

# Newcastles of the World

Newsletter June - July - August 2023 [www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)

Distributed directly to over 2500 people and organisations in more than 50 "Newcastles" around the world.

## Nové Hrady is getting ready to welcome you!

Our conference from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October will now only be hosted by **Nové Hrady**, Czech Republic, but the municipality of **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia will continue to give full organisational support to Nové Hrady.

Conference Director **Robert Dulfer** says: "Since announcing the plan to co-host, teams from the two towns have been meeting regularly, but it has been increasingly realised that the logistics and costs of a two-centre conference will present difficulties both for the hosts and for delegates. Travel between the two towns, and checking out and into accommodation, will remove a considerable part of a day from the time available, and remaining in Nove Hrady will reduce the overall accommodation cost to delegates. We now also have the opportunity for a more balanced programme, with more time to decide the future direction of our alliance and to discuss concrete cooperation projects."

Nové Hrady Mayor **Vladimir Hokr** says: "The conference here in 2014 was important in the development of our alliance, and we are sure this conference will be of equal importance, as well as being a friendly and enjoyable experience. We look forward to welcoming you, and meeting friends - old and new"



See page 2 for more information and registration contact.

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## NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD DONORS ARE HELPING MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUNG LIVES



"Thank you so much to Newcastles of the World and God bless all our donors." - this is the message from **Thulani Phakathi**, the Principal at **Mntimande Primary school in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**, for whom our donors from several different Newcastles have raised over 65,000 South African rands - over 3500 euros.

The money from the appeal is going towards improving the information and communications infrastructure in a new media centre at the school, which is in **Blaauwbosch**, a disadvantaged, semi-rural part of the municipality. "This will be a huge help to assist our students who struggle to overcome barriers to learning and provide new audio visual learning opportunities. Inside the media centre there will be a mini library, laptops, a Smart TV, a PA System and musical equipment" says **Thulani** "and this money from our friends in so many Newcastles will be a big help towards equipping the centre".

The involvement of **Thulani** and his young student performers with our alliance goes back to the 2004 conference when they were part of the welcome for delegates. "We also have great memories of performing in **Akhalsikhe**, Georgia in 2017 at the **St Shalva Celebration** where we shared music and dance with students from **Newcastle upon Tyne University**" says **Thulani**. "We hope to show our appreciation of the donations by performing in concerts or busking in city centres in Newcastles and also to develop partnerships with universities and colleges where we can have teachers coming to South Africa to do practical instruction in African schools such as ours"



## NYBORG'S ROYAL RUNNERS



What another special day for **Nyborg**, our "Newcastle" in Denmark! After the wonderful experience last summer of hosting a stage of the **Tour de France**, on May 29<sup>th</sup> the city hosted the national "Royal Run" – a community festival of running that is supported personally by the Danish royal family.

In **Nyborg**, it was **Crown Princess Mary** and her children who took part in the one mile race – there were also 5km and 10km runs.

Over 10,000 runners joined them to run on the streets of the historic city.

The now-annual event started in 2018 with what was meant to be a one-off sporting challenge to celebrate **Prince Frederick's 50th birthday**.

However, it proved to be such a hit with the public that the **Royal Run** has now been held for the past five years around the country.



# Our name brought us together ... a joint future binds us



REGISTRATION /  
ENQUIRIES - Robert  
Dulfer on newcastles  
2023@rozemberk.org

## Newcastles of the World Conference 2023

October 12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, Nové Hrady, Czech Republic

Also with the support of the Municipality of Nové Zámky, Slovakia



### WHY YOU SHOULD BE WITH US .....

The conference will celebrate the successes of 25 years of our unique alliance of towns and cities - what we have learned that will help us decide its future direction, how we will work together from now on, and on what projects. Come and help us shape that future!



The fact that we are celebrating 25 years together is something to take great pride in. There have been changes in the people involved, but many have stayed committed, and over the time our alliance has grown. Now we have 17 “Newcastle” communities around the world who are core partners and many others that we reach and who follow us. When our executive group discussed the future of the alliance, it was recognised that ours is a special kind of international collaboration which we believe is worth nurturing into new areas of cooperation and activity.

COVID and the war in Ukraine stress how important it is that we know more about each other, respect and support each other, and cooperate at all levels - we have a unique and non-political platform to build on. So, after a long gap, we are meeting together again in person, with a mission to strengthen our alliance, to renew friendships and make new ones, and to celebrate what we have achieved even over the last few difficult years - exhibitions and competitions, school links, our tourism “passport” scheme, sharing information and best practice.

