



Newcastles of the World

Newsletter No. 29 - November/December 2019 www.newcastlesoftheworld.com

Distributed directly to over 2500 people and organisations in dozens of "Newcastles" around the world - help us reach more by sharing !

A DREAM OPPORTUNITY FOR CHRIS

Our "Newcastles of the World" alliance has led to a dream work placement for a Northumbria University (**Newcastle upon Tyne**) student. For the next year Mechanical Engineering student Chris Brownhill will be swapping Newcastle upon Tyne for the city of **Shinshiro** in Japan. Through the alliance Chris has secured a year-long work placement at the Japanese cutting tool manufacturing company OSG, based near Shinshiro. Here he is photographed (front row, second left) with visitors to Newcastle from Shinshiro.

See page 11 for more on this.



Contact your Newcastles of the World team for information, ideas or help:

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If you would like to join the delegation from your "Newcastle" to our 2020 Newcastles of the World conference (21-28 April) in the beautiful Swiss city of **Neuchâtel**, or to find out more about it, then please get in touch with your Newcastles of the World contact:

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/your-contacts-in-our-newcastles/>



Page 2 inside - Mayor interview with **ADRIAN FOSTER** who hosted our 2016 conference in **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU !

We encourage you to visit other "Newcastles" to enjoy the rich variety of attractions on offer. So we have produced an online calendar that lists many of the major events in the year. See

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2019/10/newcastles-of-the-world-calendar-of-events.pdf>

If you're thinking of visiting and you're from one of our Newcastles, you should also check out the "Newcastle Passport" for a personalised welcome, special benefits and additional events :

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/passport/>



Page 3 - Farewell to the former Mayor of Shinshiro whose vision inspired the development of "Newcastles of the World".



THE COLOURS OF THE SEASON

Here's a beautiful photograph of the castle of **Jaunpils**, our "Newcastle" in Latvia, looking even better with the setting of the autumn (fall) colours.

Right - a scene from Cascade Park in **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA**. Far right - a photo from a drone over Chaumont, the hills just outside **Neuchâtel, Switzerland**, revealing a palette of lovely colours from the tree canopy - as well as a car that seems tiny in the big forest. Can you see it ?





PROFILE AND INTERVIEW: ADRIAN FOSTER

MAYOR OF CLARINGTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

Adrian Foster is serving his third term as Mayor of Clarington. He has twice been formally recognised for his service to the community, having been awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee medal in 2002 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012. Mayor Foster hosted the 2016 Newcastle of the World conference and has been supportive of the work of our team in Newcastle.

The name "Newcastle" was used until 1994 for the municipality now called Clarington. It was changed to alleviate confusion between Newcastle and the municipality as a whole which includes other communities.

What did you do before you entered politics? Before I got involved with politics I spent 26 years in retail finance, bonds, stocks, tax shelters, that sort of thing. Despite what you might see in the movies, the day to day activity is not always particularly exciting, which led me to get involved with a number of community groups.

What made you want to enter politics? How did it happen? Simply put - a weak moment! I was raised in a highly political environment where my mother, a single mom, was assistant to one of the provincial ministers. As you can imagine, partisan politics were a staple of my upbringing and, as you might also imagine, knocking on doors and putting up signs during elections was not my idea of fun as a teenager. I never, ever aspired to be a politician. Then one of the retiring councillors, noting that I was deeply involved in the community, asked me to run and I said 'yes'. It still surprises me!

What achievements are you most proud of for Newcastle and the municipality? The municipality is experiencing unprecedented growth so we have had the opportunity to get a lot of really good things done. If I had to pick one area that I'm proud of it would be the parkland dedication that we've achieved and that we are working on. Our residents have significantly better access to the waterfront than they did a short time ago and we have a couple of very large pieces of land that should shortly come into public ownership. These are legacy items, open spaces that will be used for passive and active recreation for years and years to come. I'm proud too of 'our' Newcastle. The 'Village', as we know it, has maintained its small town feel and rural charm despite all the growth that is happening there.

What are the biggest challenges facing Newcastle for the future? We've all heard the quote "the bigger the challenge, the bigger the opportunity"; the same holds true in reverse. As I had noted earlier, we are experiencing a lot of growth which is bringing with it lots and lots of opportunity. That growth is also a challenge. We have to both encourage and manage the growth that we are experiencing. We can't let the growth smother the history, identity and small town feel of Newcastle. If we let that happen, we'll likely never be able to get it back



What are your hopes for the future of the Newcastle of the World alliance?

Some of my hopes have been realised in that we have made lasting friendships, and from that we've shared common issues and possible solutions to those issues. Moving ahead I'd like to believe that we can strengthen and broaden those relationships and continue the dialogue.

What are your other interests? I'm kept pretty busy as Mayor, so I don't have as much time as I'd like to enjoy all of the things that Clarington and Newcastle have to offer. I seldom get to fish but some of the best fishing you'll find anywhere is minutes from my office. I also enjoy both downhill and cross country skiing; again, I can do that right here in the municipality and minutes from my house. The same is true of camping and canoeing. When I can, I take the time to go to CTMP Mosport, an auto racing circuit. It's one of the fastest tracks in the world and I thoroughly enjoy spending time doing laps on the track.

