

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE FROM OUR NEWCASTLES

The people of the Republic of Georgia have themselves suffered from Russian invasion and bombardment as recently as 2008 when Russia took control of the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions. So the people of Georgia have been especially committed to support their comrades in Ukraine who are now suffering the same fate. In common with other towns and cities, and with the coordination of the national government, **Akhaltsikhe Municipality** has been providing humanitarian aid to the population of Ukraine. A portion of the budget of the municipality has been allocated to the purchase and supply of essential non-perishable products and medicines for the Ukrainian people, and City Hall is providing the necessary transport support.

The message from Mayor Irakli Lazarashvili (*pictured right*) to the citizens is “Akhaltsikhe Municipality City Hall also urges civil society and business representatives to participate in the humanitarian action, as we are all heart-broken for the Ukrainian people.”

The city’s Art School has been established as the main collection point and a working group has been created to coordinate the logistics.



Latvia was formerly part of the Soviet Union and borders both Russia and its puppet ally Belarus, so there is particular concern and empathy there for the situation now faced by the people of Ukraine. As elsewhere in Latvia, the people of **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, have been generous in their provision of humanitarian equipment and supplies to their brothers and sisters in need in Ukraine, as these photos from a transport vehicle and one of the donation points in Jaunpils shows. A new charity organisation was immediately set up - Jaunpilnieki un apkārtnē - palīdzam Ukrainai (“We Help Ukraine”) to coordinate the support among local people and agencies.



In **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic, the message to his fellow citizens from Mayor Vladimir Hokr (*left*) was “We are all deeply concerned about the situation in Ukraine. We are therefore looking for ways to support its people by offering assistance to those who have been attacked by the Russian occupying forces. In addition to the help led by the Czech government, discussions are taking place at the level of the South Bohemian Region, to ensure coordination between individual cities, municipalities and other agencies. The town of Nové Hradý has taken part in these discussions and we have immediately offered our assistance in providing accommodation, provisions and other care for the Ukrainian refugees, particularly to women, children and the elderly whose men, fathers and sons bravely defend their homeland.”

In **Newcastle upon Tyne**, England, thousands of people have donated money and supplies to help the Ukrainian people, and volunteer drivers are taking goods to the borders.



In **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland there has also been a massive response from



local people to give help. Public buildings, such as the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) have been floodlit in the colours of Ukraine to show solidarity.

In **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, England, the Borough Council is playing a leading role locally in the humanitarian aid appeal to help the innocent people caught up in the current Ukrainian conflict.

It is providing the group “We Stand With Ukraine” with a shop unit in Newcastle town centre, free of charge, to use as a collection point for community donations. Organisers Maria Leligdowicz and Olena Cresswell (*pictured right*), from Ukraine, have family members caught up in the conflict. Items being accepted include sleeping bags, thermal/warm clothing, baby food and nappies, painkillers, sanitary products, toiletries, first aid kits, bandages and flasks. The appeal is also raising money to pay for the transport of supplies from Newcastle to Lviv.



PEOPLE IN HISTORY

In the month of International Women's Day (March 8th) we feature **Bodil Gertrud Begtrup** (12 November 1903 – 12 December 1987) who was a Danish women's rights activist and diplomat, born in **Nyborg**. She studied art history at the University of Copenhagen but her interest turned to social policy and international law, and she began to study political science.

In 1929, she became a member of the board of Kvinderådet, the Women's Council in Denmark, the Danish arm of the International Council of Women. Kvinderådet was an umbrella organisation for all the Danish women's associations, working in the areas of women's rights as well as social, professional and economic programmes.

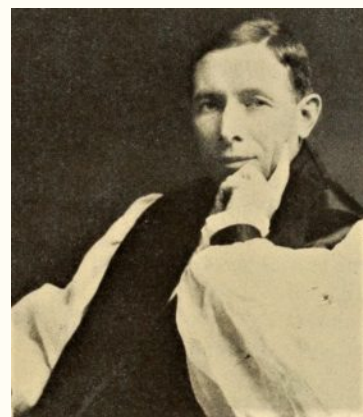
In 1931 she was elected vice-president, and in the period 1946-49 she was president. In 1939 she became Denmark's first female film censor. After the war she became a member of the Danish delegation to the UN General Assembly. In 1946 she became chairman of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Begtrup was vice chair of the committee that negotiated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 - the committee was chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt . She was appointed Envoy to Iceland in 1949, and became Denmark's first female ambassador, when in 1955 she was appointed ambassador to Iceland.



Newcastle, Ontario, Canada is home to more Provincial Historical Plaques than anywhere else in the wider Clarington municipality. One of the distinguished sons of Newcastle is **Bishop Charles Henry Brent**, who was born 160 years ago this year. The Brent Plaque is located at St. George's Anglican Church and was unveiled back in 1979 by Scott Brent, nephew of Bishop Brent on the 50th Anniversary of Bishop Brent's death.

An outstanding humanitarian and churchman, Bishop Brent was born in Newcastle and was ordained in Toronto in 1887. Following parochial service in Buffalo and Boston, he was elected first Episcopal Bishop of the Philippine Islands in 1901.

