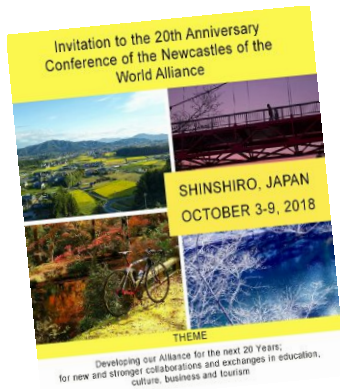


SHINSHIRO CITY EXTENDS ITS WELCOME TO YOU !



On behalf of Shinshiro City, we're delighted to invite you to the 20th Anniversary Conference of Newcastles of the World in Japan, to be held from 3-9 October 2018. We'll be discussing the potential for developing our Alliance for the next 20 years through new and stronger collaborations and exchanges in education, culture, business and tourism. The registration fee is 100,000 Japanese Yen (\$930 USD/€ 756/£680 per person), covering all accommodation, meals, workshops, and a visit to the extraordinary world heritage site of Kyoto. If you may be interested in attending then please first of all advise your contact in your "Newcastle" – see link below – or Rumi Matsushita at newcastle@city.shinshiro.lg.jp, or David Faulkner at newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com. Questions? - contact Rumi or David. For the programme: <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/> <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/your-contacts-in-our-newcastles/>



This newsletter is being published during the week of International Women's Day (March 8) which celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievement of women. So we are taking this opportunity to feature the achievements of three remarkable women born in three different "Newcastles", Lindiwe Mabuza (left) from **Newcastle, South Africa**, Bodil Begtrup of **Nyborg, Denmark** and Vera Brittain (far right) of **Newcastle-under-Lyme, United Kingdom** - see page 2.

MARKING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • March 2018

IT'S CARNIVAL TIME !

"Masopust" is the annual (noisy and colourful) festival at this time of year in **Nové Hradý**, our "Newcastle" in South Bohemia in the Czech Republic. The timing of the festival is associated with both the driving out of winter (maybe not quite yet!) and the feasting that precedes the time of fasting and abstinence during Lent.

So it's a carnival of music, marching, eating and drinking, and of wearing masks and costume. The timing and form vary in different countries and cultures (many will know "Mardi Gras") but the origin is common - from pre-Christian times in ancient Greece and Rome - and there's no doubt from the photo from Nové Hradý (*top right*) that people enjoy the spectacle (and dressing up) despite the cold weather.

In Slovakia the more Germanic name "fašiangy" is used and the emphasis seems to be more on the feasting (especially storing up your meat intake ..) as the photo from **Nové Zámky** shows.



It may be one of the coldest winters for years in the northern hemisphere but at least it lends itself to lovely scenic photos like these - left to right, from **Jaunpils**, Latvia - with something to bring good cheer - next the Novohradsky Mountains overlooking **Nové Hradý** in the Czech Republic, and last **Newcastle on Lake Ontario, Canada**



THREE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN FROM THREE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD



Bodil Gertrud Begtrup (born in Nyborg 1903) was a Danish women's rights activist and diplomat. In 1929, she became a member of the board of Kvinderådet (the National Womens Council), 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. She was appointed Envoy to Iceland in 1949, and became Denmark's first female ambassador, when in 1955 she was appointed ambassador to Iceland. She died in 1987.



Lindiwe Mabuza was born in 1938 in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. She is a prominent politician, diplomat, poet, academic and journalist. She was an anti-Apartheid activist who went on to serve her country as a Member of the first democratically elected parliament of South Africa. She then proceeded to serve as a distinguished diplomat, including as High Commissioner to the UK.

She serves on the Advisory Board of Elders of the Ifa Lethu Foundation repatriating lost South African artworks. She has also served as the Chairperson of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund UK. Only a few months ago she was the winner of the 2017 South African Arts & Culture Trust Lifetime Achievement Award for Arts Advocacy, announced at the end of last year' Her contributions in mobilising the use of arts for democracy confirm that cultural activism played a significant role in abolishing apartheid in South Africa.



Vera Brittain (1893 – 1970) from Newcastle-under-Lyme was an English Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD) nurse, writer, feminist, and pacifist through the League of Nations Union and the Peace Pledge Union. Her extraordinary life was featured in an award-winning BBC programme, and in a film named after her most famous book “Testament of Youth”, featuring Swedish actress Alicia Vikander as Vera, Game of Thrones’ Kit Harington her fiancée and Emily Watson and Domnic West as her parents.

The book, over 600 pages long, was Vera’s vivid picture of the horror and futility of war based on her own experiences, and gives a voice to the wartime role of women. Vera’s daughter Shirley Williams is a very well-known politician (and former cabinet member in the UK government).



The new "cabinet" of the municipal council of the City of **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland is now in operation following the resignation of Olivier Arni. Fabio Bongiovanni (Economy, Finance, Human Resources) remains president until summer 2018 and Christine Gaillard (Urbanism, Mobility, Environment) assumes the vice-presidency. Thomas Facchinetti continues to be responsible for Culture and Integration, Sports, Tourism; Violaine Blétry de Montmollin -

Agglomeration, Infrastructure, Security; Anne-Françoise Loup - Education, Health, Social Action.

This is the first time that there has been a majority of women as Cabinet members.