What would you say about your town to persuade people to come and visit? Oh boy, it's a long list. Newcastle is part of the Municipality of Clarington. If you want to enjoy premium motorsports you can go to CTMP Mosport; there are lots of places that offer excellent fishing; we have ski hills and abundant opportunities to mountain bike, snowshoe or cross country ski. If you enjoy camping, we have a provincial park. Clarington recently won the 'Festivals and Events Ontario' Award because of the many, many festivals and events that happen in our community year round. We are a unique mix of urban and rural, with lots and lots to do. We're also easy to get to. We are the easternmost community in the Greater Toronto Area and are less than 100 km from Toronto International Airport. So, if you're interested in visiting Canada and want to see our biggest city, Toronto, you can do, enjoy all that the big city has to offer and easily enjoy, as well the quieter urban/rural lifestyle that Newcastle has.

PEOPLE

GOODBYE TO PIONEERING MAYOR



We are sad to report that Yoshio Yamamoto, former Mayor of **Shinshiro**, Japan, who served from 1991 to 2005, passed away in August. During his career, he was instrumental in helping build the foundations of the Newcastles of the World Alliance, and supported its continued development.

The city of Shinshiro says” With his proposal to invite various Newcastles around the world, in 1998 we were able to hold the very first Newcastle Summit. At this summit, we pledged to build a strong bond between our Newcastles and planted a zelkova tree, a tree that is known for its hardiness. This tree it still growing strongly to this day.

“In total, Mayor Yamamoto participated in four summits and passed on his passion to the Alliance to his successor, Ryoji Hozumi. When Yamamoto’s passing was announced, Mayor Hozumi expressed words of condolences and gratitude to his predecessor. In honour of his achievements, Yamamoto was awarded an honorary citizenship of Shinshiro. During Yamamoto’s tenure as the Mayor of Shinshiro for 14 years, he contributed much to the development of our local government with his outstanding knowledge and leadership. We wish to continue to advance the activities of the Alliance, which was one of Yamamoto’s great achievements during his time in office”.



AZMAN IS THE TOURISM CHAMPION !

We're delighted that our good friend Azman Mohddaham, director of public affairs and information at **Kota Bharu** municipal council (our "Newcastle" in Malaysia), received the Best Destination Manager 2019 award at the 9th Tourism Promotion Organisation for Asia Pacific Cities (TPO) General Assembly held in Busan, Korea recently. He has achieved so much to raise the tourism profile of his city, including participation in Newcastles of the World conferences in 2012 and 2018. Azman is pictured right in the first photo, and also presenting the tourism offer of Kota Bharu to the conference.

More than 700 people — including mayors, tourism officials, academics and arts and cultural promoters from 85 cities and 15 countries — attended this year’s TPO event, which was themed “Common Prosperity in Tourism Through Open Partnership”.

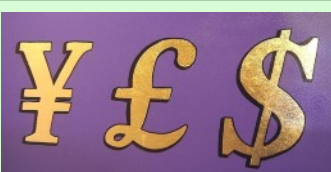


CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW ROLE, MARIELOUISE !

Many congratulations to Marieluise Kühnl who has been promoted to Head of Culture at Neuburg an der Donau. She has worked for the city council for 27 years, mainly in tourism. Oberbürgermeister Bernhard Gmehling says that few have such in-depth knowledge of the cultural life of Neuburg or the administrative experience.



Marieluise successfully organised the summer academy this year, knows Neuburg’s twin towns well, and speaks English and French. The Mayor said that he appreciated "her calm way of dealing with people". She wants to tackle the extended area of responsibility of culture and tourism with her "proven team" - predominantly female.



There’s more than one famous pop artist from New Castle Indiana !

... because in addition to Robert Indiana (of “Love” sculpture fame), New Castle is the birthplace of Trevor

Chowning, artist, music promoter (Johnny Cash band), and TV and film producer (with an Academy Award nomination). He was inspired to art by Andy Warhol’s work, and his own is characterised by use of unique materials and strange objects - the valuable and renowned work above is in gold leaf and combines monetary symbols for the Yen, British Pound, and US Dollar - it’s been reproduced worldwide in prints and posters. For more about him see <http://www.trevorchowning.com/bio.html>



PEOPLE

EARLY WARNINGS ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

These days the world has awoken (but maybe not yet enough) to the climate emergency. One of the first to warn of the grave risk of climate change was distinguished American atmospheric scientist Ralph Cicerone. He was born in **New Castle, Pennsylvania** and for over a decade he was the president of the

US National Academy of Sciences. He also served as president of the American Geophysical Union, the world's largest society of earth scientists, and in 2004, the World Cultural Council honoured him with the Albert Einstein World Award of Science. The national panel, commissioned by President George W. Bush, and tasked with reporting to him on climate change, was led by Cicerone - it concluded unequivocally that "greenhouse gases are accumulating in Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities, causing surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures to rise."



OUR WONDERFUL TEAM OF SUPPORTERS IN NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

In some of our Newcastles, the lead is taken not by the municipality but by teams of volunteers within the community who can see the value of international connections such as ours.

Here is the team in Newcastle, New South Wales - thanks to you all for supporting Newcastles of the World - *left to right* - Alison Hamilton, Irini Kassiss, Bob Cook, John Hamilton, Gary Foster, Tony Sansom and former Lord Mayor John McNaughton, who together with others such as Lyn Cook make up "International Newcastle" in the city.



There are people who make cars in their garages all around the world and Georgia is no exception. Guram Sudadze, a 54 year old from **Akhaltshikhe**, has already constructed three cars by hand. But it was not easy to upgrade to this level – it took him going on for 25 years to master this profession.

