

# Newcastles of the World

Newsletter : November - December 2023

Distributed directly to over 2500 people and organisations in more than 50 "Newcastles" around the world - help us reach more by sharing!



## TWENTY FIVE YEARS - AND IT'S JUST THE START !

Our Newcastles of the World alliance celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> birthday when we came together in October in Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic.

It was our first conference since the Covid-19 pandemic, and there was a strong commitment to continuing our very special friendship network for many more years to come. We're delighted that **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, has volunteered to host our next conference in 2025.

Many thanks to Mayor Vladimir Hokr of **Nové Hradý**, to conference director Robert Dulfer and their colleagues for hosting the conference, assisted by **Nové Zámky** in Slovakia – and of course to all those from other "Newcastles", friends old and new, who we were pleased to welcome to the gathering.

For the future, the alliance offers full membership, with voting rights, to any "Newcastle" municipality paying an annual subscription, but also welcomes other municipalities that will participate in the alliance through our projects and by the sharing of information and best practice.

The young people who took part in our conference played an important role in its success and will now work together to develop a range of project ideas and communication tools

- and they will now be represented on the Executive Board of the alliance that makes decisions between conferences.

The conference also decided that the alliance should launch "Friends of Newcastles of the World" as a vehicle for involving additional members and supporters over and above municipalities. This new friends group would be open to individuals and also to non-governmental organisations, for example charities, citizens groups and similar not-for-profit organisations. It will also be open to any businesses or business agencies that wish to express their support for our mission.



The flag of our alliance is passed from (left to right) Daniel Veuve of Neuchâtel, representing our Executive Board, via Mayor Hokr who takes over the chair of the Executive Board, to Anita Marčinkus representing next hosts, Jaunpils.



25 YEARS !  
1998 - 2023

On this link you can view the highlights of our 25 years together as Newcastles of the World, as presented to our conference. <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/2023/10/24/celebrating-25-years-of-newcastles-of-the-world/>

**MORE PHOTOS FROM THE CONFERENCE ON PAGE 2**



Steve Whitley was a member of the **Newcastle upon Tyne** group that attended the conference. He is one of the main contributors to the wonderful "Older Voices" radio show of the Elders Council of Newcastle upon Tyne, now broadcasting its two hour programme every Sunday. Steve carried out a great many interviews with delegates at the conference and you can hear them now within the programmes that he edited at the end of October and beginning of November on <https://www.mixcloud.com/LLARC>.



You can hear all the "Older Voices" shows on that link - or live on <https://www.novaradio.co.uk/> at 14.00 UK time on Sundays. We have also uploaded the two programmes of conference interviews to our own website - check out - <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/seniors-elders-section/>

[www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com) [www.facebook.com/nclsoftheworld](https://www.facebook.com/nclsoftheworld) [www.twitter.com/NCLsoftheworld](https://www.twitter.com/NCLsoftheworld)

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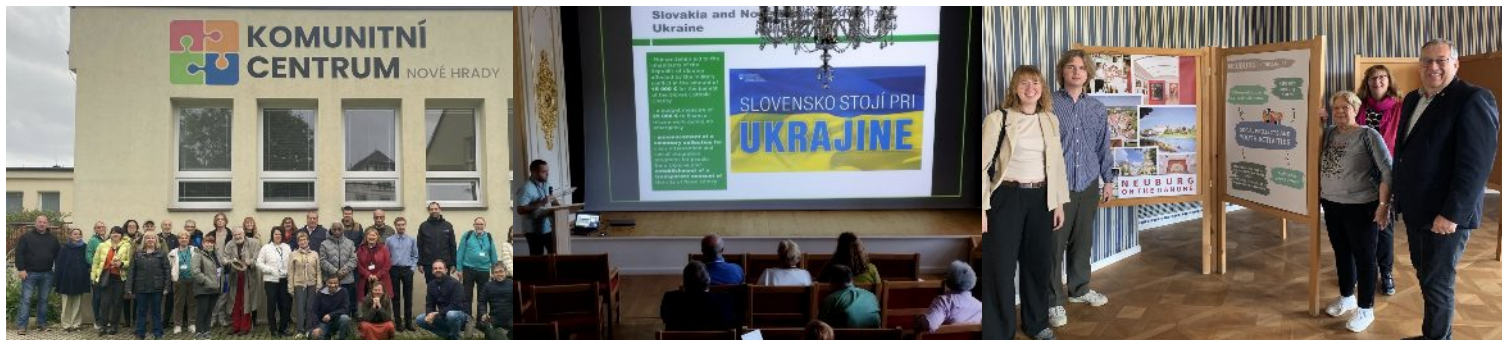
# .... from our Conference in Nové Hradý



