

# Newcastles News

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • August/September 2017



## "SUMMER OF LOVE"

In the northern hemisphere that was 1967 - 50 years ago - and will be remembered for many things, including The Beatles' song "All You Need Is Love", part of the world's first live satellite broadcast.

In New Castle, Indiana, USA, the love theme is reflected today in the LOVE sculpture installations now in place that remember the iconic work of pop artist Robert Indiana, born in New Castle (see more inside) .

Or if you're in Nové Zámky, our "Newcastle" in Slovakia, look out for the "love bench" in St Elizabeth Park in the Silhoti area - also known as "the Lovers' Pad" ....



## CELEBRATING NATIONAL DAYS

It was spectacular fireworks over the city and the lake in Neuchâtel on 1<sup>st</sup> August to mark the founding of the Swiss Confederacy on that day in 1891 ("Fête nationale Suisse"). A month earlier it was Newcastle, Canada that was celebrating, with the 150th anniversary of the Constitution Act that unified the country into one Canada.



Two international relations students have been selected by the City of Neuchâtel for a year in Shinshiro, Japan. Marie Desaulles and Carole Marullaz, two 21-year-old international relations students, will have the privilege of going to Shinshiro, Japan, for a year each.

The young women will have the task of supporting the local youth parliament and giving tutoring in English in the schools of the city. Travel and accommodation costs are provided by the Municipality of Shinshiro.

## MARIE AND CAROLE SHOW THE STRONG LINKS BETWEEN NEUCHÂTEL AND SHINSHIRO

Marie, who is a former member of the youth parliament, will leave in the course of this summer. Upon her return, she will pass the role to Carole..

In another exchange in this summer, eleven Japanese high school students from Shinshiro, aged 15 to 17, were in Neuchâtel from 31 July to 6 August. lodged with volunteer families in the region, taking a language course and enjoying discovering the region.

### The dates for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering of the Newcastles of the World have been announced by Shinshiro

It will be from 3<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October next year. The project team for the conference in Japan have already recruited 40 volunteers from among Shinshiro citizens who want to help make the conference a memorable experience. The message is clear: "We hope to welcome many people from many Newcastles to Shinshiro and that you will enjoy heartwarming hospitality!"

Meanwhile, Shinshiro will welcome around 30 young people from several Newcastles for a conference this December, 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> to share information about the role and activities of different youth councils and similar youth agencies. They will look at both the positives and negatives of life for young people in the respective Newcastles, including the need to revitalise our town centres to create facilities and prospects for our youth. Shinshiro says "We're looking for brilliant new ideas!"





## Nyborg delegates experience Neuburg's Castle Festival live!

A group of nine people from Nyborg in Denmark visited Neuburg an der Donau during the second weekend of July to attend the Neuburger Castle festival. The group consisted of representatives from the city council, the development committee, the city administration and Nyborg Castle/Østfyns museums.

“A fantastic festival” was how Peter Wagner Mollerup, city council member and chairman of the Business and Development committee expressed his impressions of the festival on behalf of the rest of group and added that this visit really emphasises one of the benefits of “Newcastles of the World”- to collaborate, to learn from each other and to share knowledge across borders .

The main aim was to experience the castle festival for real in order to learn from it and to gain insight into how to develop Danehof - Nyborg's own medieval festival.

And there were a lot of concrete ideas to work on according to the Nyborg delegation. They were very impressed by the hospitality of their hosts and the great programme they had put together, but also the hospitality in general by the Neuburg citizens. Everyone in the Nyborg delegation agreed it was a magnificent experience and went home with a lot of new ideas, tips and new possibilities to develop Danehof. Finally, it was also a very nice reunion with the German delegation from the conference in Canada last year - although they were hard to recognise in their beautiful costumes. Special thanks to Elfriede Müller and Rüdiger Vogt who succeeded in making it an unforgettable castle festival for the Danes.

### ... and the Neuburg view ....

“The delegation was welcomed by Mayor Bernhard Gmehling and his wife in the town hall together with delegations from Sète in France and Lüttgendortmund in northern Germany. The guests were delighted at the sumptuous costumes and the many attractions of the festival, including the Great fireworks on the Saturday night. After two short days our friends departed with many good and lasting impressions”.



