

NEUCHÂTEL SETS THE DATE FOR 2020

The City Council of the City of Neuchâtel, our hosts, has set the date for our 12th Newcastles of the World Alliance conference next year – it will be the week of 21 - 28 April for what it calls “this magnificent adventure” ! As announced last year in Japan, the main theme will be "Smart City: Innovation for Cities and People". Neuchâtel says: “We look forward to welcoming your delegations to Switzerland, and our Steering Committee is developing an attractive programme to introduce you to our region's assets. We will send details soon concerning this meeting and the registration procedures”. We look forward to a fruitful week in this beautiful city.

The Newsletter of “Newcastles of the World” • July/August 2019

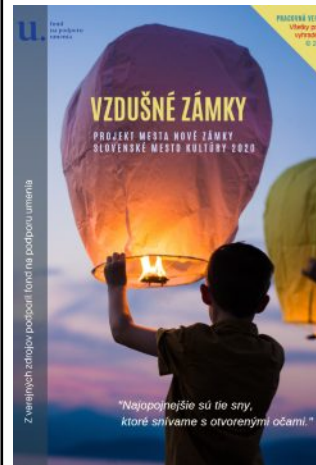
FESTIVAL TIME IN THE NEWCASTLES !

We look forward to all the festivals that this time of year brings in many of our Newcastles.

There's the biennial Schlossfest (castle festival) in the Renaissance city of **Neuburg** (Germany), and the “Danehof” - medieval market, heritage enactments, food market and more in **Nyborg**, Denmark - this year marking Nyborg Castle's founder Valdemar Sejr and his fleet arriving at his new fortress. Not forgetting **Jaunpils'** castle festival (Latvia) too . There's the St Shalva festival in **Akhalsikhe** (Georgia), to which we helped send performers from Newcastle South Africa and UK in 2017, and Porciunkula/goulash festival in **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia. Plus the Fireworks Festivals in **New Castle, Pennsylvania** and **Shinshiro** (Japan), film festivals in **Neuchâtel** (Switzerland) and **Herceg Novi** (Montenegro), **Canada Day** in Newcastle, circus in the **UK's Newcastles** and kites in **Kota Bharu** (Malaysia) - AND SO MUCH MORE - check them all out on our calendar of events page - <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/events-calendar/>

Nové Zámky - City of Culture

Very many congratulations to Nové Zámky, our "Newcastle" in Slovakia, for their award as "City of Culture" for Slovakia for the year 2020, just announced.



We look forward to a great programme of events in the year to attract, and involve other Newcastles. The year's theme will be “Vzdušné Zámky” - castles of the air, flying high, taking culture to places and people that it doesn't normally reach, showcasing the present and creating the new.

SHINSHIRO'S AWARD FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL FOCUS



We are delighted that the City of Shinshiro has received national recognition in Japan for its international relations commitment and programmes with the award of the 13th Annual International Exchange Commendation of the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications. Shinshiro was commended for 20 years of its active involvement with the Newcastles of the World Alliance. The International Exchange Commendation, sponsored by the Ministry and by the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR), awards original and creative regional internationalisation initiatives between sister cities. The award ceremony was held recently in Tokyo and the award received by Shinshiro Mayor Ryozi Hozumi (right in photo) .

Read more about it here - <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/2019/06/18/shinshiro-wins-international-exchange-award/>



ROYAL VISIT TO NYBORG: Queen Margrethe of Denmark has visited Nyborg, our Newcastle in Denmark. The royal yacht Dannebrog sailed into harbour and the Queen was greeted by large crowds and of course by Mayor Kenneth Muhs. Councillor Jesper Neilsen met her Majesty and was able to tell her about Newcastles of the World and Nyborg's involvement in our alliance! The annual royal summer tour of ports and regions on the Dannebrog is a tradition that dates back centuries. See page 5 for Councillor Martin Stenman's account of the visit.

PEOPLE

NEW UK CIVIC LEADERS



Councillor David Cook has become the new Lord Mayor of **Newcastle upon Tyne**, and, according to tradition, holds this position for the next 12 months. He has been a City Councillor for nine years and by profession is a clinical biologist. In the photo to the right he shows his footballing skills on the occasion of the opening of the Newcastle “Hoppings” (Europe’s largest annual travelling funfair) on 21 June.



In Newcastle-under-Lyme, Councillor Simon White (top left) has become Mayor for the second time. He runs a bed and breakfast business and has been a councillor for five years. In the UK, Lord Mayors and Mayors are “first citizens” of their communities and fulfil an important ceremonial role in representing their areas, attending functions and welcoming local, national and international guests. But for their year they are also the Speaker of the local Council, chairing full council meetings.