1. Mayor Vladimir Hokr's welcome address.
- 2 Delegates in the conference hall.
3. Phones out for Neuburg an der Donau (Germany) Deputy Mayor, Dr Johann Habermeyer with Shinshiro (Japan) Mayor Hiroyuki Shimoe.
- 4 Youth delegates visit the local Gymnasium (secondary school).
5. Mayor Shimoe with gift from Jaunpils, Latvia in recognition of his city's support for Ukrainian refugees.
6. Online delegates from the UK and US.
7. Neuchâtel (Switzerland) President Mauro Moruzzi.
8. and 9. Cultural programme.



**Above:** delegates in discussion (left) and heads of delegation gathering (right); **below** - visit to the community centre; one of the presentations about support to refugees from Ukraine; one of the town poster displays with delegates from Neuburg.



**NOVÉ HRADY celého světa**  
NEWCASTLES of the World

**Setkání měst,**  
které spojuje jejich jméno – Newcastle

**Sobota 14.10.2023** 13-18 h, novohradské náměstí  
(př. sádkem podce 7. Hradky Máj)

**Sejdeme se na Hradech**  
13-18 h. Prezentace měst Newcastle  
13-18 h. Trh regionálních produktů  
z Novohradsko, Doubska, Vinsbrani Wellness, Hotelu Reziencie a Vinotéky Koušek  
13-14 h. Folklorní soubor Matičiarik z Nových Zámky  
15-17 h. Dechová hudba ŽIŽANI  
19 h. Koncert TRIO ŠKLODAS (Přeslávám MIA W. J. Bendová)

**Pondělí 16.10.2023** 19-22 h, hotel Máj  
**Společenský večer účastníků setkání Newcastlů a občanů Nových Hradů a osad**  
Koncert kapely The Rozlaďen a duo Pavel a Karin Spurných  
Odbornost: vzpírání, cvičení

Nové Hradý – Newcastle – Nové Zámky  
Nase jména nás dala dohromady, společná budoucnost nás spojuje  
Our name brought us together, A joint future binds us

Stávková loterie sádky organizátorů: Ústí, Novohradský Ústí, Nové Hradý, Nové Zámky  
12.7.2023 a představení: Vstupné 30 Kč, vstup zdarma na www.cmc-novohradky.cz



Stalls and demonstrations at the Market Day

Matičiarik folklore group from Nové Zámky 2



# THE AUTUMN SPLENDOUR OF SHINSHIRO'S HOLY MOUNTAIN

In November, the trees in Shinshiro City, Japan and on Mount Horaiji (above the city, to the north east) begin changing from green to yellow and red. There's an annual festival that runs for most of the month for local people and visitors from all over the country to enjoy the spectacular colours and landscape - with exhibitions, talks, guided walks and many other events. Mt. Horaiji and its temple are considered power spots, - places of great spiritual and natural powers.



Located 695m above sea level on the remnants of a 15 million year-old volcano, the area is designated a National Natural Monument and a special scenic spot. The mountainside and the 1425-step path to the top is dotted with small shrines and statues of various deities, and the remains of former buildings.

Just east of the main temple hall is the Toshogu Shrine, built by the third Shogun, Iemitsu. It features gorgeous, intricate carvings and is a designated National Important Cultural Property.

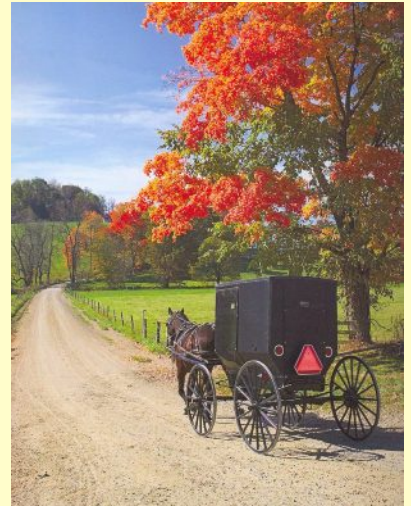
Many of the precious artefacts of the shrine have now led them to be categorised formally as “Cultural Properties” of the prefecture and the city in their own right. They have never before been made available to the public but will now be displayed in special exhibitions in the Shirakuhara Historical Museum and the Nagashino Castle Historic Site Preservation Museum.



