Newcastle, Canada** and the other two from **Shinshiro Japan**.



CONFERENCE IMAGES



Our fantastic hosts

A welcome from the whole community

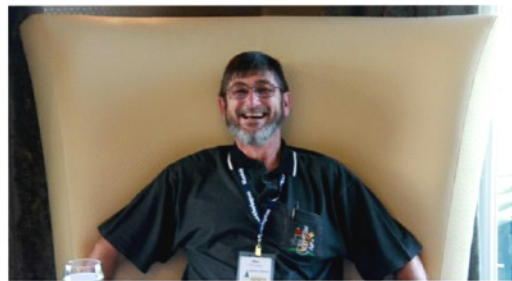


Business and relaxation



Promoting our own Newcastles





OUR WONDERFUL YOUTH DELEGATES



ALL TOGETHER NOW



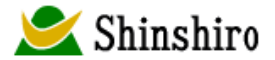
Mayor Profile and Interview: RYOJI HOZUMI, SHINSHIRO CITY

Because of their many duties, not all mayors are able to attend our conferences. So it was a special pleasure to welcome to Canada, Mayor Ryoji Hozumi of Shinshiro City, particularly when the visit coincided with his birthday!



He has always been a very strong supporter of the alliance, continuing the tradition behind Shinshiro's hosting of the very first conference in 1998 - and he has supported the city hosting again in two year's time for the 20th anniversary of the first conference.

Canada was not his first conference - he was in Newcastle-under-Lyme, United Kingdom in 2006 and Neuburg an der Donau in Germany in 2008.



Mayor Hozumi was first elected in Shinshiro in 2005, and then re-elected in 2009 and 2013. We wanted to find out more about him and his work as Mayor, so we asked some questions, and here are his answers!



What did you do before you entered politics? *I worked for forest administration in management. This is a very important resource for Japan - forests cover around 70% of the land area of Japan, and 82% in Shinshiro.*

What made you want to enter politics? *Regional towns and cities have many issues to tackle in Japan, and I believe that local government has a very big role to play in improving the quality of life for citizens, solving problems and creating a better society.*



What achievements are you most proud of as Mayor of Shinshiro? *I am proud of the way in which our young people are making a great contribution in our city, and I am pleased to have been able to help support and promote this. The youth who were the delegates of the Newcastles in the World conference in Newcastle upon Tyne in 2012 wished to create their own Youth Council - so we launched the first such organisation for young people in Japan. It has received much attention from all over Japan, and I encourage our young people to have their input into planning for the future of our city.*



What are the biggest challenges facing Shinshiro? *I mentioned several of these at the conference in Canada recently. After World War II, Japan developed and grew rapidly, and our population peaked in 2008. However, we are now facing the opposite problem of decreasing population, an ageing society and lower birth rates, so it's a totally new situation for us. This is a challenge, and a particularly serious issue in smaller towns and cities and in the farming community and mountain villages. We need to support our older people and keep them active, and to create jobs that keep our younger people in their communities and not moving to the big cities for work. We all citizens have to work together to build a new sense of well-being in our community.*



What are your hopes for the future of the Newcastles of the World alliance? *In the 21st century we live in what I call a "new era". Technology and travel gives us many more chances and choices for new experiences, meeting new people and facilitating cultural exchanges. I hope we can continue cooperating to help make a better world, using the strong friendships and connections that we have cultivated through our alliance.*

What can we look forward to seeing and experiencing when we come to Shinshiro in 2018?

Our heartfelt "Omotenashi", which means the Japanese way of treating a guest. It blends a welcoming spirit with warmth, understanding, and above all respect. So we look forward to receiving you as guests, to show you the natural beauty around us, the special Shinshiro culture, great food, meeting new people and enjoying new experiences, and of course constructive conference discussions and action. Quite simply - to come together again to enjoy each other's company and help us all achieve our dreams and wishes for the future.



Neuchâtel says Santé! Cheers! Gesondheid! Kanpai! Prost! Na Zdravi!

Vineyards have been on the hills of Neuchâtel since the 10th century so it's very appropriate that the city honours and celebrates their vineyards and wine annually with a colourful grape harvest festival.

This year's was the 91st, and one of the best yet - with stalls, music, fireworks and a great parade of the grape-harvest carts, decorated with flowers and loaded with the wine-grower's tools - see right.

And coming up next, from 5th to 12th November is the third edition of "Chocolatissimo!", the week-long celebration of the great tradition of chocolate-making in Neuchâtel and of its skilled chocolatiers and its confectioners. The chocolate will be in all its sculpted and creative forms from shaped garden gnomes and fish to recreating famous paintings with chocolate squares of different colors. They will also have the opportunity to taste chocolates blind, with wine or whisky, or with a musical accompaniment to check if the melody influences the taste! The event will also host a Swiss champion practitioner of latte art (cappuccinos and hot chocolates decor), Neuchâtel's own Philippe Gobat. We'll bring you photos next time but meantime see: <http://chocolatissimo.ch/programme>

FOOD AND DRINK



But there will be even more gastronomic celebrations next year as Neuchâtel will be the next Swiss "City of Taste" ("Ville du Goût") in 2017! The announcement was made in September at the closing ceremony of this year's "Swiss Week of Taste" ("Semaine du Goût") in the town of Liestal in the canton of Basel-Landschaft. Since 2001, Switzerland has hosted a *Semaine du goût* each year, which highlights regional food products and promotes sustainable practices related to health and the environment.

