

NEWSLETTER

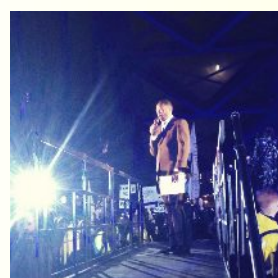


NEWCASTLE HONOURS FREEDOM FIGHTERS

It seems incredible to imagine, but exactly 50 years ago the great civil rights campaigner Dr Martin Luther King Jr came to Newcastle upon Tyne to receive an honorary degree - the only one that he received outside the USA, and only a few months before his assassination. To mark the historic visit, a month-long programme of lectures, films, concerts and plays are taking place in the city, the highlight being a stunning spectacle on October 29th.

The city centre was taken over by dramatic performances of great moments in civil rights history. These ranged from the Amritsar massacre (India 1919), the Sharpeville killings in South Africa in 1960 when protests took place against the apartheid pass laws and the famous Selma freedom march led by Martin Luther King in Alabama in 1965 to demand voting rights for the black population.

Thousands converged on the Tyne Bridge which, for the occasion, became the famous Edmund Pettus bridge in Selma across the Alabama River.



MARIE IS SETTLING IN NICELY !



Marie Desaules, student in International Relations from Neuchâtel (Switzerland), started working in Shinshiro (Japan) at the beginning of September as Coordinator for International Relations. Marie was welcome by the Mayor, who handed her the appointment letter (ishoku jo) and has enjoyed meeting local people. Marie is mainly visiting schools, helping to organise the

Shinshiro Newcastles of the World Youth Conference and providing input into the main 20th anniversary conference next October.



Follow Marie's time in Shinshiro via her blog - <https://mariesaninJapan.com/en/about-2/>

DO THESE OUTLINES LOOK FAMILIAR ?

Alina Mnatsakanian has created an artwork called "Connexions insolites" (Unusual Connections) dedicated to the 16 Newcastles of the world that are most actively involved with our alliance. These drawings on wood represent the outlines of the 16 municipalities and have been exhibited at the Grand Cachot (La Chaux-du-Milieu, NE, Switzerland) just outside Neuchâtel.



Ms Mnatsakanian would like to show this installation also elsewhere within the activities of the alliance and we are exploring the possibilities. But for her there is a special connection! Her grandmother was born in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia. Alina says: " I learned a few years ago that the name of this city means "new castle" or Neuchâtel. What a coincidence: My grandmother lived in Akhaltsikhe, then in Batumi before immigrating with her family to Tehran. I was born in Tehran.

After living in Paris and Los Angeles, I landed in Neuchâtel. Our journeys are inverted! So the other 14 cities of the Newcastles alliance found a meaning for me and I put my marks on their maps and drew."

Let us know if you are interested in having the exhibition in your "Newcastle" and we 'll put you in touch with Alina.

PEOPLE

SHE'S IN AGAIN!

Congratulations to Nuatali Nelmes who has been re-elected as Lord Mayor of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.



WELCOME TO NEW MAYOR OF AKHALTSIKHE



Congratulations also to Zaza Melikidze, the new Mayor of Akhaltsikhe, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia. He was the Georgian Dream party's nomination and secured an outright victory in the first round of the election with over 69% of the vote. Mr Melikidze has been the Gangebeli (city hall executive head) at Akhaltiskhe until now, so he is very familiar with the city. Our thanks to his predecessor Mr Zedginidze for his strong support for the Newcastles of the World alliance and we look forward to working with the new Mayor.



NEW EXECUTIVE (CABINET) MEMBER FOR NEUCHÂTEL



Member of the Conseil Communal Olivier Arni (left) has resigned from his position on Neuchâtel city council. M Arni was responsible for Urbanism, Economy and the Environment on the council's executive and was greatly involved with Newcastles of the World and with international affairs generally, The resignation will take effect from the end of the year, and M Arni will be replaced by Anne-Françoise Loup (pictured right), current president of the General Council of Neuchâtel.



SHINSHIRO MAYOR IS ELECTED FOR A FOURTH TERM !

At the end of October, Mr Ryoji Hozumi was re-elected as Mayor of Shinshiro City, Japan - and this is now his fourth term as Mayor - many congratulations! Mr. Hozumi's main campaign theme was to grown the population and prosperity of the city through attracting companies and increasing employment - using the opportunities presented through the new Tomei Expressway's transport links.