The holy Mt Horaiji and its precincts are said to share lay-lines and intersection points with a number of important shrines, temples, castles and even Mount Fuji, adding to the mysticism of the mountain, its temples and shrines. Many claim miraculous cures following their pilgrimage to the temple and the hot springs below.

## MORE AUTUMN COLOURS or “Fall” as they call it in North America

These seasonal photos are from the area around **New Castle, Pennsylvania** in the USA where the Old Order Amish community of approximately 2,300 people lives in farms and follow their simple lifestyle.



## SUSTAINING THE MOTORING HERITAGE OF NEW CASTLE, INDIANA



These wonderful old cars were on display in October in **New Castle, Indiana** for the last of the year's “Broad Street Cruise-Ins”. It's a monthly event that the whole community enjoys and not only the owners of the vintage cars who take part in the parade and who delight in showing off their vehicles.

The whole idea also pays homage to the city's very special motoring heritage. New Castle was the home of the famous Maxwell car - thousands of people worked at the factory (later Chrysler).



# The Jardin botanique de Neuchâtel is top museum !



In October, **Neuchâtel** was honoured to receive the Museum Prize 2023 from the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (SCNAT) for the city's Botanical Garden. It was described by the judges as "a haven of peace and source of reflection, whose scientific necessity, boldness and impertinence, as well as its openness to a very diverse public, demonstrates a magnificent long-term commitment." The Garden offers a wide variety of themes and fields, is noted for its exhibitions and research and was described as "a landmark visiting experience".

The Museum Prize is awarded every three years at the sole discretion of the jury, without call for nominations, and brings a prize of 10,000 Swiss francs. Blaise Mulhauser, director of the Neuchâtel Botanical Garden, said that it was an exceptional achievement for a botanical garden to receive the Museum Prize! "This distinction underscores the fact that a green space dedicated to the pleasure of discovery of plants and biodiversity is an essential mission in the eyes of the scientific community."



**Jaunpils** Pienotava (Dairy) is perhaps the most significant business in our Newcastle in Latvia. It regularly takes its excellent produce to major North European food expos - most recently to Izstāde Rīga Food - the most important and largest food exhibition in the Baltic region.

Established for over 100 years, the company is now producing more than 20 different type of cheese, sour cream, cottage cheese, dessert, puddings, sweet and salty curd mass. Jaunpils dairy products are produced from high-quality milk - the factory is an agricultural co-operative "Piena Ceļš", which brings together 64 local dairy producers/farmers. The products of Jaunpils dairy are natural, healthy and free of preservatives.

The company exports to many different countries across the world.

A wonderful International Folklore Festival was held in September at the Rabati fortress in **Akhaltsikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia. Representatives of Great Britain, Belgium, Netherlands, Finland and Italy performed Georgian and foreign folk songs and music, alongside Georgian's own participants.



The musical numbers performed by Europeans in Georgian were appreciated by the large audience.

The concert was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and organised by the State Folklore Centre, with an aim of preserving and raising awareness of Georgian traditional folk music, such an essential part of the country's historical and cultural heritage.





# JAUNPILS CASTLE HIT BY DEVASTATING STORM



The medieval castle of **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, was built in the early 14th century and is a cultural monument of national importance.

The castle was very badly damaged by an exceptional storm in August and requires extensive repair. Giant hailstones were whipped along by ferocious winds, causing great damage to the roof which is now in critical condition and parts of it completely destroyed. All 60 of the south-facing windows were broken and much of the external stone and plaster fabric of the building was also affected.