The names that he has chosen for these cars are special – Jeirani (a black-tailed gazelle native to Georgia and nearby countries, Akhaltshikheli (from the name of the city Akhaltshikhe) & Tsiqara (a character from the Georgian folk tales)



FEATURE - One of Denmark's best filmmakers



Born in **Nyborg**, our "Newcastle" in Denmark, Erik Balling was one of his country's most beloved Danish filmmakers of the 20th century. Balling was a director, a producer and a writer, particularly famous for creating such TV epics as "Matador" and "Huset På Christianshavn" and the film-series of "Olsen banden".

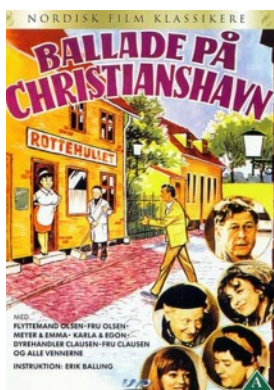
The son of a priest, in 1946 Balling was hired as an assistant at "Nordisk Film Kompagni" - the world's oldest film production company. His talent was soon recognised, and Balling had the opportunity to work as a director. In 1957 he became head of "Nordisk Film" - the youngest one ever.

Balling was mostly famous for his comedies, starting with the James Bond spoof "Slå Først Frede" (1965), which became very popular in Denmark - so popular it spawned a sequel Slap af, Frede! (1966). This co-work with Henning Bahs was so fruitful that they made many more movies together.

The partnership eventually led to the film-series called "Olsen banden", starting with "Olsen banden" (1968). Eventually they made a total of 14 "Olsen banden" films, plus a TV series. It was about a small band of small time criminals, trying to become millionaires. "Olsen banden" were not only very popular in Denmark, but also in East-Germany, Poland, Sweden and Norway.

In the late 60s and early 70s Balling made the popular Danish TV series "Huset På Christianshavn", which also became the basis for a movie.

Balling produced the very popular Danish TV epic "Matador", about life in a smaller city in Denmark in the 30s and 40s. More than fifty percent of Denmark's population watched "Matador" in those days!



TOURISM



Kanli Kula fortress in **Herceg Novi, Montenegro** has a new high-tech Visitor Centre. One of the special features is that visitors can now “step” into the medieval era and take a look at what this centuries-old fortress and the town looked like throughout history; this is by using augmented reality goggles and 3D animation with installed video content in four different languages to choose from. The equipment of the Visitors Centre is funded by the European Union through the Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Program Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro.

The Mayor of Herceg Novi, Stevan Katić, emphasised that the Herceg Novi municipality is the first in Montenegro to implement this type of project, which is sure to attract cultural tourists and improve the tourist offer of the city. The centre’s opening event was a premiere of a documentary film "Herceg’s New Town", depicting the history of Herceg Novi, and was shot as part of the project, produced by "Digital dab".

NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA

A TOURISM SUCCESS STORY

With visits to the city and tourism expenditure soaring by almost 60 per cent during the past five years, the City of **Newcastle, Australia** is delivering on its commitment to grow the visitor economy.

A new City Guide has been launched, along with a new “Visit Newcastle” website.

The launch follows the recent announcement that the former Civic Railway Station will be converted into a modern Visitor Information Centre, to open in the first half of 2020. The station closed in 2014 but the site has since been developed as a public space for community events. Museum Park is a multi-purpose community space to connect and relax, with green lawns, shady trees, enhanced pedestrian links, and a focus on history.

“The city’s tourism industry is booming, attracting 20 per cent more visitors in the past 12 months compared to the same time last year” said Lord Mayor Councillor Nuatali Nelmes, “while the longer five-year trend has seen visitor numbers rise by more than 58 per cent. Those who chose to come to Newcastle are also staying longer and spending more, with expenditure in the 12 months to March this year worth more than \$1.1 billion to the local economy. The new Visitor Information Centre will be ideally located to offer a direct link to the light rail, close connections to the harbour and Civic Park and easy access for guests staying in city centre accommodation.”



AND MORE FROM HERCEG NOVI

The Municipality of **Herceg Novi, Montenegro** has been awarded the goblet of the 52nd International Tourism Fair in Novi Sad, Serbia, and the city's festivals and offer have been awarded with eight medals for top quality. Special recognition went to the Mimosa Festival, the Herceg Novi Film Festival and the Comic Festival. The awards were attended by representatives of the Herceg Novi Municipality, led by President Stevan Katic and Vice President Milose Konjevic, as well as director Pavle Obradovic on behalf of the local Tourism Organization.

And at the end of September, the flag was raised of the Federation of European Carnival Cities on the Clock Tower of Herceg Novi. The 39th birthday meeting of Dies Natalis, the largest carnival family in the world, took place in the city. Representatives from 15 countries in formal uniforms, including members of the International Federation Board, gathered. On behalf of the city, those present were greeted by the Mayor of Herceg Novi as well as by the City Music and Majorettes of Herzegovina.

Federation President Lars Algel of Sweden and Vice President Josip Silov of Croatia did not hide their great impressions about the city and the hosts. Algel said Dies Natalis is a great promotion for Herceg Novi and the whole of Boka area, which is a true carnival region of fantastic beauty. "Being a member of the Federation means being online, having contacts and participating in exchanges with other carnival cities," Algel said. He said that the FECC was opening up the world and offering incredible opportunities that Herceg Novi could use now.

A Golden City! The energy strategy and practice of the city of **Neuchâtel** has again been recognised at the European level. Recently, in Locarno, the European Energy Award Gold Label, which the city first obtained in 2006, was presented once more. It's actually a quarter of a century of best practice because in 1995 Neuchâtel was the first Swiss city to receive the label Cité de l' Energy. Today more than 33'000 m2 of photovoltaic cells are installed on the communal territory, among the many actions to promote sustainable energy use. Municipal Councillor Christine Gaillard received the latest award, accompanied by the energy delegate Stefano Benagli.