In the elections, we are very pleased to report that Shuhei Takeshita, aged 27, stood for the city council and won! He took part in the Newcastles of the World conference 2012 in Newcastle upon Tyne in the UK, and was a founding member and had been a leader of the Shinshiro Youth Meeting. How good that the voice of young people has been promoted so positively in Shinshiro through the great initiative to set up a youth council, and we wish the youngest councillor in the city all the best!



Stadtmaking **Neuburg** is the agency that promotes our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany - it's a public-private partnership supported by the city council and with over 250 private sector members. It has been strengthening its team - Director Vanessa Korn, pictured right, is here with new employees Angelika Ostermaier, Ramona Forster and Franziska Kober.



Welcome visitors to Newcastle upon Tyne from other Newcastles - Joan and Stan Hart, right, from Newcastle, Australia (welcomed by Lord Mayor Linda Wright) and Dominik Čeněk from Nové Hradý, Czech Republic, pictured with host Julia Henzell - at Alnwick Castle (the "Harry Potter castle" just north of Newcastle) in the background.



MEET THE MAYOR - Questions to M. Fabio Bongiovanni, président du Conseil communal, Ville de Neuchâtel

In the latest in our series we feature Fabio Bongiovanni of Neuchâtel who could be the youngest leading politician in any of our Newcastles. An Italian-Swiss bi-national, he replaced Alain Ribaux as member of the Conseil communal de Neuchâtel (effectively the Cabinet of Neuchâtel) in August 2013. A different member of the Conseil communal assumes the position of président each year, and Mr Bongiovanni is président for the 2017-2018 administrative year.

He was previously president of the city's youth parliament, and became a member of the Conseil général de la Ville (city council) in 2008 at the age of 22 and over which he presided in 2012. His special responsibilities are for human resources, finance and social support/action.

What did you do before you entered politics?

I studied law at the University of Neuchâtel and then a lawyer's training.

What made you want to become a politician? How did it happen?

I have always been very motivated to get involved in the management of public life. This happened very early. Indeed, I started when I was barely 20 years old, entering the Youth Parliament of our city.

What achievements are you most proud of for your city?

As human resources manager, I am pleased to have been able to implement a new policy for the training of young people in our administration. As the chief financial officer, I strive to ensure the sound management of the City. This policy has been recognized since Neuchâtel won the prize for best public management in Switzerland in 2015.

What are the biggest challenges facing Neuchâtel?

The biggest challenge will be to maintain a good level of benefits for our people despite the financial pressure that is high. More generally, it is important that Neuchâtel succeed in accentuating its economic development and hosting new technological activities.

What are your other interests?

Luckily, I do not live only for politics! I have many other interests, like football, for example. I love family life and sharing moments with friends. Enjoying a good meal accompanied by the magnificent wines of our region is a good opportunity for conviviality.

What are your hopes for the Newcastles alliance?

I really want to establish the position of the Alliance by enabling it to carry out concrete projects close to the citizens. Whether it's academic exchanges, cultural and artistic exchanges, or economic development, I am convinced that the potential is great. Because of their proximity to citizens, cities have an essential role to play in international trade, especially at a time when tensions are high between states.

What would you say to persuade people to come and visit Neuchâtel?

The motto of our city is "art of living and innovation". By coming to Neuchâtel, you are guaranteed a warm and authentic welcome in a small town on the shores of a lake, offering a wide range of sporting and cultural activities. Neuchâtel has a university and numerous research institutes, notably in micro and nano technologies, which make Neuchâtel a world leader in photovoltaic research. Chocolate (Suchard) has made the reputation of our city on a worldwide level. Our cheeses, the fish of our lake and the wines of our hillside will complete your tasting and leave you unforgettable memories!



100 YEARS ON, HISTORIC AUSTRALIAN FLAG IS RESTORED

In a dusty vault deep in the heart of the Newcastle Cathedral, an unsuspecting cardboard box sat forgotten for years. But that box contained one of Australia's most significant artefacts from World War I — its first national flag. Known as the Birdwood Flag, it was flown at the headquarters of General William Birdwood at the Western Front. General Birdwood was in command of the Australian troops, who at the time were fighting for the "Empire". "Our nation was only about 13-14 years old at the start of the first world war and the Union Jack, what we see as an English flag, was the main flag that our troops fought under," Patricia Gillard of the Birdwood Heritage Committee said. "But from 1917 on, our troops in Europe fought under a red Australian ensign and they were proud of it. "It was created by a group of [Newcastle] women led by Dora Sparke, who decided that the Australian troops should have an Australian ensign for the General to display and fly over his headquarters."