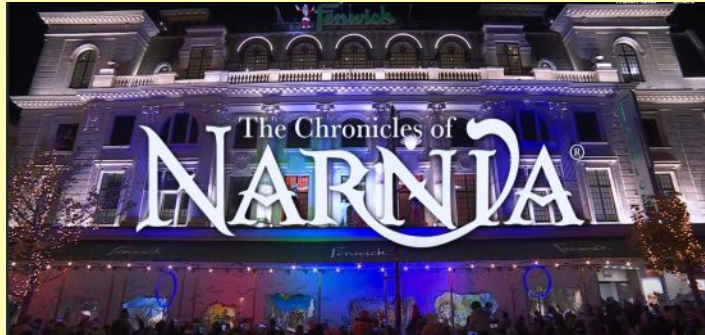
Photo: Publicitātes attēls

Application has been made to regional and national sources of local government and heritage funding to assist in restoring the building, and there has been immediate action by the people and agencies of Jaunpils itself to raise funds for their beloved castle, organising concerts and other events as part of a major appeal.

Jaunpils would welcome voluntary donations from anyone who lives in other Newcastles to help with the repair costs.  
 Account number LV63HABA0551019072866.  
 Beneficiary: Tukuma novada pasvaldība Goal: "To restore Jaunpils Castle"

## THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA - THE CHRISTMAS WINDOW

The Fenwick (department store) in **Newcastle upon Tyne, UK** is famous for its Christmas window displays. Since 1971 there has been a display in the shop's windows, and people come from near and far to look at the seasonal themes and detailed sets - popular with children and adults alike. This year the theme is The Chronicles of Narnia, a series of seven famous fantasy novels by British author C. S. Lewis. It's considered a classic of children's literature and has sold 120 million copies in 47 languages as well as being adapted for radio, television, the stage, film and video games. The best known of the novels are "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader".



Previous years' Christmas themes for the Fenwick windows have included "The Wind in the Willows", Beatrix Potter characters, "The Snowman" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"





Here are photos from the magnificent Kelantan (state) Negeri Flora Festival held in early October in **Kota Bharu**, our Newcastle in Malaysia, and attended by members of the royal family.



Representatives of the Large County Cities in Bavaria, Germany meet annually to discuss current issues and this year the host city was **Neuburg an der Donau**. The photo shows Mayor Dr. Bernhard Gmehling with the Mayors from the attending cities.

Work on the restoration of the historic castle in **Nyborg**, our Newcastle in Denmark has been at a standstill for some considerable time, with only the royal wing completed. However, the great news is that the project is about to move forward again with the recent announcement by the national Agency for Cultures and Palaces of the search for a consultant to oversee the recommencement of the work. Nyborg Mayor Kenneth Muhs welcomed the news that this could mean that the castle would open in spring 2028.



The Fête des Vendanges is a festival that takes place in **Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland, on the last weekend of September to celebrate the grape harvest. It's a huge community event with food and drink, music and most of all a spectacular parade. Here are photos from this year's parade.





# MORE NEWS

## NEUBURG AND SHINSHIRO - UNITED IN MUSIC

At the 2018 Newcastles of the World conference in **Shinshiro**, Japan, musician

Markus Haninger, a delegate from **Neuburg an der Donau**, took part in the closing concert, playing with the Shinshiro Wind Ensemble. Markus has maintained that musical link between Neuburg and Shinshiro ever since.

At the end of August of this year, he was back in Shinshiro, pictured here at the Horai Higashi Primary School. Markus says: "We played a concert for the pupils and their parents, and afterwards the children and parents asked me questions. Among other things, the children here can choose alphorn as an optional subject.

It was a very nice atmosphere. The picture shows my wife Andrea next to me, my son Jonathan in front of her and my daughter Sophia next to her."



A **Newcastle upon Tyne** science centre is celebrating after being rated the best attraction in England for its visitor experience. Life Science Centre, which welcomes around 250,000 visitors each year, received top scores after "mystery visits" by the researchers. Life opened in 2000 and is a place where educators, researchers, clinicians and businesses work side-by-side on one site - a unique concept, unlike anything else in the world. As a visitor attraction, there's exhibitions, events, live science shows and the biggest planetarium in the North of England.



In September, vintage cars again came to **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic. It was the 14th year of the South Bohemia Classic, an international rally of veteran cars, bringing 150 crews from many countries to the area.



The public were able to check out the cars at a stop-over in Republic Square as the crews took a coffee break at the Wellness Hotel Residence. The race winners were Gerd Lambert and Michael Loerke in a 1979 Porsche 911 SC Targa.