Now we’ll explore the concrete steps needed to build even stronger practical cooperation, whilst enjoying each other’s company and the attractions of our host town, with its special history, heritage and culture, and its fascinating buildings (not one castle but two!)



### Conference Programme

After arriving on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, next day there are plenary sessions with adults and youth together to **review** 25 years of the alliance, objectives achieved and lessons learned, then first discussions about the future - **conferences, finances**, most of all achieving more active cooperation **projects**, including among youth. On Friday the adults and youths follow separate programmes. One topic for the adult session is **how have we all sought to bring life and prosperity back to our towns since COVID**. As in 2014, on Saturday there will be a **market event** in the town square, where Newcastles can showcase their towns to each other and to the public. The Sunday focus is on local support for **Ukrainian refugees**, how we help build a positive life for our “**new arrival**” **communities**, and also how we encourage **volunteering** in our different communities. On Monday, adults and youths will summarise and share the results of the previous days’ discussions and there will be a session for presenting ideas for **specific cooperation projects**, followed by break-out sessions between interested groups to discuss how best to realise delivery and cooperation on these projects. Tuesday morning will see the **closing ceremony** with final **observations** and a farewell lunch.



Congratulations to **Neuchâtel**, our "Newcastle" in Switzerland, for another excellent week of activities for their Europe Week programme in early May. This year the theme was the contribution of women to the development and promotion of the European ideal and our common values. The contribution of women to the building of peace, justice and equality on the continent is undeniable and yet still underestimated.

At the Peristyle of the Hôtel de Ville (city hall) and elsewhere in the city, there were talks and exhibitions about outstanding women of yesterday and today: the writer Agota Kristof; the pianist HJ Lim; the former world president of the Soroptimists, Elisabeth Hoeter; and the intellectual of the Enlightenment Isabelle de Charrière - all of them with direct connections to Neuchâtel.

The "Proches voisines" exhibition gave women photographers from different European cities the opportunity to take a look at women in the public space. Seven artists from the twin cities of Aarau, Besançon and Sansepolcro, as well as from the Newcastles of the world's Alliance, such as Herceg Novi, Newcastle upon Tyne and Nové Zámky, plus Neuchâtel, offered a glimpse into the daily lives of women from different regions and cultures.



The annual "Nagashino Battle Flag Festival" took place in early May in **Shinshiro**, our "Newcastle" in Japan.

It's an event that re-enacts the famous battle in 1575 between the Takeda and Oda-Tokugawa samurai armies, equipped for the first time with guns.

The festival is held to console the spirits of those who lost their lives in battle, and the former battlefield is decorated with flags from both armies.

## Origins of the "Hot Dog Capital" 100 Years Ago



In 1923 two teenage immigrants from Greece, John Mitsos and George Papazekos opened Coney Island Lunch on West Washington Street in **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA**. Their restaurant specialized in selling Greek-style hot dogs with their own secret chili sauce. In March 1971 Mitsos and Papazekos added a second location and renamed their business "M&P Coney Island".



It's because of their great popularity and success that New Castle has become recognised as the "Hot Dog Capital of the World." The children of John E. Mitsos (nephew of the original Mitsos) now have ownership of the business and they are excited to carry on the family tradition with the assistance of their children - a family owned company for 100 years and planning to keep it that way. To celebrate their centennial year, in late May there was a 100 year "Chilibration", with Chili Dog eating contest, live music and a host of other vendors.



# PEOPLE

Last month a firefighter from **Nové Hradý**, our “Newcastle” in the Czech Republic, was given a prestigious national award for his work on behalf of the community in the town and its surrounding area.



Stanislav Papoušek was recognised for a lifetime of work in his role as both a voluntary and professional firefighter, and is continuing to pass on his experience to young firefighters. His nomination was not only from fellow firefighters, but was also fully supported by the town council.

Mayor Vladimir Hokr said “We congratulate and thank Stanislav for all his work for the firefighting movement in helping protect the health and property of citizens.

“The association of volunteer firefighters in our town, founded as far back as 1874, is one of the most active groups in our community, with 40 members. They not only respond when there is a crisis, but also organise many social activities in the town - we are proud of their work. The role of volunteers such as these will be one of the workshop discussion topics at our forthcoming Newcastles of the World conference.”



*New Lord Mayor Councillor Veronica Dunn (left) with outgoing Lord Mayor Councillor Karen Robinson*

**Newcastle upon Tyne** has a new Lord Mayor for the municipal year 2023/24, with Byker Ward Councillor Veronica Dunn becoming the city’s first citizen after a “lifetime of commitment”.