We have featured the success of **Newcastle-under-Lyme** many times in our newsletters for its wonderful flower displays throughout the borough. This year, not only did Newcastle win an 18th consecutive gold award in the "Heart of England in Bloom" competition this year, it also gained a discretionary environmental award for work to boost biodiversity, wildlife and habitat creation at Silverdale Country Park.

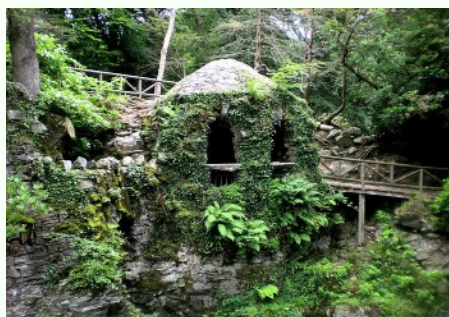


Mayor Simon White received the gold award at the ceremony in Rugby, and later, back in Newcastle, he hosted an event to celebrate and thank local "Britain in Bloom competitors" – organised by the Borough Council. The "Heart of England" competition is the regional element of "Britain in Bloom" which is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society to encourage communities to improve their environment. Horticultural experts toured gardens, parks and projects in July and met with green-fingered residents, community groups, children and Council staff. Gardening activities, events and projects followed a theme that marked the 200th anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth and also the women's suffrage (votes for women) movement.

The City of **Newcastle** is to become the first local government in the state of New South Wales, **Australia** to move to 100 per cent renewable electricity. A 10-year power purchase agreement (PPA) has been awarded to energy retailer Flow Power for the equivalent of all the City's operational needs from the Sapphire Wind Farm. The accepted tender stands to save rate payers around \$1.8 million over the 10-year contract. "From 1 January, the City will become the first local government in NSW to purchase enough renewable electricity to meet 100 per cent of our operational electricity requirements," Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said. "This means enough clean energy will be put into the grid to power every sportsground floodlight, local library, park and any other facility that the Council operates".

In addition, an advanced network of sensors spread across the city has put the City of Newcastle on the front foot to combat a range of local environmental issues. The City's 'Envirosensing' network and Internet of Things (IoT) project, recently launched, is the culmination of three years of work to build one of the most advanced smart city infrastructure systems in Australia. The system is designed to measure a range of environmental conditions including temperature, humidity, wind direction, air quality, water usage, soil moisture and solar irradiance. The infrastructure also allows for the pilot deployment of smart bin sensors, smart parking sensors and other smart city applications. Data collected by the sensors can help the City better understand and respond to issues such as urban heat island effect, air pollution, flood management and water sustainability, as well as monitor the performance of urban systems and assets. Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said Newcastle is leading the way when it comes to investment in, and uptake of, technology.

Tollymore Forest Park on the edge of **Newcastle, County Down, Northern Ireland** has become very well known as a film location for the television series Game of Thrones. It was the first state forest park in the country,



located in the Mourne and Slieve Croob Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the sea. The Shimna River flows through the park and is crossed by 16 bridges. The river is an Area of Special Scientific Interest due to its geology, flora and fauna. Both romantic and unsettling, it's also known for its grottos and caves, a barn that looks like a church, and gothic-style gate arches.

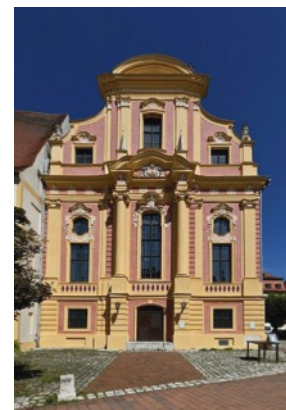
Tree lovers can see exotic trees such as monkey puzzle and eucalyptus, giant redwoods and Monterey pines. Oak wood from Tollymore was the preferred material for the interiors of the White Star liners including the 'Titanic', which was built in nearby Belfast.

HERITAGE

The beautiful State Library of Neuburg an der Donau (our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany) was founded in the year 1803 as the central library for schools and administrative institutions of the region. It is housed in an elegant building in the Neuburg old town that was built in 1732 and today preserves around 55,300 media, predominantly books, journals and electronic media.



The historical holdings comprise around 35,000 volumes from before 1800 as well as a number of manuscripts and, as a particularly important special collection, over 600 volumes formerly owned by the famous Augsburg humanist Hieronymus Wolf (1516 – 1580). The Neuburger book holdings came mostly from local monasteries as well as from the Neuburg Jesuit College. Particularly numerous are holdings from the fields of theology, general history, church history, geography (especially travel descriptions), with jurisprudence, philosophy, philology and science represented.



Hugo Kārlis Grotuss, born in **Jaunpils** in 1884 was a Latvian painter, classified as a Realist. His paintings and drawings include some of the best known and most popular works in Latvian art. He studied in the studio of Jūlijs Madernieks and also in the Central School of Technical Drawing of Saint Petersburg. He worked as a drawing teacher in some schools of Saint Petersburg, and then became a vice-principal of the Shuvalov – Ozerskov Gymnasium. In 1920 Grotuss returned to Latvia. He was a member of the Union of Independent Painters, also a member of the board participating in exhibitions of that Union (1921–1934). Then he worked again as a school teacher. During his life he painted around 2000 works.