Confronted by the devastating moral and physical effects of opium addiction, Brent became an uncompromising advocate of drug control. He urged international cooperation in eradicating drug abuse and served as president of the Opium Commission at Shanghai (1909) and the Opium Conference at The Hague (1911-12). Elected Bishop of Western New York in 1917, Brent vigorously promoted Christian unity and, in 1927, presided over the World Conference on Faith and Order. This ecumenical gathering at Lausanne, Switzerland, helped to lay the foundation of the World Council of Churches.



Charles Joseph Carter, born in **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA**, was a renowned American stage magician, also known as "Carter the Great".

Carter's first theatrical experience was in Baltimore, aged 10, where he appeared as "Master Charles Carter the Original Boy Magician".

His amazing story is the theme of a novel by Glen David Gold called "Carter Beats the Devil" This involved the 29th President of the USA Warren Harding and various other historical figures as well as FBI agents trying to solve a plot that the illusionist becomes involved in. There has been interest in making a film of the book and at various times the names of Tom Cruise and Johnny Depp have been mentioned to play Carter – but it hasn't happened yet ! Carter began his career as a journalist and lawyer but he developed an interest in magic. Due to stiff competition from the number of magic acts in the USA at the time, Carter achieved his greatest fame beyond the USA.

Among the highlights of Carter's stage performances during his career were the classic "sawing a woman in half" illusion (an elaborate surgical-themed version with "nurses" in attendance), making a live elephant disappear and "cheating the gallows", where a shrouded Carter would vanish, just as he dropped at the end of a hangman's noose.

Carter purchased the famous Martinka Magic Palace in 1917, a time when he was unable to continue his world touring magic show. The story goes that he kept his lion, Monty, in the back room of the shop and when it would roar, the startled customers would run for the door!



BUSINESS

The world's largest coal port has announced it will now be powered entirely by renewable energy.

The announcement from Port of **Newcastle** comes as coal power generation in **Australia**'s national electricity market fell to its lowest level in the final three months of 2021.

Though the port continues to export an average of 165Mt of coal a year, the move is part of a plan to decarbonise the business by 2040, and to increase the non-coal portion of its business so that coal only makes up half its revenue by 2030. It has signed a deal with Iberdrola, which operates the Bodangora windfarm near Dubbo in inland New South Wales, for a retail power purchase agreement that provides the port with large scale generation certificates linked to the windfarm.

Chief executive officer Craig Carmody said the Port of Newcastle's title as the largest coal port in the world "isn't as wonderful as it used to be" and that change was necessary to avoid what happened in Newcastle when the steel industry closed. "I would prefer to be doing this now while we have control over our destiny, while we have revenue coming in, than in a crisis situation where our revenue has collapsed and no one will lend us money," Carmody said. "We get 84 cents a tonne for coal shipped through our port. We get between \$6 and \$8 for every other product. You can see where I'd rather have my money." As part of its transition the port has converted 97% of its vehicles to electric and engaged in other infrastructure projects to decarbonise its operations. "At the high level, solar is squeezing out coal, particularly black coal."



Newcastle-under-Lyme's Castle Artisan Market has been awarded a 'Highly Commended' in the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) awards.

Newcastle's Cabinet member for finance, town centres and growth, Councillor Stephen Sweeney, said: "We have been delighted with the resurgence of the market in Newcastle over the last few years, despite the pandemic. It has been clear for some time that residents and visitors alike really appreciate the variety and quality of the event markets and to have this national recognition, with experienced market experts judging Newcastle to be alongside the very best in the UK feels very good indeed.

The criteria used for judging the hundreds of markets, up and down the UK, included providing evidence of new initiatives and success in attracting new traders; supporting new business start-ups and young entrepreneurs; the effective use of social media and evidence to show that the market supports the town.



Last month **Jaunpils** Pienotava (dairy) participated in the International Food and Beverage Fair GULFOOD 2002, the largest and most influential food industry event in the world. which took place in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The company presented its products together with other companies and producers from Latvia on a large stand organised by the Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics in cooperation with the Latvian Dairy Farmers Central Union. Gulfood brings together producers, importers, food distributors, as well as restaurants.



Dating back to 1921, Jaunpils Dairy's products are produced from high-quality milk obtained on local farms.

Its cheeses differ from industrially produced cheeses by taste characteristics, visual appearance and excellent quality. It's part of an agricultural services cooperative society which merged in 2019 with the Estonian dairy cooperative E-piim.

This brought together over 140 milk producers, creating the first European cooperative in Eastern Europe (Societas cooperativa Europaea).

The company is constantly increasing the range of products and investing in new production technologies, with the most modern of laboratories for quality control.

Jaunpils products have achieved great success in the Latvian domestic market but are also exported all over Europe, as well as to the USA, Singapore, Israel and Australia.



FEŠTA RETURNS TO HERCEG NOVI

After a two-year gap, the wonderful annual Mimosa Festival in Herceg Novi, our Newcastle in Montenegro, took place from mid February to early March, its 53rd edition. Visitors enjoyed the flowers, fish, music, exhibitions and colourful marching bands, and the many heritage attractions of the city. Fešta 2022 began with a parade by City Music of Herceg Novi, and with majorettes, trombonists and clowns along the 4.5 km long coastal road. This year's traditional masquerade also attracted a large number of masks - over 200 people from Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Northern Macedonia participated. Around 600 boys and girls took part in the children's masquerade.



SLOVENIAN CULTURE IN THE HEART OF HERCEG NOVI

The folklore and gastronomy of the town of Novo Mesto from Slovenia were presented at the Mimosa Festival, as part of the "Friends and Guests" programme.