In **Newcastle upon Tyne** seven of the ten members of the Council’s Cabinet are women.

Zélie writes: Selamat Datang! Welcome to Bianca Pangalila (pictured to the right with David and Zélie), who joined International Newcastle on an internship until early June where her role will include providing some support work on Newcastles of the World. Coming from the beautiful country of Indonesia, Bianca is undertaking a BA in Management Studies with a major in marketing at Odisee University, Belgium. An Indonesian national, with an Italian name, studying in Brussels, and now working in Newcastle, Bianca brings her great international spirit to the team!



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 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 2014 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.

PEOPLE



Ligita Gintere, chair of **Jaunpils Municipality**, Latvia (*pictured second left*) is also Chairwoman of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Government (LPS) Education and Culture Committee. In that capacity she recently attended the meeting of the Committee of European Local and Regional Authorities (CEMR) Policy Committee in Soria, Spain, with colleagues from Latvia. The meeting looked at European Union (EU) Cohesion Policy after 2020 - what priorities should be?; to support only less developed regions?; should new tools be introduced to channel funding? This is a very important issue for several of our Newcastles. See here for more about CEMR - <http://www.ccre.org/>

The Henry County Historical Society, based in **New Castle, Indiana** starts its 2018 exhibition season with “School Days” - that’ll bring back lots of memories ! One of the exhibits comes from former New Castle Trojans cheerleader Beverly Matthews - it’s the uniform she wore when the Trojans competed in the state finals in 1971. Beverly is President and Executive Director of Henry County Community (charitable) Foundation. She previously owned her own consulting business and worked in public relations for Chrysler - but best of all she’s the Number One cheerleader for “Newcastles of the World” in her New Castle and was with us at the conference in Newcastle, Canada !



Congratulations to Zandi Gabela Zwane from **Newcastle, South Africa** who won the coveted title of Mrs World Peace Africa recently – and she works for the Newcastle Municipality! The extravagant pageant took place in Manila, in the Philippines, where she competed against 24 beauty queens from other countries from around the globe. She was overwhelmed when she was crowned as Mrs World Africa in the Continental Division.

“The whole journey has been amazing and I still can’t believe that I won Mrs World Peace Africa,” said Zandi. “I will be using my titles to do as much charity work as possible and empowering women and children.”

Zandi, who became Mrs Africa on November 4th, said she would not have been able to win two important titles and achieve so much without the support of family, friends and colleagues. “Everyone from work at the Newcastle Municipality, from my supervisor, to the Municipal Manager and the Mayor, supported me immensely.”



Thanks to Newcastle Advertiser for the story and photo.



Warren Smith, long-serving lifeguard and co-founder of Surfest (**Australia’s** biggest festival of surfing), has been made a Freeman of **Newcastle**. He was honoured with the city's highest formal recognition when Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes presented him the Freeman medal at a function at Merewether Surf Club recently, part of Surfest 2018.

The Lord Mayor told guests that Warren had saved countless lives while on duty during his 40-year career and even a few while off relaxing with his family. He began as a casual lifeguard at Newcastle Beach in 1974 before working full time from 1975 to 2014. He was working the day the Sygna ran aground and braved huge seas to help rescue the crew of the Pasha Bulker when it ran aground off Newcastle in June 2007.

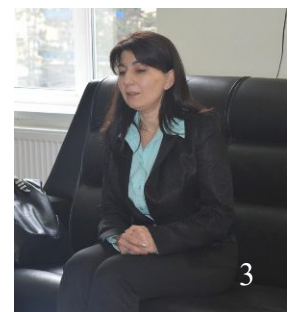
"Warren co-founded Surfest in 1985, and he's still coordinating it today, which is an incredible effort by an indefatigable man," Councillor Nelmes said.

Freeman of the City is an honour bestowed by a council or municipality upon a valued member of the community. The honour dates back to the medieval practice of granting respected citizens freedom from serfdom, a tradition that lives on ceremonially in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Canada, South Africa and New Zealand.



Just before Christmas, the city of **Neuburg an der Donau** in Bavaria, Germany celebrated the 40th anniversary of the city’s tourist guide service, founded in 1977 as a proposal of former councillor Fritz Seebauer. Two of the original guides, Inge Schneider and Martha Enghuber, are still helping as guides, and they were honoured for their service with flowers and certificates of achievement and appreciation.

Mrs Maka Beridze has been elected as the new Rector of Samtskhe-Javakheti State University, based in **Akhaltikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia



COMMUNITY

Plans for a much-needed new residential hospice are moving ahead after Clarington council donated a two acre (0.8 hectare) portion of land in our **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**.

“Durham Hospice, who will operate the service, provide critical end-of-life care and helps families while they cope with terminal illness of a loved one,” said local Mayor Adrian Foster.

The new hospice in Newcastle will become an important part of the local health-care system, offering the best professional care with warmth, compassion and dignity in a peaceful homelike setting.

“It’s a dream come true,” said Jill Richardson (our Newcastles of the World spokesperson in Newcastle, Ontario, and also a Durham Hospice Clarington board member) who has been advocating for a local hospice for four years now. “It is really needed.”



The Durham Hospice board volunteers, pictured at the site, are working under some challenging constraints to make the new hospice a reality: one is the funding and the second is a tight timeline. Only half of the funding for the new hospice comes from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The other half will have to be funded by the community.