Nové Zámky has unveiled a statue to commemorate war hero Jiří Jelínek who distinguished himself in the defence of Nové Zámky in 1919. Major Jelinek joined the Austro-Hungarian army during the mobilisation for World War 1. He won several awards for bravery in fighting on the Thessaloniki front and at the end of the war he was commander of the 35th Rifle Company. He was instrumental during the Czechoslovakia – Hungarian war that followed in repelling the Hungarian advance on Slovakia at Nové Zámky. His heroism was legendary but he lost his life in the defence of the city.



South Africans have been celebrating Heritage Day – a public holiday for marking the diverse heritage and traditions of the many cultures that make up “the Rainbow Nation”. Thanks to the **Newcastle Advertiser** for the photo. In the province of KwaZulu-Natal, where our Newcastle is located, 24 September has also been known as “Shaka Day”, in commemoration of the Zulu King, Shaka, on the date of his death in 1828. Shaka was the Zulu King who played an important role in uniting disparate Zulu clans into a cohesive nation.

In cooperation with the Union of Slovak Philatelists, the Slovak Post and the Art Gallery in **Nové Zámky**, a new postage stamp has been issued to recognise Ernest Zmeták. He was a distinguished local painter and the most significant collector of artworks in Slovakia in the 2nd half of the 20th century. The art gallery in Nové Zámky carries Zmeták’s name. The inauguration of the stamp was held at the historic Imperial Royal Riding School on 18 October.



BUSINESS

Business people from the **Newcastle upon Tyne** area in the United Kingdom have been in KwaZulu Natal (KZN) in South Africa exploring trade and investment opportunities in the province, and received a presentation about prospects in **Newcastle in KZN**.



Scoot Airlines has added a new service to Malaysia, offering Singapore – **Kota Bharu** (Newcastle) nonstop service, operating three times a week.

In addition, Air Asia is starting a new internal Malaysia service to Kota Bharu from Johor Bahru starting in December.

The Republic of Georgia intends to expand and upgrade the country's electricity grid. One part of this programme will be to complete a high-voltage transmission line across southern Georgia. The line will connect Gardabani to Zestaphoni via **Akhaltzikhe**, and a new line will run from near Akhaltzikhe to the Turkish border. In addition, the project will expand electrical substations near Gardabani and Zestaphoni and construct a new substation near Akhaltzikhe. Georgia's energy strategy calls for 100 percent of power to come from hydropower and for Georgia to export power to neighbouring countries, including Turkey.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council Leader Simon Tagg has welcomed news that Keele University, located within the borough, has been awarded University Enterprise Zone status by the United Kingdom Government. Investment from Research England in the Keele Growth Corridor University Enterprise Zone will leverage £33million (36 million euros) of public and private sector investment into what is already the highest value employment site of its kind in this part of England.



This investment will harness the emergence of the University as a national research and development facility for innovation and at scale demonstration of smart digital technologies in the energy, transport and biomedical technology sectors. New investment will also pump prime the creation of a seventh Innovation Centre on the Keele University Science & Innovation Park, with a focus on commercialising research on artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data.



It was good to see **Jaunpils** represented at the recent "Tallinn Food Fair 2019" the top event of for industry professionals in Estonia, with over 200 participants. Jaunpils Dairy was prominent on the Latvia stand, promoting what is now a range of over 20 fine cheeses. Jaunpils Pienotava began production over 100 years ago. It now provides more than 20 types of cheese and is owned as an agricultural co-operative "Piena Ceļš", which currently brings together 64 dairy producers. The products of Jaunpils dairy are natural, healthy and free of preservatives and from the highest quality milk.

Algoma Orchards in **Canada** is building an addition to its **Newcastle** apple processing facility. The Gibson and Kemp families have been growing apples in Durham Region Ontario as Algoma Orchards since 1964. The apple-growing business has grown hugely since it started. "We're building more storage space because we planted a lot of orchard," said Kirk Kemp, owner of Algoma Orchards, "We will have 320,000 thousand bushels of storage space." Over the last six years, Algoma has planted 750,000 new apple trees. It operates a gourmet market in the Clarington area and sells wholesale apples and apple juice to companies such as Loblaw, Costco and PepsiCo.



FEATURE - Czech Students Honouring the Memory of the Fallen in World War I on the Soca Front: *Robert Dulfer reports*

Earlier in the year, nine Czech students and five supervisors-organizers completed a Youth Exchange visiting Slovenia and Italy. These mainly blacksmith apprentices forged remembrance poppies during a demonstration at the Iron Forging Museum in Kropa, Italy. Later, we moved to the Kobarid region, known for its Walk of Peace trails following the WWI Soca Front. Despite bad weather forecasts, the group walked the trails several hours on two consecutive days. At the second day, the walk extended from the mountain cabin near Mnt Krn to just below the top of Mnt. Mrzli Vrh. There, the students placed the forged poppies at the recently restored monument in honour of Czech soldiers fallen at Mrzli Vrh during WW1.

The youth exchange was part of the NETWORKLD project on preserving WWI heritage, and the Kropa meeting was organised in cooperation between the Rozmberk Society (working from **Nové Hrady**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic), the Radovljica Municipality Museums (SI), and the Faculty of Design, Ljubljana (SI).



Forging the poppies (left and above) and the monument for Czech fallen soldiers on Mrzli Vrh



The Czech apprentice blacksmiths were awarded participation in the exchange as result of their involvement in creating a new monument in Nové Hrady (in honour of the soldiers from this region who fell in the First World War) and a new exhibition on WWI history in the Kojakovice Village Museum. During the exchange, the students learned about the history of the former Soca Front, where soldiers from their region fought and died, and how this heritage is preserved and presented to the public. Particular attention was paid to the involvement of artisans in preserving and commemorating this heritage, showing them the way how they, as future craftsmen and women, can be involved in this.