After the war, the flag returned to Newcastle Cathedral where it hung for decades before disintegrating. It was thought to be lost forever, but a far-sighted dean had been quietly collecting the bits and storing them away safely. When rediscovered, the flag looked more like confetti than a national treasure but over 18 months the hundreds of pieces of silk have been assembled like a jigsaw puzzle and are now on display in a glass case in Newcastle Cathedral !



NEUBURG'S LATEST HAT TRIUMPH



One of the world's greatest hat-events has been celebrated for the past 19 years in the wonderful Renaissance city of **Neuburg an der Donau** in the South of Germany , this year, 22/24 September.

The motto of the opening show was "Bavaria meets Africa"! It was a colourful show with African music in the background. On Saturday and Sunday the numerous exhibitors presented their beautiful hats in combination with jewellerys, accessories and clothes on the catwalk in the banquet hall and by fine weather outside the courtyards.

The visitors could visit more than 100 stalls, and enjoy the shows, good food in several cafés and restaurants and other artistic events in the courtyards. To see film of the event, please cut and paste this link:

<http://swrmediathek.de/player.htm?show=54dfef0-a6d7-11e7-a5ff-005056a12b4c>



NOVE HRADY ENJOYS JAUNPILS WELCOME



The name of Jaunpils continues to be heard outside the borders of Latvia and the opportunities given by participation in the Newcastle World Alliance family continues to evolve. This summer, the dance group "Jaunpils" visited Nové Hradý, where they introduce charming Latvian dances to local people. In August, a delegation from the Nové Hradý municipality then visited Jaunpils.

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen co-operation between municipalities, discuss future cooperation opportunities, as well as sharing experience in implementing European Union projects.

During the visit they exchanged best practice in managing the respective castles, visited the Jaunpils Museum and the House of Crafts. The guests also went on to try making hand-made items in NGO "7 balles".

Nové Hradý Mayor Vladimír Hokr addressed local people and guests at the medieval festival. The team of Nove Hradý also participated in the market, where visitors had the opportunity to become acquainted with information about Nove Hradý and to taste Czech beer! The Jaunpils hosts welcomed the cooperation and hope for more, with the two "Newcastles" being of similar size and nature. The next international project is the youth conference in Japan where two young people from Jaunpils are ready to go!



Newcastle's Monarch Butterfly Project

ENVIRONMENT

In the Spring of 2017 several “rest and refuelling” stations were created for Monarch Butterflies in the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area and the Port of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** as part of the Mayor’s Monarch Pledge. An incredible 3500 km migration to Mexico takes place between August and November, beginning with the gathering of the Monarchs at places like the Nature Area and the Port of Newcastle Bluffs Park. The 2017 Monarch Butterfly Tagging Project took place in September and volunteers tagged close to 300 monarchs.



When members of the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area Advisory Committee became involved in the Mayor’s Butterfly Challenge a year ago, they thought they were joining with many communities across the country in improving outcomes for breeding monarchs by making urban habitat friendlier to butterflies. As it was, Clarington was one of only seven municipalities in all of Canada to sign this National Wildlife Federation initiated pledge. When Mayor Adrian Foster asked the advisory committee to take leadership in carrying out the pledges’ mandate they ran with it and began several initiatives to improve outcomes for monarchs.

Monarchs easily capture our interest because they are so beautiful, it is hard to imagine our world without them. Yet that threat remains. According to the World Wildlife Fund, prior to 1990, more than one billion monarchs were making the late summer migration to Mexico. As of 2014, the estimated number of monarch’s over-wintering in Mexico had shrunk to 33 million. The monarch is now classified on the Species at Risk list in Ontario as “Special Concern.”

From the education sessions, to the planting of monarch-friendly plants to the tagging event, the Samuel Wilmot Nature Area committee have had an overwhelming response from the public for their initiatives. A walk along the waterfront at the Port of Newcastle will show how a small group can make a big impact. The area is teeming with butterflies, up to three at a time feeding on a single plant. There was a time, not so long ago, you would be lucky to see three monarchs in an entire season.



Newcastle-under-Lyme (England) has always been renowned for its flower displays – and it swept the board at the 2017 *Heart of England in Bloom* awards with the Small City Gold Award, and Category & Overall Winner. Pictured left to right are Newcastle Borough Council's Donna Loasby, Roger Tait & Beverley Sutton. Newcastle picked up its 16th consecutive gold award and a horticultural excellence accolade in the competition.