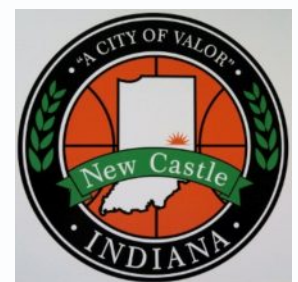
The cities are marking 50 years of brotherhood. In the centre of Herceg Novi, citizens had the opportunity to enjoy free tasting of Slovenian cuisine, as well as socialising with guests from Novo Mesto. The Slovenian folklore society "Kres" which has existed for more than 40 years, proudly presented folk dances from different regions of their country.

This special day also showcased the wine growers of Trška gora locality. Along with Cviček wine, traditional Slovenian food and the playing of the tamburitza (long-necked lute), the performers from Slovenia and local music group Castel Nuovo entertained the guests long into the evening.



DOWNTOWN The Heart of New Castle

The revival of New Castle, Indiana (USA) is one of the great success stories of downtown regeneration, bringing new business, great community events and a range of physical improvements to the local environment.



New Castle Main Street is the vehicle created to drive this revival, and it works collaboratively with the city council, the local chamber of commerce, destination development agency, economic development corporation and a whole range of other partners.



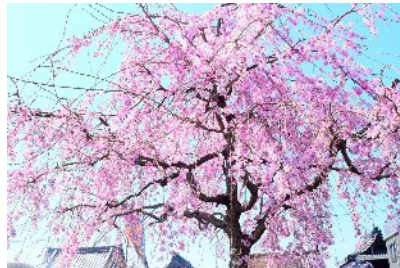
As a participating community of the state-wide Indiana Main Street initiative, New Castle Main Street is dedicated to renewing, growing, and promoting downtown New Castle by stimulating economic growth and fostering community pride, while preserving its special history. The city of New castle is the home of the Indiana Basketball Museum, and the Arts Park, at the centre of which is the iconic LOVE sculpture associated with its creator, the pop artist Robert Indiana - born in New Castle.

You can read more about this here -
<https://newcastledowntown.com/about/>

IT'S CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME IN SHINSHIRO !

Sakurabuchi Park is an historic scenic area in **Shinshiro**, our Newcastle in Japan. It traces its origins to when Suganuma Sadazane, lord of Shinshiro Castle, planted cherry blossoms there during the Edo period. Over a thousand cherry blossom trees bloom in the park, called "Mikawa's Arashiyama" after Arashiyama in Kyoto, which is famous for its blossoms. There's a beautiful visual contrast between the deep, emerald green water of the river and the pink cherry blossoms on both sides.

This year the Sakura festival runs from March 22 to April 7, when the blossoms are at their best. There are brass band performances and an exhibition area where local shops display their goods but the real attraction is to simply to enjoy a springtime walk through the park among the lovely blossoms.



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE LASER EXTRAVAGANZA

Because the previous Newcastles of the World newsletter was issued just before Christmas, we haven't had the opportunity until now to show you the amazing laser show that was put on across the river Tyne between **Newcastle** and Gateshead at new year. *See below.*

It's an interesting contrast with the natural beauty of the blossoms above.



CURD CHEESE DUMPLINGS WITH BLUEBERRY SAUCE "ŽAHOUR"

Its picturesque landscape is the biggest treasure of South Bohemia and it is appreciated by many tourists from all parts of the world every year. Wonderful meadows, glittering water in fishponds and last but not least forests rich in game, mushrooms and forest fruit.

The favourite forest fruit is the blueberry. Blueberry sauce called "žahour" is a fruit sauce often served with batter cakes or fruit dumplings. Hot raspberries and apples scented with cinnamon are also served.



Ingredients: 300 g curd cheese; 3 ml milk; 900 g coarse flour; 1 kg blueberries; 300 g icing sugar; 100 g butter for dough; 3 eggs; cinnamon; lemon; pinch of salt; grated gingerbread.

Method: For the dumplings: Whisk soft butter and add eggs, salt, pressed curd cheese and the larger part of the milk. Carefully mix the blend and add coarse flour (keep a little flour to sprinkle the pastry board and for rolling of the dough). After that, add the remaining part of the milk into the dough. Roll the dough out to make a thinner sheet.

Cut into squares about 4x4 cm, on which you put the sweetened blueberries. Wrap the squares over the blueberries and make into the shape of dumplings. Put dumplings into hot, slightly salted water and boil slowly. Do not forget to stir carefully to avoid their sticking to the bottom of the pot. Boil for about 5 minutes.

For the sauce: Wash blueberries and sprinkle them with sugar, add butter and a bit of water and boil all together. Thicken the blend with gingerbread and cream and finally season with cinnamon and lemon zest. Before serving, sprinkle dumplings with icing sugar and pour on the hot blueberry sauce "žahour" and decorate with some sour cream.