Pictured are (Left to right) : Marian Timmermans, Melodie Zarzeczny, Jill Richardson, regional councillor Willie Woo, Anita Mazzara, Guy May, Marlene McCall and Donna Metcalf-Woo

The rapid growth of **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany, makes the provision of nursery and kindergarten places one of the most urgent topics for the city administration. Investments of millions of euros were necessary to expand the supply. Parents looking for a place to care for their children now have the opportunity to use an innovative parenting portal "Kita-Planner" for their online registration for the different facilities.

As initiator and kindergarten lecturer (and city councillor) Matthias Enghuber say that Neuburg is the first city in the region to use the programme. The project was developed and implemented in less than a year. In Neuburg in 2018 there are now more than 1000 kindergarten and 150 crèche places are available. These are distributed among 14 kindergartens and nine nurseries or day care facilities of various institutions.



The photo shows Heike Gomez, Matthias Enghuber and Kathrin Reiter demonstrating the new online facility on their tablet.



“Volunteers Working Together in Keeping Newcastle Clean” is a collective effort to keep **Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa** clean, The Newcastle Municipality’s department of Community Services with the help from Volunteers took the initiative to work together to clear the refuse from various open spaces within the city.



An analysis by the Immigration and Integration Ministry shows that **Nyborg Municipality** is in first place in among Danish municipalities' ability to lift immigrant school students academically.

Head teacher at Birch Main School, Carsten Højgaard Nielsen, sees the result as a sign that a determined effort over a long period, has borne fruit. “We have long given priority to this area and to strengthen teachers' skills in Danish as a second language.



We are constantly aware of how we can do better and we will continue to work with language development in the subjects. In this way, we raise all students academically, not just those with non-western background”.

“Practice in our kindergartens is characterised by great linguistic consciousness. Throughout the day, we focus on creating situations where children both get the chance to hear a lot of language and use the language itself. One of our goals is that all children have a well-developed language when they start school. We also attach great importance to good cooperation with parents, particularly those with non-western background, who typically do not have experience with the Danish institutional culture,” says Tina Nielsen, of kindergarten Valhalla.

It is not only in schools that Nyborg focuses on children with non-western backgrounds. Also in municipal health care and day care city staff are working specifically with integration and language development.

ANTI-SLAVERY CAMPAIGNERS RECOGNISED

February 26th saw the unveiling of an historically important heritage "blue plaque" in **Newcastle upon Tyne** at the house owned over 150 years ago by Quakers Ellen and Anna Richardson - they campaigned for, and secured, the freedom from slavery of the famous American Frederick Douglass (many cities in the USA have schools that bear his name). Newcastle was one of the major centres in England that led the campaign against slavery in England and the USA.



After fleeing from slavery in 1838 Frederick Douglass became a preacher and anti-slavery activist in Massachusetts. With the publication of his memoir *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* in 1845 Douglass gained international prominence and embarked on a tour of Britain to drum up support for the abolition of slavery in the US. It was during this tour that Douglass met Ellen and Anna Richardson, North-East Quakers who had been anti-slavery activists for a number of years.

The international fame which his book and anti-slavery activism brought led to concerns for Douglass and his acquaintances that his "owner" Thomas Auld would attempt to re-enslave him as soon as he returned to the US. In response Anna and Ellen raised £150 to secure his freedom.

The photo shows (right to left) the Lord Mayor of Newcastle Linda Wright, the Leader of the City Council Nick Forbes, the Member of Parliament for Newcastle Central Chi Onwurah and a representative of the US Embassy in London.

New Castle in Pennsylvania, USA has a large Arab-American population whose culture is visible throughout the community. Large numbers of Lebanese and Syrian immigrants were attracted by the city's prosperity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their culture is especially visible in the local cuisine, which makes popular use of items such as stuffed grape leaves, lamb on the rod, kibbe, and garlic sauce. Although many other Rust Belt cities contain large Arab-American populations, New Castle is unique for its large population of Alawite Muslims from Syria.



The initial Syrian immigrants, who were mostly Christians, found work in the tin mills. The Muslim community of the city has a mosque on the East Side of town (pictured), a former fire station.

The Deadwood Stage – Newcastle, Wyoming and the Old West

In the USA, the state of Wyoming is still at the heart of the Old West, and our Newcastle there is a big part of that history. From the town you can take a scenic drive along the historic Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage Trail, where Wyatt Earp once guarded stagecoaches full of Black Hills gold, as well as travellers, freight and mail on their way out of Deadwood – there were stops at Newcastle

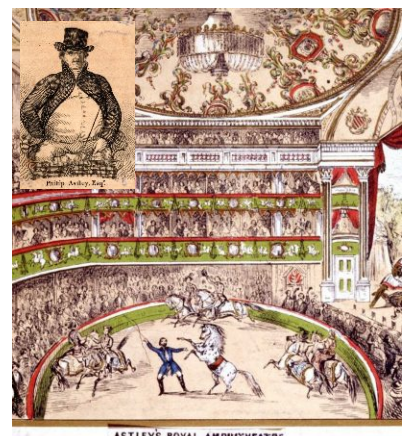
called Hat Creek Station and Robber's Roost, along from Fort Laramie! The trail was used by famous names from the Wild West like Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickock. You may know the song "The Deadwood Stage" from the musical "Calamity Jane"

Read More:

<http://wondersofwyoming.com/the-cheyenne-deadwood-trail/?trackback=tsmclip>



Philip Astley (1742-1814), born in **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, England is considered the creator of the modern circus when, in 1768, he brought together highly skilled performers, clowns, acrobats and equestrians inside a circular ring for the first time. This year there are a series of celebrations of the 250th anniversary of circus – <http://circus250.com/about/history> & <http://www.philipastley.org.uk/>



Neuchâtel recently marked the 250th anniversary of the death of Emer de Vattel.

