



# Newsletter

**July 2012**

Welcome to the July 2012 newsletter from International Newcastle.



Image courtesy Newcastle Gateshead Initiative

## IN News

This month IN has launched the new website which you can find at [www.internationalnewcastle.org.uk](http://www.internationalnewcastle.org.uk). The website contains information about the services IN can offer to help support and promote international activity in Newcastle and the wider City-region.

We'd love to hear what you think about the website, please email us at [info@internationalnewcastle.org.uk](mailto:info@internationalnewcastle.org.uk) with your thoughts and suggestions for future development.



Follow us on Twitter at [@InterNewcastle](https://twitter.com/InterNewcastle)

## IN Services

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

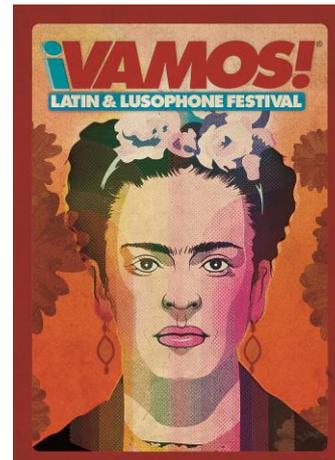


*“Taking Newcastle to the World  
Bringing the World to Newcastle”*

## **iVAMOS! Festival 2012** **1 June – 15 July 2012**

Events across Newcastle, Gateshead, North Tyneside & County Durham, North East England

iVAMOS! Festival returns for its 7th edition featuring 6 weeks of vibrant and varied celebration of Latin and Lusophone cultures, taking place throughout North East England from 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Cultural Olympiad, UK Premieres of Brazilian and Peruvian films, performances by leading Latin DJs and musicians, a large scale Tyne Carnival procession with the general public in the centre of Newcastle, talks, language cafes, Peña Flamenca performances and workshops and much, much more!

[www.vamosfestival.com](http://www.vamosfestival.com)

## **International Newcastle and Newcastles of the World**

In July, International Newcastle will be supporting the Newcastles of the World event. The Leader of Newcastle City Council, Cllr Nick Forbes, shares with us his thoughts on up and coming international activity:

I'm really looking forward to Newcastles of the World 2012 which will be supported by International Newcastle. It's a great chance for people from around the world to get together and share knowledge and experiences and, of course, to show off our great city. The visit in July will come at a time when our city is developing a more international outlook, and gaining more confidence to seek trade, investment and friendships in new markets. Later in July we will host the Olympic Football, when world class teams including Brazil will play at St James Park, adding to our international profile and giving us the chance to showcase our city to a global TV audience.

It's tempting when times are hard, as they are in Newcastle and the rest of the UK at the moment, to look inwards, and to neglect an international approach. And when economies in the Eurozone are in crisis, it makes it all the more tempting to focus attention on opportunities closer to home. But in today's inter-connected and fast-moving world, we can't afford to do this. The council I lead has an international outlook; we know we have to expand our horizons if we are to compete. International Newcastle is a great opportunity to support these aims.

It's important to remember that Newcastle is far from anonymous on the international stage. Go into virtually any bar abroad and you may well find our famous branded Brown Ale, our football club has supporters' clubs all over the world and our universities attract thousands of foreign students, many of whom return to their places of origin with fond memories of our city and its people. This international recognition is not only nice to have, it's vital to our city's economic growth. It creates jobs and opportunities for many of our people. If we turn inwards we risk these benefits. That's why it's so important we continue to look beyond borders and talk to each other about our shared experiences.

The meeting in July is a great opportunity for the many Newcastles of the world to come to the original city, exchange ideas and strengthen the social and economic bonds which bind us together.

## Newcastles of the World



### NEWCASTLES COMING HOME!

Visitors from a dozen different Newcastles will meet in the original Newcastle in the last week of July. Around 70 delegates from “Newcastles of the World” will be getting together in Newcastle upon Tyne to discuss their branding and marketing and to explore setting up a joint Newcastles tourism initiative, with everyone promoting the other Newcastles as well as their own as a place to visit and invest in.

John Nicolaou, once a resident of Newcastle but now living in Spain and the man behind the idea of bringing all the Newcastles together, said “I’m delighted that Newcastle upon Tyne will now be host to many of the towns and cities around the world who take or share our name.

“There are over 100 Newcastles around the world, counting languages other than English, and we want to link them all through a new website we have set up and through educational, cultural and business activities. Some Newcastles have been meeting since 1998 but more of them than ever before will come here in July. Of all the possibilities for developing international associations, what more natural link is there than with the towns and cities that share the same name?”