Throughout the next year a series of culinary and cultural events will take place, and the full programme will be announced in February. A host of events are expected in 2017, under the direction of "the Neuchâtel taste", an association of actors of gastronomy and the City of Neuchâtel whose mission is to promote diversity and quality of local products. The demonstrations, which take place both in downtown and in neighbourhoods and city parks, will have the motto "Neuchâtel to meet all tastes." In addition to chocolate and wine, there's *torrée* (sausage), tripe, fish from the Lake of Neuchâtel, and much more to celebrate and enjoy. Read more about this and about Swiss Cuisine on the blog of Neuchâtel resident and writer Heddi Nieuwsma: <https://cuisinehelvetica.com/>

The first **food festival** in **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, UK took place in September. The harvest inspired festival included an artisan style market, featuring all the regular favourites of Newcastle's Friday Farmers' Market and events curated especially for the event, including food-related art workshops. Local scouts marched through the town with a band and with supermarket trolleys painted with edibles. The aim of Foodfest was not only to enjoy the best of local produce and support local restaurants but also to raise awareness of food poverty, and the need for food security and sustainability in the area.

FoodFest 16 Committee Member, Jayne Fair, says: "The event aimed to be fun and delicious, of course, but we have a really important message at the heart of it. We wanted to bring awareness to food poverty, which is a real problem in the area, as well food security and sustainability – reducing wastage, eating well, growing and cooking with fresh ingredients and buying local. I think regulars and newcomers to the town really enjoyed the two days we've put together. We were truly excited for our first ever FoodFest and hope it continues for years to come."



It's not only Germany where October time brings the beer festivals. **Nyborg**, our Newcastle in Denmark, now has a well-established "**Oktoberfest**" where a little (?) beer is drunk, not to mention the great food and music.



THE “INTEGRATION CAMPUS” IS UNDER WAY FOR NEUBURG

In October, politicians and professors from the Technical University in Ingolstadt, Bavaria met with refugees at the Lassigny Compound to celebrate the start of the “Integration Campus” of **Neuburg an der Donau**. The Integration Campus aims at preparing refugees for a successful integration into German society. Highly-qualified refugees are getting prepared for important jobs in the economy by providing them with adequate academic qualification programmes. In order to ensure future employment, the academic programmes particularly focus on industries/occupational fields with high labour shortages. The academic qualification programmes enable students to study their chosen area of specialisation at a German University. The Integration Campus is located centrally in Bavaria and combines learning and living at one place in the city of Neuburg. The academic programme is designed to provide great support to students while requiring a high degree of engagement and commitment at the same time.

Vice President, Mr Thomas Doyé said there had been some doubts whether this idea could be realised. But in the end there were more than 100 applicants of whom 20 met the criteria and can now start their university career. Half of the applicants are from Afghanistan, the others from China, Syria, Uganda and Palestine; the only female student so far is from Nigeria. The project will be located at Neuburg (study centre of the Institute for Executive Education) during the pilot phase, then move to the Lassigny barracks (Neuburg) during the main phase of the project.



In the first semester the focus will be put on language and integration classes; in the following three terms they will attend courses in engineering and economic sciences. Many of the students have already completed their degrees or at least started their studies at home. Next term the number of students will be much higher, when refugees from all over Bavaria are invited to come to Neuburg and join the Intergration Campus. The final target is about 1,000 students living and studying in Neuburg. Even though the THI awaits the final funding decision from the Ministry. The first courses are funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with EUR 50 000.

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS NEWS



Newcastle-under-Lyme, UK has won the much-prized overall “Heart of England in Bloom” title for the first time. It also took a 15th consecutive gold award in the “small city” category of the annual horticultural contest, and more awards for individual parks.

Councillor Elizabeth Shenton, Leader of the Council, said: “We are totally stunned by all of the honours and awards. To win the overall title for the first time ever is a huge thing. This isn’t just a reflection on the hard work which the Council puts in to keep our town looking beautiful, but also recognition for all the community groups, schools, businesses and residents who work side-by-side with us to make the borough such a great place to live and work”

Colourful floral displays in Newcastle town centre celebrated 2016 Olympic Games hosts Rio de Janeiro. The Grosvenor Gardens featured blue, white and yellow petals in honour of Brazil’s national flag while the world famous Copacabana beach was recreated at the Queen’s Gardens with palm trees and tropical-themed beds bursting with yellow, gold and blue plants.

In Denmark, **Nyborg** Municipality has decided in cooperation with Østfyns Museums to take forward a project to restore and revitalize the ferry M/F Broen (“The Bridge”) as a “culture ferry“. The ferry is from 1952 and the last surviving Great Belt ferry in Denmark (the Great Belt is the strait between the major islands of Zealand and Funen). It is a testimony to the country's proud shipbuilding and design traditions.

