



Newsletter

April 2012

Dear Colleague

International Newcastle ('IN') is a new network organisation which helps to improve life chances, promote inclusion, community relations and socio-economic development in Newcastle by stimulating and supporting international interactions in the fields of community, education, arts & culture and sports.

The initiative began with a potential stakeholders' in March 2011 where groups and individuals were asked to help shape the idea of an initiative which would seek to **support, develop and promote community related international activity** happening around the city. From that larger group, a volunteer steering group was formed and we are grateful to the advice and support of that group: Abdul Khan (BECON), Alain Clemant (Rwandan Association), Clymene Christoforou and Sharon Bailey (ISIS Arts), Emily Allen and Iain Watson (Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums), Gillian Firth (Live Theatre), John Dobie (AET), Kathie Wilcock and Tina Snowball (NGI).

IN News

In March 2012, after an initial 12-month pilot phase IN was constituted as a Community Interest Company (CIC) and an inaugural board appointed from the Steering Group membership, Newcastle City Council and Newcastle University with Caroline Theobald as Interim Chair. In the coming months, a further six board members will be elected. If you would like to nominate someone for election, please contact Simon Underwood on simon.underwood@newcastle.gov.uk



*"International Opportunities for
People and Communities"*

IN Board

Caroline Theobald, Honorary Swedish Consul (Chair)
Cllr Ged Bell, Newcastle City Council
Helen White, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums
Clymene Christoforou, ISIS Arts
Eric Cross, Newcastle University
Alain Clemant, Rwandan Association

IN Communication

In January Indigo Multimedia was appointed to design, build and host the IN website. Indigo were one of six local design companies shortlisted to tender for the contract. We are in the process of finalising the design and the website should be live towards the end of April 2012. You will be able to find us at www.internationalnewcastle.org.uk In the meantime, if you'd like to follow us on Twitter, you can find us at @InterNewcastle

IN Services

- General advice & guidance
- Funding advice
- An information directory
- Networking opportunities
- Promotion of events/projects
- Project management support



*“Taking Newcastle to the World
Bringing the World to Newcastle”*

INformation



New flight from Newcastle Airport

Newcastle and twin city Bergen have enjoyed a close relationship for hundreds of years with both cities benefiting from on-going trade and investment. A new direct flight from Newcastle to Bergen opened on 27th March and will run until 22nd September, operating on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. At the moment, the Bergen flight is a trial flight and clearly aimed at the leisure summer market, however the Airport are optimistic about the flight running again. There is also a more established daily (Monday – Friday) all year round Stavanger flight which is used by local and Norwegian businesses serving the offshore oil and gas and other industries. Bergen and Stavanger are about 120 miles (2.5 hours) apart by road. There are also flight and sea ferry connection between the two cities.

Bergen is Norway's second largest city with a population of over 250 000. It is situated on the south west coast in the county of Hordaland. The major industries are offshore energy, petroleum, fisheries and maritime, shipping and education. Newcastle has a particularly close bond with Norway. The King of Norway, Olav V, opened Newcastle's Civic Centre in 1968 and each December the City is presented with a Christmas tree by the City of Bergen. The custom originated after the Second World War as a symbol of peace and goodwill.



Youth Opportunities Initiative

10 000 European Voluntary Service opportunities in 2012

“Five million young Europeans, the future of our society, are currently unemployed and need our help. The rates of young people seeking work in some of our member states are simply staggering, reaching nearly 50% in some countries.(...) With today's initiative we are developing more immediate action that will help drive down youth unemployment”, commented Commission President José Manuel Barroso in a press release to the recently adopted communication “Youth Opportunities Initiative”.

The Commission called on member states to prevent early school leaving, help youngsters develop skills relevant to the labour market, ensure work experience and on-the-job training, and help young people find a first good job. The Commission also urges member states to make better use of the European Social Fund which still has €30 billion of funding uncommitted to projects. In addition, the Commission has put forward a set of definite initiatives to be financed directly by EU funds.