She was appointed to Newcastle’s highest ceremonial position at the annual meeting of the City Council on 24<sup>th</sup> May, succeeding Councillor Karen Robinson. Councillor Dunn worked for the city council from 1970 until 2004, first in finance and then in education, and became a prominent figure in the trade union movement in that time – rising to become President of Unison in 2001. The Labour Party councillor was first elected to the local authority in 2007 and has also served in its Cabinet.

Councillor Simon White has become Mayor of **Newcastle-under-Lyme** for the third time. He has been a councillor for eleven years, has supported local charities, promoted the heritage of Newcastle and served as a school governor.

He runs a local Bed and Breakfast business with his husband Gary who is also a Borough Councillor and is serving as the Mayor’s Consort.

For the year of office, the mayor's chosen charities are the Academy for Theatre Arts and the organisation “We Love Newcastle”.



Tsiuri Lapachi (*pictured left*) of **Akhaltzikhe** (“Newcastle”) has been recognised for her lifelong work in the museums sector in the Republic of Georgia. She now has a degree in historical sciences, to add to the award from 2000 as a knight of the Order of Honour; in 2019 she also became an honorary citizen of Akhaltzikhe.

Tsiuri has been the director of the Samtskhe-Javakheti Historical Museum in Akhaltzikhe since 1984.

She is the author and reviewer of 43 scientific works, a number of books, and also teaches at Samtskhe-Javakheti State University in Akhaltzikhe.

At the end of May, the Speaker of of the Council in **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**, Councillor Thengi Zulu, welcomed Khosi Thwala (*see right*) back to her hometown after she had won the national "Big Brother Titans" reality TV competition, the biggest of its type in Africa.

Khosi, 25, became the winner of the first edition of this show, with 100,000 US dollars (93000 euros) cash prize, plus endorsement deals. Khosi, a journalist, is also a model and fitness guru.





# A NEW LOOK FOR NEUBURG CITY CENTRE

The upgrade of the inner city shopping streets of **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany, which started last year, resumed in April with colourful street decoration and new mobile furniture. It is just the beginning of the changes that will improve the cityscape. “This is about rethinking public spaces and meeting points, and creating incentives and activities for residents and visitors to spend more time in the centre, which in turn will strengthen retail” said Mayor Dr Johann Habermeyer.



The improvement scheme is with the strong support of the EU programme “REACT-EU”, which is intended to boost city centres in the post-pandemic period. It follows extensive public consultation and participation, and will bring street musicians and artists into the centre, plus free childcare, new planting and bicycle parking, as well as taking the opportunity to renew the infrastructure of water, sewage and telecommunications.

## NEW CASTLE DOWNTOWN IS PROSPERING



“An Overnight Success Nine Years in the Making” – This was the title of the presentation New Castle Main Street (**New Castle, Indiana**) delivered at the national US Main Street Conference this spring. At this four-day event, held in Boston, Massachusetts, attendees met and participated in workshops with Main Street employees, board members, and community leaders from all over the country.

New Castle Mayor Greg York and City Councilmen Aaron Dicken and Rex Peckinpaugh also attended the prestigious event which showcased the revitalisation of downtown New Castle. “New Castle Main Street is more than an organisation,” said Executive Director Carrie Barrett, “we are a convener, aiming to bring agencies together to help our community thrive.”.

The year-long celebration of **Newcastle-under-Lyme**’s heritage reached a peak in June with a whole series of events. This year is a special one for the English Borough, as it marks the 850th anniversary of King Henry II’s granting of the Royal Charter of Incorporation, issued in 1173.



*Simon Tagg, Leader of Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, is pictured right, with the Mayor, Councillor Simon White, and a 850th anniversary commemorative mug and plate.*

The highlights for June included a free family day of medieval entertainment and fantastical fun including re-enactments, combat displays, wandering minstrels and a dragon! Mid-month saw a special archive film show looking at the father of the modern circus, Philip Astley, who was born in Newcastle. This was followed by “Astley’s Homecoming” to the town centre, a day of outdoor circus fun featuring acts to keep everyone amused and enthralled.



As reported in our last newsletter, this year **New Castle Indiana, USA** is celebrating 200 years since the formation of the city. There have already been some very special events, and most recently a delightful Family Reunion Day, which was widely supported including by Mayor Greg York, *left in the photo.* Next up is the New Castle Mini Marathon, organised by Henry County Community Health.