Ferry operations have been a vital part of Denmark's infrastructure for a thousand years and the ferries always docked in Nyborg. The main idea of the project is to place the ferry in dry dock near the city centre at its old pier, and the project is viewed in the context of the ongoing Castle Project to revitalize Nyborg.

The ferry will not just be a museum, but a living culture ferry with lots of activities plus room for professional services. The project is now in a phase where the initial explorations have been completed and work is underway to develop the implementation plan and seek external funds.

A LIVING CULTURE FERRY

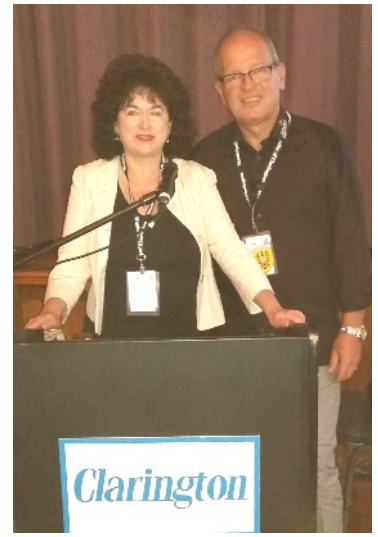


TOURISM

Newcastles Passport - experience visiting another Newcastle !

At our conference Zélie Guérin (Secretariat) and Daniel Veuve (Neuchâtel, Switzerland) presented on the Newcastles Passport, an exciting initiative designed by the Secretariat, at the request of the Newcastle Mayors, to promote tourism and friendship amongst us. Visitors between Newcastles will be able to view tourism offers for each participating Newcastle via the Newcastles of the World website and download /collect a 'Passport' to access special offers. This will include exclusive offers of places to visit, places to stay, places to dine, people to meet and other offers that highlight the individual culture of each Newcastle.

The Newcastles have endorsed the project at the conference, with Neuchâtel acting as project champion. Tourism offers are being gathered, with some tremendous experiences proposed. For example, you can go on a guided hiking tour at Mount Horaiji in beautiful Shinshiro City, Japan, as part of the Newcastles Passport! We'll go live in the first quarter of 2017. Watch this space!



LE FIGARO

Journalists from French daily Le Figaro are currently taking part in a media tour of Georgia and plan to write a 10-page coverage story highlighting Georgia's tourism potential, including **Akhaltshikhe**. The article will appear in Le Figaro in spring 2017. Le Figaro's print edition currently has a circulation of 400,000 readers in France, while its online edition has 31 million monthly readers.

"Flat Larry" is a proud community member of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, USA who travels the world taking pictures of his adventures! He's looked after by his friends at the Lawrence County Tourist Promotion Agency, based in New Castle, and carries the county's tourism message from place to place - make sure to send your photos!



Here he is in Newcastle, Ontario, Canada!

The **New Castle (Indiana, USA)** Board of Aviation Commissioners recently received welcome news that State and federal sources combined are providing nearly \$3 million to fund construction of a new runway at the New Castle-Henry County Municipal Airport.



The board has been working on the construction of a longer, wider runway that will accommodate small jet-powered and large propeller-powered aircraft for the past decade. Assorted elected officials and community leaders have said the larger runway is needed to enhance local economic development efforts and to accommodate companies already doing business in Henry County. New Castle Mayor Greg York (pictured), who serves on the local aviation board, said: "This is some of the most exciting news we've had in 15 years."

If all goes as planned, preliminary construction of a new runway that is at least 1300 metres long by 23 metres wide should begin before the end of 2016 with the bulk of the construction taking place as soon as the weather allows in the

A new multi-purpose cruise terminal will be built in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** within the Port's Carrington Precinct, it has been announced. The \$13.5 million facility will be able to accommodate world-class cruise ships up to 320 metres long, meaning a big increase in the range and number of cruise liners that will call into the port. When not used by cruise ships, the terminal can be used for naval visits, meetings and events.

The Port of Newcastle is the largest bulk shipping port on the east coast of Australia and the world's leading coal export port. Due for completion in 2018, construction of the terminal will begin next year. At the launch at the Port of Newcastle, New South Wales Premier Mike Baird said the new development "will encourage some of the greatest liners in the world to stop right here in the heart of Newcastle".

NEW CRUISE TERMINAL ON THE WAY !



Recently, the Port of Tyne at **Newcastle upon Tyne (United Kingdom)** experienced the busiest day ever at the



International Passenger Terminal down river in North Shields with the arrival of five ships, including the biggest cruise ship ever to visit the Port. Holland America Line's Koningsdam broke records as the largest cruise ship to visit the port, measuring a massive 297m long and weighing 99,500 tons. Launched in April this year, Koningsdam is one of the world's newest cruise ships and brought almost 4,000 tourists and crew to the region. As the North East of England's regional gateway, there are over 625,000 cruise and ferry passengers passing through the Port of Tyne every year.

PEOPLE

THE MAYOR'S BEHIND BARS!