Ligita Gintere, Chairwoman of **Jaunpils Municipality** (our “Newcastle” in Latvia) has been in China to participate in the meeting of the China - Central and Eastern European Countries (CEEC) association with other regional and provincial leaders. The visit was to strengthen friendship and promote economic cooperation between the countries. Ligita is to the right in the photo, with Ingus Rozenblats of the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia in China; Mudīte Priede, Secretary General of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments and Māris Selga, Latvia’s Ambassador to China.

No, it’s not a new music group! – it’s this year’s official photo of the Conseil communal (the cabinet) of the City of **Neuchâtel** in Switzerland - but they do play well together, just like a band. There’s a guitar for Fabio Bongiovanni, a violin for Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin, a bow for président du Conseil Thomas Facchinetti, a sax for Christine Gaillard and a drum for Anne-Françoise Loup . Also in the photo (far left) is Rémy Voirol, chancelier de la Ville de Neuchâtel, and Bertrand Cottier (far right), vice-chancelier.



Mr Facchinetti has taken over from Christine Gaillard as President of City for the coming year but the team (the band members) remains the same. The vice-presidency passes to Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin. The distribution of policy responsibilities within the band remains unchanged.



There were two very distinguished visitors to **Nové Zámky** in May – Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Slovak Republic to UNESCO, Klára Novotná. visited her hometown to speak about the European Union and meet community members. And newly elected Slovakian President Zuzana Čaputová (right, with Mayor Otokar Klein) visited the city as part of the EU Parliament election campaign, taking part in a discussion with the public and representatives of the European institutions.



AWARD FOR SENIORS PROJECT IN NEWCASTLE, CANADA

Local Member of Parliament Kim Rudd was at “A Gift of Art” gallery in Newcastle, Ontario, Canada at the end of April to announce the awarding of a “New Horizons for Seniors” grant. Accepting the grant was Ann-Marie Harley (pictured on the left), Chair of the charity. Ann-Marie presented Ms Rudd with souvenirs from the last Seniors grant - the “Living Stories” Project which culminated in a Play “Time Changes...”, combining youth with seniors.



Herceg Novi - a city with an open heart to which the whole world is welcome

The 50th Mimosa Festival took place this year, bringing to **Herceg Novi** guests from all over the world. At the very beginning of the event, the Newcastles of the World Alliance was successfully presented, so citizens and tourists had the opportunity to become acquainted with the culture and attractions of the different Newcastle members. Here we speak to the first citizen of Herceg Novi - the Mayor of the Municipality, **Mr. Stevan Katić**.



What did you do before you entered politics? I used to run a private business in tourism and I was a business manager in a private company.

What inspired you to become a politician? How did it happen?

In our country, the transition (specifically, the transition from communism to capitalism) has been going on since the 1990s but change has been slower than many would like, so I wanted to get involved and try to be part of a positive process of change. Herceg Novi is a tourist town with rich historical and cultural heritage, a city that inspired numerous great artists, a place of mild climate and hospitable people, a city of great development opportunities that are still not sufficiently exploited. My wish is to help the development of the local community with my experience, and contribute to making my town a more comfortable place to live.

What achievements are you most proud about in Herceg Novi?

I am proud that Herceg Novi has become a town in which things are happening that meet the needs of its citizens. When becoming Mayor, my intention was to improve cooperation of local government with the citizens, to hear their voice more strongly and to work equally on improving the living conditions in all parts of the city - an extremely demanding task, but I believe we are on the right path. We focused on the improvement of communal infrastructure and the revitalization of buildings of historical and cultural significance, and in a short time we have achieved a lot. Our primary interest is to improve every corner of the city and make it a place offering a good quality of life, and the citizens proud and satisfied about visible changes.



What are the biggest challenges that Herceg Novi is facing?

Increased centralisation and the reduction of the role of local government by the state is one of the biggest obstacles to the normal functioning of Montenegrin municipalities. In addition, the privatisation of state-owned enterprises has not worked well in Herceg Novi. We were one of the leading tourist destinations when part of the former Yugoslavia, but subsequently many hotels and companies that were once important to our economic development were closed due to bad privatisation arrangements.

We have also been addressing, step by step, the lack of a planning framework; first we have adopted a Spatial-Urban Plan, a necessary condition for the development of the city and the realisation of large infrastructure projects. Improvement of the infrastructure and equipping of utility companies are issues that have needed serious attention for years - we are dedicated to the improvement of local roads, the construction of a modern bus station, increasing parking spaces, and we are continually investing in the procurement of equipment for utility companies.

What are your other interests? In addition to the local level, I am involved in activities related to state-level policies, where, through my position in the party I am trying to contribute to improving the situation with the state, with constructive suggestions when proposing legal solutions. In my spare time I like to follow sports, I like to go to the theatre and watch a good movie and from time to time I manage to make time for sports fishing.

What are your hopes for the Newcastles alliance?