# Golden armour in Shinshiro

NHK (Japan's public broadcaster is currently broadcasting a drama featuring a warlord associated with the history of **Shinshiro** City, our "Newcastle" in Japan.

Tokugawa Ieyasu is famous as the warlord who founded Edo (now Tokyo). His name is even mentioned in primary school textbooks. Currently, the drama has created a "Tokugawa Ieyasu fad" in Japan, and exhibitions and events related to Tokugawa Ieyasu are being held in the cities of Shinshiro, Okazaki and Hamamatsu (Okazaki and Hamamatsu are neighbouring cities to Shinshiro).

In Shinshiro City, there is a famous temple (Horaiji) where his parents are said to have visited to give a prayer, which resulted in the birth of Ieyasu.

A replica of his symbolic gold armour and other items are currently on display at the temple, and many people have come the temple to see them.



## AKHALTSIKHE CELEBRATES GEORGIA'S NATIONAL DAY

**Akhaltzikhe**, our "Newcastle" in the Republic of Georgia, celebrated the country's national day on 26th May with music, dance, art and food, all based around the city's Rabati fortress complex. The day commemorates the adoption of the Act of Independence on 26 May 1918 which established the Democratic Republic of Georgia in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution of 1917.



Here (*right*) are photographs from one of the recent Broad Street Cruise-ins (**New Castle, Indiana, USA**) - a monthly city centre drive-by of vintage cars to celebrate the city's motor car heritage. New Castle was the home of the famous Maxwell car - thousands of people worked at the factory (later Chrysler).



May 13<sup>th</sup> was the annual European Night of Museums in which over 3000 museums across the continent open their doors free of charge to residents. One of them was the Castle and Museum in **Jaunpils**, our "Newcastle" in Latvia. Some of the welcoming party are pictured left.

In addition to the spectacular spaces of the early 14<sup>th</sup> century castle itself, visitors were able to enjoy a photographic exhibition, "My Home - My Newcastle", by Ketijas Keitas Krastiņas





# JAUNPILS' SPECIAL PLACE IN LATVIAN FOLK SONG

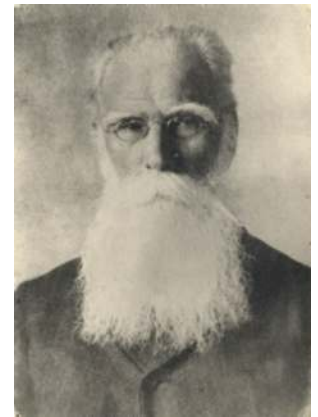
**Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia has been getting ready for the twenty seventh nationwide Latvian Song and Dance Festival, in which it will again participate. This will be the 150th year of the Song Festival tradition, which takes place in the capital, Riga, from 30th June to 9th July. The Festival week is the culmination for which the organisers — the Latvian National Centre for Culture — and amateur groups have been preparing since the end of the previous festival five years ago. Our photos show the singers and dancers of Jaunpils, in their beautiful costumes, preparing for the festival.



During the week of the Festival, 40,000 participants from 43 Latvian administrative regions, as well as other countries where Latvians maintain and develop the song and dance festival tradition, will come to Riga. Over ten days, they will take part in more than 60 events: choir, dance, wind band, folk music, vocal ensemble, folklore and other concerts; a Latvian folk costume exhibition; a folk craft art exhibition; and amateur theatre productions. Half a million visitors will be able to see the events in person (in free and ticketed events) - Latvia has a population of less than two million!

But there's something extra special about the role of Jaunpils in national song. Krišjānis Barons (1835 – 1923) born in Jaunpils, is known as the "father of the dainas" (folk songs) because of his classification and publication of the country's folk songs.

His portrait has appeared on national banknotes, he is the only individual ever portrayed on the pre-Euro currency.



**Newcastle, New South Wales** became the cultural capital of **Australia** in mid-May, with almost 500 representatives of the country's museums and galleries sector gathering in the city for their annual conference. The Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) 2023 National Conference was of the largest events being hosted by the City of Newcastle so far this year, and is expected to have injected around a million Australian dollars (600,000 euros) into the local economy.

Delegates from across Australia, New Zealand and around the world took part in four days of workshops and panel discussions from May 16-19, tackling "brave conversations and new connections in changing environments". The city's cultural facilities were showcased to the delegates throughout the conference, with events being held at Newcastle City Hall, Civic Theatre and Newcastle Museum, while the packed programme also includes a special presentation on the expansion of the Newcastle Art Gallery.