No sooner had **Newcastle** in KwaZulu-Natal, **South Africa** appointed its new mayor but he was put in prison! In an effort to raise funds for the CANSA relay taking place on 15 October, Mayor Makhosini Nkosi had to spend time behind bars until the public could bail him out with bail set for 10 000 rand. The Mayor amazingly outdid the target by raising four times that amount. Relay for Life is a global event that unites communities all over the world in the fight against cancer.

Every year there are approximately 6 000 Relay for Life events worldwide, of which more than a hundred are in South Africa. CANSA Relay For Life aims to bring awareness of cancer to the corporate companies and businesses, and the public, in this manner, involving everyone in the fight against cancer.

Our congratulations to the new mayor and his Executive team members (below), including Matthew Shunmugam, third from left, who has attended many of our conferences.



YOUNG INVENTOR KARLO TRIUMPHS AGAIN !

Last year we reported on two 16 year old Georgian schoolboys from **Akhaltshikhe**, Irakli Kapanadze and Karlo Khutsishvili, who won a prestigious Millennium Innovations Award. They invented the “Multiclimatizator,” which can measure the humidity and temperature of the soil and forecast the expected weather from a long distance, a huge benefit to farmers and others. Their reward was a visit to the NASA Kennedy Space Center, in the USA.

Now Karlo, together with his sister Ana and cousin Tornike, has come up with a new, life-saving invention. “Life Saver” consists of two drones that both can find and then safely clear landmines without risking human lives. Karlo said “The idea came when we learned that one person dies every 19 minutes from a landmine explosion. In comparison with other similar drones our invention almost does not require any human intervention in the process. The device is operated from an iPad or ordinary computer; it can remotely fly over long distances and safely clear the mines. Life Saver has both wings and wheels so that it can freely travel through air, land and even water.



Their project won the scientific contest in Georgia and took them to the International Young Inventor Olympiad.

NEUBURG MAN IS A LIFE-SAVER



Bert Schuler from Neuburg an der Donau, Germany had been so troubled by the terrible loss of life that he had seen among refugees in the Mediterranean that he decided to do something about it. He took his own boat “Sea-Eye” to search for refugee boats off the Libyan coast – and saved many people from certain death. In doing so he also put himself in danger from people smugglers or military speedboats. The 49-year-old engineer travelled from Valetta, Malta towards the Libyan coast together with seven fellow helpers.

The Sea-Eye patrolled, day after day, for several weeks, one of many boats searching for refugee boats. When they spotted two refugee boats in distress, both of them with over 100 people packed dangerously onto six or seven metres of deck space, they took to their dinghies, threw life vests to the refugees and took them aboard the Sea Eye, in relays. A navy ship later arrived and took the refugees to safety in Italy.



The refugees had started their journey towards Europe, hoping for a better future, with only the clothes they stood up in. Bert Schuler did not believe that they were aware of the dangers they would be facing during the crossing of the Mediterranean. “It is not acceptable to do nothing,” he explains his motivation. “I do not have a political solution, but you cannot let people drown. If no one rescues the refugees, then most of them will die.”

ARTS AND CULTURE

“TWO NEWCASTLES” - MORE TO COME?



Performers from the Newcastles in the north east of England and in **South Africa** have been working together to create a new piece of theatre. The project celebrates both the differences and common ground shared by two cities and the people who live there. “Two Newcastles” is a piece of work which was born during a cultural exchange visit by Curious Monkey theatre company to South Africa last year when they met the local artists from the Newcastle Arts Development Organisation (NADO).

Initially, the artists and producers worked together in a very 21st century manner, using the communication technologies at their disposal to swap ideas, music and experiences, based on the nature and heritage of their respective home Newcastles. But in August the artists met each other for the first time proper in Newcastle upon Tyne. The project was supported by Newcastles of the World who raised most of the funds for the visitors from the Arts Council of England.

Amy Golding of Curious Monkey said she had around 50 applications after throwing out an open casting call for North East performers to be involved with the project. “I wanted to cast people who had stories to tell from here so there’s a real sense of both places in the piece. The hope for the future is to create a piece of theatre which we then perform in both Newcastles ... and then later we hope maybe some of the others all

over the world. We have been talking lots about the commonalities between the two Newcastles. They are both quite industrial places with a coal mining heritage. “We’ve also been exploring the shared experiences and frustrations between artists working in the two places. There’s a lot of similarities there!”

A warm friendship developed quickly between the two groups, featuring stories, songs and history from the two Newcastles. Amy said “Next summer we will work more intensively on the piece, with the intention of premiering it at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, at the South Africa National Arts Festival, where we first met”

NYBORG AND THE CHINESE MOVIE



With incense sticks, pigs heads and dragon fruits, the ceremony for a Chinese film 'Stolen Fairytales', recorded in Nyborg, was launched on September 23rd Nyborg is the main location for the film with many recognisable sites including the castle, city hall, marina, Vor Frue Kirke, Nyborg Cemetery, Hotel Sinatur Great Belt, Great Belt Bridge and more. There are also citizens of the municipality engaged as extras in the film. It’s a comedy about two men and a woman in their own way trying to grab precious jewels, and was recorded over 12 days in the city. It will be ready for display at the start of 2017 and will appear on leading Chinese Internet portals.