This little-known Swiss lawyer who lived in the canton until his death laid the foundations of modern international law, including inspiring the American Constitution.

In Neuchâtel, you'll find the rue Emer-de-Vattel, and portraits and statues of him in the Public and University Libraries pay tribute to him.

ENVIRONMENT

Min House Camp, located on the edge of **Kota Bharu** city, “Newcastle” in Malaysia recently received the Green Hotel award during the Asean Tourism Forum in Chiang mai Thailand. The Camp is among the most-visited tourist destinations in the state of Kelantan and its main attraction is the amazing fireflies garden tour. It is best to visit in the evening where you will be taken on a boat to see spectacular fireflies clustered together, filling the trees and bushes like light bulbs along the river.



Min House Camp is popular with people of all ages - set in the heart of a true northern Malaysian village in a beautiful riverside setting it offers comfortable dormitory style accommodation with attached bathroom and kitchenette with fan/ air conditioning. The rooms are built around native flora and fauna with plenty of shade for relaxing. Other attractions include an organic farm, bee farm, and water sports facilities, plus fishing, canoeing, cycling and trekking at extra charges

See <https://www.facebook.com/MinHouseCamp>

Newcastle-under-Lyme has been chosen to compete against six other sustained high achievers in a special “Britain in Bloom” category this coming summer. The Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain has announced that the market town is not only among national finalists but that it will represent the Heart of England region in the illustrious “Champion of Champions” section.

Only candidates with a proven track record of recent achievement in the UK finals are asked to take part by the judging panel. It comes after Newcastle-under-Lyme won the small city category of the national competition in October after impressing the judges with high sponsorship levels, eye-catching floral displays and an excellent volunteer programme, among other things.

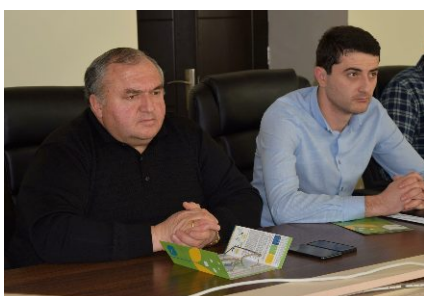
Britain in Bloom rewards environmental responsibility, community participation and horticultural achievement.



The city of **Herceg Novi** ("Newcastle" in the Balkan country of Montenegro) is a place of sunshine and flowers. Right through February it celebrates its annual mimosa festival when the dazzling yellow of the flowers is complemented by music and colourful marching bands. The city is picturesquely located on the Adriatic coast at the entrance to the beautiful Bay of Kotor and at the foot of Mount Orjen.



An exciting new outdoor park facility, Forest Adventure, is opening in **Shinshiro**, Japan this month. It's enjoyable for all generations, including children from 10. It promises a place where people will be able to climb to the tree canopies, enjoy wood steps, suspension bridges and zip-wires, all the while doing physical exercises and enjoying the vibrant nature of Okumikawa forest!



The city of **Akhaltsikhe** in Georgia has become one of the signatory cities of the Covenant of Mayors. The initiative was launched in 2008 in Europe with the ambition to gather local governments voluntarily committed to achieving and exceeding the EU climate and energy targets and gathers more than 7,000 local and regional authorities across 57 countries. Akhaltsikhe's mayor Zaza Melikidze (pictured left at the signing) and the municipality have made a commitment to reduce its CO2 emissions 20% by 2020.



CULTURE NOVÉ ZÁMKY IN THE RUNNING FOR "CITY OF CULTURE"

Nové Zámky is in the final shortlist of three to be named Slovakia's City of Culture for 2019. The Arts Support Fund has created a pilot scheme to select one Slovak city and give it the title for next year. In the course of 2019, a set of artistic and cultural activities, events and presentations aimed at developing the city's culture will take place in the successful city. The selection of the winning city takes place in two rounds. From the first round, there are three projects. Subsequently, in June 2018, the city with the best project will be selected to receive support of EUR 300,000. Eight applications were submitted to the first round, of which three commissioning cities selected the expert commission. The cities of Banská Štiavnica, Nové Zámky and Spišská Nová Ves were selected among the finalists for the title City of Culture 2019.

and here's a project that its citizens have just enjoyed

A huge convoy of 12 trucks, 12 buses and almost 400 artists arrived in Nové Zámky at the beginning of February as part of the "Kárpát-Haza Opera Tour". The residents of Nové Zámky turned out in large numbers to enjoy performances of "Ladislav Huňady" and "The Merry Widow" by the world-famous Hungarian State Opera and the Hungarian National Ballet.

"I would never have thought that I would have the honour to welcome in our town the artists of the Hungarian State Opera - it is a fantastic feeling" said Mayor Otokar Klein, himself an accomplished opera singer. The tour was made possible with the support of the Hungarian Government.