Read more http://ec.europa.eu/youth/news/20110125-youth-opportunities-initiative_en.htm



Visiting Arts

www.visitingarts.org.uk

Visiting Arts' purpose is to strengthen intercultural understanding through the arts. This year Visiting Arts has developed an online information exchange - www.worldculture.net - which will profile countries, artists and organisations and will be a central point for arts organisations to find out more about international artists and opportunities. The site will be created by Visiting Arts but populated by user-generated content. Elements of the site are already working, but they are looking to launch in July 2012.

If you have a news item you'd like to circulate on the IN website, please contact simon.underwood@newcastle.gov.uk

IN Community

Global Xchange at Crisis Skylight, Newcastle

Global Xchange (GX) is a partnership between VSO, The British Council and other partner organisations around the world. Working directly with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), Global Xchange is part of the pilot year of International Citizen Service (ICS). In Newcastle Global Xchange has been run through Crisis Skylight.

The programme was set up to allow young people (aged between 18-22) the chance to live, experience and volunteer in another country and culture with the aim of promoting

international cooperation, understanding, youth action and service development. The volunteers all live in pairs (one from each country) in host homes and work voluntarily in pairs in organisations in both communities.

A group of volunteers from Namibia and the UK are approaching the end of their three month stay in Newcastle . In this time they have been working with different organisations fighting against homelessness. As well as a recycling conference at Riverside Community Health Project; a fashion show at Sunderland YMCA; and lots of internal projects and workshops the team held an open mic night to raise awareness about homelessness and to exhibit some of work from the projects. On top of this Crisis and GX hosted an event named Ubunye, Thursday 22nd March, aimed at showing the strength of Tyne and Wear in the battle against homelessness and to further strengthen the relationships between like minded organisations to work together in the future.

“We are really positive about how our placements have gone and look forwards to witnessing the great things that can come out of the charities standing tall beside one another.” – Naomi, a GX volunteer.



IN Arts & Culture

Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums

Museum and gallery collections are a great way of linking people across the world. On behalf of five local authorities and Newcastle University, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM) cares for and makes accessible North East collections of global significance as well as objects from all over the world ranging from Indian butterflies to items collected by Captain Cook in the Pacific islands. TWAM also brings international exhibitions and art to the region and participates in community engagement, arts and web-based projects and sharing expertise. The North East has been internationally connected for thousands of years (just think of Hadrian’s Wall!) and both people and objects have moved in and out of the area. We are proud to work with this rich cultural heritage engaging local communities and international partners.

It is for these reasons that Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums fully supports the work of *International Newcastle*, for the benefit of residents and visitors to the region.



[The Curious Case of... exhibition, Great North Museum, 20 July – 23 September 2012.](http://www.journeysofdiscovery.org.uk/home.html) The exhibition is part of *Journeys of Discovery*, the North East strand of *Stories of the World*, and has allowed young people to explore collections of world culture across the North East. It is a London 2012 initiative to encourage young people to explore local museum collections. More info at <http://www.journeysofdiscovery.org.uk/home.html>

¡VAMOS!
Festival 2012
1 June – 15 July 2012

¡VAMOS! Festival returns for its 7th edition featuring 6 weeks vibrant and varied celebration of Latin and Lusophone cultures, taking place throughout North East England from 1st June to 15th July 2012. This year's festival features the UK premiere of a photographic exhibition about Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera arts commissions with Latin American artists as part of the celebration of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad, Brazilian cinema, club nights with leading Latin DJs, a large scale Carnival procession with the general public, talks, language cafes and Peña Flamenca performances, workshops and much, much more!