# SPECTACULAR FIREFLIES LIGHT SHOW IN KOTA BHARU



Located on the edge of the city of **Kota Bharu**, our "Newcastle" in Malaysia, Min House Camp is among the most-visited tourist destinations in the state of Kelantan.

It's main attraction is the amazing **fireflies garden tour** - in the evening visitors are taken on a boat to see spectacular fireflies clustered together, filling the trees and bushes like light bulbs along the river - a real natural light show. Min House Camp also offers other attractions which include an organic farm, bee farm, and water sports facilities.



# Welcome to Newcastle upon Tyne!

Zélie Guérin writes: It was so special to welcome to Newcastle upon Tyne, Yuki Kasegawa, International Officer from **Shinshiro**, “Newcastle” in Japan, whilst on his travels this month.

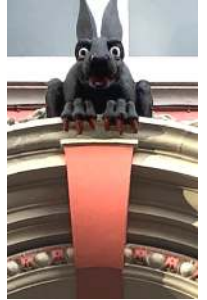
Yuki wished to visit earlier, but was prevented by the pandemic. Yuki said: “I wanted to visit Newcastle upon Tyne during my studies in France three years ago but couldn’t because of Covid-19. That is why I’m so very happy that the visit has come true this time.”

On a hot June day we experienced some of the history and culture of the city together. Yuki enjoyed the climb to the top of Newcastle Castle with its superb view as well as exploring around the Black Gate (Castle Keep). At the castle we used the ‘Newcastles Passport’ scheme that enables participating Newcastle's to have cultural experiences when visiting other Newcastles - <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/passport/>



We visited the Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle’s large historical library; it was opened in 1793. Known as the Lit & Phil, in the 19th and 20th centuries, this was a hub for the inventors, engineers and designers who had a major impact on the development of the city.

A few steps took us to Newcastle Cathedral, with its imposing architecture, beautiful stained glass and monuments with many local references. Relaxing for a moment behind the cathedral, it was fun to see ‘The Vampire Rabbit of Newcastle’. A mysterious “folly” the Vampire Rabbit looks poised to spring from his ledge above the historic cathedral buildings!



Yuki was also keen to spend some time on the Quayside, absorbing the atmosphere. We enjoyed a meal, overlooking the river and the bridges. Yuki said: “Newcastle upon Tyne is a very beautiful city, especially along the riverside with the Tyne Bridge and Millennium Bridge, and has many historical places like Newcastle Castle. I love this city.”

Yuki, we look forward to welcoming you again!”



## NEUBURG’S FLEMISH MASTERS

**Neuburg** Palace, the magnificent Renaissance castle on the banks of the Danube, was once the residence of the principality of Pfalz-Neuburg. It was most associated with Count Palatine Ottheinrich (1502-1559), the first sovereign of Pfalz-Neuburg and later Palatine Elector. Under him, the palace became an acknowledged centre for the arts and for the nascent Reformation movement.

The former residential and state rooms host an impressive display of the history of the principality. 550 works of art – portraits and valuable tapestries, weapons, furniture and precious craftwork – bear witness to this exciting chapter in Palatine-Bavarian history.

In the State Gallery of Flemish Art in the west wing are numerous works of masters such as Peter Paul Rubens, Anthonis van Dyck and Jan Brueghel. You can read more about the collection here -

<https://www.schloesser.bayern.de/englisch/palace/objects/neuburg1.htm>



To the left is “The Adoration of the Shepherds” by Peter Paul Rubens, 1619



# NEWCASTLE OCEAN BATHS



Substantial progress has been made on the upgrade of the iconic Ocean Baths in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia**. With its distinctive and architecturally significant Art Deco pavilion, Newcastle Ocean Baths is one of the city's outstanding historic landmarks.

The Ocean Baths were constructed and in use before World War One and their popularity has never waned throughout the ensuing decades; thousands of Novocastrians remember it fondly as the place where they first learned to swim. The first stage of the project is on track for completion by mid-2023, ahead of re-opening of the baths for swimming. This includes upgrades to the pools, promenade, and pump system, and will deliver significant improvements for people with a disability, including ramp access and improved safety around the pool. Stage two centres on the pavilion buildings.

## THE GHOSTLY MANSION OF NEW CASTLE

Thornhaven Manor in **New Castle, Indiana, USA**, was built in 1845 on 1000 acres of woods, meadows and marshland, has been abandoned since the 1970s. This once palatial mansion is now overgrown and rundown, and it looks every bit the haunted house it is rumoured to be. The house has been the subject of much investigation for paranormal activity by “ghostbusters”.