Joining Newcastles of the World is one of the important steps we have taken to come closer to other cities around the world. It is a great pleasure for me that soon after joining we had the chance to be good hosts and successfully organise the presentation of the members of the alliance in Herceg Novi. We expect that our participation will contribute to the creation of a network of projects among cities, in which we will be an active member. I believe that our cooperation should be based on culture, tourism, economy, education and sports, and we can jointly design and implement projects that will bring numerous benefits to local communities.



What would you say to persuade people to visit Herceg Novi?

Photos describe the town better than words! They would whet your appetite to visit. Herceg Novi is a city in which you have to visit the Fortresses: Forte Mare, Kanli Kula and Spanjola; you would be charmed with the Old Town area with the Clock Tower; it's a perfect place to enjoy a walk down the 6km long promenade along the sea offering homemade specialties while enjoying the view towards one of the most beautiful bays in the world. In addition to all, Herceg Novi is a city rich in attractions, full of festivals, concerts, sports competitions during the whole year. Because of all these things, for Herceg Novi it is said - *a city that you shouldn't miss*.



FESTIVITIES IN JAUNPILS TO MARK A BIG ANNIVERSARY



Three days of celebration from May 31 to June 2 marked the 10th anniversary of Jaunpils municipality in its current form. The festivities were opened with visits to the companies of the region, followed by events at Jaunpils High School and its new stadium, and a home market to showcase local producers, then a church service, a range of activities for children in the castle square and a chamber music concert at Jaunpils church.



Despite poor weather at times, Jaunpils citizens enjoyed the festivities and in particular the music and dance that showcased the Latvian culture.



40 YEARS OF A PLEASANT CENTRAL ENVIRONMENT IN NEUCHÂTEL

In so many cities, the motor car has dominated for a long time, with pedestrian areas often just confined to a main shopping street, if at all. But this summer Neuchâtel, Switzerland marks 40 years of its central pedestrian area, which has created such a pleasing and clean environment for residents.

There are two specially-commissioned artworks to celebrate this anniversary - an artistic and cultural view with a giant egg laid on the top of an old tower (Tour de Diesse) of the old town and a second project called "Ding Dong" where 32 typical local watches have been decorated by local artists and placed at different locations in the pedestrian zone. There has been a very popular launch event for the anniversary programme - with a huge picnic lunch with a table running over more than 300 metres where people could eat together in the heart of the city.



Neuchâtel tells us more - "The Egg: It's an installation by Neuchâtel artist Mandril, called "Drôle d'oiseau, le piéton neuchâtelois" (the Newcastle pedestrian is a strange bird), which aims to show that ideas can flourish in our region, like nowhere else. This egg, composed of a myriad of birds, reminds us that birds, like ideas, both migrate, and that when they feel comfortable there, they build a nest to lay eggs.

Ding Dong: we traditionally produce typical watches from Neuchâtel, the so-called "pendule neuchâteloise" (Newcastle pendula). For example by Le Castel <https://www.lecastel.ch/>. For this project, the city created an empty white and stylised pendula about 2 metres high and artists have been invited to decorate them."



FLAGS, DRUMS AND SWORDS in SHINSHIRO

The Nagashino Battle Flag Festival in Shinshiro, Japan is a festival to console the spirits of the warriors on both sides who died at the Battle of Nagashino, which took place near what are now the ruins of Nagashino Castle. Celebrated last month, hundreds of flags bearing crests from both armies are raised during the festival, so it is also called Nobori Matsuri, or Flag Festival.

There were many other things to see, including musket demonstrations, Nagashino Jindaiko drum performances and Iai swordsmanship.

Nyborg enjoyed a visit from the Queen - by council member Martin Stenmann

“On May 31 the Queen of Denmark Margrethe II paid an official visit to Nyborg. She arrived on the royal ship “Dannebrog” and was escorted through town by the hussars on horseback. At City Hall she was greeted by the 25 council members and also attended a cultural session with 3 council members including Jesper Nielsen.

During this session he informed her majesty about the Newcastles of the World alliance! This was of great interest to the Queen because her majesty had not heard about it before. And she started mentioning some of the Newcastles that she has visited in her lifetime!



“During the course of the day the Queen visited our castle, which is currently under renovation. She saw the excavations in the town square and elsewhere during the afternoon. In the evening the Queen hosted a dinner on the royal ship. Various people from Nyborg, including city council members, were invited and it was a magnificent experience! I had the pleasure of having a one-to-one conversation with Her Majesty. I told her about my acting as king from time to time She saw photos of me dressed as King Christian II (1481 - 1559) standing next to Mayor Hozumi in Shinshiro at the Newcastles of the World conference last year.