In the national final on 27 October, Newcastle won a special award called Wild About Gardens - the judges were won over by the extensive wildflower and pollinator beds throughout the town and how it successfully encouraged its partners and the community to join in its efforts to create habitats for bees and other wildlife. They might also have spotted this wonderful new 4m high sculpture (left) in the town of a bumble bee and a dandelion, created by internationally-acclaimed sculptor Andy Edwards with the help of local young apprentices.



“Living Treasures”, a beautiful animal park in **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA** has welcomed Calvin, a baby boy giraffe born to (mother) Blue Jeans and (father). The park is situated in a peaceful wooded setting that provides an abundance of shade for animals and visitors alike. With over 400 animals of 70 different species, it provides a unique interactive experience that allows visitors to get closer to the animals than ever before. <http://ltzoo.com/Parkinfo>



Featured here is the “Tree for Every Hero!” Planting Project in Samuel Wilmot Nature Area, **Newcastle, Ontario**. A group of volunteers have planted 200 trees in honour of fallen Canadian soldiers, part of the larger “Highway of Heroes” Tribute project. There is a threefold benefit: honouring the military, cooling the environment and beautifying the community.





A part of Emperor Hadrian's Wall has been found in **Newcastle upon Tyne** city centre, shedding new light on its route across the north of England. The section of the historic Roman wall, 1900 years old, was uncovered outside the city's Mining Institute. Diggers made the discovery as they excavated land during restoration works at the Victorian building.



In addition, remains discovered at a Newcastle City Council housing development on the west of the city have been described as "perhaps the most significant find in the region for over 50 years" by the archaeologist who unearthed them.

The Vicus, or civilian settlement, they found is located close to the site of the ancient Condercum Fort and includes a number of open-fronted buildings, cobbled surfaces and water channels indicating that this was the commercial or industrial area of the settlement. As well as the buildings the archaeologists found coins and Roman pottery including an almost complete amphora, a vessel that was used to transport liquids such as wine and olive oil. While the finds are still being analysed they are believed to date back to the second or third century and it is hoped they will improve our understanding of what life was like for people who living under Roman rule.



NEW CASTLE, IND'S AUTO HERITAGE

These are the famous Maxwell cars, made for many years at a factory in **New Castle, Indiana, USA** - and a photo from more recent archives of a centenary parade of vintage Maxwells in New Castle in 2004.



WHEN GANDHI CAME TO NEWCASTLE. SOUTH AFRICA

This is the beautiful Hindu Shiva Temple In **Newcastle, South Africa**. Built in 1903, the temple is reputed to have the largest dome of its kind in the entire Southern Hemisphere. In 1913 the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, living in South Africa at the time, prayed here before leading a march that is famous in South African history. Hundreds of men, women and children marched from Newcastle, Natal Colony (now KwaZulu Natal) into the Transvaal to defy the discriminatory Immigrants Regulation Act of 1913 and other such laws of the time - these laws included a three-pound tax on Indian indentured labourers and nullification of Hindu and Muslim marriages. Ghandi was arrested the following day at Palmford. The march was re-enacted 100 years on in 2013. This method adopted by Gandhi was to become an integral part of his non-violent struggle later against unjust laws in India upon his return in 1914, culminating in the famous Dandi March.



KITE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO KOTA BHARU

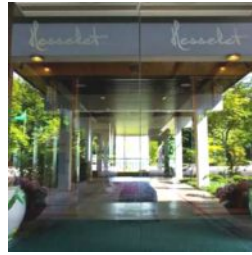
The most awaited festival for kite lovers returned this year. The Kelantan International Kite Festival took place close to **Kota Bharu**, the capital city of the province.. Participants from all over **Malaysia** as well as from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam and South Korea joined the event. Beside various types of competition involving several kind of kites including the famous giant Wau Bulan kite, local pastimes like the beating of Giant Drum The Rebana Ubi, The Dikir Barat and Shadow puppet show took place throughout the festival.



Wau Bulan or Moon kite is unique to the east coast state of Kelantan and the giant flying kites are often as big as a man measuring about 1.2 meters from head to tail. It is the largest kite around and is capable of soaring to great heights. Not surprisingly kite-flying here is a sport for men as some kites require at least two grown up men to handle. Most of the patterns are based on local flora and fauna like birds, animals and flowers. It is usually fitted with a stringed bow which emits a soft wailing sound when flown. Each kite is lavishly pasted with colourful designs and a work of art. Kites are flown throughout the year but especially after the full moon harvest.

DENMARK'S BEST HOTEL OUTSIDE COPENHAGEN BUSINESS

Hotel Hesselet in Nyborg has won the prestigious DANISH TRAVEL AWARD in the category "Denmark's best hotel outside Copenhagen, the capital". Hotel Hesselet is a 4-star hotel known for its high standard and magnificent service. It has a unique and bright location close to the sea (the Great Belt), the beach and a beech forest.