ARTIST COMES HOME

In an exhibition to be seen until mid-August, the Museum of Art and History in Neuchâtel in Switzerland honours Valérie Favre, a renowned international artist who grew up in the city. And it is accompanied by her important creatures, jesters, ghosts, self-portraits and quotations, but also by previously unpublished study books, and notes that this adopted Berliner returns to the city of her youth. She is pictured here with Thomas Facchinetti, conseiller communal responsible for culture. The artist has invested a great deal in this exhibition - the first retrospective of her work by a French-speaking institution. In each room, "Valérie Favre has built a story" around her work, showing "great generosity", said the exhibition curator Antonia Nessi, co-director of the MAHN



Our Newcastle in Ontario, Canada has a very important cultural resource called A Gift of Art - and it has just received a grant of over 11,000 Canadian dollars to run a collaborative project between youth and seniors - "The Living Stories Project". The project will help seniors participate in an arts mentoring program. Kim Rudd, local MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources visited the gallery to announce the award.

A Gift of Art, created and run by Ann Harley (right in the photo), is Newcastle's local gallery for local artists but as well as promoting and displaying the work of local artists in its gallery/store it offers workshops, classes, camps for children, and events including an annual arts show. It also supports the Mayor's annual gala event "For the Love of Art" which benefits the arts throughout the municipality. This latest project is project is funded through the New Horizons for Seniors Programme which promotes positive ageing by supporting seniors' volunteerism and encouraging seniors to play an active role in their communities. This innovative programme enhances seniors' social well-being and enables them to maintain social ties and share their knowledge, skills and experience with others.

Last year, for the third time, the famous Birdland Jazz Club in Neuburg an der Donau was awarded the national "Applaus" venue prize for its particularly sustainable and artistically high-quality programme. Now the Club is involved in a completely new venture in Neuburg; from 9-11 March the city will host a chamber music festival with classical, avant-garde and jazz together on the programme.



Newcastles around the world recently celebrated the start of the Chinese New Year - the Year of the Dog. Neuchâtel in Switzerland celebrated with music, dance and of course the famous lion, dragon and unicorn dances - see photos



YOUTH

Interreg Volunteer Youth

Michal Jarolimek and Robert Dulfer of **Nové Hradý** have prepared a note for all young Europeans who are interested in work experience abroad for between two and six months and being paid for it too through Interreg. If you're a young European between 18 and 30 you can become a volunteer working under Interreg Volunteer Youth projects. The working period is two to six months max. You will get a daily allowance for every day abroad (including weekends) and maybe some extra money for travel. Find out more here on our website - <https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/interreg-volunteer-youth.pdf>

Robert says that his Rozmberk Society will announce its projects there as well, or you can contact him directly if you are interested - dulfer@rozmberk.org or +420 724 132 180



And here's a direct international opportunity in Nové Hradý! They're looking for an English native speaker to join them working on a week's summer camp there in the Czech Republic. If you're interested please contact Marcela Kotrcova at mkotrcov@msn.com. It's a paid job / 1000 Kc per day, with accommodation and lunch supplied. Term is the end of July 23-27. If you are planning your summer trip to Europe, you could make this stop in South Bohemia as your job experience or opportunity to visit one of the Newcastles in the world. ...If you are or you know someone who would be interested, please let Marcela know - and she may be able to help with additional paid restaurant work if you're interested in that too. Check out:

<http://www.internationalnewcastle.org.uk/2018/02/28/summer-camp-job-opportunity-in-nove-hrady/>

Twenty year old Greek Australian Irini Kassis was named the 2018 Young Citizen of the Year for Newcastle Australia on Australia Day, 26th January. In February 2017 Irini (right) represented Australia at the London International Model UN, where she led the UN Equity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women committee. For six months of 2017, Irini lived in Vietnam working with the United Nations and Humanitarian Affairs as an intern on the 2017 University Scholars Leadership Symposium held in Vietnam in August. A graduate of Newcastle High School, she is now studying a Bachelor of Development Studies at the University of Newcastle.



We've previously written about Mayor York's "Mayor for a Day" programme in **New Castle, Indiana** where young people come into the Council to take over the roles of staff or just find out more. Well not only did it take place there again in early March (left) but something similar happens in other Newcastles too.

Far left is Abigail Charlton of **Newcastle upon Tyne** Youth Council during the recent "takeover day" at the city council (Abigail also represents Newcastle on the national Youth Parliament).



Right is **Jaunpils** council chairwoman Lingite Gintere answering questions from young people in her town about how the council works.



Timothée Pages from **Neuchâtel** (pictured centre) recently visited **Akhaltzikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia. He was hosted by Jeko Makaridze who had recently returned from our youth conference in Shinshiro and also met another youth delegate Medea Kopadze. They showed Timothée the famous Rabati castle, also Safara Monastery and Vardzia Cave City. Timothée has attended several of our Newcastles of the World conferences and was actively involved in Neuchatel's Youth Parliament.



Everyone was excited by 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeonChang, South Korea but one little girl in **Nové Zámky**, our "Newcastle" in Slovakia, was especially excited. The Slovak Olympic Committee ran a competition for primary and secondary schools to submit illustrations on the theme of the Olympic fire, and 7 year old Sara Grosz, a pupil at **Primary School, Nábřežná 95**, won third place – her work was then associated with a mosaic decorating the building that was used by the Slovak Olympic team in the Olympic Village during February.