I also showed her a picture of me dressed as Valdemar Sejr (1170-1241). He was on a crusade in Estonia when legend has it that a flag fell down from the sky on June 15 1219. The flag became the Danish National Flag, now the oldest in the world. I told Her Majesty that I would be dressed as Valdemar Sejr on the 15th of June 2019, when we celebrate the 800th year birthday of this flag “Dannebrog” by opening an exhibition in our museum. At 22:00 the royal ship left Nyborg accompanied by fireworks and a big crowd that was cheering from the harbourside”.



KOTA BHARU'S NEW PEACE PARK

There has been a preview visit by civic dignitaries in Kota Bharu (our “Newcastle” in Malaysia) ahead of the public opening of the new Kota Bharu Peace Memorial Park on 4th July. In conjunction with this occasion, and by way of further developing recent connections with Japan, a Japanese festival of music, dance, visual arts and food will be held. Kota Bharu is the capital and royal seat of Kelantan state and is the largest of our “Newcastles” with around 600,000 people.



The second International Festival of Traditional Handcrafting was held in **Akhaltzikhe** Castle (Republic of Georgia) at the end of June. There were various open master classes such as painting on ceramics and making musical instruments. The Festival programme also includes the exhibition of museum collectibles, artisans and modern artists, and educational programmes for children, public lectures, presentations and concerts. The festival’s aim is to popularise traditional hand-crafting in Georgia. It is organised by the Georgian State Museum of Folk and Applied Arts and Traditional Handicrafts Association and is supported by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, USAID Project "Growth in Georgia" and Akhaltzikhe Municipality City Hall.

FESTIVAL VISITORS FROM OTHER NEWCASTLES

This year the Renaissance Festival in **Neuburg an der Donau** will again attract thousands of visitors from all parts of Germany. This time Neuburg is proud to welcome delegations from a number of other Newcastles. The delegation of Nyborg (7 members) decided to come to Neuburg for the first Festival weekend, and delegations from Herceg Novi (2 members) Jaunpils (9 members) and Shinshiro (5 members) will visit for the second weekend (July 5 - July 7).



COMMUNITY

New Castle Blueprint Communities (community regeneration agency of **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA**) has partnered with DON Enterprises to begin redevelopment of the Lower East side neighbourhood with new house-building, improved sidewalks (pavements), supported by volunteer-run community clean-ups and neighbourhood watch. It is also partnering with Hoyt Center for the Arts on 3 public arts projects (see photo of one) and also garden art.



Blueprint Communities now also has funds made available for the support of “Hometown Holly Days” activities, parades, summer concerts, and training; plus a grant to develop an Investment Prospectus for New Castle’s Opportunity Zone, as well as business retention and attraction packages.



Mayor Greg York receiving the award

The Indiana Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded the City of **New Castle** “Outstanding Comprehensive Plan” for the state of **Indiana**. A lot of hardwork was involved creating this plan which helps the City secure federal grant funding to help with city projects. The New Castle City Council was very involved with this process along with a steering committee which consisted of local leaders.

The City will use the comprehensive plan as a tool in making future land use and development-related decisions. Plan components include an evaluation process for land use, transportation and connectivity, housing and neighbourhoods, utility infrastructure, economic development, environment and stability, community services and facilities, parks and recreation, education and workforce development, and communication and identity.

The plan uses a future land use map, future transportation map, and ten critical-path strategies to help identify short - and long-range projects, programs, and policies for the City.

After forty years the hotel Máj in **Nové Hradý** will be renovated. The municipality bought the hotel two years ago and now wishes to refurbish it in readiness for the beginning of next year.

The hotel is where most of Nové Hradý’s community events take place, including the much-loved Novohradska Cup dancing competition, the oldest South Bohemian dancing competition, which attracted almost 200 competitors this year.



With more than 12 500 spectators in attendance, the ninth annual **Newcastle (South Africa)** Airshow took place on June 1 at the Newcastle Airport. Flying displays included acts by the Silver Falcons, Team 82 that flew at the recent presidential inauguration, the showstopper South African Air Force (SAAF) Gripen fighter jet and a SAAF Oryx helicopter. To add to the exhilarating action-packed day, daytime fireworks, parachutists, an extreme bike show and the SA Motor Sport Drag Car versus aircraft race kept spectators enthralled.



The event was courtesy of the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs of KwaZulu-Natal, KZN Tourism and the event organisers, Champ Group “2020 will be a big year for the Newcastle Airshow as we celebrate our 10th anniversary, as we plan on hosting a three-day airshow with artist performances as well as plenty of other activities, so watch this space,” said Johan Pieters of Champ Group.

And another great community event for Newcastle KZN was the annual **Winter Festival** held at the end of April, attracting thousands with a varied programme including some great bands.

Despite poor weather, the annual Operation Clean Sweep Clarington, **Canada** was a great success. Volunteers in **Newcastle** did a great job clearing away rubbish from the Port, Bond Head and the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area.