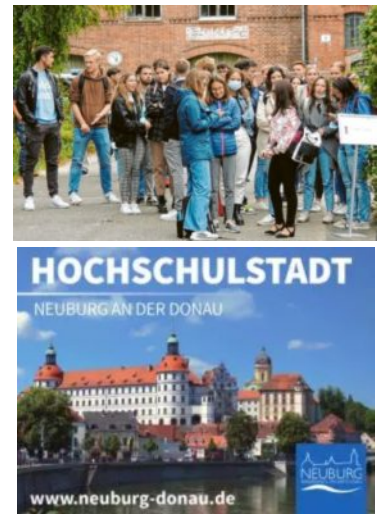


From our cookbook, here's a delicious recipe from **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in South Bohemia in the Czech Republic.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEUBURG'S UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

At the beginning of the winter term, the first one hundred students attending courses at the new University Campus of **Neuburg an der Donau** were welcomed by academic staff, politicians and other special guests. Sixty students enrolled for the sustainability management course and the remainder for sustainable construction engineering. Pictured at the unveiling of the name plate in front of the first building was (from left) University President Walter Schober, Federal Minister Horst Seehofer, MdB Reinhard Brandl, District Administrator Peter von der Grün, Mayor Bernhard Gmehling - behind student Jasmin Parys - MdL Matthias Enghuber, Ministerial Director Rolf-Dieter Jungk and Thomas Sendner.

Mayor Gmehling said that the new campus was the most important project for the city during his term of office, and expressed his pride that Neuburg now belongs to the range of Newcastle university cities. Full construction on the site will be completed by 2025/26 academic year, and another 125 million Euros will be invested in a second stage of development up to 2027/28. This will comprise a nursery, canteen, library and a hall of residence. By 2030 it is anticipated that eleven bachelor and masters degree courses will have been established and there will be 1200 students.



NEWCASTLE MAYOR AWARDS 157 BURSARIES TO STUDENTS

Thanks to the Mayoral Bursary scheme, in **Newcastle, South Africa** 157 students from across all parts of the town now have a shot at pursuing their dreams of attending universities and colleges.

The official Newcastle Municipality Mayoral Bursary handover ceremony was held in early February. The scheme is a yearly initiative that covers tertiary registration fees for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who aspire to pursue higher education. The students received their registration bursaries to any institution of higher learning of their choice and received an appreciation letter from the mayor which acknowledged the student's achievement of receiving good results.

The mayor, Councillor Xolani Dube (pictured *right*), encouraged the bursary winners to “go out to your respective universities and colleges to represent Newcastle, and most importantly, to put Newcastle on the map for all the right reasons. Your journey to a successful academic future starts today”.



PEOPLE



For the first six months of 2022, Thomas Fachinetti is President of the Conseil Communal (the Cabinet) in the city of **Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland. He continues to hold the portfolio responsibility for Culture, Integration and Social Cohesion.



He is pictured front centre with the other Cabinet members Nicole Baur, Mauro Moruzzi, Violaine Blétry-de Montmolin and Didier Boillat (PLR), also - *third from the right* - Chancellor (Chief Executive) Daniel Veuve.

One of the most important occasions for the President is to lead the celebrations for the independence day of Neuchâtel Canton - this was on the 1st of March, alongside the president of the state council Laurent Favre.

In their speeches, they reminded everyone of the importance of values such as freedom and democracy, even more so in the current situation.



Herceg Novi, our Newcastle in Montenegro, has been celebrating an artist who has had solo exhibitions around the world from Oslo to Berlin and from New York to Moscow. Vojo Stanić chose Herceg Novi as his home back in 1951, and has just turned 98 years of age.

Many cities influenced the formation of his style, including Paris (1958) and Rome (1973 and 1974). His paintings are small drama stories from everyday life, full of spirit. The characters in the paintings are small, ordinary people painted in street crowds or in their lonely rooms. Because of the technique, some art critics compared Vojo Stanić to the surrealism of Rene Magritte and the metaphysical art of Giorgio de Chirico. One of Vojo Stanić's greatest successes was representing Montenegro at the 47th Venice Biennale in 1997. He loves Herceg Novi, especially the part of the town called Škver where he meets his favourite people: poets, artists, fishermen, sailors, with whom he enjoys talking.



Marty Adnum (*in the centre of the photo*) is a key member of the International Newcastle INC committee which also connects with Newcastles of the World. Marty's company Out of the Square has made many award-winning videos that help promote his city, and has also kindly provided footage to Newcastle of the World.



The company's latest video, entitled "Region Ready" captures the beauty and essence of **Newcastle, NSW, Australia** as a location for investment, for living and for business - see <https://vimeo.com/548747875> This initiative also includes the production of a Japanese version (<https://vimeo.com/672203617>) which was presented to the Ambassador and Consul-General of Japan at a special ceremony.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The City of **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA** is providing grants up to \$10,000 to businesses who have been impacted by COVID. To qualify, the business must meet all the following criteria: located within City limits; a for-profit business; annual revenues below \$1 million; owned by or employing low or moderate-income people; fully spent all other government funding received due to COVID.

The Town of **New Castle, Colorado, USA** will hold a regular municipal election on April 5, 2022, to fill the positions of Mayor and three councilors for four-year terms. Mayor Art Riddile and Councilors Bruce Leland, Brandy Copeland and Scott Owens are completing their terms this year. Mayor Riddile has been very supportive of Newcastles of the World and has visited Newcastle upon Tyne, England and Neuburg-an-der-Donau to meet their mayors.

Newcastle South Africa is very committed to encouraging the involvement of local citizens in the democratic process. To that end, it has just completed a marathon process of establishing local committees for each of its 34 electoral wards, on which almost 400 people now sit. There were large public gatherings in each ward for the elections.



