

Newcastles News

The Newsletter of
“Newcastles of the World”

October/November 2015

Sent by email to over 2000 people and organisations in over 50
“Newcastles” - please make sure you share it with your contacts too!

NEUBURG WELCOMES REFUGEES

For several years now, Neuburg an der Donau in Bavaria, Germany has given welcome and shelter for asylum seekers.

The city uses a compound in which 450 people from 27 different nations have been living. Since June 2015 Neuburg has put up another 500 refugees for a limited period of time. The first two groups of 150 people each were accommodated in two gymnasium halls of the local high school. Volunteers have been looking after the refugees, who have come mainly from Syria, Afghanistan and Eritrea. The Studienseminar (a former boarding school) offered a classroom where the refugees could attend German lessons (see photo). As at the end of the summer holidays the gym halls were needed for the pupils, so the latest arrivals are being housed in a newly renovated building on what was formerly an army camp near the city centre.



The refugees stay for about six weeks whilst arrangements are made to transfer them to other parts of Bavaria. With the help of many volunteers and the enormous support of the local population Neuburg has so far been able to cope with the situation quite well. We congratulate the German government, its municipalities and its people for their humanity and generosity in responding so positively to this crisis and to the needs of so many displaced families.

**SPORT
 BRINGS US
 ALL
 TOGETHER**



Newcastle upon Tyne is one of the host cities for the 2015 Rugby World Cup in England and has staged three matches. The World Cup finals have featured South Africa, Australia, Japan, Georgia, USA, Canada, France, Italy, Romania, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England, so people in lots of Newcastles will have had an interest!

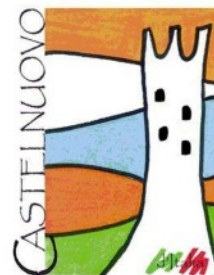
Newcastle upon Tyne was delighted to welcome friends from **Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal** for the South Africa v Scotland game – won by South Africa, so they were very happy! The national team of Georgia played in Newcastle for a friendly game against local team Newcastle Falcons before the tournament began.

The delegation from Newcastle KZN was headed by Mayor Afzul Rehman – they were in the city for a major seminar promoting trade between South Africa and North East England. See page 4 for photographs.



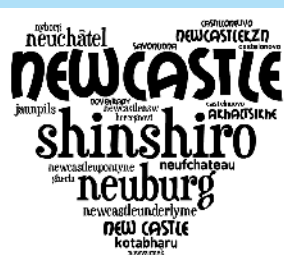
What's happening here in Neuchâtel?

See page 6 for a great example of environmental innovation and sustainable development



THE ITALIAN “NEWCASTLES”

There are almost THIRTY **Castelnuovos** or **Castelnovos** (Newcastles) in Italy - find out more about them, and our connections with them, on page 14



KEEP IN TOUCH !

www.newcastlesoftheworld.com
www.facebook.com/nclsoftheworld
www.twitter.com/NCLsoftheworld
 Email: Newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com
www.newcastlesforum.com
 See page 11 for all our contact details

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Shinshiro's anniversary (p5); Newcastle Canada's welcome to all (p15) * plus pages for alliance news, people, culture, heritage, youth, business, tourism and sport. 59 features, over 100 photographs, 18 different Newcastles!
 Send your news for the next edition to david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk by 11 December.

NEWS FROM THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD TEAM



As requested by the mayors, we have created an **events calendar on our website** - something to factor into your holiday journeys to other Newcastle 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

Zelie Guerin reports: "We are well into the design phase for the **passport scheme**, and are being helped with ideas by the NewcastleGateshead Initiative, the destination marketing agency of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.

We will soon be asking for the help of tourism and PR staff in the different Newcastle with information templates to set out the offers that tourists to your Newcastle can enjoy, and we hope to be able to launch the scheme in the early months of 2016.



A **cultural collaboration between Newcastle, South Africa and Newcastle upon Tyne** is being developed that could be extended to embrace other Newcastle around the World who wish to participate. Once funding is established (from UK Arts Council and from local sources) an initial research and development phase will bring together the partners for a work in progress residency in May 2016.

The residency will be led by Curious Monkey theatre company (UK) and Sanele Mzimela of Nado Arts (SA) who would develop a cross-cultural piece focused on South Africa and the UK. During the residency they will lead creative workshops in drama, performance poetry, music and dance and facilitate creative sharing between practitioners intended to spark two more productions for development. Workshops in UK schools will be set up and led by practitioners. Email molovatt@hotmail.com for more information.



Throughout the development phase the two Newcastle will explore opportunities to involve other Newcastle, and in particular to examine whether there could be a small, creative sharing alongside the conference of Newcastle of the World in Canada.



SCHOOLS LINKS

Mo Lovatt writes: "We have a growing number of schools signed up to our schools link project and have been matching them up. There's room for many more - so please use your own contacts to help us find schools to join in this exciting project. Email me at molovatt@hotmail.com. And send my contact details and this page to your local schools please!"

Each participating school has been sent an introductory pack with curriculum resources and ideas for making friendship links with their partner school. Each school will learn about their own culture and heritage as well as those of their partner school. Below are examples from the education pack and how it can be applied to studies.

Geography: Pupils investigate, compare and contrast the people, places and environments of their own and partner Newcastle; they start to make links between different places in the world. They find out how people affect the environment and how they are affected by it. This provides a basis for pupils' understanding of global citizenship.

History: Pupils learn about change and continuity in their own area and another part of the world. They make a visit to their own castle or heritage sites with a guided tour from participating heritage officers and/or castle managers. Each class is provided with a collection of small, hand-held cameras or mobile phones and asked to make a short film of their visit to share with their partner school and upload to the portal. They find out about famous people from their country and share their learning.

Literacy: Pupils will listen to or read a story from their own country and one chosen by their partner school. Books and stories will be recommended and exchanged. They will be supported by their teachers to develop an understanding and appreciation of fiction from at least two places in the world. Pupils will be encouraged to write a piece of (non-fiction) text which advertises their Newcastle. This can be supplemented by pictures and photographs.

Maths: Each Newcastle school researches data on their own Newcastle to share with their partners. Pupils learn to compare the data and to compile statistics using simple lists, graphs and charts. They can learn to sort, classify and organise information. Older pupils can be encouraged to interpret data and use ICT where appropriate and compare demographics, and geographical data.