The exchange resulted also in a declaration of intent by the Radovljica Municipality Museums, the faculty of Design, Ljubljana, and the Rozmberk Society to develop closer cooperation including making a joint project proposal on linking Heritage Conservation and Craft Education. The European Centre for Heritage Crafts and Professions, Thiene, Italy, and the Danube University Krems also expressed interest in joining this cooperation. Organisations from Newcastles around the World are also invited to join this application, either as Full Partners or as Associated Partners or Affiliates. Contact Robert on dulfer@rozmberg.org

The exchange was organized by the Rozmberk Society in cooperation with Nové Hrady master blacksmith Daniel Černý, and regional schools, all as part of the NETWORKLD project. Nine students were involved, ranging in age from 9 to 24. The students were from the Secondary Vocational School Trhové Sviny (7 students), the Grammar School Trhové Sviny (1 student) and the Nové Hrady Elementary School (1 student).

OUR NEWCASTLES - STRENGTHENING BONDS BETWEEN CANADA AND JAPAN

We're delighted that the relationship between Canada and Japan is being enhanced as a result of the efforts of our **Newcastle in Ontario**. The Consul General of Japan in Toronto Ms. Takako Ito has addressed Clarington Municipality's Mayor and Council and spoke of the potential opportunities for economic and educational partnerships between Clarington and similar-sized Japanese communities.

The visit came about after Consul General Ito was invited by the Newcastles of the World Steering Committee. Last year, Committee Members travelled to Shinshiro for the NOTW Conference and took the opportunity to meet with Consul General Ito before the trip to learn about Japanese culture. On her recent visit Ms. Ito took lunch with members of the NOTW Steering Committee and planted a commemorative miniature Japanese Red Maple tree at the Newcastle Community Town Hall.

NOTW committee member Willie Woo and Clarington Mayor Adrian Foster were then invited by Ms Ito to a reception on the occasion of the visit of members of the Aichi Prefectural Assembly to Ontario (Shinshiro is in Aichi).

Willie was able to "thank" the Assembly for the hospitality shown to our delegations at the conference. Aichi is an important automotive, aerospace and technological hub in Japan. Large corporations with a presence in Ontario have their headquarters in Aichi, such as Toyota, Denso, NGK. Mayor Foster was promoting the Municipality of Clarington as a good place to visit & invest.



YOUTH

From the Secretariat - Encouraging school exchanges between Newcastles

We recently launched the Newcastles of the World **education exchanges** initiative. It is designed for international school exchanges to take place between participating “Newcastles”.

What a tremendous opportunity this can be for students to experience each other’s cultures and languages, and build friendships at an international level.

The idea for the initiative was agreed at the 20th anniversary conference in Shinshiro. The secretariat and Shinshiro have worked closely together to develop the project. We have created a dedicated online communications channel to enable the project lead contacts in Newcastles, and teachers nominated by them, to converse with each other about the types of school exchanges they are seeking.

Some Newcastles have already joined the online communications channel and are seeking school exchanges, including Shinshiro, Neuburg, Nové Zámky, Herceg Novi, Nyborg and Newcastle upon Tyne. We encourage Newcastles’ lead contacts in the Newcastles of the World alliance to converse via the channel. Come and join us in this new and dynamic international education opportunity!

Looking ahead, we will be launching the second education project - see below !

Zélie Guérin, Project director, Secretariat zelie@zelieguerin.com



Competition to name our new YouTube channel

Martin Stenmann from **Nyborg**, Denmark (pictured right in Shinshiro at last year’s conference welcome) writes: “The community of Newcastles around the world has decided to create a YouTube-channel. Students from each Newcastle in the Alliance will create a video which tells a specific story from their country and city. The purpose is to encourage learning about and between our Newcastles through the creation of these videos by students (aged 12 to 16 years). Nyborg (Denmark) will create the first video in December 2019. The responsible adults have named the project “Learning from other Newcastles” (Communiqué, Shinshiro 2018). But we think that the students themselves can come up with a better and more appealing name for THEIR youtube-channel. Therefore we have decided to create a naming contest, a competition to name the new Youtube channel - and we ask the students in our Newcastles for help. What could be a cool name for your Youtube-channel? Should it be something like “Newcastle News”, “Y-NotW ”... We are sure that the students will find the perfect name.

Time frame: By November 22nd, each Newcastle should send one or more name suggestions to Martin Stenmann in Nyborg, Denmark - mars@nyborg.dk

The winning name will be announced in the video produced by Nyborg in December. The person/class who come up with the winning suggestion will receive a secret prize from the city of Nyborg. **Only students up to the age of 16 can enter the competition.**”



The Samtskhe-Javakheti Provincial Youth Forum was recently held in **Akhaltsikhe** to support the coordinated work needed for youth development and effective implementation of youth policy in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The event was organized by Akhaltsikhe Municipality and international non-governmental organization World Vision **Georgia**. Akhaltsikhe Mayor Zaza Melikidze (on the left in the photo) hosted the event.

When **Muzoon Almellehan** fled Syria with her family in 2013, she filled her single, small bag take with books. Now 20, the family home is **Newcastle upon Tyne**, and Muzoon is a campaigner for children’s education, pressuring world leaders alongside Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai. Last year, she became the the youngest UNICEF goodwill ambassador ever, and the first who is a refugee. When she revisited the refugee camp in Jordan recently, where she spent three years, Muzoon encouraged them to keep learning. “For those children living in conflict zones, we have to raise our voices even louder, because they are the future and their countries’ peace and prosperity depend on them,” she says. “Until every child is in school and learning we can never give up, we have to keep fighting for children and young people whose voices cannot be heard.”