From 1-6 March youth representatives from **Nové Zámky** met in Tallinn with representatives from host country Estonia and from Lithuania, Italy, Turkey, Serbia, France and Cyprus for an international workshop called Connect – The Art of Youth Participation.

The representatives presented results of youth policy work in Slovakia and examples of positive experiences in their town - this included the research they had carried out about the real needs of children and young people in the town, the opening of a youth café and creating a community plan of work with children and young people.



To celebrate the importance and richness of the culture of the “First Nations” of **Australia**, the University of **Newcastle**, in partnership with Awabakal Ltd and with support from the City of Newcastle, recently hosted “Ngarrama”, which means ‘to sit, listen and know’.



The city of **Kota Bharu**, our Newcastle in Malaysia, which itself has suffered from very serious flooding in the past, has given help with supplies and equipment to the neighbouring community of Pekan Rantau Panjang, which was badly affected by flooding in February.



The **Neuchâtel** winemaking region of Switzerland is located in the warm sunshine along the banks of Lake Neuchâtel. The vines in this region are approximately a thousand years old and are used to produce Swiss wines that have become very popular and respected. The vineyards of Neuchâtel are located against the Jura Mountain, and Neuchâtel is well known for the growth of traditional grape varieties of Chasselas, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Gewürztraminer, but in recent times local winemakers have begun to introduce new varieties such as Sauvignon Blanc, Doral, and Pinot Blanc.

In the third week of January, the first of the non- filtre (unfiltered) wines appear. Unfiltered wine skips the filtration step; but this doesn't mean that the wine stays cloudy. Instead of filtering out the yeast, the wine simply rests for a time and this naturally settles yeast particles through gravity. The clear wine is then siphoned off. Our photo shows a range of non-filtre wines of Neuchâtel for this year, and some of the local winemakers sampling the product - they seem happy with it!



SOLIDARITY MURAL FOR PALESTINE IN KOTA BHARU

On 24th February, the Chief Minister of Kelantan State, Dato' Ahmad Yakob officiated at the official launch of the solidarity mural for Palestine in **Kota Bharu**, our Newcastle in Malaysia. The mural was a project by Palestine Aid Malaysia in collaboration with Kota Bharu Municipal Council. The idea was to enhance a major back lane in the city centre and turn it into a new tourism attraction featuring beautiful murals about the life in Palestine. The project started in late 2019 but, as Covid-19 spread, the project came to a temporary halt. It was resumed in 2021 and completed in January 2022. The painting artwork was conducted by students from University Malaysia Kelantan as well as members of the Kelantan Art Association and Palestine Aid Malaysia.



Important financial support came from local companies such as Jotun Paint, Hassan Hardware, and Jaafar Rawas Bookstore. The Mayor of Kota Bharu, Tuan Zainal Abidin, said that there will be more projects for mural painting in Kota Bharu to give a new look for the city.

The **Newcastle Art Gallery**, one of the most important in **Australia**, has received a 10 million dollar (6.5 million Euros) grant from the national and state governments which will contribute towards its planned redevelopment and expansion. Further funding is provided by the City of Newcastle Council and through local fundraising.

The redevelopment will add exhibition space to showcase additional art collections from the city and from travelling exhibitions. Additionally, a new café and retail shop, plus space for educational and multi-purpose community work, will be created.



Art exhibitions have been held in many interesting and unusual places – in **Nyborg**, our Newcastle in Denmark, perhaps the most unusual location is the old water tower. Each season of “Art in the Water Tower” begins with a major joint exhibition at which a number of artists exhibit one or more works.

Then from mid-May until the end of summer there is a series of changing exhibitions with each artist using the unique space and being available in person to meet visitors and discuss their work.

Blue notes will sound again in Nové Zámky !

“Jazz Blues Jamboree” is one of the most popular and longest-established music genre festivals in **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia - and after a two-year pause because of the pandemic it's back again - on 13 and 14 May.

The line-up includes Lizi and Marci with jazzy hits from around the world; the Turtev Brothers with their blues/roots standards and spirituals; Altar Trio; Djabe; 2019 bands contest winner, Her Memories, and one of the pioneers of the Hungarian blues scene, guitarist, songwriter and singer Fekete Jenő with his Blues Rockers.



Hunter Emerging Art Prize 2021

International **Newcastle INC** of **Australia** is proud to announce that committee member and local artist, Hideaki Kobayashi, has been recognised for his talent by being a finalist in the Hunter Emerging Art Prize for 2021 in the category of Painting.

He is shown in the photograph (right) with one of his paintings, positioned at the very top, that was put on display at the Newcastle Art Space.



AKHALTSIKHE CASTLE TO RECEIVE NEW MARKETING INVESTMENT

On March 10, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Akhaltsikhe Castle, Akhaltsikhe Municipality and USAID aimed at fully exploiting the potential of the city's castle which, with enhanced marketing and management, is aimed at attracting more tourists.

Mark McCord of USAID, one of the signatories of the memorandum, said that under the programme, the Rabati fortress will be assisted by industry experts in developing and implementing effective management strategies. "The aim of the memorandum is to find ways to commercialise the potential of the castle., to increase its visitors and revenues. All this will bring economic prosperity to the region. The castle has the potential to receive five times more visitors than it does now. It needs proper advertising and positioning in the market."