ICT: Pupils use the internet to research their own Newcastle and about their partner school. They learn to share and exchange information in a variety of forms and mediums – email, twitter, facebook, intranet (online portal) and how to upload work such as videos, pictures, text and musical compositions.

Religious Education: Pupils find out about the religious beliefs in the various Newcastle around the world. They explore the major faiths – Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism and Islam - name and explore a range of celebrations, worship and rituals; noting similarities where appropriate. Teachers may wish to invite pupils to reflect on how spiritual and moral values relate to their own behaviour.

Citizenship: An opportunity to examine the differences and similarities between Newcastle; to examine their own place in the world and how we are dependent upon others. Pupils learn to identify and respect differences and similarities between people.

Art & Design: Pupils learn about the role of art and craft in their own place and that of their partner school. They will be encouraged to record first-hand observations, experience and imagination using art, design and artefacts, producing work that can be shared and exhibited with others.

MORE NEWS FROM THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD ALLIANCE

CAPTURING OUR IDEAS AND INTERESTS - THE NEWCASTLES FORUM

Robert Dulfer of Nove Hradý has set up a forum website where people from any Newcastle anywhere can discuss their projects, interests, ideas, facts about their Newcastle, or whatever topic you wish. It's also good for the alliance's coordinating team to post about important things in a more active way than through the newsletter or the Newcastles website. Robert says: "This can be a great tool to keep people together and informed, **but it only works if people sign up and use it**. Or at least once a week take a look through it to see what's happening. In the run up to the 2016 Newcastles Conference we would really like to have lots and lots of people signing up and posting or just checking out what's going on". We now have 34 members - and have blocked some attempts of spammers to become member, so it's sound and secure.

WHY NOT CHECK IT OUT AND SIGN UP NOW!? <http://www.newcastlesforum.com/>

Complementary to the Forum, we also draw your attention to that section of our website that posts **best practice information** on the topics that affect and interest all Newcastles, wherever they may be - such as the commercial vitality of our town centres, the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population, new uses for old buildings in regeneration - and much more. SEE <http://newcastlesoftheworld.com/best-practice-information/>

Overseas Students learn from Work and Travel

French students spent a month experiencing work at Newcastle upon Tyne's famous department store Fenwick as part of a unique exchange service arranged by International Newcastle (IN). IN is the not-for-profit agency that supports and builds international relations in and around the city and also oversees the Newcastles of the World programme.. The thriving partnership has developed during the past few years between the Montpellier vocational training school and IN. It has resulted in eight business and retail management students receiving work experience at the store.

IN approached Fenwick to provide the students with a first-class work experience programme across a range of departments. Students said of the experience "The staff at Fenwick are very kind and patient. I loved working in the Department of Cards. The staff there are very helpful."

Zélie Guérin, Director of International Newcastle (pictured below in red jacket) said: "At IN we work on developing effective international relations with partners across the world, to benefit the city and the region. The students enjoy this tremendous opportunity and feel it will give them a head start when they come to apply for jobs. They're working on the sales floor and learning about customer service in a top department store, as well as having the chance to practise their language skills."



The scheme is part of IN's 'Better Visits' service which supports businesses, schools and communities to welcome visitors to the region and arranges unique local experiences for them. Experiences can range from seeing world class cultural attractions, meeting local experts in a visitor's field of interest and enjoying dining out or at the home of a host. Contact Zélie – zelie@internationalnewcastle.org.uk – to find out more about the scheme or if you would like to place students in Newcastle upon Tyne.



Youth Councils share their Experiences

Julia Henzell, (left) one of the youth representatives for Newcastle upon Tyne in the Newcastles of the World project, has circulated a survey which she has asked contacts in other Newcastles to complete about the structure and method of operation of their youth councils, if they have them. The idea is to share ideas and best practice and to build links between youth councils.

We also hope that young people will be well-represented at the next conference in Canada, and we're delighted that **Tenzin Shomar**, on behalf of Newcastle, Ontario, who is a member of the regional youth council, is already thinking through welcome activities and the youth programme.

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 Hradý 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.

Making Connections - Newcastle, Australia to Jaunpils, Latvia

Baiba Rasa from Jaunpils, Latvia reports: "It was a pleasure to welcome our friends Bob and Lyn Cook from Newcastle Australia to Jaunpils. The background of history and cultural heritage is so various around the world! Moreover, the involvement in alliance gives us a great chance to know more and more about Newcastles around the world. This was an informal visit, but we also had a meeting with Council chairwoman Ligita Gintere (right in photo below) . Bob and Lyn visited Jaunpils medieval castle and museum, Jaunpils church and weaver's workshop/ craft house 'Dzīpars' "



Bob and Lyn also called into Our Danish "Newcastle" Nyborg as part of their north European holiday.



Lyn and Bob in Jaunpils museum playing the wooden game in an exhibition made by children with special needs from Dzirciems special education school. Head of the museum Ligija Rutka in the middle of photo.

Making Connections - Shinshiro, Japan to Neuchâtel, Switzerland



Members of Shinshiro Youth Group visited Neuchâtel during the summer vacation period and enjoyed wonderful hospitality from their hosts, an opportunity to get to know members of the youth parliament and see the beautiful city of Neuchâtel and its surrounding area.

Making Connections - Newcastle KZN to Newcastle upon Tyne UK



BUSINESS AND PLEASURE : Newcastle KZN Mayor Afzul Rehman with South African High Commissioner to the UK Obed Mlaba (top left); VIPs together; Newcastle KZN delegation - Johan Pieters (Newcastle Growth Coalition), Councillor Matthew Shunmugum, Acting Municipal Manager Errol Mswane; Municipality Director Nokuthula Thusi ("Thuli"), Barbara Elliott of the Growth Coalition and Mayor Rehman at the trade seminar; meeting local city councillors at a housing project; delegates (with Durban colleagues) visit Newcastle College; fans before the match.

10th Anniversary for Shinshiro

Despite its long history, the Shinshiro City of today was born in 2005 when the three cities of Shinshiro, Horai and Tsukude merged, and a celebration ceremony has been held to mark the 10th anniversary.

