



## LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY FACT SHEET NUMBER 7 TOWN TWINNING

Newcastle is linked with:-

Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

Bergen, Norway (1980)

Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Groningen, Netherlands

Haifa, Israel (1979)

Nancy, France (1954)

Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia (1987)

Taiyan, China (1985)

*Dates in brackets indicate the year in which the link became official.*

### **Significant Dates**

15th May 1946	Letter from Burgomaster of Groningen (Holland) suggesting a civic visit from Lord Mayor of Newcastle and party.
18th February 1948	Another invitation from the Burgomaster of Groningen.
2nd June 1948	Letter from Regional Commissioner, Western Zone of Germany, supporting a suggestion made by the Oberburgermeister on behalf of the Council of Gelsenkirchen for reciprocal interchange of information and visits.
27th September 1948	Inaugural visit to Gelsenkirchen by the Lord Mayor, Sheriff and Town Clerk.
6th January 1954	Letter from French Consul suggesting friendly link between Nancy and Newcastle. Lord Mayor invited Mayor of Nancy to visit and discuss the suggestion.
10th July 1954	Visit to Nancy by Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to mark official link.
1st February 1956	Telegram from Sulimenko, President of the Executive Committee of the Town Council of Rostov on Don, inviting a civic visit from Newcastle.
21st February 1956 two	Letter from British Consul in Bergen suggesting a strengthening of ties between the Cities by developing exchange visits.
9th March 1958	4 day visit to Gelsenkirchen by the Lord Mayor & party.
6th April 1959	4 day visit to Newcastle by the Burgermeister of Gelsenkirchen and party.
24th April 1959	Letter from Burgermeister of Gelsenkirchen suggesting exchange visits by schoolgirls.
19th July 1961	Letter from Association of Municipal Corporations suggesting links with Rijeka (Yugoslavia).
6th September 1961	Suggested link with Rostov on Don declined by the Russians as being "a waste of time and money".
18th April 1972	Delegation from Gelsenkirchen made a 4 day visit to the City.
23rd January 1973	Visit to Newcastle by a party from Gelsenkirchen.
3rd April 1973	Visit to Gelsenkirchen by Newcastle City Councillors.

6th March 1974	Visit of civic party from Gelsenkirchen.
21st January 1977	Cultural exchange between Newcastle and Groningen (theatre group, folk groups etc.)
6th July 1977	Visit of a civic party from Gelsenkirchen. Residents of Atlanta pay first Friendship force visit.
November 1979	Decision to twin with Haifa (Israel).
Jan 1980	Invitation for Lord Mayor to visit Haifa declined because of economic conditions.
March 1980	Councillor Theresa Russell involved in meeting re twinning with Haifa.
30 July 1980 celebrations	Mayor & Mayoress of Bergen visit Newcastle as part of the Newcastle 900 and to officially link Bergen with Newcastle.
6th March 1983	Visit to Haifa (Israel) by the Lord Mayor as a guest of the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce.
14th March 1984	Draft agreement encouraging trade and cultural ties with Taiyuan (China) drawn up between the City Council and a visiting delegation from Taiyuan..
14th April 1985	Inter City Friendship agreement signed in Taiyuan.
5th December 1986	Opening of (permanent) display on Bergen, in Central library. No longer in situ 1998.
13th July 1987	Firework display marking the official signing of twinning between Newcastle and Newcastle, New South Wales. A civic delegation from Australia attended the event.
June 1990	Letter from Yaacou Bazak, Public relations, press & foreign relations, inviting sports team to train in Haifa which has international standard facilities.
9th August 1993	Suggestion, from a local businessman, that Newcastle link with Natal, South Africa was opposed by campaigners against Apartheid.
21st December 1995 ports with	Northern Electric suggest links with Vara, Bulgaria and Constanta, Romania, both and centres for engineering similar in size to Newcastle. Also suggestion that links Nancy, France be improved - each had teams visiting Newcastle for the Euro 96 football championship.
31st October 1995	Race Relations chiefs suggest link with a South African City.

This is a selection of dates concerning town twinning visits. Most visits to Newcastle can be found by consulting the Annual City Council Minutes where mention of visits is found under "civic hospitality".

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