"We are also here to welcome as many events as possible and have created a new Event Service and greater fundraising capacity" said Castle director Giorgi Natenadze.

Akhaltzikhe Municipality Mayor, Irakli Lazarashvili, said that the development of the castle would significantly help to popularise the city and the region as a whole, and the municipality would play its full part.

USAID began operating in Georgia in 1992 since when it has provided over \$1.8 billion in assistance to the country for programmes that support its economic growth and tourist potential, develop democratic institutions, enhance energy security, mitigate climate change, improve education, and foster the increased inclusion of minority and disadvantaged people in Georgia, including those living across ethnic and geographic boundaries.

Andy and Sam Hook are celebrating 20 years of operating possible the most unique restaurant in England. It's in the thirteenth century "Blackfriars" Dominican friary in **Newcastle upon Tyne** city centre which they have had the vision to transform into a dining concept that showcases local produce and local skills. The restaurant is in what was once the friars' refectory (eating place) so they can claim that their restaurant is the oldest purpose-built restaurant in the country - and no-one has challenged their claim!



Blackfriars is now more than just a restaurant. Its Banquet Hall was previously the friars' guest hall and hosted Kings Edward III 700 years ago! It was also one of the venues chosen for the 2012 Newcastle of the World conference to provide lunch in a very special setting for guests from other Newcastles. Andy and Sam, who now run two other local restaurants, expanded at Blackfriars in 2017 to create an upstairs tasting room and cookery school. Andy has developed a deep interest in medieval hospitality and history and has created links with local University historians to launch medieval cookery courses.

Residents of **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, England, suddenly spotted that two families of deer had made their home a busy roundabout in the town. It was two eye-catching sculptures – the latest project commissioned by the Borough Council, made by young engineering apprentices and sponsored by businesses as part of the borough's "Britain in Bloom" nature campaign.

The models – featuring stags, does and fawns walking and grazing among the heather – were made by Luke Steadman, aged 20, and Bayley Palmer, 18, from Achieve Training using a design created by

internationally renowned sculptor and North Staffordshire-born Andy Edwards. Luke and Bayley were involved in the design, construction, assembly and welding processes under the guidance of Artworks Manager Phil Brown.



The silhouettes, ranging up to two metres tall, are galvanised to match the other popular wildlife sculptures – representing a brown trout, buzzard, dandelion and bee, frog, hare and a snowdrop – which feature on other key town centre gateways to enhance the environment and celebrate the borough's commitment to nature.

NEUCHÂTEL - AN INTERNATIONAL CITY!

It didn't take place on International Women's Day, but last autumn, the City of **Neuchâtel** hosted a visit from seventeen members of the Women Ambassadors group - this comprises Heads of Missions accredited to the Swiss Confederation. The idea of inviting and receiving the group of Women Ambassadors was born from a friendship between Her Excellency Doris Frick, Ambassador of Liechtenstein in Switzerland, and Mr Maurro Moruzzi, the Municipal Councillor in charge of the Portfolio of Sustainable Development - and formerly Ambassador, Chief of the International Relations Division of the Swiss Confederation.



This obviously was not a Newcastle of the World summit but the second photo above was taken of ambassadors who represent countries that have a "Newcastle" - Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyel, Ambassador of South Africa to Switzerland, Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin, then President of the City of Neuchâtel, Zuliera Zariz Azman Aziz, Ambassador of Malaysia to Switzerland and Katerina Fialkova, Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Switzerland.

NEUBURG AND THE BAVARIAN TIGERS !

Neuburg an der Donau, our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany, is home to an important military air base. Its primary user is the Jagdgeschwader 74 (JG 74 for short, Fighter Wing 74 in English) of the German Air Force, which provides air defence for southern Germany, and since 2006 Eurofighter Typhoons have been operated from the base. The Tactical Fighter Wing 74 (TktLwG74), to use their official name, are known locally as "the Bavarian Tigers".



Since May 2016 the wing has been officially accepted as a full member within the "NATO Tigers Association" and integrated in "the Tiger Spirit". Being a full member, the Bavarian Tigers are always invited to participate in the NATO Tiger Meet, one of the largest high value exercises scheduled in Europe every year.

Wing Commander Gordon Schnitger says: "This is where you fly and train with and against each other and exchange experiences. And all participants identify themselves with this "Tiger Spirit".

The history of military aviation in Neuburg dates back to the year 1912, when a military aircraft landed in the drill square in Neuburg for the first time. In 1935, construction of the base started.

SHOWING RACISM THE **RED** CARD !



Former Newcastle United goalkeeper Shaka Hislop has been awarded the Freedom of the City of **Newcastle upon Tyne**.

The football star, an international player in his country of origin, Trinidad and Tobago, was part of the famous Newcastle team of the 1990s, known as "the entertainers" because of the style of football they played.

He was granted Newcastle's top civic honour at the beginning of March in recognition of his pivotal role in the creation of anti-racism charity "Show Racism the Red Card" and for using his public profile to help fight discrimination. The charity is based in the Newcastle area but now operates across the United Kingdom.