This took place at Shinshiro Cultural Centre coliseum on October 3rd. A large number of local citizens, mayors of neighbouring cities and friendship towns attended, with members of the Diet. In his speech, Shinshiro City **Mayor Ryoji Hozumi** said "Citizens have been given new hope and possibilities in these ten years, following previous years of population decline. Our citizens support and work with the municipal administration in our aim to make Shinshiro a rich and bright city for future generations."



There was also a commendation ceremony to recognise those who have given distinguished service to the city: 21 individuals and groups received awards.

Mr. Hideaki Omura, Governor of Aichi Prefecture, congratulated the city for its progress, and the event was marked by wonderful celebratory music from 167 members of brass bands of Shinshiro Schools. The Shinshiro Citizen's Charter was formally declared.



SHINSHIRO CITIZENS' CHARTER

"We, the citizens of Shinshiro city, hereby proclaim the citizens' charter to implement the following policies to cherish the happy life of the citizens in such a manner that the next generations can follow suit.

We resolve to love our home town and preserve clean water and the natural environment.

We resolve to create a community where people can be happy by staying physically and mentally fit.

We resolve to expand our knowledge and improve education with unceasing curiosity and a learning attitude.

We resolve to continue enlarging the network of warm-hearted citizens with mutual love and care.

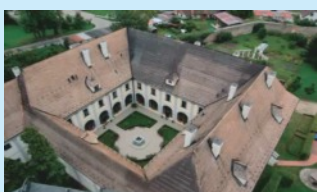
We resolve to inherit the history and tradition of the city and cultivate its culture so that we can proudly hand it over to the future generation."



MAN OF FAITH HELPED BUILD TODAY'S NOVE HRADY

On 11th October, Nové Hradý, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic, marked the 10th anniversary of the death of Friar Bonfillius (birth name Franz) Wagner, a man who made a very big contribution to the people of the town. As a seventeen year old boy Franz was sent to the Eastern Front of World War II, and was one of the few of his battalion to survive. He also miraculously avoided deportation to Russian prison camps after the war.

In 1953 he was ordained as a priest and began his apostolic work in the Austrian Tyrol. He became a sought-after confessor and preacher, for whose comfort and encouragement people came not only from his own parish, but also from other parts of Austria and Germany. The fall of the Iron Curtain took place as he was on the verge of retirement, and the Tyrol Province Servite order sent Pastor Bonfillius across the border to Nové Hradý with the mission to restore the ruined Servite Order monastery there. Coming to a new environment he began to learn the Czech language and started the repair of the ruined monastery, also being entrusted with the care of other churches and chapels in the area.



His piety, approachability and humility touched the hearts of people, and his passion, commitment and determination ensured that his mission and ministry was a successful one. With the help of many volunteers, the monastery was restored and is now an important feature of the town.

Under Father Bonfillius there was a renewal in the spiritual life of the area and the monastery became the spiritual and cultural centre of the Nové Hradý region again. He is remembered today as a friend, a man of God and an influential contributor to the Nove Hradý of today.



Nyborg company holds the key to pollution problem

With the world is currently focusing on the Volkswagen scandal, local Nyborg, Denmark company Amminex Technology A/S holds the technological key to solve Volkswagen's, and the global, pollution problem: the purification of diesel gas exhaust without boosting the consumption of fuel.

Amminex has developed technology that converts the dangerous substance NOx in diesel exhaust gas to water and harmless nitrogen. This technology, according to CEO Annika Isaksson, holds the key to solve not only Volkswagen's, but in time also the worldwide pollution problem regarding diesel cars. Annika Isakson says that there is a mistakenly notion in Europe that it's mostly in Asia that there is a pollution problem regarding diesel cars. The fact is however, that in 22 of the European countries the air pollution transcends the EU regulation's demands.



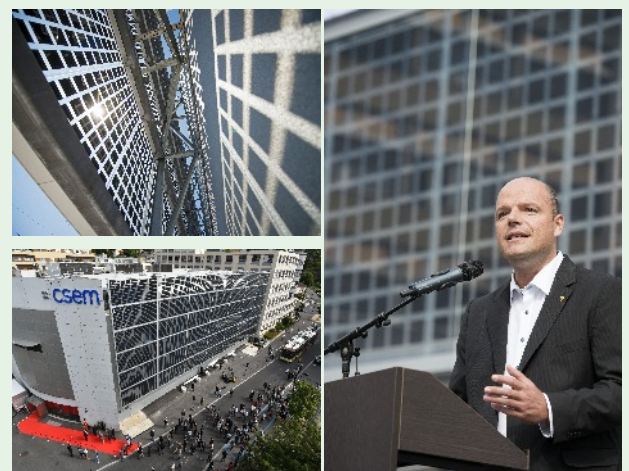
Amminex Technology A/S, whose production plant is based in Nyborg, has with development of their technology already experienced an increase in their growth in the last few years. The company won a deal last month to install their technology in 300 city busses in Copenhagen, and with the current worldwide focus on the pollution issue regarding diesel cars and the further development of their technology, Amminex expects revenue of 335 million euros over the next 10 years.

Their vision is to become not only supplier to bus companies, but also to the global car industry, that is now looking for a way to solve their pollution problem. Amminex are convinced they hold the key.

Neuchâtel's sustainable development and commitment to renewable energy

At the beginning of September, the municipality of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, together with Viteos, and CSEM inaugurated a dramatic PV solar façade that catches the eye with both its ultra-design look and its blend of innovative technologies. This sturdy, efficient and magnificent façade marks a turning point in the architectural integration of PV solar panels at Neuchâtel, paving the way for modern and attractive solar architecture. Built with new solar panels developed and manufactured entirely in Switzerland, the new south facade of the building located at Rue de la Maladière is the result of the decisive support received from several of CSEM's partners committed to renewable energies. Besides the technological and energy benefits, the construction stands out because of its architectural integration. The photovoltaic screen - semi-transparent to lend it an airy and elegant look - was designed by the Neuchâtel-based architectures GD Architectes, jointly with CSEM's PV-center. CSEM is a Swiss company for applied research in sustainable technologies.