Celebration events have taken place in **Newcastle-under-Lyme** to mark Queen Victoria, born 200 years ago. Newcastle is home to a bronze copy of a famous statue of Victoria which is in Oodeypore, India. From this original, seven copies were made and they are now located in Queen’s Gardens in Newcastle, London, Adelaide (Australia) and elsewhere. Included in the programme was a talk at the New Vic(toria) Theatre by popular television presenter Lucy Worsley, pictured here with council leader Simon Tagg.



ENVIRONMENT

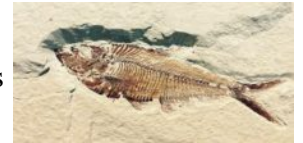
Newcastles of the World is best recognised as a friendship network of towns and cities that share the same name, but we are also all blessed by being located in areas of exceptional natural beauty - here we focus on two of them.

NEUBURG HAS GREAT BEAUTY - AND ARCHAEOLOGY - ON ITS DOORSTEP

This July, the Altmühltal Nature Park, of which Neuburg an der Donau is at the southern edge, celebrates 50 years since its opening. At almost 3000 square kilometres, it is the fourth largest nature park in Germany after Bergstraße-Odenwald and the two Black Forest nature parks.

Its beautiful countryside and the variety of its natural landscape make it a hiker's, cyclist's and canoer's heaven. The park is "home" to the famous Archaeopteryx fossils, the link in the evolutionary chain that connects reptiles to birds. Therefore, it is like an open window on the mysterious Jurassic world: here you can go back over the geologic history of Earth and search for fossils in some of the stone quarries of the region.

Many will know the interest of our good friend from Neuburg and supporter of Newcastles of the World, Peter Schöpfel whose business includes a quarry and who has a great personal interest in the area's fossils.



On a similar theme, very recently, on the outskirts of Neuburg itself, during roadworks along the federal highway, B 16 archaeologists discovered 26 graves of the Late Bronze Age (1300 - 1200 BC). The artefacts that were found include ceramics, jewelry, bronze spearheads and a bronze shaving razor (see left).



Other even older finds were discovered at a burial site within the precincts of a Neolithic settlement. Mayor Bernhard Gmehling (who is pictured - right - with Deputy Mayor Ruediger Vogt being shown the location of the finds) has suggested that these be shown to the public at a special exhibition in the Neuburg Castle Museum later in the year.

TEREZA'S VALLEY (Terčino Valley) is a romantic English-style landscape forest park, situated near **Nové Hradý** in South Bohemia's Novohradské hory National Park of the Czech Republic. The Count Jan Nepomuk Buquoy started to build the park as early as in 1756 for his wife Tereza. Exotic trees, ornamental shrubs, historic buildings, small ponds and Tereza's waterfall have been preserved in the park.

There is the difficulty of many owners of different parcels of land, but cooperation is better now says Nové Hradý Mayor Vladimír Hokr, and volunteers from the Beautification Association for Terčino údolí, chaired by our Newcastles of the World friend Michal Jarolímek, have been participating in the transformation of the valley for five years now. Bushes have been planted, ponds have been revitalized, new benches installed, bridges have been newly built or improved so that their appearance matches the historical one, and many historical vistas in the park are gradually opening up again.



With its iconic waterfall, this beauty spot has attracted television producers and also filmmakers ("Let the Knights Live"). Director Zdeněk Troška is preparing to be here with film crew, Mayor Hokr tells us. So the valley will become even better known throughout the country – and perhaps outside.



ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD : There are more than 100 different "Newcastles" or "New Castles" around the globe, in many different countries and different languages. It was the mayor of one of them, in Shinshiro, Japan, who took the initiative to bring the Newcastles together via the Newcastles of the World summit in 1998. Subsequent gatherings were held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (New Castles of Indiana & Pennsylvania) 2002, South Africa 2004 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2014, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016 and back to Shinshiro in 2018.

Our aim is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism between us all.

YOUTH

Nové Zámky wins national award for work with young people

At the end of May in the capital Bratislava, **Nové Zámky** took the Children's Foundation of the Slovak Republic Award for its work to improve the lives of children and young people and to engage them in public life. The prize is awarded by the Foundation for Children of Slovakia together with the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia. In addition to the recognition of this work, the prize also includes a € 3,000 donation for further development of activities for the benefit of young people in the municipality. "We warmly congratulate you and thank you for creating the right conditions and programmes to meet the needs of children and young people in your city," said project manager Peter Lenco.



CELEBRATING CHILDRENS' DAY

On June 1 **Akhalsikhe Municipality** (Republic of Georgia) celebrated international childrens day. This was a joint initiative of the City Hall and World Vision Georgia, Akhalsikhe children were able to attend, enjoy and take part in various entertainment events, including dramatic and colourful dance. Another highlight for the young guests was a performance by the Akhalsikhe Professional Puppet Theatre "Natsarkeekia".