## IMAGES FROM NEUBURG'S SCHLOSSFEST 2017



**AND NYBORG HAD  
JUST HELD ITS OWN  
FESTIVAL ON THE  
PREVIOUS WEEKEND!**



## When Jimmy Carter and Muhammad Ali came to Newcastle

Forty years ago in the summer of 1977, the Queen came to Newcastle upon Tyne as part of her Silver Jubilee Tour. But there were two other historic visits that summer that were more unexpected. US President Jimmy Carter visited Newcastle in May as part of his first official trip outside the USA before going on to nearby Washington Old Hall where the ancestors of the first US President George Washington lived. Newcastle has celebrated the 40th anniversary of that visit and of the twinning of Newcastle with Atlanta, Georgia (Carter's home state) with a talk, an exhibition and a reunion event for some of those who travelled overseas as members

of Friendship Force International, launched by Carter. Then in July the great Muhammad Ali and his wife came to Newcastle for 24 hours before visiting nearby South Shields where they had their marriage blessed in the mosque. Quite a summer!





# AKHALTSIKHE'S WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Three Newcastles came together in **Akhaltzikhe, Republic of Georgia**, at the end of the June when host city Mayor Vladimer Zedginidze kindly invited other Newcastles to the annual St Shalva Day festival. Young musicians from Newcastle upon Tyne and members of the Mntimade Ingoma Dance Group from Newcastle, South Africa enjoyed the fantastic experience of performing in the magnificent Rabati fortress alongside the talented dancers, musicians and actors of Akhaltzikhe.

"The hospitality of our Georgian hosts was wonderful" said Newcastles of the World's David Faulkner who was also on the visit for presentations and meetings designed to strengthen the involvement of Akhaltzikhe in our alliance.



Behind these interesting boards, **Shinshiro City, Japan**, is building its new City Hall - and isn't it great that young people are being given the chance to see the work in progress?



This colourful display is from "fête de la Jeunesse" when young people in **Neuchâtel** process through the city to mark the beginning of the summer holiday.



Picturesque wooden boats in **Nyborg** (Denmark) harbour ahead of sailing around the island of Funen



**New Castle, Indiana** is renowned for its monthly cruise-in of vintage cars in the summer months - a huge attraction for the downtown area



20-year-old Anele Zulu of **Newcastle, South Africa**, with dreams as a top entertainer, has been aiming for a prestigious scholarship at the New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts (NYCDA) and has been selected for admission into the NYCDA Associates Degree Programme.

*On the first day of the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the "Donau Classic", more than 200 classic cars from 8 decades and 8 countries visited. Neuburg an der Donau, where they first stopped at the Schrankenplatz and later tackled the AUDI Driving Experience assessment on a hot summer day with temperatures of almost 40 degrees.*



The newspapers in **Newcastle upon Tyne** have given good coverage of our Passport scheme - read more about it on page 8



# MEET THE MAYOR - Vladimír Hokr of Nové Hradý

**What did you do before you entered politics?** After finishing my studies at the University of South Bohemia (french language/history) for a year I taught French language, but my main job was as a tourist guide. I worked for my parents' travel agency and for the ČEDOK travel agency as a specialist for France and Croatia but I was also a guide with Czech tourists in most countries of Europe - and also on Zanzibar island! In winter I was a basketball coach for over 15 years, and I participated on many tourism projects in my town and region as an author of books and guides (about the history of our town, bike trails and so on).



**What made you want to become a politician? How did it happen?** I don't think that I am a career politician! From 2000 I just presented my ideas and projects and in 2006 I won the town elections with my team (no party, but a list of independent candidates). The people of Nové Hradý gave us a vote of confidence to lead the town and make some of the changes that we spoke about. So, I feel that I am not a politician but just one of other people here - somebody who has had a chance to work for his town, and we just try to do it as well as we can - without any ideology and without any interest to jump higher to region or parliament.

**What achievements are you most proud of for your town?** It's a very difficult question. When I look back to all our investment projects (around 8 000 000 EUR in last 8 years), I am very happy to see the school buildings after reconstruction, the new look of our main square, the restoration of the culture house and of our historical monuments (town hall, town walls, Buquoy's tomb), new hall for skittles (bowling with nine pins). But most proud of for me is the "inside life" of the town and our villages. We started up culture projects and I think our town is now well known in South Bohemia and throughout the Czech Republic as a town with a rich cultural life and active local associations.