The hotel facilitates both business meetings, conferences, holiday relaxation and grand parties in the weekends. The hotel manager Christina Petersson and the owner, Sten Sørensen were very proud. And asked how they can use the award, Christina Petersson answers that she will use it in the marketing of the hotel, but also hopes that attention will also benefit the entire city, "I hope that it will help increase focus on Nyborg as a holiday and meeting place. You do not have to travel so far to experience something special, says the hotel manager.

NEWCASTLE, KZN HAS A LOT TO OFFER

September was the month for a major tourism promotion in KwaZulu Natal province, South Africa - and Newcastle was at the heart of it. The municipality, fronted by the Mayor, teamed with tourism agencies including Newcastle Community Tourism Organisation, chaired by marketing man Johan Pieters and representing all tourism related businesses in the Greater Newcastle area.

Under the label "We Do Tourism" there were exhibitions and presentations, and media visits to the tourism attractions of the area - museums, amazing wildlife, attractive accommodation and also important new developments such as the new airport facilities under construction for Newcastle (benefiting from a R36-million grant from the European Union - see the two photos (below right)



NYBORG DISTILLERI WINS GOLD !

The restaurant in Nyborg Distilleri, Denmark's largest craft distillery, has received 'the gold organic food label' issued by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

The gold label guarantees that between 90 %- 100 % of the ingredients used are organic. But the restaurant at the Distilleri has been taking it much further. More than 99 % of the ingredients used in the kitchen are organic and 100 % of their beverages are organic, too.



It is a great performance considering that Nyborg Distilleri was established just this year and opened its doors for the public in June. Nyborg Distilleri makes its own organic whiskey, gin and rum and offers guided tours through cooper stills, whiskey casks and the beautiful aromas. Nyborg Distilleri is located in a 3000 square metre refurbished train workshop from the 1870's, speaking volumes of times past and situated right by the harbour of Nyborg. For supporting tourism Nyborg Distilleri has a great potential; the local tourist organisation is delighted to have another attraction in Nyborg to attract tourists and is convinced that it will succeed

JAUNPILS YOUTH TAKE THE INITIATIVE

Jaunpils Municipality Council in Latvia has started a new initiative - a youth project competition. With a grant of EUR 1,000, five youth projects worth EUR 200 have been supported. Young people can take the initiative in various fields - sport, culture, environment clean-up, non-formal education, etc.

This summer the youth delivered 5 projects-renovating the old bus station, colored the walls into traditional Jaunpils folk skirt pattern, renovated a playground and organised sport and orienteering events.



NOVÉ ZÁMKY PUTS THE SPOTLIGHT ON SINGING TALENT

In September Nové Zámky, our “Newcastle“ in Slovakia, hosted the prestigious Elizabeth Házy International Singing Talent Competition of in three categories - opera, operetta and musical. The organiser of the competition was the Civil Honorary Order of Slovakia, in conjunction with the town of Nové Zámky whose Mayor Otokar Klein (a famous opera singer himself) was also the chairman of the judges, supported by other expert judges from Slovakia and abroad. This was the second year of the competition and there were over 70 competitors.

The members of the judge for three days were a soloist of the Hungarian State Opera, associate professor at the Department of Music and Music Education at the Savaria Center of the West-Hungarian University and Conservatory Vien, Ildikó Iván, conductor Emerich Kálmán, conductor of the InterOperett Orchestra and Dunakeszi Pál Farkas Symphony Orchestra; lead singer and music teacher Géza Dunajszka.



The competitors were assisted by two conductors - the pedagogue of the Bratislava and Vienna conservatoires Anikó Patkoló and the pedagogue of the Franz Liszt University of Music in Budapest, Wanda Mazalin. The musical accompaniment of the competitions was attended by the Dunakeszi Symphony Orchestra under the lead of the conductor Pál Farkas. During the gala evening, the audience could see a film about Elizabeth Házy's roles. In the small hall of the Culture House, they also had the opportunity to see an exhibition called Manon of the Century. The winners of the individual categories received financial and material prizes. Winners received the awards in the form of Elizabeth Házy memorial plaques .