In celebration of Heritage Month in **Newcastle South Africa**, the Municipality under the leadership of Mayor Makhosini Nkosi officially opened the Albert Luthuli Photographic exhibition at the town’s Carnegie Art Centre. The event was also attended by officials from the Department of Art and Culture of KwaZulu-Natal province.

Albert Luthuli was a South African teacher (who taught in Newcastle as a young man), activist and politician. He was elected president of the African National Congress that led opposition to the white minority government in South Africa. He was awarded the 1960 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the non-violent struggle against apartheid. He was the first African, and the first person from outside Europe and the Americas, to be awarded the prize.



ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD



There are more than 100 different “Newcastles” or “New Castles” around the globe, in many different countries and in different languages. It was the mayor of one of them, in Shinshiro, Japan, who took the initiative to bring the Newcastles together via the Newcastles of the World summit in 1998. Subsequent gatherings were held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (New Castles of Indiana and Pennsylvania) 2002, South Africa 2004 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2014 and Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism. www.newcastlesoftheworld.com

YOUTH

NEWCASTLE'S INNOVATIVE YOUNG PEOPLE

In the quest to prepare and equip young people for the challenging world of business, **Newcastle (South Africa)** Sakekamer (Business Chamber) has run a Student Entrepreneurial Competition (SEC). The initiative focused on the importance of planning a business and highlighted the positive effect entrepreneurs had on society as a whole; a large number of entrants from local high schools worked diligently on their business plans.

The top five were selected and invited to present their business plan in a "Dragon's Den"-style event.

Harish Singh from St Dominic's Academy clinched the first place prize of 10 000 rand with a grey (rain) water harvesting plan. Not only did his plan cater for parts, but he would also install the product, ensuring a service alongside equipment to be sold. Deah Oriee took second place with her plan of compacting and reselling disused electrical equipment. Other proposals also focused on environmental sustainability. One took discarded items and turned them into trays, and another finalist brought his line of jewellery, which was made from the inner lining of car tyres. Yet another also turned rubbish into art.



The Sakekamer's NT Oosthuizen with winner Harish Singh



SQUEEZING MORE JUICE

The annual Juice Festival took place recently in **Newcastle upon Tyne UK**, celebrating the creativity of children and young people with nine days of events, performances and experiences produced by, for and with children and young people. It's a multi-arts festival in cultural venues, libraries and public spaces in Newcastle and Gateshead featuring dance, performance, exhibitions and workshops, as well as inclusive events for children, young people and families with additional needs.

<http://www.newcastle-gateshead.com/juice-festival>

NEUCHÂTEL'S "TREE OF TRAINING"

The 41 new apprentice trainees who started in the city of Neuchâtel this autumn/fall have each been symbolised with their names tagged on a "tree of training" in the city centre, together with a record of their chosen trade. This is an initiative which demonstrates visually Neuchâtel's new "Learning City" policy - both proactive and innovative.



MOBILE DRAMA MESSAGE

A hard-hitting drama has been touring education sites in **Newcastle-under-Lyme, UK** to highlight the dangers of being distracted by mobile phones while driving. Teenagers are being targeted by the "Message Not Delivered" production which has been developed by the New Vic Borderlines Theatre Group working with police and fire officers. It focuses on young people who are either already driving or getting ready to begin driving lessons.

A disproportionate number of young people are killed or seriously injured on the roads each year: Although 17-24-year-old drivers account for only three to five per cent of car miles driven, they make up almost one quarter of drivers killed on Britain's roads. Thousands more are injured.

Following the play, there are participatory workshops allowing young people in the audience the opportunity to interact with the scenes in the production and identifying changes that could be made in the behaviours and decisions of the characters, and explore ways in which they could influence others and be strong enough to avoid becoming involved in similar incidents themselves.



FLYING THE FLAGS OF WELCOME

There was a big city-wide welcome in September to almost 20,000 new university and college students and nearly 40,000 returning students to **Newcastle upon Tyne, UK**, but especially to those coming to the city from around the world. Newcastle plays host to students from almost 150 countries. For a very visual, public welcome, the city set about flying their national flags outside the civic centre and elsewhere around the city.

Sustaining our town and district centres



How to sustain and revitalise our town centres and make them better able to face the challenges faced from online sales and competition from out-of-town shopping centres? What lead should governments give? These questions were at the heart of the discussions of the conference of the Coordination of the Cities of **Switzerland**, from the French-speaking area of the country, who met recently in **Neuchâtel**.

Olivier Arni (left), Conseiller Communal for urban development and economy, played a leading role in the conference, and will become President of the Coordination in March next year. Olivier has proposed the creation of a research observatory for the Cities, to promote the exchange of best practices "Working together, we can move mountains!" he said. This is also one of the common themes for Newcastle of the World, and you can find more information on our website.

Bridging the Danube

Neuburg an der Donau (Germany) has long been troubled by very bad traffic congestion in the centre, and this stems from there being only one bridge over the Danube to link the town to its northern suburbs.

Controversial plans for a second bridge to bring a bypass of the centre were put to the people of the town for a vote during October.