In Japan they celebrate 20 years of age as the "Coming of Age" but in **Shinshiro** City a big day is also when you are 25 years old and there's great celebrations, beautiful costumes and a civic ceremony.



OTHER NEWS

The deputy Mayor of Akhaltsikhe municipality, Mr Guram Melikidze and other representatives recently visited the Republic of Estonia to start implementing the VOLIS pilot project, an Internet-based information system for local government. This new information system for councils, towns and rural municipalities allows citizens to watch real-time local government meetings.



This constitutes a big step towards the development of local eServices. Its main purpose is to strengthen the overall transparency, accountability and effectiveness of decision making process of local government. The project is supported by GGI, USAID and EGA.

MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT IN NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME



Newcastle-under-Lyme Council, UK has granted planning permission for a huge £40 million (45 million euros) redevelopment of a former supermarket site and Civic Offices in Ryecroft on the north side of the town centre. Plans will deliver an improved retail offer, additional parking for the town and 500 student beds to support the growth plans of Keele University, further integrating the university campus with the heart of the town. It has been estimated that the development will create 500 new onsite full-time equivalent jobs, an additional 500 construction jobs and 220 jobs locally, thanks to the new student residents.

There are eight ships in the British Royal Navy that have been named “HMS (Her/His Majesty’s Ship) Newcastle”, after **Newcastle upon Tyne**, going back to the first which was built in 1653. The eighth was built in 1975 and taken out of service in 2005. You can help the campaign to have a ninth vessel, a Type 26 City class Royal Navy ship, named HMS Newcastle by “liking” this Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/HMS-Newcastle-No9-165270280721688/>



The campaign was started by Robin Ashby, a councillor in Newcastle upon Tyne, to maintain the link and the historical tradition. The last three “HMS Newcastles” were all built on the River Tyne, whose shipbuilding yards were renowned across the world and employed tens of thousands of people at one time – sadly no longer. UNESCO’s UK Memory of the World Register is an online catalogue created to promote the greatest of the nation’s heritage, and the vast collections of material from the shipyards of the River Tyne and the nearby River Wear were accorded Memory of the World status and entered in the register 5 years ago.



VISIT KOTA BHARU YEAR 2018

The new year celebration in Kota Bharu, Malaysia marked the launch of the “Visit Kota Bharu” Year 2018. The celebration was launched by the Minister of Tourism, Kelantan state with the presence of the Mayor of Kota Bharu and ministers from the Kelantan state Government. Kota Bharu as the state capital of Kelantan is a major tourism attraction for Malaysians and increasingly internationally too.

The most recent annual data shows Kota Bharu is now attracting almost 6 million tourists. Kota Bharu is welcoming the world with its abundant and colourful cultures, delicious foods, shopping destinations and nature. Throughout 2018, there’s lots of activities to lure tourists to the city, including festivals, cultural performances, river cruises, guided tours and lively night markets. On 1st January, the city greeted the first arrival of tourists at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport and marked the night with over 1000 cyclists on a fun ride throughout the city.

The number of foreign tourists visiting Japan last year exceeded 20 million people and further increase is expected due to the hosting of the Rugby World Cup in 2019 and the Olympic Games in 2020. With this in mind **Shinshiro** recently invited foreigners with information disseminating capabilities to the city to showcase its charms. During one of the tours (pictured) Thai, Chinese and Korean students in Nagoya prepared Japanese croquettes - which are made of Shinshiro taro potatoes and tofu.

On a similar theme, Zélie and David of the Newcastles of the World secretariat were recently visited by representatives of the Japan Local Government Centre in London who are studying cities that have hosted major sports events - like Newcastle (rugby world cup/Olympic football).



THE BEAUTY OF THE BRIDGE

There is undoubtedly beauty in engineering. The Great Belt Bridge in Denmark is the fixed connection over the “Great Belt”, the strait between our Danish “Newcastle” **Nyborg**, on the island of Funen, and Korsør on the island of Zealand. It was one of the world’s largest construction projects and consists of a railway part and a motorway part, and it has the world's third longest main span.

The East Tunnel of the Great Belt Bridge is for trains, and was constructed between 1988-1996. It’s 8,024m long and consists of two separate tunnels with a track in each. From the bottom of the sea to the upper side of the tunnel measures between 12 and 40 metres. At its deepest point, the tunnel is 75m under the surface of the sea. The West Bridge was opened in 1994 is 6.6km long and consists of two parallel bridges, one for the road and one for the railway.



At this cold time in the northern hemisphere, here's a warming photo of Merewether Beach in **Newcastle, Australia** which has just been named Australia's best city beach in an annual rating of the nation's best stretches of coast, beating iconic locations such as Bondi Beach in Sydney and Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast

There are many claims for the invention of the “hamburger” though most people associate it with American fast food. Or is it just someone or something from Hamburg, Germany? In German “burg” means “castle” (but so does “schloss”). Nothing to do with any of the Newcastles we think, but our **New Castle in Pennsylvania, USA** has so many fine burger restaurants that it’s come up with a “Burger” Trail. The Visit Lawrence County Burger Trail works through a “burger passport” When you visit a new burger joint you ask a staff member to place the official Burger Trail sticker on your passport.