And that's also one of the reasons why our young people stay in Nové Hradý and don't move to bigger towns.

**What are the biggest challenges facing Nové Hradý?** Our big problem was that hotel Máj with its big hall hosting balls, dance competition, Masopust (carnival) didn't belong to the town. Last year the owner of hotel told us that he is ready and after long negotiations we bought hotel Máj. It was a very positive step for our people and for associations, but it's also a big challenge. We are preparing project plans now and would like to start reconstruction in April 2018.

**What are your other interests?** I very much enjoy history and especially the history of our town and region. With Michal Jarolínek and his mother Květa we created the town's museum. I'm happy that our new exposition is almost finished and I look forward to continue my researches about the life and people of Nové Hradý 1900-1950 - especially in the anniversary years 1918, 1938 and 1948. My personal biggest "interest" is my family - with my wife Jitka and our children Matyáš (5years) and Aneta (3 years) we do a lot of sport activities (tennis, bikes, volleyball); we enjoy summer here in South Bohemia and we were recently in Croatia to visit our friends and to enjoy the Adriatic sea.

**What are your hopes for the Newcastles alliance?** I have 3 wishes or tasks relating to the alliance. To continue our cooperation with all active towns and involve more and more of our people (especially young people) in this fantastic family of Newcastles. I would like to thank our friends from Shinshiro for their offer for our young people to come to Japan in December - we are very grateful and we hope that it will motivate our children and young people to learn English and to be part of our local "newcastlesoftheworld" team. Second, to connect new members from Croatia, Montenegro, Ukraine and by showing them our cooperation with Slovakian Nové Zámky and with other Newcastles, I would like to inspire/motivate them to be part of the alliance. Third, I hope we can start projects about common history (1918, 1938, 1968), about the iron curtain, but also projects for common marketing and promotion.



**What would you say to persuade people to come and visit Nové Hradý?** We are a small town on the border with Austria, so it's easy to come from Prague airport, but also from Vienna, Bratislava, Linz, Salzburg or Munich. We can offer many historical (gothic, baroque or imperial) monuments as the old castle, the Residence palace, the new castle and monastery. You can also visit our local museum and open air museum of the iron curtain. We have also many natural attractions (Tereza's Valley with its waterfall, Hojná Voda and Žofin primeval forest reservation - oldest in central Europe). We can offer a very rich culture programme, tasty cuisine, good beer (local breweries but also visit the Budveiser brewery in České Budějovice (35km away) - and of course very welcoming people! We are ready to help you with planning your holidays not only in our town or South Bohemia, but also in the Czech Republic or Austria. And Mayor Vladimír's special offer - a personal sightseeing tour of Nové Hradý and surrounding area and coffee or tea in the Mayors office!



**Neuburg an der Donau** has enjoyed a particularly active cultural life for many years, which is why it is also known as "the city of culture on the Danube". Neuburg Summer Academy is a major element and a national showcase. This year, the internationally recognised learning programme for fine arts, music and theatre is taking place for the 39th time. From 30th July to 12th August it offers a multi-faceted forum for creativity of all kinds - different courses from the areas of fine arts, jazz, classical, early music and theatre. This attractive offer is rounded off by a children's academy which is always well-attended and a youth studio.



As part of Nelson Mandela 67 minutes on 18th July, **Newcastle Municipality, South Africa**, led by Mayor Makhosini Nkosi, went out to do their bit to celebrate this international day of doing good and giving back to the community. This included helping with the renovation of three houses where the inhabitants were in special need, and an event at Cathulani Primary hosted by the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Dudu Sibiya with the handing over of 300 food parcels, 300 parcels to 600 households and blankets to the elderly.



Newcastle Brown Ale, 90 years old this year - and (right) a new beer from a new brewery in **Jaunpils**



David and Gitta Faulkner (right), who were visiting in May, took the opportunity to sample it! Thanks to Ligita and Baiba for their hospitality.