People from Newcastles all round the world have been taking part in a wide range of education and cultural projects, some of which will come to fruition in Newcastle upon Tyne in July and to which are open to the public to enjoy:

### PUBLIC EVENTS: NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

The delegates will be welcomed to Newcastle with a special service at the Cathedral on the morning Sunday 22 July from 11am, to which members of the public are invited. The service will be followed by a parade through the city from Old Eldon Square, along Northumberland Street to the Civic Centre, accompanied by children from local schools who’ve been preparing flags and banners of welcome. At the Civic Centre we’ll open a small “friendship garden” which is being designed by apprentice gardeners from the Newcastle city nurseries, before going on to the Mansion House for a welcome event with music and dancing from local performers.

Several of the Newcastle will be sending delegates from their youth councils, and they will have their own events hosted by Newcastle’s Youth Council. “We will have a welcome party, meeting up with young people from this Newcastle,” said Gerry Hunwick of The Children’s Society. “We’ll also have important discussions between us on the global environmental challenges and how the voice of young people should be heard on this and other issues; about how young people can set up their own businesses and about perceptions of young people in the media.”

There’s a fascinating exhibition at the City Library of photographs, films and postcards from around 20 different Newcastles across the globe as well as a collection of postal history items from Newcastle upon Tyne dating from 1756 through to the present day. The exhibition will be in the viewing galleries on levels 3 & 6 for two weeks. **From Friday 20th July to Thursday 2nd August** – please pop along and see the wide range of items from all over the globe and from Newcastle upon Tyne, dating back to 1776.

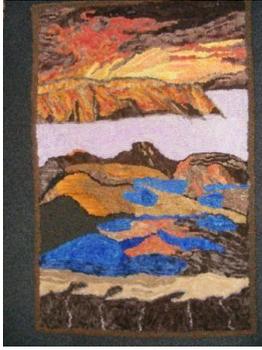


Image courtesy of Woodhorn Matters

And delegates will also be using the time here to create a “proggy mat” depicting different types of castle turrets, with the help of the “Woodhorn Matters”. The Proggy (or clippy) mat is a rug-making technique traditional to the North East of England. The mat will be produced at the Newcastle conference by members of the public who can have a go, as well as by the delegates. You can visit the proggy mat in development and contribute a stitch or two! The mat will be outside the Pandon Room in the Civic Centre from 9am-4pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July through to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July. Once complete it will be displayed at Newcastle Civic Centre and Newcastle Cathedral before going on to the other Newcastle.

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, a publication of poetry is to be launched, with poems about each Newcastle contributed by local writers as well as poets from many visiting Newcastles. The book of poems will have a foreword and some poems from Lindiwe Mabuza, the South African High Commissioner in London between 2001 and 2009 who is an accomplished and well-published poet as well as prominent African National Congress politician and South African diplomat – and who was born in Newcastle Kwazulu Natal.

*I am delighted that you have chosen to celebrate through poetry, drama and song the gatherings of Newcastle’s of the world from different continents, peoples and cultures.*

*Literature and song has been an important part of my consciousness. It had to be so. My maternal grandfather was a coal miner. The first English expression I learned when I started primary school was “Do not send coal to Newcastle”. Why not I enquired! Because all Newcastle’s mine coal! Thank you to the writers, young and old, professional and otherwise who have created and crafted words that say what their Newcastle means to them.*

Mrs Lindiwe Mabuza



Local poets Catherine Graham, Wajid Hussain and Sheree Mack will contribute their own poems about Newcastle upon Tyne and are also working in 15 different local schools to encourage local children to come up with their own poems about our Newcastle.

An even bigger project is the “Song for Newcastle”. Performers in Newcastles in Australia, South Africa, Germany, Switzerland, and the USA, as well as Newcastle upon Tyne and Newcastle-under-Lyme in the UK have been writing, singing and filming their Song for Newcastle, all based upon the words and music of well-known local song “Home Newcastle” by “Busker”, the late Ronnie Lambert. Busker’s song, about a Geordie exile homesick for Newcastle, has become a toon army anthem and is still often played at St James’ Park. The different international interpretations of Home Newcastle will be edited into a single version to be performed at the Newcastle conference.

Hazel Lambert, Ronnie’s widow, said “Ronnie would have been thrilled at the idea that people in other Newcastles around the world wanted to take part in this project based on his famous song and to write and sing about their Home Newcastle. I’ve been pleased to support this initiative and I look forward to hearing their versions and the final edit of the song.”

The poetry and the Song for Newcastle will come together on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at Newcastle’s Live Theatre for the “Night on the Tyne”, featuring the poets, with musicians and clog dancers and also Ouseburn Young Voices, a choir of young people from schools in the east end of Newcastle.



Work in Progress: pupils from Grange First school make a welcome Banner for delegates from Shinshiro, Japan

### Newcastles of the World: schools programme

15 Newcastle schools are each studying a different Newcastle from around the world, and they will share their projects with the visiting delegates, as well as making welcome banners and flags for them from their befriended overseas Newcastle. This is part of a more permanent link being developed with a school from the visiting Newcastle.