The owner said that the first he knew of it being haunted was when the agent was showing him the property. He heard a scream and heard a door slam. A couple who are the owner’s friends were visiting and heard footsteps in the kitchen. The home has seen deaths: one child, Lizzy Powell, the youngest to die at 2 years old, and one murder - Ruben Bailey, a caretaker, was poisoned with rat poison by a son-in-law.

Some investigators have captured a scream on audio and thermal images of a figure of a woman.



A former owner’s grown-up son had also died in the home after a leg injury received in the civil war, and the wife of a son, Emilia, who had mental illness, drowned herself in the outside river. The woman caring for Emilia went to find her and felt “led” to the river where she was found.

LNM, the Swiss shipping company operating on lakes **Neuchâtel** and **Morat**, kicked off its summer season with a superb parade, bringing together all its boats in a coordinated “ballet”, led by the steamer “Neuchâtel”.



## AKHALTSIKHE YOUNGSTERS WIN NATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION



Students of **Akhaltsikhe** Music School, Alexander Kuljanishvili, Mariam Nadiradze and Natia Beridze, participated in the XV Republic of **Georgia** Festival of Children and Adolescents Classical Music "Find Your Star" - and they were awarded the laureate title as winners !

Mayor Irakli Lazarashvili (*pictured left*) congratulated the students and their teachers on the achievement and wished them success in the future. The mayor awarded diplomas, medals and musical encyclopedias to these talented junior virtuosos.



# A CHANCE TO LISTEN TO THREE GREAT SUPPORTERS OF NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

The recording of the interviews that are described below will be available for some time, so don't miss them !



Interviews with **Beverly Matthews** of New Castle, Indiana, USA  
**Gary Foster** of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia and  
**Robert Dulfer** of Nové Hradý, Czech Republic who is Coordinator of  
Newcastles of the World and Director of the 2023 Newcastles of the  
World Conference. Find out about them and their "Newcastles" on the  
"Older Voices" radio show on Sunday 11 June on the link below.

<https://www.mixcloud.com/LLARC/older-voices-236-11-june-2023-newcastles-of-the-world/>

"Older Voices" is the radio programme of the Elders Council of Newcastle upon Tyne.  
Every Sunday, 14.00 - 16.00 UK time - on 102.5FM Nova Radio North East - <https://www.novaradio.co.uk/>

From around the world, you can tune in via Radio Garden -  
<https://radio.garden/listen/nova-radio-north-east-102-5fm/Jro9kwRK>



## AKHALTSIKHE HOSTS GEORGIA'S NATIONAL DRAMA FESTIVAL

The seventh Festival of National Drama in the Republic of Georgia was held recently in **Akhaltsikhe** (Newcastle) at the Meskheti State Drama Theatre. The opening of the festival was attended by Akhaltsikhe Municipality Mayor Irakli Lazarashvili (centre photo). During the two-week festival, audiences had a wide range of performances to enjoy, including many created for and by young people. Theatre collectives from Turkey and Moldova were present at the festival, together with sister theatres from the capital Tbilisi and from other regions of Georgia.



The President of the Council, Nicole Baur, and her colleague on the Conseil Communal, Thomas Facchinetti, unveil the name of the square.

On Friday 5 May, **Neuchâtel** City Council inaugurated the Place Agota Kristof, paying tribute to a famous writer of Hungarian origin who lived in Neuchâtel for the rest of her life after fleeing repression in Budapest in 1956.

This reflects a commitment by Neuchâtel to achieve a better balance in the memorial presence of women in the public spaces of the city.





# Nové Zámky Celebrates Slovakia's National Day

May 1<sup>st</sup> is Slovakia's National Day, and in **Nové Zámky** ("Newcastle") a rich programme of family activities was provided including bubble show, drone theatre, street food festival and folklore performance of dance and music.



Two weeks' later, 15<sup>th</sup> May, was United Nations' International Day of Families and the whole week has become International Family Week in many countries, including Slovakia.



Nové Zámky's programme for the week included an open television studio, discount entries to the cinema and childrens' theatre.