If you fill up your passport with stickers you get a Burger Trail T-Shirt.

Maybe we can suggest to Janet Fallotico at Visit Lawrence County that you should get bonus stickers if you can prove (via a till receipt maybe ?) that you’ve had a burger in another “Newcastle” ?



Adjusting to Life Overseas – Welcome Seminar for new international students

As well as being our “Newcastles of the World” project manager, Zélie Guérin is Director of International Newcastle, which manages international projects and contracts for Newcastle City Council and Newcastle University among its various activities. Fifty-five new international students at Newcastle University attended Zélie’s recent seminar on ‘Adjusting to Life Overseas’. Dealing with subjects such as overcoming culture shock, as well as how to have the best time whilst studying and living in Newcastle upon Tyne, the seminars are designed to help international students settle in and integrate successfully.



The students came from across the world, including Brazil, USA, Netherlands, Spain, Singapore, Germany, Belgium, Norway, Poland, Indonesia, France, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Hong Kong, Canada and Norway. Together and in strong voice the seminar culminated with everyone practising some of the famous Geordie dialect phrases with Zélie! Welcome and “Gan Canny” (go well) everyone! There are around 5000 undergraduate and postgraduate overseas students at Newcastle University - and a few thousand at Northumbria University in the city too. So lots of work for Zélie to teach them all all our local lingo and customs!

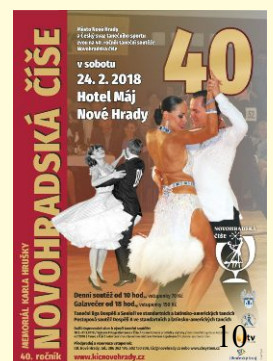


<https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/two-newcastles.pdf>

“Two Newcastles” is a co production between Curious Monkey theatre, **Newcastle UK** and Newcastle Arts Development Organisation from **KwaZulu Natal, South Africa**. It’s a flagship cultural project for Newcastles of the World. The UK artists have just got back from South Africa. Read about their work and their impressions of this wonderful country and its people.

The 40th edition of the international dance competition in **Nové Hradý, Czech Republic** took place at the end of February.

There’s an exhibition until 31 March of photos going back the 40 years.



Project Network: Remembering World War I Cultural Heritage in Nové Hradý

Robert Dulfer writes:: The main objectives of the NETWORKD project are to increase the awareness of the First World War (WWI) heritage and its sustainable use for the development of quality cultural tourism. The Rozmberk Society, in cooperation with the Town of Nové Hradý (New Castle) is the Czech partner for the project.

Most people, especially the younger generations, do not know much about the “Great War” (WWI). It often is compressed into a few sentences, like this - 1n June 2014, Hapsburg crown prince Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were assassinated in the Serbian capital Sarajevo. This started World War I. When it finished in 1918, the “Great War” had cost over 15 million lives, with another 20 million military mentioned as wounded or missing. After the war, the Austro-Hungarian Empire was split up and several states regained or obtained independence, including Czechoslovakia. The other fact many remember is the terrible trench warfare especially in France and Belgium.

However, the history is much wider, and it is important even – or especially – a century later to preserve and remember that heritage. The links and similarities with contemporary conflicts is large.

In the Austrian-Italian mountains, the “forgotten front” (Isonzo front) claimed as many dead, missing and wounded as the trench warfare on the Western Front, Verdun. Today, mountain ranges still show rock trenches and simple bunkers. In the midst of bitter cold winters, soldiers of the Central and Allied forces faced off for several years, with little gains on either side. Food for humans and transport animals had to be hauled up onto steep hills. Burying fallen comrades or hauling wounded to the back was a near to impossible task. As a diary mentioned it: : “The Italians attacked us during day with mortars and raffle charges, during the night we tried to repair the barbed wire and trenches protecting us. This time, we had to beat them back with bayonets. We lost five men today, the Italians about double”

Most Czech villages have small monuments commemorating the fallen. What most people do not know, is that all of these soldiers were killed far away from home; on Czech soil, no fighting took place! Some even died in Prisoner of War camps in Sicily, Italy, far away from any front.

Czechoslovak politicians in London were already negotiating for the country to regain its independence after over four centuries of Hapsburg dominance. Over time, close to 80 000 or more Czechoslovak people, both military and civilian, broke away from the Austro-Hungarian army and enlisted in the so-called Czechoslovak Legion. The fought on the side of the Allied, mainly in Russia. Blocked by events following the Russian Revolution, they were forced to cross Russia by confiscated trains eastward to Vladivostok to be able to return home after the war.

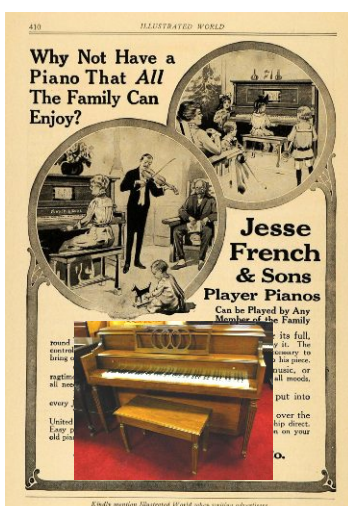
With developing education materials and trails, and new exhibitions, the Rozmberk Society tries to help achieve our objective to keep preserve and keep alive both the tangible and intangible heritage of this war.