SPEAKERS OF NEUBURG AN DER DONAU'S YOUTH PARLAMENT

The members of the new youth parliament recently elected its speakers for the next three-year term. Michael Stadler was already one of the speakers of the former youth parliament so will continue. New in this position is Azad Isik, who was re-elected as a member of the last youth parliament. The photo shows Azad Isik, left, Councillor Doris Stoeckl, and Michael Stadler, right.



SO MANY SUCCESSES FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HERCEG NOVI !



“Montenegro in the Rhythm of Europe”

In June, teenagers from Herceg Novi represented the city in this high-profile national competition which had involved three months of preparation and rehearsal. The young people were supported by public figures and local celebrities via social media, and there was an enthusiastic and appreciative response from throughout the local community. They can be very proud of their efforts.

Prizes at the “Olympics of Knowledge”: Nataša Ivović, of the Orjenski Bataljon Elementary School won second place in chemistry; Mark Ivanov from Dašo Pavičić Elementary School won third prize in mathematics, and Milan Lecic of the Secondary School "Ivan Goran Kovačić " won second place in mathematics. With their mentors, they were hosted at an appreciation event by the Municipality by Herceg Novi's Deputy Mayor Miloš Konjević and Secretary of Culture and Education Ana Zambelic Pistolalo.



Dancing with others across Europe: High school graduates from secondary school Ivan Ivan Kovacic, Herceg Novi in Montenegro danced on 17 May at noon in synchronisation with others in Europe.

They danced in yellow and green t-shirts to mark the 50th anniversary of the city's Mimosa Festival. This is one of the projects that the Municipality of Herceg Novi and its citizens joyfully support because it celebrates youth and the connection of our youngsters to other young people from across Europe.

Water Polo Winners: The club Jadran Carine from Herceg Novi has been recognised for the sixth year in a row as the best water polo club in Montenegro at the championships in Montenegro. Jadran Carine has absolute dominance in competitions within younger categories, and is again the top club overall across all age groups.



TOURISM AND BUSINESS

It's been a long wait but the new airport terminal building in **Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa** opened its doors recently when the Mayor of Newcastle, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba touched down in a jet straight from O.R. Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg). The flight took around 40 minutes. Regular flights to and from Durban and Johannesburg will start soon.



Lufthansa has announced a new flight (6 days a week) from **Newcastle upon Tyne** to Munich, not only connecting directly with the Bavarian capital, but it's a hub to another 140 destinations in 46 countries, operating from February 2020. As well as being convenient for reaching **Neuburg an der Donau (!)**, this is a valuable new connection because the German market is particularly important for business travellers as the largest trading partner for the UK after the USA.

OUR "SMART" CITIES



The City of **Newcastle's** great "smart city" strides were recognised again at the national Smart Cities Conference, highlighting the latest technologies being deployed across **Australia's** building, transport and utilities industries. Newcastle was named joint winner of the headline Smart City of the Year – Metropolitan prize, along with Adelaide's City of Prospect, at the Smart Cities Awards 2019 in Melbourne. Lord Mayor Nuatali Nemes said. "Whether investing in energy-efficient solar projects or rolling out electric-vehicle charging stations and bike-sharing initiatives, we're leading the way when it comes to investment in and uptake of technology. "This includes the roll-out of free Wi-Fi and low-power wide area networks that will link sensors and integrated technology to provide detailed real-time data to improve ease of access, efficiency and liveability for residents, businesses and tourists.

And **Newcastle upon Tyne** has won Smart City of the Year award in the **UK** for its collaborative approach to innovative technology across the city to deliver services more efficiently and make life more liveable - through better transport, cleaner air, more responsive local services and by creating more independence for people in their own homes. As home to the flagship development Newcastle Helix, the National Innovation Centre for Data and the Urban Observatory, Newcastle is a major player in the digital world.

Last year for the Great Exhibition of the North, Newcastle was home to the UK's "smartest street" in partnership with Cisco ; the Mosley Street area in the city centre was fitted with additional CCTV cameras, sensors installed on lampposts, bins and car parking spaces where the data is captured to control and monitor street lighting, parking availability, air quality and bin collection and road maintenance services.

In 1879 Mosley Street was the first street in the world to be lit by electricity!

Digital Leaders is a shared professional online space and face-to-face programme, for leaders across all sectors promoting effective, long-term digital transformation.



The government of Japan has signed four agreements with the Republic of Georgia to finance local economic development projects, one of which is in **Akhaltsikhe** and involves the regeneration of a building to create an Agricultural Hub – an agricultural laboratory and training centre for farmers.

Agriculture remains vital to the local economy of the Akhaltsikhe area. The laboratory will provide testing facilities for soil, water and dairy products. This project will help to produce biologically clean agricultural produce and to promote responsible farming among the local population. This project was developed and will be implemented by the involvement of the Samkaro agency, key experts being JICA (Japan's International Cooperation Agency) alumni, who visited Japan to share knowledge about sustainable agriculture.