## MORE NEWS FROM AROUND THE "NEWCASTLES"

The Jack's Donuts World Donut Hole Eating Championship returned to downtown **New Castle, Indiana, USA** at the end of May and was again won by last year's winner Geoffrey Esper. Runner-up was Joey Chestnut. As winner he received \$4,000 (€3700) and the championship belt. There's something special about donuts in the USA. National Donut Day or National Doughnut Day, celebrated in the United States and in some other countries at this time of year, mirrors the the doughnut event created by The Salvation Army in Chicago in 1938 to honour those of their members who served doughnuts to soldiers during World War I.



**Newcastle Municipality** is one of seven accredited municipalities in the province of **KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa** to enter into an agreement which will launch a huge housing project known as Empangeni Integrated Residential Development Programme (IRDP).

The project will provide almost 10,000 homes for the region, and massive infrastructure for bulk water and sanitation as well as road network improvements.

**Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro has hosted a Day of Hungarian Culture and Gastronomic Delicacies, celebrating the folklore, traditions and cuisine of Hungary. Those interested had the opportunity to taste a huge range of wine plus four types of goulash - *see photo*. The large audience was addressed by the ambassador of Hungary in Montenegro, Jozsef Negyesi, and the president of the Municipality of Herceg Novi, Stevan Katić They pointed out that Herceg Novi occupies a special place in the hearts of Hungarians, as evidenced by countless Hungarian tourists who choose this "Pearl of the Adriatic" as their travel destination every year.



The municipality of **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland has set up its very first Citizens' Assemblies, a new tool for grassroots democracy that is open to everyone, including children and people without voting rights. Seven constituent assemblies were held between the end of March and mid-June across the municipality. These assemblies will be able to propose and set up projects, with a budget to match, issue resolutions or mandate the authorities to take certain measures.

## ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

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



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) & 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2014, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016 and in Shinshiro again in 2018.

Our aim is to foster individual, group and civic friendships, with practical links, principally through culture, education and tourism.



# COMMUNITY

## SINGING THE PRAISES OF NYBORG'S ACTIVITY CENTRES

Users of the activity centres in **Nyborg**, our “Newcastle” in Denmark, have created and recorded a song (“Briefly Told”), with music video, to help promote awareness of the centres and the opportunities that they provide for activities and friendship, especially for older people in the municipality. The project was launched with a competition where everyone could submit key words and lines to the lyrics. They were then combined into a single lyrical composition and a unique melody created to fit them.



The song and video were launched on 23rd May at KinoVino - you can see the vide on this link - <https://www.nyborg.dk/da/nyheder/premiere-pa-aktivcenter-sangen-kort-fortalt/?fbclid=IwAR1EqxmcF5nSfaXM6cQpaLLXl9cb7nDi8vEfShfIY8BQ3PgfVJ7-08QGalg>



## NEWCASTLE'S FOOD BANK HELPS OUT

It seems unimaginable that communities in rich countries like Canada, the USA and the UK would be suffering from such poverty that many people go hungry. But as we all now know, food poverty is a growing issue everywhere, especially as food prices have soared.

Based in **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**, as long ago as 1995, a group of community leaders and concerned citizens identified community support for those who required food assistance as a major need. They formed a founding board of directors and established a charitable organization, Clarington East Food Bank, to organize and deliver supplies to Newcastle and neighbouring communities.

Relying entirely on contributions from local citizens, businesses, and community partners, the food bank supports almost 200 households with non-perishable food items and toiletries - there were almost 2000 separate visits to the food bank last year. Every Tuesday and Thursday new neighbours sign up at the food bank. The guests are young and old, some with children, and some alone. The organisers say: “We would like to thank everyone for helping support us as we work together to eliminate food insecurity - we have had hundreds of individuals and businesses make donations”

At our conference in Newcastle, Canada in 2016, Newcastles of the World delegates were pleased to make a financial contribution to the work of this food bank.



## NEWCASTLE WELCOMES NEW CITIZENS

The largest ever citizenship ceremony held in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** filled the Civic Theatre in early May.

More than 380 conferees from 68 countries took the pledge of commitment alongside family, friends and dignitaries. Hailing from all corners of the globe, from Turkey and Colombia to Germany and South Africa, Newcastle's newest citizens were treated to traditional performances by the Callaghan Yidaki Group and dancers from local schools before receiving their citizenship certificates.

Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said "The ceremony represents a significant achievement for the City of Newcastle, completing the all-important final step in the process for hundreds of families, making it easier for them to apply for jobs and an Australian passport, as well as vote at elections. We are proud to be a progressive and inclusive city and we are thrilled to be welcoming a record number of new citizens to Newcastle."