WW I history conference and 100 year Independence commemoration in Nové Hradý

From May 3-6, several activities around the topic of the end of WWI will take place in the Nové Hradý municipality. On May 3-4, a small 2-day conference on the history of WW I will take place. The main theme is “Borders as Results of War”. The conference will focus on the more unknown aspects of the war like how men were drafted into the army, transport to the front and back, logistics of feeding an army, effects on local population, refugees, and POWs.

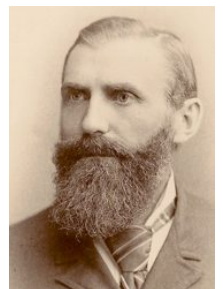
On 4 May, the k.u.k. 91 Infantry Regiment re-enactment group will set up camp on the town square in Nové Hradý. Schools from the surrounding and bordering Austria will be invited for special education events. On Saturday May 5, activities on the town square will continue. In the afternoon, guest are invited to walk from the square to the Buquoy Tomb at the cemetery, were we will unveil a new WWI monument and education trail. Both Friday and Saturday evening, there will be cultural activities in Town. On Sunday May 5, those interested can join a guided “Walk of Peace” trail visiting several locations and hamlets from where soldiers were recruited.

For more information, please call or email Robert Dulfer +420 724 132 180; dulfer@rozmberk.org



The Jesse French Piano Company of **New Castle, Indiana** was a major player in the piano industry during the 19th and 20th Centuries, with a huge factory – probably the biggest in the world. Established in 1875, his pianos were first built under the name of “Dorman, French & Smith”.

Jesse French created his own firm of “The Jesse French Piano & Organ Company” in 1885, then in 1902 went into partnership with Albert Krell of Ohio and the name of the firm was changed to “Krell-French“. Albert Krell left Krell-French in about 1905, and the firm became “Jesse French & Sons”. Jesse French continued to build pianos until his death 90 years ago



SPORT

Shinshiro, our Newcastle in Japan, is beginning a new programme of major community sports participation events. The first was held at the beginning of February in Shinshiro Park and was an orienteering event which attracted 170 citizens to take part - see above right.

For those unfamiliar with it, orienteering is a sport that requires navigational skills using a map and compass to navigate from point to point whilst moving at speed. The theme for the first event in Shinshiro was the Battle of Nagashino (historic and important battle from 1575 that took place in Shinshiro) – the runners had to locate a number of points associated with this famous battle.

And it's been a busy time for sport in Shinshiro because January brought the annual Shinshiro distance running event - for elite runners but also for community participants of all ages (below right).



Top Swiss table tennis players ("pongistes") competed in **Neuchâtel** over the first weekend in March in the Championnats Suisses Elite de Tennis de table 2018. There were mens and womens singles and doubles, and mixed doubles competitions. The singles champions are Rachel Moret and Elia Schmid.



It's all been happening at the sun-drenched beaches of **Newcastle, Australia** this summer (well, this winter to those in the northern hemisphere!). The City Council backed the Australian Boardriders Battle (skateboarders) at Newcastle Beach in February, then Surfest 2018 came to its exciting conclusion at Merewether beach and the Australian Bowl Riding Championships took place at Empire Park Skate Park just a week later.

Surfest is Australia's biggest surfing event (on its best beaches in and around Newcastle) brother and sister, Mikey and Tyler Wright made history as the first siblings to surf in dual finals of a World Surf League Qualifying Series event. Mikey eventually added his name to the winner's list alongside older sister Kirby, who saw success in Newcastle in 2010. Tyler came just short to Hawaii's Coco Ho who took her second Surfest title. Photo above: *Grandstand Sports Clinic Women's Pro finalists Tyler Wright (AUS) and Coco Ho (HAW) with Burton Automotive Pro Finalists Mikey Wright (AUS) and Barron Mamiya (HAW)*. Credit: © WSL – Tom Bennett.



Sad news: strongman Alexander Dyodovets of **Novgorod Volynskiyi** ("Newcastle" in Ukraine) died recently. On seven separate occasions he was the world champion in weightlifting and became "Honoured Worker of Physical Culture and Sports of Ukraine" and "Master of Sports of Ukraine" as well as Honorary Citizen of the city of Novograd-Volynski.

Ice Hockey is the big sport in **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia, and the city recently hosted an international junior "olympics" event with teams from Sweden, Russia, Finland, Czech Republic and Canada.



A clue to the outcome is that the photos of the event show the youngsters from the home country were wearing gold medals as presented by Mayor Otokar Klein

Here are the winners of the **Neuchâtel** Trophy for synchronized skating. Swiss Ice Skating and the Neuchâtel Figure Skating Club hosted one of the major events in the synchronized ice skating calendar in January. Teams competed for the prized Neuchâtel Trophy, an International Skating Union event for senior, junior, novice and mixed age teams, alongside the Swiss Championship.



Rohan Tungate from Pelaw Main (just west of Newcastle) has become the 2018 **Australian** Solo Speedway Champion, and continues the astonishing record of success of speedway riders associated with the city. Newcastle's Sam Masters was last year's champion and in 2015 it was Newcastle's Jason Doyle – oh, and he just happens to be the current world champion too !