Former councillor Walter Friemel says: "It was the first time in our history that the citizens of Neuburg were asked to cast a vote on an important issue concerning the future of the town. This kind of opinion poll is actually not a referendum, which means that the Council is not bound by the public vote and can in theory decide against the decision".

However, there was a clear outcome, with almost 70% in favour of a second bridge on a 58% turnout.



Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) is one of 33 new High Streets selected for the "Business in the Community" Healthy High Streets programme across the UK. The programme aims to increase footfall by 10%, reduce the number of vacant properties by 20% and stimulate the creation of new jobs in 100 towns over three years. The programme first launched in June 2014 and is backed by some of the UK's biggest high street brands, including Boots UK, Greggs, Marks & Spencer and Santander.

The town will receive a bespoke package of support, including access to skills and expertise. There will be dedicated High Street Champions from supporting businesses who will work together with the local partnership team, local authority and relevant local partners to devise an action plan to address the specific challenges facing the town. The impact results for the 3 year programme will be announced in July 2017. In the last year the programme has brought resources worth £17 million (20m euros) from its corporate partners into 67 UK high streets. There's more here:

<http://www.bitc.org.uk/programmes/healthy-high-streets>



The **Newcastle Sakekamer/Business Chamber** was awarded the Vice President's trophy for the best Sakekamer in the whole of **South Africa** at the AHI national conference in October. Regulars at our conferences will recognise Chamber President Japie Myburgh holding the trophy.



Legal & General Capital plans to support the 400 million euros **Newcastle (upon Tyne) Science Central**, one of the biggest urban regeneration projects of its kind in the UK. The unique deal will see the financial services giant become a long term investment partner on Science Central alongside Newcastle City Council and Newcastle University. Legal & General Capital's initial 75m euros million investment will fund completion of two buildings on premium plots offering Grade A office space, creating 2,000 jobs and boosting economic growth, and will help unlock the potential of further investment in commercial and residential plots.

The investment is the biggest deal seen in Newcastle for decades, and Legal & General Capital's investment follows recent announcements that a National Centre for Energy Systems Integration will be built on site. This is the third national centre of excellence secured on Science Central - along with the National Centre for Ageing Science and Innovation, and the National Institute for Smart Data Innovation.

City Council Leader Nick Forbes (right between Professor Chris Brink of Newcastle University and Nigel Wilson of Legal and General) said: "This is a major milestone for Newcastle, and one which sets a clear marker of our ambitions as a city. Securing the deal will act as a catalyst to attract further investment, putting us firmly on the map as a UK hub for the science and technology sector and creating knowledge-based jobs for future generations, sending out a strong message that Newcastle is open for business."



NEWS FROM AROUND OUR NEWCASTLES

One of the largest projects planned for 2017 by the Ministry of Energy in the Republic of **Georgia** is the 220 kV **Akhaltsikhe**-Batumi transmission line, with an estimated cost of GEL 45.6mn (~US\$ 20mn), financed by the World Bank. This is a key part of the country's programme for the construction and rehabilitation of strategically important transmission infrastructure.



The city council of **Nové Zámky (Slovakia)** has convened a workshop on the revitalisation of the main town square. Professor Michael Sarafina, of the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, met with representatives of the city council, Members of Parliament and others. The main aim is to restore the spirit and quality of the central concourse. The idea is to make the square greener, adding water features to create a climate of comfort even during the summer heat. There would be seating areas for residents and spaces for cultural and social events. The project creators are looking to the public for their views.

The Mayor of **Newcastle South Africa**, Cllr Makhosini Nkosi, accompanied by the officials from the municipal Development Planning and Human Settlements department, attended the 2016 Govan Mbeki Award ceremony in Durban. The Municipality was awarded the first runner up prize, sharing the award for Best Level 2 Accredited Municipality with eThekweni Municipality. uMhlathuze Municipality took first place in this category. This is for excellence in residential planning and housing development.



A new creative hub has opened premises in **Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK)** to offer businesses and community groups access to state-of-the-art facilities - including TV production equipment and the ability to 'live stream' video content across social media. Groups can hire the studios and equipment to put on their own TV shows or music events and stream it all on the internet at the same time. It is a flexible venue and its location in the heart of Newcastle meaning it's a great choice for local businesses looking for somewhere to stage conferences and hold networking and training events that are a little bit different.

Germany's most successful travel writer Carmen Rohrbach visited **Neuburg an der Donau** giving a talk that took the audience on a more than 3000km long cycle trip along the Danube, one of the most impressive cultural landscapes and natural spaces in Europe. Her adventurous life revealed the substance for over a dozen books. She told of her escape attempt from the GDR, where she swam through the Baltic Sea for two days and nights. She went through the deserts of Yemen alone with a camel, through Mongolia on a horse, she worked as a biologist on the Galapagos Islands, and went on a pilgrimage to Santiago, accompanied by her donkey Chocolat.



Newcastle, Australia has won a prestigious international award for great festivals and events for the third year running. The city was recognised best in the world for community leadership and festival and event partnerships at the annual International Festivals & Events Association Convention in Tucson, Arizona, USA at the end of September.