Placed in the musical category were Zoja Balková (Nové Zámky) and Anita Csóka (Budapest) and in the operetta category Viktória Denk (Budapest), Marianna Geleneky (Bratislava) and Erika Georgina Szabó (Šaľa). In the opera category, 3rd place went to Erika Georgina Szabó (Šaľa), 2nd place to Eszter Sándor (Budapest), and the winner was Lilla Luca Bojtos (Budapest) - *top left photo*. A special prize was given by the European Member of the Hungarian Community Party, Pál Csáky who invited winners to study in Strasbourg. The organisers invited winners to perform at the New Year's concert in Šamorín.

Nové Hradý's Baroque Pharmacy

The pharmacy in Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic goes back to the the mid-17th century. At that time, nobleman Franz Leopold von Buquoy established a court pharmacy in a part of his residence on the town square. It was replete with remedies, technical devices and vessels. Later it was operated in the monastery of the Servites. In 1775, a new pharmacy was opened at the town square, which was in operation until the end of World War II. After its closing in the 1960s, the inventory was stored in the castle. In the 1990s it was decided to set up the baroque pharmacy in the immediate vicinity of the town square again. Today, visitors can buy fragrant herbs and teas here or enjoy the beauty of the historic inventory.



SHINSHIRO'S SHRINE FESTIVAL - AND THERE'S FIREWORKS!

On the weekend of 6th to the 8th of October, **Shinshiro City in Japan** held the annual Tominaga Shrine festival. Seven towns from the Edo period (established during the final period of traditional Japan, a time of internal peace, political stability, and economic growth under the shogunate) are each responsible for a temple. And, on Saturday night and Sunday morning, women carry portable shrines in the city. On Sunday afternoon it's the turn of the men, and you can see an amazing fireworks display - some of them are held upright until they explode! Next October, the Newcastle of the World conference will be held and our Shinshiro hosts are planning to bring the delegation to the festival. Why not paste this link into your browser and take a look at the fireworks?

<https://www.facebook.com/aoimargarette.flaminiano/videos/pcb.1806612076035172/1806611562701890/?type=3&theater>



Here's another "Newcastle" that we haven't showcased before. **Novohrad Volynskiy** is a city of over 55,000 people in the Zhytomyr Oblast (province) of northern **Ukraine**. Originally known as Zvyahel, the city was renamed in 1795 after annexation of territories of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth by the Russian Empire soon after the third Partition of Poland. It serves as the administrative centre of Novohrad-Volynskiy Raion (district). The town is known as the birthplace of Lesya Ukrainka (Larysa Petrivna Kosach-Kvitka, 1871-1913), famous nationalist Ukrainian poet and playwright (below, right). The remains of the fortress after which the city is named overlook the River Sluch.



The city had an important Jewish community. At the start of the 20th century, 10,000 Jews, 50% of the population, lived in the town. In 1919, the Pogroms in Ukraine reached Novohrad-Volynskiy, and the troops of Symon Petliura murdered 1,000 Jews. By the start of World War II only 7000 Jews remained, (30% of the total population). Hundreds of Jews were murdered in mass executions perpetrated by an Einsatzgruppen in 1941. Many Survivors were imprisoned in harsh conditions in a ghetto and murdered in November 1942, and an important part of the town was destroyed during the war. (See the memorial in the city - above centre)

OTHER "NEWCASTLES"

NEWCASTLE, WA IS THE PLACE TO BE



The City of **Newcastle** in **Washington State, USA** is one of the best places to live in America, according to Money magazine's annual ranking of the nation's top 100 communities.

Money looks at locations with populations between 10,000 and 100,000, eliminating those that have "more than double the national crime risk, less than 85 percent of its state's median household income, or a lack of ethnic diversity." Researchers then narrow the list further after analysing about 170,000 different data points and conducting on-site visits for intangible factors. The greatest weight is on economic health, cost of living and public school performance.

"Choosing to live in Newcastle continues to be a smart decision. Money's data shows we have low crime, excellent schools, many amenities and an overall high quality of life. We're so proud that our small, unique community has made this list for the fourth time," said City Manager Rob Wyman. The city has an active trail building community, creating a system of trails that are being integrated into new housing developments and parks. Most of the trail-work has been completed by volunteers and the Washington Conservation Corps, sponsored by the City of Newcastle.

Newcastle was named after Newcastle upon Tyne in England, as it was originally a coal mining town founded in the 1870s. Coal delivered by rail from Newcastle's mines to Seattle fuelled the growth of the Port of Seattle and attracted railroads, most notably the Great Northern Railway.

MORE NEWS, FEATURE STORIES AND PICTURES



The Marching Titans of New Castle, Colorado, USA at the recent Burning Mountain Festival



Even our smaller "Newcastles" have an international focus. Nové Hrady, Czech Republic, has hosted an international blacksmiths' gathering!