# YOUTH

The Youth Council of **Akhaltsikhe**, our “Newcastle” in the Republic of Georgia, actively works to engage and empower young people. On May 23, a meeting was held with the Majority Deputy of the Georgian Parliament, Anton Obolashvili.



During the meeting, Youth Council members shared their future plans, visions and initiatives and discussed the projects they are currently actively involved in.



The Second International Festival of Children's Talents "Next to the sea, you have to sing" has taken place in **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro. It concluded with a concert involving over 200 young people.

## It's KicksART!

Young people in **New Castle, Pennsylvania USA** have used their imagination and creativity to create an eye-catching crosswalk (safe crossing area for pedestrians) at the historic North Hill area of the city.



Arts + Education at the Hoyt (gallery) and Lawrence County Career and Technical Centre Commercial art class came together to produce a KickstART crosswalk vision to life. The students came up with the idea, researched how to progress the project, created the design, and presented it to the County Commissioners. Three of the students enrolled in an after-school entrepreneurial training programme and presented it as a social entrepreneurship project to the New Castle City Council for approval. The idea behind the colourful mural was to increase public safety by increasing the visibility of the walkway to motorists while also paying homage to the area's rich musical history. Students will also produce commercial art products inspired by the mural to sell downtown, further funding project expansion and upkeep.

## WAN PROMOTES DIGITAL MARKETING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



When Yuki Kasegawa of Shinshiro (“Newcastle”), Japan organised an online meeting of youth representatives from different Newcastles earlier this year, one of the most interesting presentations was by **DeAlami Wan Hassan** from **Kota Bharu**, our “Newcastle” in Malaysia. Wan is an entrepreneur and events organiser - an a committed internationalist, having been part of Newcastles of the World conferences in Shinshiro in both 2017 (the youth conference) and 2018.

He founded his own Projek Paseto and is a digital marketing strategist at “Genius Booster”, marketing being his particular specialism. But his presentation at Yuki's event was about the Youth Chamber of the Kelantan Malay Chamber of Commerce, Malaysia which he has chaired and guided for the past three years.

The group was set up in 2020 to empower youth in Kota Bharu through various programmes, especially in entrepreneurship and digital skills. The Chamber organises workshops, talks and the other methods for the sharing of knowledge and skills, both in-person and on a variety of online platforms.

The youth chamber also builds skills and cooperative relationship among its members through social activities such as kayaking, archery, and also regular volleyball sessions, and Wan is the main driver of these activity programmes.



# SPORT

In the Municipality of **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro, a reception has been held for the members and staff of the local **volleyball** club, which achieved exceptional success this season and brought both the national champion's league trophy and cup to the city. It was hosted by the President of the Municipality, Stevan Katić, who said that volleyball is coming to match water polo as the most successful sport in the city - "together, they are the backbone of the development of sport in Herceg Novi".



Also in **Herceg Novi**, an international tournament of sports games for children and young people with developmental disabilities has been hosted by the municipality at Igalo Sports Centre.

Seventy young people from 14 day care centres from Montenegro and neighbouring countries competed in the disciplines of running 40 meters, throwing a medicine ball, long jump and darts. The Games were opened by the Vice President of the Municipality of Herceg Novi, Mirko Mustur, who emphasized that it was a unique event to promote the talents of children and young people with impairments in physical, learning, language, or behaviour areas - and, of course, the importance of inclusion and equality in sports.

We wish a happy retirement to Sarah Hunter (*right*) who has just finished a highly successful career in women's **rugby union**. She is local to the **Newcastle upon Tyne** area, and, with 140 international appearances, she is the world's most-capped women's player. She captained the England team for many years, including as winners of the 2014 Women's World and was named 2016 World Rugby Women's Player of the Year.



In the recent Georgian Open **Athletics** Championships in Tbilisi, athletes from **Akhalsikhe** ("Newcastle") won four gold, three silver and three bronze medals - congratulations to them all, *pictured left*, with their coaches.

Congratulations to Martin Matunák and Vladimír Galuev from Nové Zámky who have won world and European **karate** titles at international events in the past month.



Yoshiteru Fujiwara - *pictured left* - an employee at **Shinshiro** ("Newcastle") City Hall, has had the honour of representing Japan at the **Footgolf** World Cup 2023 in the USA at the beginning of June.

It's a relatively new sport, but growing in popularity. Players kick a football instead of a golf ball, with their feet instead of a club, and compete in the fewest number of kicks until they place the ball in a cup with a diameter of 54 cm.



**Jaunpils**, our "Newcastle" in Latvia will again be hosting a round of the national **motor cross** championships this month.