Newcastle outranked cities of a similar population tally to be named the 2016 recipient of the IFEA's World Festival & Event City. "This award marks the hat-trick for the city," Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said, "and confirms that the work being undertaken by Newcastle City Council in the festival and event sector is world class. "From sporting events to arts and cultural festivals, markets, conventions and exhibitions, we offer a range of experiences for visitors and locals to enjoy"



Kelantan State Federal Action Council chairman Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed has proposed that the Municipal Council of **Kota Bharu** Islamic City develop designated bicycle paths along major roads in the city. Mustapa said the city of Kota Bharu was now becoming densely populated and must be bicycle-friendly not just for recreation and to protect the environment, but also to make it easier to get to work. "Providing a designated bicycle path is important so that cycling is safe rather than sharing the same route with motorcycles and cars. That's dangerous," he said after participating in the Merdeka Patriotic Cycling Fun Ride 2016 programme along with 1,000 cyclists in September.

CYCLE PATHS URGED



KOTA BHARU CELEBRATES MALAYSIA DAY

Malaysia Day celebrations were held on 16 September in Kota Bharu at Sultan Muhammad IV stadium. It was a colourful parade, with almost 2000 participants from 58 enforcement and state government agencies. 500 invited guests attended the function, which was officiated by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakob. During the parade, participants waved the flags of all the states of Malaysia in a show of unity and patriotism.

HERITAGE AND TRADITION



JAUNPILS NEW COIN FOR THE 715 YEAR - OLD CASTLE

Marking the 715th anniversary of the great medieval castle in Jaunpils, the town now has a commemorative heritage coin to treasure. Latvian National Heritage collections coins makes it possible to preserve the memories of place, time and values. The coins were presented during the annual castle festival in August.

THE MOUNTAIN IS STILL ON FIRE ...

In early September it was again time for the BURNING MOUNTAIN festival in New Castle, Colorado, USA, celebrating its long coal mining heritage. There's a seam still alight in the mountain above the town years after mining finished.



FIRE ON ANOTHER MOUNTAIN - IN SHINSHIRO

In August **Shinshiro** ("Newcastle" in Japan) marked "Hiondori" - the annual ceremony to commemorate more than 10,000 souls of the dead in the battle of Nagashino (1575), to pray for their ancestors and dispel evil spirits. At this ceremony, on the mountain where they are said to be buried, there is a parade of huge torches which are the configured to the shape of "8". Dancers swing the torches dramatically. "Hiondori" means fire dance. For more info and a short film see http://f-pedia.r-cms.biz/en/topics_detail9/id=166



CELEBRATING HERITAGE MONTH

September marks annual Heritage Month in South Africa and it is used to celebrate and promote the varied cultural heritage of the nation. It is a month dedicated to recognise its heritage, both tangible and intangible. Tangible heritage refers to buildings, historic places, artefacts and monuments, while intangible are attributes inherited from past generations such as language and knowledge. This year marks 20 years since Heritage Day was proclaimed in 1996 and this year it was commemorated under the theme "Human Treasures and Legends: our Living Heritage", meaning cultural expressions and practices.



AS THE BEATLES SANG: "ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE"

As part of the effort to revitalize its downtown area, the City of New Castle, Indiana is working to create an art walk with a replica of Robert Indiana's famous LOVE sculpture featured. Robert Indiana was born in New Castle, Indiana – see our article in our December 2015 newsletter. The path will also include other metal sculptures, various art and education components, rain gardens, youth sculptures and other enhancements for the community to enjoy.

The area being developed includes the Arts Park, the Artisan's Annex and Art Association of Henry County building, New Castle-Henry County Public Library, Murphey Park adjacent to the old armoury and the Henry County Historical Society Museum.

New Castle's Main Street organization is spearheading efforts to bring the Robert Indiana Arts and Culture heritage to life.



WHAT A JOURNEY !

Last year, our Newcastle in Latvia, **Jaunpils**, began a special relationship with Moldova when it signed twinning agreements with three of its municipalities - Andrusul de Jos, Radeni and Stefan Festelita Voda. They had visited Jaunpils and so Jaunpils paid a reciprocal visit in September. The Jaunpils party comprised President Ms Ligita Gintere, MP, Education, culture, sports and social committee chairman Raivo Altenburgs, Executive Director Peter Baranovski; Development director for Vija Ziverte: Head of Public relations and tourism Baiba Rasa, social service representative Inita Lapiņa; and cultural department representative Gunta Bondere.

But another equally important person from Jaunpils was Aivars Mikelsons. The party decided to keep the costs down by travelling the 2500km from Latvia to Moldova, right across Europe through Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania , by minibus – and Aivars was the driver!

The visit was well worth it and covered many topics of shared interest – financial management and governance; tourism; economic, social and environmental development, and opportunities for cultural exchange. The visitors worked hard when they were there – meetings with officials; radio and TV interviews; visit to businesses, schools and museums, and more. For Ligita Gintere and Baiba Rasa this was in addition to visiting Canada that same month for the Newcastles of the World conference. What stamina!



A CERTAIN STYLE



The North Hill Historic District of **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA** is a residential neighbourhood in the city that is in the National Register of Historic Places. The 91-block district consists of 450 acres (1.8 km²) and is of historic value due to the many ornate homes and mansions — many dating back to the 19th century — within its boundaries.