Above all, it was the commitment of Viteos and the City of Neuchâtel that resulted in the facade being built. As the leader in renewable energies in the Neuchâtel region, Viteos has confirmed its ongoing commitment to the sector through its adoption of an investment program that will see it spend EUR 24 million over 10 years on photovoltaics. The Neuchâtel-based firm is particularly proud of having employed these innovative technologies for a building frontage. *"Photovoltaic systems have become a fully fledged component of buildings and the use of solar panels for enhancing building aesthetics is making this renewable energy source a familiar feature in the construction field"*, Josette Frésard, Viteos's Managing Director, points out.



For his part, **Olivier Arni**, Neuchâtel City Councillor (pictured right), emphasised that that this exemplary construction is part of the urban development of the Maladière/Jaquet-Droz area. *"This construction is perfectly in line with our policy for sustainable urban development. It will showcase the excellent competencies we have here in Neuchâtel and establish the city as one geared toward innovation and the integration of renewable energies."*



NYBORG'S TOURISM AMBASSADORS

A group of private members of Nyborg Tourist Association have come together to launch an Ambassador Corps.



Camilla Krøytzer, president of Nyborg Tourist Association (left) with tourist ambassador Aila Majlandt.

They tell us: " we present our municipality to the outside world - we welcome our tourists, face to face, and share our knowledge of Nyborg and help them make the best of their time here. We make sure we are up-to-date on events and activities, as well as the attractions of the city". It's a great idea and can sit alongside the Newcastles of the World passport which we are developing.

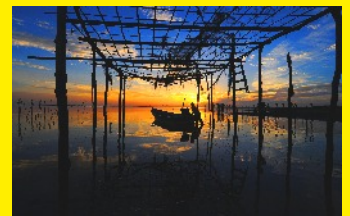


To find out more about the idea and how it was set up, contact Aila Majlandt on nyborgtourist@gmail.com

A WARM WELCOME FOR YOU IN KOTA BHARU



<http://www.tourism.gov.my/en/es/places/states-of-malaysia/kelantan>



The Kelantan tourism team, Malaysia, based in Kota Bharu (our "Newcastle" in Malaysia) are ready to welcome you to their state and share its attractions - "the cradle of Malay culture")

NEW VISITOR VISION AND PLAN FOR NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA

The Newcastle Tourism Industry Group (NTIG), in partnership with **Newcastle City Council, Australia** has launched its **Visitor Economy Vision** for the city - a plan of short, medium and long term opportunities to develop the visitor experiences to be the best in regional Australia.

NTIG Chairman Matthew Anderson said, "This is a plan that brings together tourism industry operators, local government and broader industry representatives to deliver the opportunities available and to identify the projects that could drive our progress."

Tourism is one of the most important and growing sectors in Newcastle, welcoming over 1.3 million visitors a year. On any one day, over 18,000 people are staying overnight and spend around \$1 million dollars a day in the city. It's part of a broader visitor economy that includes not only leisure travel but travel as part of business events and conferences, visiting friends and relatives, special events and people visiting for health and education purposes. See below for priority areas for development For the full Visitor Economy Vision document, go to: www.ntig.org.au

Business Events - business visitors spend more than anyone else when they visit, more than double the average visitor, increasing mid-week visitation. The catalyst project for this sector is to position Newcastle as a meeting and conference destination with a major conference and exhibition centre capacity for more than 2,000 people.

Major Events - Cultural, sporting and special events provide direct expenditure opportunities, media opportunities and introduce large groups of first time visitors to Newcastle.

Visiting Friends and Relatives - this group represents 39% of all visitors' nights in Newcastle and with a forecast population growth of nearly 15% by 2036, this market will only grow. Catalyst projects include creating an Ambassador program where our locals can become informed, passionate storytellers for their visitors.

Leisure-Led Growth - leisure markets, both domestic and international, are attracted to Newcastle's unique selling points as a city on the beach, a working harbour and events getaway and for our cultural and living heritage. Forecasts suggest an additional 583,000 leisure visitors by 2030. To meet these targets, we must look to create signature experiences in each of our city precincts that appeal to our leisure visitors.

The development of a new cruise terminal is a key catalyst.

NEWCASTLE





Newcastle under Lyme Festival is an annual event, organised by volunteers, which provides a valuable performance opportunity in speech, drama, and music. It aims to provide a well organised and enjoyable festival and a platform for amateur performers of any age, from far or near, to demonstrate their talents. Increasingly the participants are from younger age groups. Liaison with performing arts teachers and personnel from local education departments has helped the festival to provide drama, music and speech classes relevant to competitors' needs.

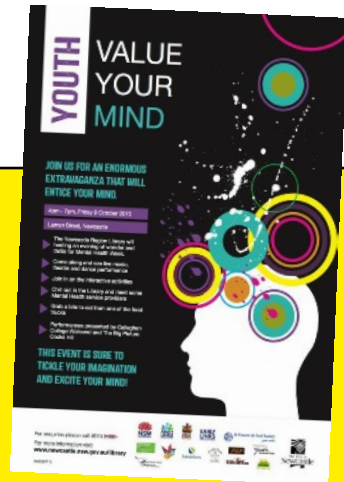


Vânia (centre) at the Newcastle of the World summit in South Africa in 2010, with Timothée Pages (left) and Gerd Schneider.

We're sorry to have to say goodbye to **VÂNIA CARVALHO** who has left the Ville de Neuchâtel after several years as Coordinator of Youth affairs and attending several of our international gatherings. We wish her well!

The history of the festival is a long and distinguished one, dating back to the 1930s. This year the festival had over 1750 competitors, with an equal number of parents and relations in support. Newcastle Borough Council helps support the festival to provide a wonderful platform for Newcastle's talented youth to perform, sometimes for the first time in front of a public audience rather than their family and teacher. Next year's festival takes place on Saturday 12 March for speech and drama, and Friday 18 and Saturday 19 March for music, but there's a lot of work before then!

For more information contact
Munroe Blair, the Festival Chairman
- munroeblair@hotmail.com



YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

Young people in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** have been focusing on mental health issues in *Value Your Mind*, a Mental Health Week event happening in September. The programme included an expo showcasing services available to young people in the Newcastle area.

The event also included free activities including Rosie's School of Rock, street performances, stalls, Circus Avalon, street art and much more. The aim *Value Your Mind* program is to encourage young people to think about how mental health impacts their daily life. Sharon Claydon MP joined the young people for the occasion.