In August Keita Mineta from **Shinshiro** visited **Newcastle upon Tyne** with 14 other young people from his city. This is part of his report : “My first overseas visit was truly a precious and fulfilling experience. In Newcastle City, we interacted with the local youth Congress. I was able to listen to the British Youth Congress, and I also introduced the youth Congress of the city of Shinshiro, in English. I was happy to have met the young people who work to make their local town a good town.

Newcastle city is a stylish, lively, wonderful town, and I want to live in it. I wasn't previously interested in overseas and relationship exchanges, but from the visit I was able to realise how small the world is and how much there is to see and learn from others.

KEITA REPORTS BACK



I particularly noticed 3 things: First, is the age group for becoming a member of a youth democracy group. While people aged 16 to 29 years old can be a member in Shinshiro, it's for people aged 11 to 18 in Newcastle. I think it is good that younger people can take part in activities.

The second difference is about using the electoral system to choose members. In Shinshiro members are chosen by municipal officers, but in Newcastle members are elected by their peers. In Newcastle many young people are interested in politics, so the electoral system works for them.

Third is the varied organisation. It is unique that the Newcastle Youth Democracy process is divided into 3 categories - members of the national Youth Parliament, the city's Youth Council and wider open meetings of young people. I can learn a lot of thing from Youth Democracy Group in Newcastle.”



The annual Lawrence County Band Festival took place at Taggart Stadium in **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA** recently – here are some of the colourful bands (thanks to New Castle News for the photos).



.... Continued from page 1 - A Dream Opportunity for Chris

Having wanted to visit Japan for as long as he can remember, Chris Brownhill's placement is a dream come true. Chris is looking forward to immersing himself in Japanese culture and learning as much as he can over the next year. “Everything will be completely different, but that is what appeals to me – the culture, the cuisine and of course the language. I've been doing my best to learn Japanese since I found out I had secured the placement. “I'm really looking forward to just learning as much as I can and then bringing that back to Newcastle for the final year of my mechanical engineering degree at Northumbria University and my dissertation next year.”

My thanks are to OSG and the Newcastles of the World Alliance who are reaching out a helping hand to create this arrangement. I will be furthering my university studies through work experience, as well as learning the hard working mindset known of Japan. During my spare time from work, I will be looking to experience Japan's amazing sights, culture and cuisine which has been a dream for a long time.

After being able to meet with some of the Newcastle's of the World Alliance members from Newcastle Upon Tyne and Shinshiro City, I have been given a great insight as to the reason I was able to take on this placement, and it was exciting to learn about some of the Shinshiro City's students' different interests in the sciences.

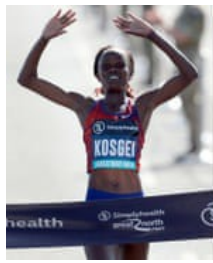
Below - Chris at Newcastle castle, with Caroline Theobald and Zélie Guérin



Chris is the first student to secure a placement through Newcastles of the World and it is hoped further international opportunities for work and study will follow. Zélie Guérin, Newcastles of the World Project Director, said: “One of the aims of the project has always been to enable connections through business and education so this placement brings those two together.” Caroline Theobald CBE is Chair of Northumbria University's Newcastle Business School Advisory Board, as well as a Trustee of Newcastles of the World in Newcastle upon Tyne, and she helped establish the relationship with OSG. She said: “I met the team from OSG at a business seminar and they were very interested in forging links with Northumbria through Newcastles of the World. “They are a global manufacturer and recruit some of the best graduates around the world, so this link with Northumbria University will benefit both organisations. “We're sure the next year will be an incredible experience for Christopher and one which will shape his future career.”

SPORT

MO WINS AGAIN - AND BRIGID SETS A NEW WORLD RECORD !



Britain's Olympic champion Mo Farah has won a record sixth successive Great North Run with a personal best time after racing ahead of Ethiopian Tamirat Tola in the final stages of the race. With 50,000 participants, the Great North Run, which starts in **Newcastle upon Tyne**, is the world's largest race. Kenyan Brigid Kosgei, who won the London Marathon in April, set a new half marathon world best to take the women's race. David Weir won his eighth wheelchair title, while Jade Jones-Hall won the women's wheelchair race.

The **Neuchâtel** Curling Club and its annual international tournament has celebrated its 50th birthday - killing two birds with one stone ! This traditional tournament at the end of October usually attracts around 18 teams - but this time it was an impressive 50 teams from seven different countries.



In September, **Akhaltsikhe Municipality** (Georgia) joined the European Week of Sport (#BeActive). Sport events organised by the City Hall within the framework of the week were held at Akhaltsikhe Lake.

THANK YOU JAPAN !



.. for organising the most wonderful Rugby World Cup final tournament, for the enthusiasm and warmth of your fans, and for the great rugby your team played.. We know many people from **Shinshiro** went to see a match and there are lots of new rugby fans there. And congratulations to the winners South Africa for their success over England in the final .



Athletes from around **South Africa** came to Newcastle for the annual Amajuba Marathon recently and several race records were broken. In the 10km race, Siphso Hlatshwayo won in 33:18 and Xoli Madida finished in 43:55 in the women's race - both set new milestones. The 21km winners were Bonginkosi Mavuso in 1:12:09 and Bathabile Mkhize in 1:29:07. In the main marathon event, Siboniso Mkhwanazi finished first in 2:28:33.