The Tourist organization Herceg Novi in cooperation with the Sailing Club "Jugole Grakalic", the Municipality of **Herceg Novi** and Marina & Hotel "Lazure", organised the sailing regatta in the part of the bay that belongs to the town of Herceg Novi in Montenegro.

For the first time, a solar sailing boat "Boka", owned by Antonije Pušić - Rambo Amadeus, a famous musician and sailor, sailed.

After the competition, the start of the sailing season was celebrated with fish, wine and traditional local music.



NYBORG BECOMES LATEST TO JOIN PASSPORT TOURISM SCHEME

Nyborg in Denmark is the eighth Newcastle to join our Passport tourism scheme promoting visits between residents. They've created a fantastic selection of exclusive offers and support for visitors from other Newcastles. Read on to find out how to make your visit extra special and receive the warmest of welcomes.

Spotlight on Nyborg

Nyborg city is an old market town in central Denmark with many quaint shopping streets and historical and cultural attractions, including Nyborg Castle, Old Torvet market square, venerable houses and the oldest open air theatre in the country, Voldspil Nyborg. The town has a population of 16,500 and dates back to 1193. It also boasts the Great Belt Bridge, the third longest suspension bridge in the world. Our friends in Nyborg have arranged a wide range of exclusive offers for visitors.

Get a 10% discount on a guided tour at Nyborg Whisky Distillery: Come and visit a real whisky distillery produced in former train garages on the doorstep of the Marina. You'll be taken on a guided tour of Nyborg Destilleri through copper stills, whisky casks and beautiful aromas. The tour gives you a unique experience and insight into how they make their organic whisky, gin and rum with a sample of the products at the end.

Free access to the local museum: Visit the old Merchant's house, Borgmestergården, with its collection of local historic interest in a well-preserved merchant house from the Renaissance. The exhibition contains furniture from the 15th and 16th centuries, a room furnished in peasant style, tools from different artisans, toys, a watchmaker and house painter's workshops, school room and collection of weapons.

Try on a medieval costume made by the local costume makers at Borgmestergården. Anne-Berit, one of the costume makers, says: "We make the clothes because we think it is fun to watch people wear them – we get so excited!" With a costume on you can have your photo taken in the beautiful and historical Merchant's house.

Rent a bike free for one day, with free water bottle. With a bike, you can easily get around Nyborg to enjoy its beautiful nature, historical buildings, a stunning coastline and the world's third largest suspension bridge.

Get a free VIP trip around a gothic church, the Church of our Lady: Queen Margrethe I had the Church of our Lady built as a monument to the Kalmar Union. The church was inaugurated in 1428 and has been expanded and restored several times. Today it stands as a classical gothic church and a significant landmark in Nyborg. Get a free VIP-trip to see the beautiful church and learn more about its history.



What is the Newcastles Passport?

The scheme promotes tourism and friendship between Newcastles around the world. Each Newcastle taking part has carefully selected a series of special offers just for visitors from other Newcastles. These could be a customised programme if the visitor has any special interests – places to visit or people to meet, or special discounts from local businesses. Visitors sign up for a free 'Passport' through our website, then the named contact from that Newcastle gets in touch to start arranging their special visit. Each Newcastle offers a personalised touch, with a warm and friendly welcome to anyone living in or from an affiliated Newcastle.



Other exclusive offers from Newcastles include: Invite to a tea-making ceremony in Shinshiro, Japan; free chocolate gifts from Neuchâtel, Switzerland; Guided Amish tours of New Castle, Pennsylvania; free entry into Rabati castle in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia; become a real medieval hero in a romantic seventh century-old castle in Jaunpils, Latvia. The latest promotions are shown on each Newcastle page taking part in the Passport scheme on our website at <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/passport/>

If you'd like to find out more about Passport or join up your Newcastle to the scheme contact zelie@zelieguerin.com for more details.

Please note these special offers are only open to visitors to each Newcastle and are not available to residents of those cities. Thanks for your co-operation.

From the Newcastles of the World team

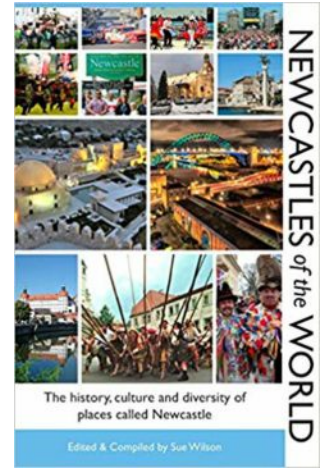


Erum with Zelie

**THANK YOU ERUM,
AND WELCOME
ROZITA !**

A big thank you to Erum Khalid, who has been on an internship with us at Newcastles of the World through the European Erasmus Plus Scheme. Erum is returning to Odisee University, Belgium. Wishing you every future success!