Newcastle-under-Lyme College's high ranking

Newcastle-under-Lyme College's examination success rates and results in advanced vocational courses consistently exceed national benchmarks, firmly placing it among the top 25% of further education colleges in England. It's already the best performing college in the County of Staffordshire and latest Government statistics show that 93% of NULC students achieved three or more A level passes, and 99% achieved three or more substantial vocational qualifications, placing NULC firmly in the national top 10% of colleges for both measures out of 218 colleges in the country.



Happy birthday SEVEN STORIES!

In August the UK's National Centre for Children's Literature, based in Newcastle upon Tyne, celebrated its tenth anniversary and reopened after additional development. The centre has its name from there being only seven basic plots in literature, and because the renovated 19th century mill in which it is housed has seven levels.

"Seven Stories" is the first museum in the UK wholly dedicated to the art of British children's books and it has contributed to the regeneration of one of Newcastle's oldest industrial areas, near the River Tyne. The Centre's collection is full of books, manuscripts and illustrations from the best in British children's literature from the 1930s to the present day. See <http://www.sevenstories.org.uk/>



Sixty seven years a shop-keeper !

Forget the impersonal supermarkets – it's the local "corner" shops we should treasure, and we should be grateful for the people who keep them going. **Neuburg an der Donau Oberbürgermeister Bernhard Gmehling** has congratulated local shopkeeper Renate Pessenbacher on her 85th birthday. She is still working in the shop where she started in 1948, and where the Oberbürgermeister shopped as a schoolboy. We hope you had a happy birthday Renate!



WOMEN'S MONTH IN SOUTH AFRICA



During the month of August, the Newcastle Municipality of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa ran a variety of programmes to profile and support women in business, education and safety.

In line with the national government, Newcastle Municipality has made great strides in the advancement of women since the first democratic elections, to ensure that women enjoy the same rights as their male counterparts in relation to education, employment, property, inheritance and justice.



Women such as Dorothy Nyembe who hails from the neighbouring town Dundee, paved the way for young girls and women to shape their futures and not be discriminated based on their gender. Newcastle Municipality's own Deputy Mayor, Cllr Racheal Mdluli (pictured left) is an example that young girls can succeed in every career they choose to embark on. The South African democracy was built on the actions of the women of the liberation movement and the Municipality acknowledges that more needs to be done, to cast off the chains that still hinder the progress of some women.

THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE RAILWAYS

With a new exhibition and book, Newcastle upon Tyne has been celebrating the 150th anniversary this week of the opening (by Queen Victoria) of the Central Railway Station. The station has been recently modernised and was once described as "one of the great achievements of the railway age".

Behind the station is the world's first railway engine factory, opened by Robert Stephenson - his father, the inventor George, is known as "the father of the railways"



The **BURNING MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL** is **New Castle, Colorado's** signature event. Again taking place over two days in early September, the Festival celebrates the Town's mining history and is named for its iconic mountain in which a coal seam still burns. The festival includes a parade, musical performances in Burning Mountain Park, craft and food vendors, pancake breakfast, classic car show, kid's carnival and new special activities each year.

NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO SHOWCASES ITS PROUD HERITAGE

The annual August Heritage Week events in Clarington Municipality (Canada) featured walks and presentations based in Newcastle. Those able to come over next September (19th-23rd) for the Newcastles of the World conference can experience for yourselves the attractions of this historic and beautiful town on the shores of Lake Ontario.



FOLK ENSEMBLE MESKHETI - AKHALTSIKHE'S CULTURAL AMBASSADORS

The renowned Folk Ensemble "Meskheti", now led by Zaza Tamarashvili, was founded in 1949 and is based in Akhaltsikhe, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia. Their repertoire includes Georgian folk songs, chants and many other songs of Georgian and foreign composers. The Ensemble has played a vital role in saving and promoting the old traditional Meskhetian folk songs.

The Ensemble has always participated in many important events, concerts and celebration days across the country but is also laureate of international festivals and has had many successful tours in other countries, including Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Armenia.

Meskheti is the old word for Samtskhe - the province in which Akhaltsikhe is located. In 2014, a plaque (a star) was placed in Akhaltsikhe (Rabati) castle to honour the great contribution of the Folk Ensemble "Meskheti" to safeguarding and promoting local culture. The ensemble continues its active and creative activities and keeps updating its repertoire and extending the range of its work.

The Ensemble has released CDs of Meskhetian Songs : cut and paste the link below into your browser to see and hear the Ensemble in the fantastic setting of Rabati Castle, Akhaltsikhe.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8-xUIhVz-s&list=PLhXkCSTkhQ6VyxW41uoLHC-CwN_5F2xqE



BEFORE I DIE - WHAT DO I WANT TO ACHIEVE ?



Residents of Newcastle, Ontario in Canada had the chance for a week in August to set out their life ambitions as part of a unique art project. The Municipality of Clarington joined over 1,000 communities in over 70 countries in a project that allows residents to reflect on their lives and share their personal stories.

The "Before I die" project is a global public art initiative that allows people to connect on a personal level. Clarington built an art installation, a four-sided chalkboard structure, which travelled across the Municipality over the summer. Participants were asked to write in chalk and finish the sentence "Before I die I want to..."

In September, local artists took part in a 24 hour drawing event at **Newcastle Museum, New South Wales, Australia** to raise funds and awareness for wildlife protection and rescue. This is part of what they created.



ANNUAL BUSKERS' FESTIVAL, NEUCHÂTEL



In the middle of August each year, fifteen guest groups (totalling around sixty musicians) take up residence in the city streets of Neuchâtel for five days. No stage, no sound systems and no light shows – the groups simply perform with 'natural acoustics'. And what spirit and enjoyment they bring to the city!



HATS OFF TO NEUBURG !

For 17 years Mrs Ute Patel-Missfeldt has succeeded in attracting the very best milliners and hat designers to the wonderful renaissance-city of Neuburg an der Donau, for what is the biggest hat festival in Europe.

More than 15.000 hats can be admired, tried on and of course also bought! The inspirations and ideas of the creators seem endless. Year after year they surprise with special new creations and designs.



NEW LEADER FOR NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME



Councillor Elizabeth Shenton has been elected as Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council. Councillor Shenton is the first woman to assume the political leadership of the council and has been a councillor since 2006. She spent most of her business life working in the banking sector.