Slovakia's biggest jazz-blues event is coming home – to **Nové Zámky**. JAZZ - BLUES JAMBOREE features renowned individuals and bands of the jazz and blues genre, not only from Slovakia, but also from the Czech, Hungarian, Polish, and American scenes. The festival moved to Zemné for two years but in November it returns to its original home soil of Nové Zámky where it started in 2005.

A golden statue of a First World War soldier (right) has been installed outside the Theatre Royal in **Newcastle upon Tyne** ahead of Remembrance Sunday. The 'Centenary Soldier' sculpture stands 10 metres tall on a plinth of limestone sourced from the Somme, and is encased in a perspex obelisk. Award-winning artist Mark Humphrey was commissioned to produce the sculpture by the Royal British Legion to celebrate the *Every One Remembered* campaign.



Omar Bundy (left), born in **New Castle, Indiana** in 1861, was a famous U.S. Army general who took part in the Indian Wars and the Spanish–American War in Cuba, fought in the Philippine Insurrection and commanded a regiment on the Mexican border.

One hundred years ago when the USA joined the First World War, Bundy assumed command of the 1st Brigade, 1st Expeditionary Division and served with distinction, so much so that he was awarded the French Legion of Honour, Commander, and the French Croix de Guerre with Palm. Upon his retirement, he was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal and in 1934 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt awarded him the 2nd Division Medal. He died in Washington in 1940 and is buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.



Shelves that automatically detect when borrowed books are returned and a digital "makerspace" where visitors can learn more about cutting-edge technology like 3D printing are among the features of the newly refurbished **Newcastle (Australia) Region Library City** branch.

Celebrations are taking place to mark the 60th anniversary of the War Memorial Cultural Centre that houses the library. Newcastle City Council has spent \$1.36million transforming the library into a state-of-the-art community facility.

The library's refurbishment also includes a new children's area, with windows overlooking Civic Park and plenty of floor-space for parents to read to their children. The reopening also marks 60 years since the opening of the iconic War Memorial Cultural Centre building that houses the city branch. The building was originally also home to the University of Newcastle Conservatorium of Music and Newcastle Art Gallery.



Two awards were won by Newcastle Municipality, **South Africa** when the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Human Settlements hosted the Govan Mbeki Awards on the 14th of September. Newcastle Municipality took to the stage to accept the award for Best Accredited Municipality: Level 2, beating the City of Mhlathuzi Municipality, KwaDukuza Municipality and Alfred Duma Municipality. Newcastle Municipality also took second runner-up under the category; Best Rural Housing Project for the Khathide Phase II Rural Housing Project.

Stig Pryds from Nyborg has set a world record for freediving "in one breath", having swum 180 metres in one breath in the harbour of Nyborg. The Danish press arrived in numbers at the harbour for Stig's attempt to beat the world record in open water dives. And he succeeded!



Stig Pryds



He reached his goal to be admitted to the Guinness book of world records. At the same time, he wished to focus on what difference healthy diet and exercise can do to people like him who suffers from a chronic disease. Because Stig Pryds suffers from psoriatic arthritis and after spending five years of pain and strong medication, he found that freediving was his path to a new, fit and high achieving version of himself!



AKHALTSIKHE HOSTS ATHLETES

Akhaltsikhe (Republic of Georgia) City Hall hosted and organised an open athletics championship in October - among the participants were top athletes from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.



Paralympian Maddison Elliott, Sister Di Santleben, Lord Mayor of Newcastle Nuatali Nelmes, 2017 Newcastle Young Citizen of the Year Phill Johnson and former Athletics NSW President and Chairman Sean Scanlon

Australia's youngest ever Paralympic gold medallist and Newcastle's 2017 Citizen of the Year are among the local people selected to take part in the Queen's Baton Relay for next year's Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Maddison Elliott, who was just 13 when she won gold at the 2012 Paralympic Games, and tireless refugee advocate Sister Di Santleben will be among the thousands of people worldwide to carry the baton on its journey from London to the Games' opening ceremony on 4 April 2018.

Other local participants include 2017 Newcastle Young Citizen of the Year Phill Johnson, champion wheelchair athlete Kurt Fearnley and former president and chairman of Athletics NSW Sean Scanlon. The Queen's Baton Relay will pass through Newcastle in February just two months before the opening ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games next April.



Britain's multi Olympic gold medallist Mo Farah (left) and Kenya's Mary Keitany won this year's Great North Run from Newcastle upon Tyne, UK to the coast. 50,000 other runners make it the world's largest half marathon, also raising millions for charity.



NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO'S WINTER OLYMPIC STAR STEPS DOWN

Tara Watchorn, who won an Olympic gold medal with Canada's women's hockey team at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, has announced her retirement from international competition. The 27-year-old, who made her debut with Canada's team in 2011, retired after 46 international appearances to begin a new career in coaching. The native of Newcastle, Ontario is a three-time Women's World Championship silver-medallist as well as two-time gold-medallist at the 4 Nations Cup.



Tara Watchorn, centre, celebrates her goal against Switzerland in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia

National school shooting competition comes to Newcastle

In early October, Newcastle KZN hosted the annual South African Schools Shooting Championship, bringing 480 students and hundreds of visitors to Newcastle - and Newcastle has secured the event for next year too!



BIG FOOTBALL COINCIDENCE ! On 4th May 1974 Neuchâtel Xamax, played in the Swiss Cup Final, and on the same afternoon 700 kilometres away Newcastle United FC were playing in the English F A Cup Final. Sadly, both teams conceded three goals and lost!



BOB HOPE OWED IT ALL TO NEW CASTLE !

It happened in **New Castle, Pennsylvania** almost exactly 100 years ago! Bob Hope was perhaps the world's most famous comedian - no-one has been compere at the Oscars more often than he was - but he started out as a song and dance man with partner George Byrne. They made it to Broadway in 1927 in the revue Sidewalks of New York but they appeared only briefly in small parts, however, and soon were dropped from the show. After failing to make an impression at their next New York appearance, they decided to take the advice of a booking agent to go west and start over.

At a subsequent booking in New Castle, Pennsylvania, Bob was asked to go onstage between acts to announce future bookings. He tossed in a few jokes about the performers and his spontaneous wisecracking and exchange of banter with the audience were a huge hit. MCs and comic monologists (stand-ups) were novelties in 1920s vaudeville but, encouraged to try to succeed as a single, Hope split from his partner - and he never looked back, going on to he conquer Broadway as a musical comedy performer in The Ziegfeld Follies of 1936.



One of the upcoming acts was a comic, whose stock-in-trade was tightfisted-farmer jokes. "Ladies and gentlemen," Hope declared, "next week Marshall Walker will be here with his Big Time Revue. Marshall is a Scotsman. I know him. He got married in the back yard so the chickens could get the rice." The audience roared; Hope's standup career had begun.

NEUCHÂTEL CELEBRATES THE GRAPE HARVEST

Each year, the start of the grape harvests in the **Neuchâtel** area is celebrated on the last weekend in September. For three days, traffic is banished from the city centre so that revellers can make merry in the accustomed style amid an ambience of light, music and laughter. The grand night-time procession with "Guggenmusik" (or "Happy Music") takes place on the Friday night, but groups in costume are out and about all through the festival. The children's fancy-dress parade, a joyful and colourful event, is traditionally held on the Saturday afternoon. The Sunday afternoon floral procession also attracts a vast crown of onlookers.



More "Newcastles" are joining our **Passport** scheme, aimed at promoting tourism and friendship between residents of the different Newcastles - including by receiving exclusive offers. The most recent to join is Akhaltiskhe in Georgia.

Visitors sign up for a free 'Passport' through our website, then get in touch with the Newcastle they wish to visit. Each Newcastle is committed to offering a personalised touch, with a warm and friendly welcome to anyone living or from an affiliated Newcastle. Offers to date include: * Invite to a tea-making ceremony in Shinshiro, Japan; * Meet the Mayor of Neuburg, Germany; * Free chocolate gifts from Neuchâtel, Switzerland; Guided Amish tours of New Castle, Pennsylvania; Restaurant, hotel and gift shop offers in Newcastle upon Tyne, England; Free entry into Rabati castle in Akhaltsikhe, Georgia. Contact Zelig (below) to find out more.



Zelig

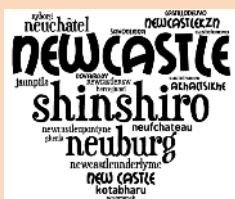
Contact us for information, ideas or help

ZELIE GUERIN: zelie@internationalnewcastle.org.uk (for project management, tourism, business)

DAVID FAULKNER: david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk coordination of Newcastles of the World, communications, development of the alliance, general enquiries)

And now we have a Newcastles of the World office inside Newcastle upon Tyne Civic Centre, shared with the International Newcastle agency and the regional consuls of Germany and Sweden!

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 and 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 2012 and Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism between us all.