## Newcastle's Twin Cities

Newcastle has a range of city twinning and partnership relationships with cities in different parts of the world. In Europe – Bergen in Norway; Gelsenkirchen in Germany; Groningen in the Netherlands; Nancy in France and Malmö in Sweden. In the rest of the World – Atlanta and Little Rock in the United States; Haifa in Israel; Newcastle NSW in Australia and two cities Taiyuan and Zhengzhou in China.



Bergen, Norway

For more details of these relationships see the Lord Mayor's section of the Newcastle City Council website <http://www.newcastle.gov.uk/your-council/lord-mayor/town-twinning?opendocument>

International Newcastle helps the City Council to make the best of these unique relationships.

**Bergen** – following the 'Christmas tree visit' visit of the new Mayor of Bergen in December, we have been working with council officers to look at ways in which we can stimulate and support more social interactions between the people of our two cities.

**Nancy** - At the end of 2011, we organised a group of local drummers to take part in Nancy's Christmas Celebrations. We have the Pen-Pals Project up and running (see IN Projects) and we are working with the Honorary French Consul, the Council and Newcastle University to see if we can organise a system for regular exchange of student internships between the cities.

Visitors from three of Newcastle's twin cities called in to the City during the past few weeks.

The Madrigalchor from **Gelsenkirchen**, Germany visited to give a concert, "The Waters of Tyne and Ruhr" with the Northern English Singers at St James's Church in Northumberland Road, attended by Lord Mayor Jackie Slesenger and the German Honorary Consul Jo Chexal. In 2010 the Ruhr area of Germany was European Capital of Culture, and one of the hundreds of events was a concert in Gelsenkirchen at the Apostolkirche by the visiting Northern English Singers led by conductor Howard Layfield, in conjunction with the Madrigalchor. This was a great success and created such rapport between the choirs that a reciprocal visit and concert was arranged. The visiting German choristers were put up in the homes of the host choir members and enjoyed a ceilidh as well as sightseeing in Tyneside and in Northumberland.

The Mayor of **Malmö**, Sweden, Ilmar Reepau, led a delegation that included Malmö City Chief Executive Jan-Inge Ahlfridh and Dragan Buvac of the City of Malmö Symphony Orchestra.



Malmö, Sweden

The city of Malmö is considering creating a high-quality combined centre for concerts, conferences, meetings and a hotel to replace the existing concert hall, and the delegation visited The Sage Gateshead as a model for their own development. The visitors were also hosted at the city's Mansion House by City Council Leader Nick Forbes and Chief Executive Barry Rowland to discuss issues of mutual concern and by Swedish honorary consul Caroline Theobald, who also chairs **International Newcastle**.

The third visit was also from a choir – the Spivey Hall touring youth choir from Newcastle's US sister city **Atlanta** in Georgia. The choir was in the UK for their main summer tour and gave performances in London and Edinburgh as well as at the City Hall, Newcastle for the "Blaydon Bash" – a concert involving over a thousand local schoolchildren to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Blaydon Races. Led by Martha Shaw, artistic director of the Spivey Hall Children's Choir programme, the 40 young singers were welcomed by Lord Mayor Jackie Slesenger at the Mansion House where they gave a short performance. The visit was timely because this year is the 35 anniversary of the 1977 visit to Newcastle of former US President Jimmy Carter, the launch of the very first "Friendship Force" link and the beginning of the twinning relationship between the cities. Annual Friendship Force exchanges between the residents of Newcastle and Atlanta continue to this day. International Newcastle will be developing its 'Meet a Geordie' project based upon a model used in Atlanta to facilitate social interactions between international visitors.

## Journeys in Beadwork



Image courtesy TWAM

International Newcastles, joined with colleagues in Gateshead and partners Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums to celebrate the launch of a special exhibition of Xhosa beadwork at Shipley Art Gallery, Gateshead where a cultural joint arrangement was signed with Nelson Mandela Bay.

The joint arrangement between Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Eastern Cape, South Africa, and Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums was renewed at a celebration event in Gateshead on 31 May. Originally established in 2008, the arrangement commits both partners to working together for the benefit of their respective citizens in the fields of museums, culture, heritage and the arts. In its next phase it will include a focus on archives as this is a priority area for Nelson Mandela Bay.

The new arrangement was signed by Cllr Ged Bell, Chair of the Joint Committee for Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, and IN board member, and by Mr Zolile Siswana, Nelson Mandela Bay's Executive Director of Economic Development and Recreational Services, who was representing Cllr Babalwa Lobishe, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee for Recreation, Sport and Culture. The renewal of the arrangement took place at a celebration event for two fascinating exhibitions that have come out of the partnership: *Journeys in Beadwork: Tradition and Culture in the Eastern Cape* and *Journeys in Beadwork: Dialogues in Contemporary Style*, both showing at the Shipley Art Gallery Gateshead until **2 September**.