AKHALTSIKHE MAYOR TOPS THE POLL

In a poll published on 12 October in the Republic of Georgia about the performance of mayors in the self-governing cities, the mayor of Akhaltsikhe, Giorgi Kopadze, has the highest net-positive performance rating.

The mayors were elected last year following direct elections for the first time, instead of being appointed by the ruling national party. The poll was by the **Caucasus Resource Research Centers** and focused largely on local government and the broad range of other local issues.



YOUR CONTACTS IN THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD : THE MOST ACTIVE MEMBERS OF OUR ALLIANCE

Mayor, **Shinshiro City** Government, Japan: Ryoji Hozumi.
Our contact: Miho Ishino, International exchange Officer:
ishino-miho@city.shinshiro.lg.jp

Mayor, **Neuburg an der Donau**, Germany : Dr Bernhard Gmehling,
Stadt; Our contact – Marieluise Kühnl, Head of Tourism, email:
marieluise.kuehnl@neuburg-donau.de

Mayor, **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland: Thomas Facchinetti. Our contact –
Daniel Veuve, Chargé de Missions - daniel.veuve@ne.ch

Mayor, **Newcastle, Kwazulu Natal**, South Africa : Afzul Rehman.
Our contact – Ferdie Alberts, Director of Local Economic Development.
Email: ferdiea@newcastle.gov.za.

Leader of the Council **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, United Kingdom:
Councillor Elizabeth Shenton; Our contact Peter Whalan - peter.whalan@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Leader of the Council **Newcastle upon Tyne**, United Kingdom:
Councillor Nick Forbes. Our contact –David Faulkner -
david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk

Mayor of **Clarington** (includes Newcastle, Ontario, Canada):
Adrian Foster; Our contact Jen Stycuk, jstycuk@clarington.net

Mayor of **Nové Hradý**, Czech Republic: Vladimír Hokr; Our contact
Robert Dulfer Email: dulfer@rozemberk.org

Chairperson of **Jaunpils** Council, Latvia: Ligita Gintere; Our contact –
Baiba Rasa, PR Specialist - baiba.rasa@jaunpils.lv

Mayor of **Nyborg**, Denmark: Kenneth Muhs; Our contact: Janus Møller
Jensen, Head of Department, Nyborg Castle - jmj@ostfynsmuseer.dk

Lord Mayor , **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia**: Nuatali Nelmes;
Our contact: Bob Cook; bobcooknewcastle@gmail.com

Mayor of **Akhaltsikhe Municipality**, Republic of Georgia:
Giorgi Kopadze; Our contact Levan Mikaberidze, Akhaltsikhe Municipality;
email levani@hotmail.co.uk

President, **Kota Bharu** Municipal Council Islamic City, Malaysia :
Tuan Haji Fauzi bin Mat; Our contact – Azman Mohddaham;
azmohdaham@yahoo.com

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS IN KOTA BHARU



Malaysia celebrates its National Day on 31 August, marking the anniversary of independence in 1957. This year the celebrations in Kota Bharu were led by Kelantan Province Chief Minister the **Right Honourable Dato Hj Ahmad Yakub** (pictured above in green batik shirt, with fellow executive council members of the Kelantan government).

Thousands of people filled the stadium of Kota Bharu to join the celebration starting after dusk till midnight where the count down for the 31 August took place. The occasion was marked with patriotic speeches, traditional dances, musical performances, acrobatic show as well as fireworks.

YOUR ALLIANCE 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)

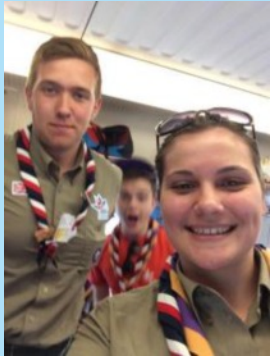
DAVID FAULKNER: david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk
(coordination of Newcastle of the World, communications,
development of the alliance, general enquiries)

<http://newcastlesoftheworld.com/meet-the-team/>

PROJECT TO PROMOTE MOBILITY FOR DISABLED YOUNG PEOPLE

Robert Duffer of **Nove Hradý** has been looking at an EU funding programme that helps disabled young people obtain experience abroad as part of their integration into the labour market in the Czech Republic or elsewhere in the EU. The idea is that the young people (aged 16-30) will work in internships abroad, to widen their scope, get practical experience in languages and so on.

Nove Hradý is looking to the other EU Newcastles for help in finding partners interested to cooperate in this. The Czech funding agency will pay most of the costs including travel. More details will be published in the forum. If you know of a company or organisation that is interested in being a partner, or if your Newcastle can offer such an internship, please contact Robert. (duffer@rozemberk.org).



Scouts from many of our Newcastles were part of one of the biggest international events of the year - the **World Scout Jamboree** in Kirarahama, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan. The theme was "Unity" and this was a perfect opportunity to showcase our unified Newcastles of the World family of towns and cities. Delegates from **Newcastle upon Tyne** created their own Newcastles of the World display, which attracted many visitors - here (right) from Australia. Left are scouts from **Newcastle-under-Lyme** UK who made the trip.



CRUISING IN BROAD STREET

The City of **New Castle, Indiana** has a proud history of "cruising Broad Street" – a regular display and parade of classic and cherished cars along the main East-West downtown street. The parade celebrates America's love of cars and of driving, and the special place of New Castle as home of the historic Maxwell Motor Car. Here are some photos, courtesy of Fribley Photography, of the latest Cruise in early October.



A Voice for Youth in Newcastle, Washington State

Middle school and high school students in our Newcastle in Washington State, USA can become engaged in the community, voice their needs to the city and make a difference through a new teen leadership board called Newcastle Youth for Community Engagement. By participating in the board, students will also learn about citizen involvement and how to identify and solve community problems. The focus is on the following areas of interest: youth voice, community service, creating, implementing and supporting programs/events that interest teens, attending and participating in meetings and building leadership skills. For more information contact

Wendy Kirchner at the city council wendyk@ci.newcastle.wa.us.