Don't forget that our Newcastles of the World book is still available - available on Amazon - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Newcastles-World-history-diversity-Newcastle/dp/0951048872> It's good value on its own (and makes a good gift) but generous discounts are available for quantity with good prices on postage - Contact David Hepworth at Tyne Bridge Publishing - david.hepworth@newcastle.gov.uk



We're delighted that Rozita Leatham has joined us for an internship in the secretariat. Rozita is with us until early July. Hailing from Newcastle upon Tyne and a former member of the Youth Council, she is studying International Development at SOAS University of London.

Rozita is proactive in Newcastles of the World, participating in the biennial conferences in Newcastle, Canada, and Shinshiro, Japan, as well as the first global youth conference, held by Shinshiro. She is a great contributor to the development of Connectle, the Newcastles youth project involving the creation of a travel and tourism app. During her placement Rozita is developing content on the app, supporting Nicola Spoletini, who chairs the global Connectle working group from Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

"Having been involved with Newcastles of the World for almost four years now I'm really excited to be able to spend a more concentrated time working with the initiative. I've loved working on our projects in the youth delegation and through this internship I'll get to delve into some of them such as Connectle, our youth travel app that was thought-out at the Youth Conference in Shinshiro in 2017. I can't wait to get stuck in!" Rozita

PHOTO CORNER



Celebrating the summer solstice in Jaunpils, Latvia



Algoma Orchards (1100 acres - 450 hectares - of apples) in Newcastle, Canada, part of this year's "Doors Open" heritage programme, and which we enjoyed visiting as part of the 2016 Newcastles of the World conference.



Hot Air Balloon festival, New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA



Dancers at the recent folklore festival at Rabati Castle, Akhaltsikhe, Georgia

The city of **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland again hosted the famous cycle race the Tour de Romandie with a prologue event won by Slovenian Jan Tratnik. It was followed on the next day by the first stage to La Chaux-de-Fonds on a 169km course. It comprises five intermediate climbs to an undulating finale. Primoz Roglic outsprinted David Gaudu and Rui Costa to win the stage, and went on to win the 6-day Tour as a whole ahead of Rui Costa and 2018 Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas.



RUGBY'S TOP CLUBS IN NEWCASTLE

In May **Newcastle** United's St James' Park stadium hosted rugby union's two European club championship finals- an all-French Challenge Cup final of Clermont (winners) v La Rochelle and the main event, the Champions League final of Saracens (England) - winners (see left) - v Leinster (Ireland).



The Vaudijon estate in **Neuchâtel** in Switzerland recently had over 2000 visitors for a Classic Motors event. Among the wonderful vintage cars were an Aston Martin DB4 from 1960, Porsche Targa from the 1970s, and Alfa Romeo Giulia Sprint Speciale from the 1960s.

Kathrine Heindahl, born in **Nyborg** (our Newcastle in Denmark) is a Danish handball player for HC Odense and the Danish national team. She has played 60 times for her country and at the beginning of June helped the national team qualify for the World Championships later in the year in Japan when they defeated Switzerland in a two-leg qualifying match. Handball is a very popular sport in Denmark – second only to football. Denmark have been women's World, Olympic and European handball champions in the past – and the men's national team are currently both World and Olympic champions!



"TWENTY FOUR HOURS OF AMERICA" – the top event in Endurance Kart Racing - took place at the **New Castle** Motorsports Park, in **Indiana** on June 22. It was a huge accolade for this premier kart racing track to host the national event that has previously been run at venues such as Daytona Beach and Palm Beach. Winners were the MD6 Motorsports team who completed 1243 laps in the 24 hours!



The Australian Women's rugby team (the "Wallaroos") will play Japan in the first-ever international match to be played in **Newcastle** in July. **Australia** and Japan last played each other in a close match in Dublin at the 2017 World Cup. The Test is another high profile sporting event to be hosted in Newcastle and follows the women's football international between Australia (the "Matildas") and Chile last year.

"BAKKIES" IS BACK - TO SCHOOL !

John "Bakkies" Botha, born in **Newcastle South Africa**, has been revisiting his old school (pictured centre) as a VIP judge at the Winter Games competition at Arbor Park Primary School - he's one of South Africa's greatest ever rugby union players, and played 85 times for his country.



SHINSHIRO'S TOP CYCLING EVENT

The 15th Tour de **Shinshiro** (cycle race) takes place in mid-July in the grounds of Shinshiro General Park. It's a 2.6km/lap racing course "endurance" style - with four categories - 2-hour Enduro, 3-hour Enduro, 5-hour Enduro, and "The King of Enduro" - won last year by Jyota Yamauchi.