Bob and Lyn Cook from **Newcastle, Australia** visiting Newcastles in **Switzerland, Czech Republic and Germany** this summer!



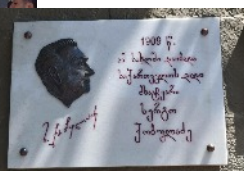
Another hugely successful **Neuchâtel International Fantasy Film Festival** has ended - 37,000 tickets sold, 151 films (features and shorts), 10 world premieres, 75 public talks and question-and-answer sessions!



Celebrating 150 years in 2017 is the beautiful Tyne Theatre & Opera House in **Newcastle upon Tyne**. Its distinguished history includes a performance by opera legend Placido Domingo in 1983 to mark its re-opening as a theatre after some years as a cinema.



**Akhaltzikhe** Mayor Vladimer Zedginidze has unveiled commemorative plaques to two famous sons of the city.



They were Michael Iadze - well-known footballer and Sergo Khobuladze famous painter.

**Newcastle-under-Lyme's** "Midsummer Wakes" festival, marking a traditional industry holiday time.





# Painting Symposium in Nové Zámky

The city of **Nové Zámky**, our “Newcastle” in Slovakia, was proud to host the second international painters’ symposium - SYMPOSIUM NOVUM 2017 from June 19th - 29th in the Imperial and Royal Riding Hall. During those days, 11 painters from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Mexico created works presented in exhibition that followed (June 28th - July 13th).

The public were able to observe the works in process of their creation as well as communicate with the artists. Going by the attitude of the specialists, the public, as well as the artist’s interests, the event has become a significant contributor to cultural and artistic life in the city and region and promises to become a recognised international artistic platform.

And painters and photographers from several different Newcastles contributed to an exhibition (right) called “Springtime in Newcastles”, conceived and delivered in several venues in the town of Nové Hradky in the Czech Republic.



## A MONUMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

About four years ago, when the journey began, there were few locals who knew who Robert Indiana was, never mind the fact that he was born in **New Castle, Indiana**. In this town of 18,000 all that was visible about this world-famous graphic artist was a 6” by 6” representation of his iconic LOVE symbol in the middle of a 20-foot mural in the Henry County Courthouse. Now a magnificent 8’ by 8’ LOVE sculpture sits prominently in Murphey Park in front of the armoury building, at the corner of Grand Avenue and South 15th Street (renamed Robert Indiana Parkway) and a second for the Arts Park



This beautiful sculpture has deep meaning. Not only was its creator born in New Castle, but this sculpture was fabricated by community students and then sandblasted and powder coated. This wouldn’t have been possible without the welding instructing at the New Castle Career Centre from their teacher, Steven Vitatoc. Carrie Barrett, director of New Castle Main Street, teamed up with Mr. Vitatoc to plan and provide for the project.

Carrie has continued to push for the **Robert Indiana Arts & Culture District**, which is a great honour to Indiana’s legacy, and to be instrumental in the continued progress and development of the New Castle community. They both have worked tirelessly to bring the town something to be proud of and represent our dreams, and the legacy of Robert Indiana is growing into what it should have been decades ago.

Over 5,000 visitors attended the National Silat Festival in **Kota Bharu, Malaysia**, with 400 participants from 6 states for this martial art with a difference - it’s often performed as a dance accompanied by traditional instruments. The festival included an exhibition and a costume parade.



New Castle Riverwalk project - **New Castle, Pennsylvania** is one of six cities selected to participate back in 2014 as a “Blueprint Community” - a reneration vision to be realised by a collaborative partnership of private, public and non-profit groups.

The 1.4 mile Riverwalk is a catalyst project to reconnect the city, recreating buildings and public spaces as living, working, shopping and entertainment spaces and implementing both capital and volunteer projects to enhance and improve the city with city streets as active, attractive, accessible and safe places for people. One such projects is a mural which has been designed and currently painted inside a parking block.