Newcastle is a community of 10,000 people in King County, Washington State, USA, with an attractive quality of life and landscapes. Although the town was not incorporated until 1994, it has been an important settlement and town since the late 19th century and played a major role in the development of Seattle and the Seattle region. Newcastle was one of the region's earliest coal mining areas, producing from its mine between 1870 and 1963, and is named after Newcastle upon Tyne in the UK because of the coal association. The town celebrates "Newcastle Day" every year and has a vigorous local history society – to find out more, check out

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



"Fireworks Capital of America"

New Castle, PA is known as the "Fireworks Capital of America". Each year it hosts a large Fireworks Festival in honour of this. See <http://fireworkscapitalofamerica.com>.

Two nationally recognized companies are credited with making the city the "Fireworks Capital of America" – Zambelli Fireworks Internationale and Pyrotecnico both got their start in the mid 1800's in Lawrence County (which was once world's largest producer of fireworks).



AUTUMN (FALL) - THE SEASON OF "MISTS AND MELLOW FRUITFULNESS"

- at least in the northern hemisphere ! That's according to the poet John Keats.

Here are photographs from some of our Newcastles that reflect the beauty and bounty of this season



On Harvest Day in September in **Jaunpils**, our "Newcastle" in Latvia, over 50 traders and a thousand visitors came together to enjoy the fruits of the harvest. Jaunpils Gardeners' Association organised the autumn harvest trade which revealed some monsters and some masterpieces: magnificent cabbages, carrots, tomatoes and beets; sunflowers that stretched toward heaven (nearly 4m high) - and the main prize for Ernests Grigors (6 years old) whose pumpkin weighed almost 24 kg!

During the day there were a lot of things to do and see, including a concert programme by Latvian singers Legzdinas sisters; creative workshops and games, events organised by Jaunpils seniors group, and more).



Lakeside trees in Southern Bohemia, close to Nové Hradý, Czech Republic



October 3rd Harvest Festival Celebration in Newcastle, Ontario, Canada

CELEBRATING IN STYLE

Jaunpils municipality has just finished a very important project to reconstruct the drainage systems of Rūšu stream and restore the water sluices. It is important for local people because this stream and its ponds surround Jaunpils medieval castle, and now there's better access and better drainage for the area too.

Chairwoman of Jaunpils Ligita Gintere cut the inaugural ribbon of the water sluices and a great procession came across the new bridge in creative style - kindergarten "Strawberry" teachers and kids, students from the local school fourth year, dancers with drums and songs, the ladies' club "Meadowsweet", all looking magnificent.



A LIVING PAST IN NYBORG

Nyborg went all medieval when reenactors from all of Denmark and other parts of Europe met at Nyborg Castle in the weekend 12/13 September.

When nobles and kings met in the past to hold court or parliament in Nyborg, they were accompanied by men and warriors. They trained and entertained the spectators with their weapon's art and war games, which helped prepare them for the ferocious medieval battles. "Knights of the Northern Kingdom" is an event that brings this atmosphere to life.

It's the largest gathering of medieval warriors in Denmark, and the reenactors and the museum are working together to make the medieval past come alive and to create new insights into medieval military history. University guest lecturers presents their research, and the castle museum learns from the experience

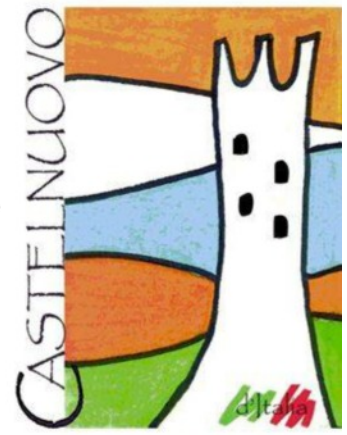
of the reenactors. They engage in a medieval pitched battle just like the warriors would have in the middle ages. This year the focus was on the archers in remembrance of the 600th anniversary of the battle at Agincourt.



THE CASTELNUOVOS OF ITALY

We have been aware for some time of a large number of "Newcastles" - Castelnuovos or Castlenovos - in Italy, and the existence at one time of an organisation that linked several of them together - the *Union Democratic Castlenovese*. It has been difficult for us to make contact but we have been sharing our newsletter via a number of email addresses that we found. The good news is that we were contacted recently by Alberto Soli of Castelnuovo Rangone, in the beautiful province of Modena (Luciano Pavarotti's home province).

Alberto is now the coordinator of the Castlenovese and is keen to build a link that associates them with Newcastles of the World. Some of the Castlenovese met in August (see newspaper cutting, right) in Castelnuovo del Friuli and we have engaged several people in different Castlenovese as Facebook friends. We hope that our relationship will bear fruit. Buona Fortuna (good luck) to our Italian friends.



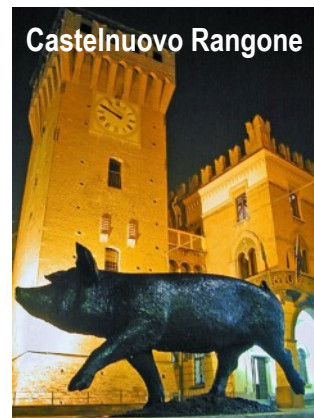
- Castelnuovo, Trentino, Province of Trento
- Castelnuovo Bariano, Province of Rovigo
- Castelnuovo Belbo, Province of Asti
- Castelnuovo Berardenga, Province of Siena
- Castelnuovo Bocca d'Adda, Province of Lodi
- Castelnuovo Bormida, Province of Alessandria
- Castelnuovo Bozzente, Province of Como
- Castelnuovo Calcea, Province of Asti
- Castelnuovo di Val de Cecina, Province of Pisa
- Castelnuovo Cilento, Province of Salerno
- Castelnuovo del Garda, Province of Verona
- Castelnuovo della Daunia, Province of Foggia
- Castelnuovo di Ceva, Province of Cuneo
- Castelnuovo di Conza, Province of Salerno
- Castelnuovo di Farfa, Province of Rieti
- Castelnuovo del Friuli, Province of Pordenone
- Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, Province of Lucca
- Castelnuovo di Porto, Province of Rome
- Castelnuovo di Val di Cecina, Province of Pisa
- Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Province of Asti
- Castelnuovo Magra, Province of La Spezia
- Castelnuovo Ne'Monti, Province of Reggio Emilia
- Castelnuovo Nigra, Province of Turin
- Castelnuovo Parano, Province of Frosinone
- Castelnuovo Rangone, Province of Modena
- Castelnuovo Scrivia, Province of Alessandria
- Castelnuovo di Sotto, Province of Reggio Emilia
- Colleretto Castelnuovo, Province of Turin



Castelnuovo di Garfagnana



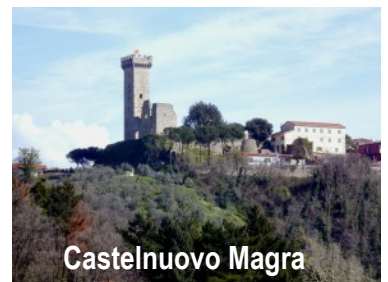
Castelnuovo del Garda



Castelnuovo Rangone



Castelnuovo Berardenga



Castelnuovo Magra

THE MOST FAMOUS RESIDENTS OF ANY OF OUR NEWCASTLES ?