“VISITING” 23 NEWCASTLES TO HELP THEIR COMMUNITY

We know that several of our colleagues associated with the Newcastle of the World alliance have visited a number of the towns and cities that share our name. But here’s a novel and interesting challenge that our unique friendship alliance has also prompted - thank you to organiser Jodie Barwick-Bell for the information. Seventy people, of ages from 3 to almost 80, are taking part in a fundraising journey to collectively travel the 24,312 mile (almost 40,000km) equivalent distance it is to visit 23 Newcastles around the English-speaking world. They have measured their journey, in five stages, starting at Newcastle, Washington USA on 1 January and they are travelling the distance it would take them to reach Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia.

They are travelling by a combination of walking, running, cycling, swimming, rowing and on horseback. “On the way”, it’s also a chance for them to find out more about these different Newcastles/New Castles.

All the participants are linked to Chopwell near **Newcastle upon Tyne** and are raising money for Chopwell Regeneration CIO- a grassroots community charity. All sponsorship and donation money raised is being used for food and supplies for their community cafe and community market where they are fighting food poverty and food waste and bringing people together in their rural community. In Chopwell there is significant deprivation and financial hardship as well as a strong and passionate community spirit.

You can find out more and make a donation at their fundraising page Chopwell Newcastles Challenge

<https://gofund.me/7ff1ffc4> or on their website www.chopwell.org

The Journey:

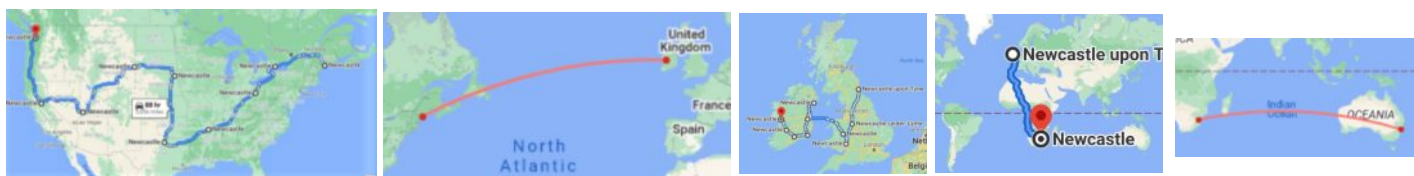
Part 1: Newcastle, Washington State, USA to Newcastle, Maine, USA -5449 miles (8770km).

Part 2: Newcastle, Maine, USA to Newcastle, Galway, Ireland- 2743 miles (4400 km).

Part 3: Newcastle, Galway, Ireland to Newcastle upon Tyne via Northern Ireland and Wales- 918 miles (1477km).

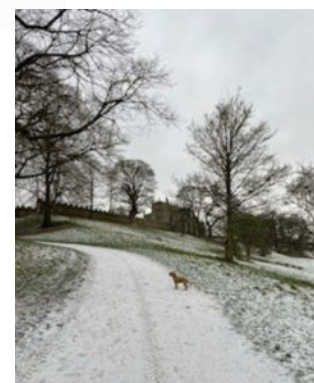
Part 4: Newcastle upon Tyne to Newcastle, South Africa - 8440 miles (13582km)

Part 5: Newcastle, South Africa to Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia- 6765 miles (10887km)



The complete list of Newcastles they are visiting, in order, is:

- Newcastle, Washington, USA
- Newcastle, California, USA
- Newcastle Utah, USA
- Newcastle Wyoming, USA
- Newcastle, Nebraska, USA
- Newcastle, Texas, USA
- Newcastle, Oklahoma, USA
- Newcastle, Arkansas, USA
- Newcastle, Maine, USA
- Newcastle, Ontario, Canada
- Newcastle, Galway, Ireland
- Newcastle, County Limerick, Ireland
- Newcastle, County Tipperary, Ireland
- Newcastle, County Wexford, Ireland
- Newcastle, County Wicklow, Ireland
- Newcastle, County Dublin, Ireland
- Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland
- Newcastle, Monmouthshire, Wales
- Newcastle, Shropshire, England
- Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, England
- Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear, England
- Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia



SPORT

Congratulations to the players of the **Neuchâtel Hockey Academy** for their progress in the Swiss Cup this year. The "Hirondelles du Littoral", as they are called, reached the finals this year by beating reigning champions ZSC Lions, in the semis. They were beaten in the final by Lugano - but it was a great achievement, nonetheless.



The city of **Newcastle**, New South Wales, **Australia** is excited to once again welcome competitors to the surfing competition "Surfest" at its world-famous beaches.

Surfest, which runs from March 29th to April 3rd this year, brings over 800 male and female competitors from across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.. Overseas surf enthusiasts will be able to watch Surfest via the live stream service on the website - <https://www.surfest.com/>



In February, in the capital city, Tbilisi, the Georgian National Championships for indoor athletics was held, with teams from Georgian regions and athletes from Armenia participating. The team from **Akhalsikhe** achieved considerable success with two gold, three silver and four bronze medals.

Our photo shows members of the team from Akhalsikhe: Mari Kapanadze, Gayane Ustiani, Hasmik Markariani, Ketik Yakobidze, Asia Charukhchiani, Mindia Endeladze, Zhora Manveliani, Shalva Lekishvili and Giorgi Natenadze.



Under the aegis of Patinoires du Littoral, the Club des Patineurs de **Neuchâtel-Sports** hosted the 16th edition of the International Synchronised Skating Championship.

There were 40 teams from Switzerland, Finland, Spain, Russia, USA, Netherlands and Germany competing for the Tissot Neuchâtel Trophy 2022. The leading Swiss team is pictured.