On their recent visit to Newcastle upon Tyne, our friends from **Shinshiro** took the opportunity to ask Japan football star Yoshinori Muto to promote the Shinshiro cycle rally ! See left

Swimming prodigy, Paula van Zyl (right) from **Newcastle South Africa** has won the title of KwaZulu-Natal Sportswoman of the Year with a Disability, at the prestigious KZN Sport Awards in October. The awards function is hosted annually by the KZN Province Department of Sport and Recreation to 'recognise and celebrate excellence in sport and recreation'.

WELL DONE, PAULA!



This art installation has taken pride of place on a busy roundabout in **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, United Kingdom. The metal sculpture - featuring cyclists in motion - is in memory of Brian Tomkins who died after collapsing near his home in the locality last year. He had been a councillor on Newcastle Borough Council, served nine years as the chairman of Aspire Housing, and was a member of Newcastle-based Lyme Valley Cycling Club.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE "NEWCASTLES"



This is the team that organised the Tominaga shrine festival in **Shinshiro**, Japan in early October. Despite the terrible typhoon in Japan that caused the cancellation of the first two days of this year's festival, Sunday went ahead as usual and people enjoyed the wonderful fireworks.



The fourth edition of the prestigious Elizabeth Hazy International Talent spotter Singing Competition in **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia, was another success. In the opera category Eva Bodorova of Slovakia was the winner with Veronika Bilova (Slovakia) and Németh-Nagy Johanna (Hungary) next placed. But Ms Bilova then triumphed in the Operetta category alongside Hungary's Szelezcki Artur Norbert and Haraszti Elvira és Kovács Szilárd, with Iona Miti from Romania.

Herceg Novi, Montenegro has new city symbols - a new coat of arms and a flag, which have been installed by Mayor Stevan Katić at the city's Clock Tower Tora. At the ceremony the Mayor said that the new symbols have a historical foundation and represent a specific cultural heritage created for centuries.



The float above depicts the 40th anniversary celebration of the city's pedestrianised area.

At the end of September the city of **Neuchâtel**, (Switzerland) marked the grape harvest with wonderful, colourful celebrations. The annual three day long Fête des Vendanges signifies the end of the wine harvest for the year. Festivities include traditional processions with music, flowers and wine makers' tools, a children's fancy-dress parade, jazz concerts, dancing, fireworks - and lots of good wine of course!

The festival originated more than a century ago. After long working days in the fields, local grape pickers walked from cellar to cellar to cheer on wine makers. When the harvest was complete, the wine pickers and farmers noisily accompanied the remaining grape tanks, often decorated with flowers, to the press. The first organised procession took place in October 1900 bringing together comedy groups, equestrians and marching bands. In 1925, the Fête des Vendanges name was adopted and a special flower parade was introduced.

The 20th Neuburger Hutschau (hat show) was another wonderfully-presented and well-attended event – one of the big events of the year in **Neuburg an der Donau**. It drew not only from the Bavaria region, but also from Munich, Würzburg and the Salzburg area, and from Australia, Canada, USA, England, France and Nigeria. Hat enthusiasts came to Europe's biggest show (over 10,000 hats from 60 designers) to see and try on the latest creations, and also accessories such as jewellery and shoes.



MORE NEWS

IT'S CHOCOLATE TIME AGAIN IN NEUCHÂTEL !

When it's early November then it's the time for Chocolatissimo! in **Neuchâtel**. This annual celebration of the chocolate-making heritage of the city means a week of tastings, workshops, contests, music and literature, and introduces, as usual, three new flavours including one in white chocolate. The week is organised by the City of Neuchâtel, in partnership with Kolly, Schmid, Zurcher, Walder, Wodey-Suchard, Stücker, La Gourmandise and Mäder bakeries.



THE GEORGIANS AND THE GEORDIES ..

People from Newcastle upon Tyne are known as "Geordies"



It was a great pleasure to welcome Tamar Beruchashvili, Georgian Ambassador to the UK, in **Newcastle upon Tyne** in early October. Lord Mayor Councillor David Cook hosted an event where charity walkers from the British Georgian Society were raising funds for Georgian and UK charities and provided Georgian wine and food to mark the end of their walk. The Embassy and the Society members are supporters of **Akhaltiskhe** - the Georgian "Newcastle" - within our friendship network. The Ambassador also visited Newcastle University to explore opportunities for collaboration with higher education institutions in Georgia. The Ambassador and the Lord Mayor were both presented with a CD of songs by the Folk Ensemble Meskheti, based in Akhaltsikhe - thanks to Zaza Tamarashvili for providing them.

October 1 was the International Day of the Elderly in Georgia. Zaza Melikidze, Mayor of **Akhaltiskhe** and Gela Nozadze, Chairman of the Sakrebulo, visited the House of Virtues together with the representatives of local self-government to recognise the contribution of elders, present flowers and cut a cake (*see right*).



Children in **Kota Bharu**, Malaysia mark the city's annual lantern festival.



New Castle Indiana (USA) Mayor Greg York and Director of Public Works Dave Barker are pictured (*left*) as a new clock face is put into place at the "1400 Plaza" project - a downtown plaza and parking area which is a key part of the city's regeneration that is being overseen by the New Castle Redevelopment Commission.



As part of the national "Bells of Peace" initiative, the bells of Henry County Court House (*left*) in **New Castle Indiana** will be rung on November 11th in remembrance of all those who died in service during the First World War - and all conflicts since then.



ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD There are more than 100 different "Newcastles" or "New Castles" around the globe, in many different countries and in 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, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016, and returning to Shinshiro for the 20th anniversary conference in 2018. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism. www.newcastlesoftheworld.com