Norimoto Mando is a traditional and beautiful fire festival in **Shinshiro City**, held on Mount Mantou on August 15 every year. Mando is made of straw, wighing around 10 kg. Shirtless men brandish ignited mando overhead, while shouting “Mando, Mando, Yoi-Yoi”. They draw a large circle of fire in the night sky. This festival has a several meanings - for the repose of souls, repelling pests and as a memorial service for the war dead of the battle Nagashino. For young people wielding the mando, it is also one of the rites of passage of this region





# "NEWCASTLES" IN PHOTOS

We thought readers might enjoy these photos that feature people, places and events in some of our different "Newcastles"



Celebrating a very special Canada Day on July 1<sup>st</sup> in **Newcastle, Ontario** - this year Canada is 150 years old!



For the new civic year Linda Wright is Lord Mayor of **Newcastle upon Tyne** and Simon White is Mayor of **Newcastle-under-Lyme**.



Congratulation to Ligita Gintere, chair of **Jaunpils** council, **Latvia** whose party took a majority of seats in the recent elections and who has been re-elected to lead the council.



Happy 80<sup>th</sup> birthday to John McNaughton, former Lord Mayor of **Newcastle, Australia** and the architect of the twinning between his Newcastle and Newcastle upon Tyne 30 years ago in 1987.



**Neuchâtel's** traditional "buskers festival" - 15 guest groups take up residence in the city streets for 5 days in August



Winners of the first Kelantan half marathon in **Kota Bharu, Malaysia**



Another great **Newcastle** air show (**South Africa**)



**Newcastle City Council in Australia** marked National Tree Day with a tree-planting event for school students on Friday ahead of a community planting working bee. Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes joined over 200 students from three local schools at Stevenson Park for the National Schools Tree Day event.



**South Africa** is the "rainbow nation" where many cultures live together. Our Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal is truly diverse. Children attending the Chinese school have been enjoying finding out more about their own traditions from instructors who visit from China and Taiwan.



Eddie Hall of **Newcastle-under-Lyme** has won the title of the "World's Strongest Man" in Botswana.

Jeany Barrett of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** was recognised at the June council meeting as the 2017 Clarington's Senior of the Year. The award recognizes local seniors for their outstanding volunteerism.

Jeany was presented with a plaque by Mayor Adrian Foster at the meeting in recognition for her work in beautifying Newcastle through the Horticultural Society that she chaired, but also for her role in chairing the committee that organised and hosted the 2016 Newcastles of the World conference.







<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/passport/>

*Pictured here left to right above and across rows: Nové Hradky, Czech Republic; Neuchâtel, Switzerland; Nové Zámky, Slovakia; Nyborg, Denmark; Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom; Jaunpils, Latvia; New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA; New Castle, Indiana, USA; Neuburg an der Donau, Germany; Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia; Shinshiro City, Japan; Newcastle-under-Lyme, United Kingdom; Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa; Newcastle, Clarington, Ontario, Canada; Kota Bharu, Malaysia; Akhaltsikhe, Republic of Georgia.*

The **Newcastles Passport** scheme is live now for Neuchâtel, Shinshiro, Newcastle upon Tyne, Neuburg and der Donau and New Castle, Pennsylvania, with others poised to join. We have stickers to go in the windows of the participating restaurants, shops and hotels. Contact Zélie Guérin on [zelie@internationalnewcastle.org.uk](mailto:zelie@internationalnewcastle.org.uk) to discuss how to get on board. For an example on our website, see <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/the-newcastle-passport-for-visitors/neuchatel-switzerland-passport/>

## MEET YOUR NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD TEAM

**Zélie Guérin** is Director of International Newcastle (IN) and Project Manager for Newcastles of the World, which is managed by Zélie with the support of **Carrie Brookes** on communications and **Julie Maxwell** on finance. **David Faulkner** acts as main link with mayors and other political leaders and is responsible for the newsletter and for membership.

Zélie has 25 years' experience of international relations work, representing Newcastle upon Tyne and North East England across Europe and with overseas partners in a range of senior-level roles. She has helped businesses to succeed in international markets, schools to develop dynamic international links and cultural organisations to create new performances with their international counterparts.

Zélie led the Regional Language Network North East to be top ranked among the 12 twelve UK networks by the National Centre for Languages.

Before that she had nine years as International Relations Adviser for Newcastle City Council. She is a dual British / Irish national with French background and has French and German language skills.



Zélie



David

Carrie (left below)  
Julie (right below)



# 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. With others, 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, Nové Hradky in the Czech Republic (2014) and Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016.

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.