The district includes a variety of architectural styles. Its 1,888 buildings include Late 19th and early 20th Century, late Victorian, and late 19th and 20th Century Revivals. One such residence was built in 1895 for Mathias Holstein Henderson, a prominent New Castle resident who at the time was vice-president of Lawrence Saving and Trust (now National City Bank). Also located in the district is the famous Scottish Rite Cathedral. The majority of residences built between 1890 and 1930 reflect the rapid growth of the railroads, tin and steel industries in the area.

Most of the homes in the district are built of masonry or wood and contain multiple floors.

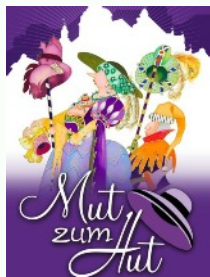
The sidewalk/pavement patterns of the district have remained unchanged since at least 1904. Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, and Colonial Revival are the most common design styles of homes overlooking the downtown area. For more information: http://www.livingplaces.com/PA/Lawrence_County/New_Castle_City/North_Hill_Historic_District.html

H. M. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark has become patron of "Nyborg Castle - Medieval Christiansborg". This is Her Majesty the Queen's first Funen province patronage. Kenneth Muhs, mayor of the municipality of Nyborg said: "I am very happy and grateful for the Queen's commitment. In Nyborg we have big heritage ambitions which is important for local identity, pride and growth. The Queen's support is much appreciated and a very valuable contribution to the project for Nyborg castle in particular – for its revitalisation and for World Heritage Site status.

THE ROYAL SEAL



"Mut zum Hut", Europe's biggest hat fair took place again in **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany, recently!



Newcastle Australia
Mayor Nuatali Nelmes welcomes new citizens at the latest citizenship ceremony.

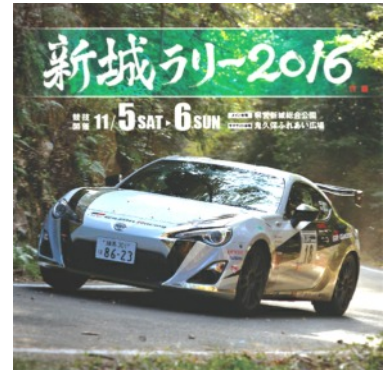


The month of October is about respect for the elders in **Nové Zámky (Slovakia)**. Here Deputy Mayor Lukáš Štefánik greets older members of the community at local events.

SPORT

Shinshiro Rally draws in the crowds

One of biggest events in Auto Racing in Japan comes to a climax over the first weekend in November in **Shinshiro**. The All-Japan Rally Championship attracts over 50,000 people annually - more than the entire population of the city! This is the 13th staging of the rally in Shinshiro and the forest roads around the city, and it's the final, exciting stage of the championship. The public can watch for free, make a demo run, take pictures of rally queens, and ride in a rally car!



Jen raises high hopes



The **Newcastle Jets FC**, also known as the Newcastle Jets Women, Australian football (soccer) team were founded in 2008, and are the affiliated women's team of Newcastle Jets, New South Wales.

The team competes in the country's premier women's soccer competition, the W-League, and is just about to start the new season - with high hopes.

The Jets have just recruited American star Jen Hoy from Chicago Red Stars. Jen has never played out of the US before and is excited to get started with the Jets. She hopes she will bring maturity to the young side as well as help the Jets win the championship.

We have written before about the excellence of the martial arts club in **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic, and the international reputation of its director Martin Hermann. In mid-October in the Sports Hall of South Bohemia University in České Budějovice close to Nove Hradý, Martin was tournament director for a new international martial arts championship. Over 200 participants in jiu-jitsu, karate and taekwondo took part, from Germany, Poland, Austria, Macedonia, Ukraine and many clubs from the Czech Republic. They called it the "South Bohemia Olympics"!



As part of an agreement concluded between the municipality of **Nyborg** and Danish Football Association, the municipality staged matches of the Under 19 Boys - International Championship in the Nyborg Sports Centre in September.

They may be youngsters but many of them both train and play for Super League clubs, for example PSV Eindhoven and Dortmund.

HC Nové Zámky is an ice hockey team in **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia, founded in 1965. They play in the Slovak Extraliga, the top level of ice hockey in the country, ranked as the fifth strongest league in Europe and the sixth strongest league in the world.

Nove Zamky's Deputy Mayor Lukáš Štefánik, who led his city's delegation to the Newcastle of the World conference, celebrated the recent impressive away victory of his team over top of the table HC Košice.



The 31st Great North Run, the world's largest half-marathon race, took place from **Newcastle upon Tyne** (United Kingdom) to South Shields in September. Over 50,000 runners took part and double Olympic 5000 and 10000 metre champion Mo Farah won the race for a record third time.



The Municipality of Clarington, Canada (includes **Newcastle**) recognized its sporting heroes during its annual Sports Hall of Fame ceremony in early October. Included this time was the outstanding Clarke High School Senior Boys Volleyball team of 1992 that won medals at state level.