Sign-up for up to date news
www.vamosfestival.com

For media inquiries, images & interview
contact: **Cait Read 07811 320447**
vamospr@gmail.com

¡VAMOS! Festival is supported by Arts Council England, North East and Newcastle University. **¡VAMOS! Festival** has been granted the Inspire mark by the London 2012 Inspire programme. The London 2012 Inspire programme recognises innovative and exceptional projects that are directly inspired by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Festival Partners include: Embassy of Mexico to the United Kingdom, The Bowes Museum, North Tyneside Council, BRASS Durham International Festival, MIMA and Filmoteca del Departamento de Cooperación y Promoción Cultural Exterior de España

Since 2006, **¡VAMOS! Festival** has delivered a vibrant programme of over 240 events celebrating Latin and Lusophone cultures to more than 100,000 people.

Newcastles of the World

In the mid 90s, Newcastle upon Tyne based John Nicolaou came up with the idea of linking those communities around the world who share the name "Newcastle". He contacted writers and



photographers in English-speaking Newcastles around the world and compiled a book which was published in 2000. Meanwhile, in 1998, the Mayor of Shinshiro (trans. Newcastle) in Japan had taken the initiative to invite representatives of seven Newcastles to his city. Newcastles have continued to meet ever since. From **21st-28th July, 2012** Newcastle upon Tyne will host the gathering for the first time. The aim 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: Branding & Marketing our Newcastles is the theme for 2012.

An extensive cultural, engagement and education programme is planned to run alongside the meeting. A Song for Newcastle is being led by Co Musica featuring young singers from our home and overseas Newcastles; a Poem for Newcastle anthology is being led by Catherine Graham, Sheree Mack and Wajid Hussain and there will be an exciting evening celebrating the culture and history of our town at Live Theatre on Monday 23rd July. An

international parade through the city centre will take place from noon on Sunday 22nd July – please come along and join us to celebrate international friendship. More at www.newcastlesoftheworld.wordpress.com

Last month sixteen Newcastle upon Tyne schools signed up to be part of the programme. Each school will befriend an overseas Newcastle and will create a cross-curriculum range of projects which focus on the culture, heritage and history of their partner.

Please contact us if you'd like to promote or share your event on the IN website

IN Education

International Newcastle aims to support young people of all ages. In an increasingly global social and economic environment, IN believes it's important for young people to develop the skills and knowledge of internationalism to increase their global awareness, employability and to increase their life chances through international interaction. Global awareness is also a great way to foster better social cohesion and community relations in the city through a wider



There are presently over 60 schools across Newcastle engaged in international activity. Many Newcastle schools have received a British Council International Schools Award (ISA). The ISA is an accreditation scheme for curriculum-based international work in schools and provides recognition for teachers and their schools working instil a global dimension into the learning experience of all children and young people. If you would like more information about the ISA please see <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-international-school-award.htm>

The British Council offers a range of support to schools in relation to international activity at www.britishcouncil.org/schoolsonline

IN aims to support the fantastic schools' work happening across the city and to highlight further opportunities for cross-sector engagement. Hotspur Primary School has already signed up to receive news of opportunities and support. If you would like to add your school to our list, please contact molovatt@hotmail.com

International School Case Study:

Hotspur Primary School has fully embedded internationalism into its exciting and varied creative curriculum. Each child has the opportunity to experience the international dimension throughout their time at Hotspur. For a number of years, we have had week-long festivals focused on different parts of the world, including India Week and Africa Week. These international weeks have involved the wider community in Newcastle, demonstrating to the children how fantastically multicultural our city is. This year's Olympic Fortnight will

provide a range of learning opportunities for our children, ahead of next year's China Week. Many of our classes have linked with classes in other countries, including Dubai, Canada, Australia and the USA through our blogging site: hotspurblogs.net. Breaking down the classroom walls and providing our children with the opportunity to blog and Skype with children all over the world was one of the activities praised by the British Council in Hotspur's application for the International School Award.

IN is currently working with both Newcastle University and the University of Northumbria on a range of international opportunities. Look out for further details when the IN website is launched.

If you would like more information about IN please do not hesitate to contact any member of the development team.

With best wishes

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Supporting international interactions in

- Community
- Education
- Arts & Culture
- Sport