Chappaqua is a community within the town of New Castle in Westchester County, New York, and it's the place where 16 years ago Bill and Hillary Clinton bought the home in which they still live today. The Clintons are closely involved in local activities – bottom right: Hillary swears in Town of New Castle Supervisor Rob Greenstein. Who is the most famous resident of your Newcastle? Post us your views or email information to newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com and we'll put in our next newsletter.



HELLO NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD!

NEWCASTLE "CANADA" CALLING

Preparing to welcome you in 2016



Jeany Barrett, co-chair writes: "Meet our steering committee formed to plan your stay and make sure your visit is one to remember. The initial chair of our committee was former councillor Charlie Trim who helped to put the bones into our plans.

Jennifer Stycuk, who was our representative at Nové Hradý last year, has been a fountain of information during our meetings, and she and I act as co-chairs. Our secretary, Deria took ill recently and had to step down but she was so professional and gave wonderful input during her time here, and we wish her a speedy recovery".

Marketing and Promotion will be the responsibility of the whole committee in conjunction with Clarington Municipality, benefiting from Jennifer's expertise. Jen has just been promoted to a new position with Clarington and is essential to our planning and delivery.

Accommodation is the responsibility of **Masood Vatandoust**. He has approached the main hotel in Bowmanville (ten minutes away from the centre of Newcastle). That will be the conference hotel for the week and Masood will make sure you are very comfortable and have breakfast before you are picked up. Masood is a local real estate broker.

Transportation is the responsibility of **Carl Good**. He will be the friendly face you will see (along with other smiling faces) at Toronto International Airport. Carl will see that you get from there to here as quickly and comfortably as possible. Carl has just retired from business. His wife **Joyce Kuffa** is responsible for the visits and excursion programme.

Relaying the History of Newcastle is the responsibility of the Newcastle Historical Society. **Bob Malone**, President and **Sher Leetooze**, author of many books, are busy planning a walking tour, presenting artifacts and displays on Newcastle's early days. Although Newcastle is small, it has a rich history going back 150+ years. History buffs wanting to get a heads-up go to www.villageofnewcastle.ca/history

Our Youth programme will be supported by **Joyce Richards** and **Jane Chung**

Ann Harley, Gift of Art, will be supporting the committee by looking into grants that may be available through our Government, Federal (Ottawa), Provincial (Ontario) and Municipal (Clarington) and seeking sponsorship from our community. *Gift of Art* will be one place you will be sure to visit and you'll enjoy talking to Ann as she is well travelled and promotes Newcastle wherever she goes. Check out the website <http://agiftof-art.com/> to see more.

For myself, I'm the past president of the Newcastle Horticultural Society. In 2009 I started working with the Municipality of Clarington and the Newcastle Community Hall Board in a collaboration with the Horticultural Society to revamp the gardens at the Newcastle Community Hall. This process took place over the next several years and it will be my pleasure to show you the results of this heritage project. I am a grandmother of eleven and I like to keep busy.

As you can see, our preparations are well on their way and our enthusiasm is boundless. We look forward to welcoming you. I can be reached at jeany@rogers.com".



CONFERENCE THEMES

Tourism - the "Newcastles Passport" - making the most of our collective tourism potential

Review of our work since the last conference and plans for the next two years

The voice of young people - youth delegates exchange ideas, priorities and best practice

And the special theme selected by Newcastle, Ontario - "AN AGING POPULATION AND HOW IT AFFECTS THE COMMUNITY, FAMILY AND YOUTH"

Newcastle KZN hosts South African ballooning championship

The South African National Hot Air Balloon Championship took place in Newcastle KZN in early October – and what a magnificent sight was created! The first day was affected by the weather but the second morning was a perfect day for flying, and the public of Newcastle and supporters were woken by a colourful skyline of balloons. On Sunday 11 October the ballooners took the sport to the township community for a special flight out of the Madadeni Stadium.



NORTH STARS WIN ICE HOCKEY TITLE



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSTS THE WORLD'S LARGEST HALF MARATHON



The 34th staging of The Great North Run was blessed with sunny (but not too hot) weather in early September.

Almost 50,000 runners - of all capabilities - took part in the run from Newcastle to the coast at South Shields. And millions of euros were raised for charity in the process.

Congratulations to the Newcastle North Stars - AIHL - who have won the Australian Ice Hockey League and Goodall Cup, following an intense 3-2 overtime triumph over the Melbourne Ice.



"BELLA ITALIA", a motor show with more than vintage Italian cars/vehicles was a big attraction in Nyborg, Denmark in September, featuring Maserati, Ferrari, Lancia, Lamborghini, Fiat, Alfa Romeo, Autobianchi, de Tomaso, Aprilia, Ducato, Moto Guzzi, Vespa, Laverda, MV Augusta and Moto Morini - and their proud owners.



ONE OF THE WORLD'S BEST FOOTBALL TEAMS VISITS NEUBURG

Last month the football team of Bayern München (Munich) paid a visit to AUDI in Neuburg. They were welcomed by Mayor Bernhard Gmehling, a big football enthusiast, and signed the official visitors' book of the city. More than 1.000 people used the opportunity to take a look at the famous team and get some autographs.

AUDI is one of the main sponsors of Bayern München. Since last year AUDI has operated its new location in Neuburg with the Driving Experience Centre and the Competence Centre Motorsport with a 2.2 kilometre handling course. Besides it contains a Customer Centre with a restaurant for product presentations, conferences and company events.



Mayor Bernhard Gmehling (left) with Manuel Neuer of Bayern München and captain of the Germany World Cup winning team.