The annual **Shinshiro** (Japan) motor rally will take place over the weekend of March 19th and 20th, but again without spectators because of continued concern about Covid-19 infection. It is the first round in this year's JAF Japanese Rally Championship and has been a great attraction in the years before Covid-19 with crowds of over 20,000 people. The photo (left) is from last year's rally.

... and later in the month of March is the **Shinshiro Trail**, for hardened runners who enjoy the forest tracks and hillside paths. It's part of the OSJ Trail Running

Race series and the Shinshiro Trail is now an established part of the series. See right.



As part of the Australia Day celebrations on 26th January, The 25th **Newcastle Harbour Swim** took place which saw participants dive in for either the single crossing from Stockton to Queens Wharf Quay or - for the stronger swimmers - the double Crossing from Queens Wharf to Stockton and back. See left.



Video Messages: Connecting Newcastle's students

Newcastles' students are enjoying connecting through video messages. A mini-project has spun out of our bigger "My Newcastle" initiative which is led by **Nyborg**, Denmark. Now, young people are creating videos on what makes their own "Newcastle" special to them. The mini-project focuses on students exchanging information on their schools and school life. Facilitated by the Secretariat, it got underway swiftly.

Meeting initially through the Newcastles of the World online communications platform, schoolteachers in **Nové Zámky** (Slovakia), **Neuburg** (Germany) and **Shinshiro** (Japan) decided to collaborate, providing their students with the opportunity to make and exchange video messages. Yana Middle School, Shinshiro initiated the project in collaboration with Shinshiro International Exchange Association.

The Shinshiro and Nové Zámky students have made their video messages; the Neuburg students are busy producing theirs. The films help the students to learn about each other's school life and their cultures, showing aspects that they have in common as well as examples of where things might be done differently.

There's great potential in making connections through video messages, to promote learning, friendship and internationalism. We hope that schools across the alliance of Newcastles will be interested and wish to generate similar projects. For more information, please contact: Zélie Guérin, e: zelie@zelieguerin.com

Dream Work Placement in Japan: Case Study



NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD SECRETARIAT

INDUSTRIAL WORK PLACEMENT:
CASE STUDY

Shinshiro, "Newcastle", Japan

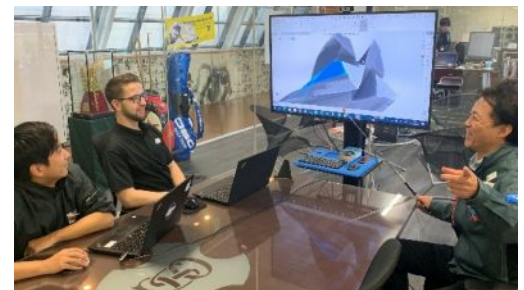


shaping your dreams



We're delighted to release our case study of a dream work placement for a Northumbria University (**Newcastle upon Tyne**) student. For almost a year, Mechanical Engineering student Chris Brownhill swapped Newcastle upon Tyne for the city of **Shinshiro** in Japan. Through the alliance of Newcastles Chris secured his work placement at the Japanese cutting tool manufacturing company OSG, based near Shinshiro. Chris has since graduated with a First Class Honours Degree. We've written up the story of Chris's experience in Japan as a case study which we hope will encourage others to follow.

Northumbria University issued a press release on the case study as well as promoting it internally. OSG plan to include it in their global company magazine. Shinshiro City Council's International Team are going to share the original case study and its Japanese translation on the City's official website.



It will be announced to the City Council's members and local media. Furthermore, it will be introduced in a public relations magazine distributed to all families in Shinshiro.

The story and case study are featured on our own website - <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/features/> and <https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2022/02/christopher-brownhill-at-osg-shinshiro-international-placement-from-northumbria-university-case-study.pdf> Would other Newcastles like to feature this good news story in your publications? Please contact Zélie Guérin, e: zelie@zelieguerin.com

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 & 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 through culture, education, business and tourism.

NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD – MAIN PARTNER CONTACTS (as at March 2022)

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Lord Mayor of **Newcastle upon Tyne** (civic head) – Councillor Habib Rahman- lord.mayor@newcastle.gov.uk, Newcastle City Council,
Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 2BN, United Kingdom. Leader of the Council (political leader): Councillor Nick Forbes.
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Mayor of Clarington (includes **Village of Newcastle**, Ontario, Canada) – Adrian Foster; Municipality of Clarington, 40 Temperance Street,
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3A6, Canada. Mayor's office: mayor@clarington.net Newcastles of the World contacts for the Village of
Newcastle: Jill Richardson – jilldrichardson@rogers.com also Jen Stycuk, Community Development Programmer, Municipality of
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Mayor of **Nové Hradý**, Czech Republic – Vladimír Hokr; vladimirhokr@novehrady.cz náměstí Republiky 46, 373 33 Nové Hradý,
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Mayor of **Akhaltikhe** Municipality, Republic of Georgia: Irakli Lazarashvili c/o Akhaltikhe Municipality, Merab Kostava str. # 18,
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Mayor of **New Castle, Indiana**, USA – Greg York: greg-york@cityofnewcastle.net; City of New Castle, 227 North Main Street,
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Mayor (Primator) of **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia – Otokar Klein: primator@novezamky.sk; Mestský úrad Nové Zámky, Hlavné námestie 10,
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