The **Newcastle United (Football) Foundation** is launching a Community Food Pantry in conjunction with the West End Foodbank which will enable them to support the community with additional provisions at a difficult time for many. The pantry is unique in its operation and works differently to the Foodbank. Eligible individuals will pay a £5 (€10) membership each time they attend the pantry which will give them access to over £20 (€23) worth of provisions including fresh produce, meat etc as well as non-perishable goods such as tinned food; other household essentials are also available.



## TEN YEARS OF "CHOCOLATISSIMO!"

Ten years already! From November 4th to 11th, at the Péristyle de l'Hôtel de Ville and elsewhere in the city of **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland, amazing visual and taste experiences awaited the public, courtesy of artists, chocolatiers and star chefs. This year, not three but four new tastes were launched in this celebration of the city's chocolate-making heritage.



Chocolatier Pierre Walder, with Eva Volery and Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin, launching this year's event.

A decorative archway to celebrate **Newcastle-under-Lyme's** 850th anniversary has been installed in the town. The intricate galvanised steel arch at Queens Gardens marks the day the borough was granted the Royal Charter. Engineering apprentices from local farm equipment manufacturer IAE designed it with a crown at the top to commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth II. Designed under the guidance of sculptor Andy Edwards, the new entrance is a tribute to a similar arch which stood at Queens Gardens in the 1960s. The crown itself is a twice size representation of the St Edward Crown traditionally used in coronation ceremonies. Newcastle-under-Lyme was first granted its royal charter by King Henry II in 1173 after the population started to grow close to the castle.



# NEWCASTLE'S ROADMAP TO A SUSTAINABLE CITY

A landmark Newcastle Environment Strategy was adopted by the City of Newcastle, Australia at the end of October and gives a 10-year roadmap for a sustainable city based on the priority areas of climate change, nature-based solutions and the circular economy. Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the strategy “sends a signal to the community that we are strongly committed to protecting and enhancing Newcastle’s natural environment today, and for future generations of Novocastrians.”

Fifteen key actions have been identified to be delivered by the City or in partnership with state and federal governments, business and the community within the first four years, including renewable energy initiatives, city-wide electric vehicle charging infrastructure, connected wildlife corridors and sustainable construction materials.

The City will continue its drive towards net zero emissions with a range of activities. This includes the development of a vehicle, plant and equipment transition plan that will guide the implementation of low emissions and electric alternatives aimed at slashing the use of fossil-based liquid fuels, such as diesel and unleaded petrol, in the authority’s cars, trucks, plant and equipment.



The City of Newcastle was the first Council in the state of New South Wales to use 100% renewables in its operations, delivered in part through the construction of a council owned 5MW solar farm at Summerhill Waste Management Centre (see Lord Mayor Nelmes and Deputy Lord Mayor Declan Clausen pictured at the solar farm). The transition plan will build on successful trials of electric vehicles within CN's fleet, as well as a recent roll-out of electric plant and equipment to help maintain the city's natural environment.



Newcastle-under-Lyme has crowned its special anniversary year by winning the top Royal Horticultural Society “Britain in Bloom” award for the whole country. In the year that it is celebrating its 850th civic anniversary, Newcastle won its category as the best ‘small city’ in the United Kingdom for its floral displays and green credentials, along with a Gold Award for the quality of its entry - and then claimed the overall prize for best winner across all the categories!

The winners were announced on national television (BBC). Council Leader Simon Tagg (right) and Mayor Simon White are pictured with the trophy.

The national triumph came days after Newcastle swept up at the region Heart of England in Bloom awards, winning first place in the small city category, collecting its 21st consecutive gold award and also receiving a judge’s discretionary award for outstanding achievement. Newcastle had previously won the national ‘small city’ title and a gold award in the Champion of Champions round – but had never before won the overall top prize.

Councillor Tagg said: “It is impossible to win unless the whole community pulls together - schools, businesses, community groups and volunteers have worked together to make this possible and I am so proud of this shared achievement. Taking part in the national and regional ‘in Bloom’ awards is so important: not only does it make where we live a smarter, better place, it pulls communities together to make a meaningful contribution to sustainability, recycling and energy conservation.”

The national inspection took place earlier this summer and as well as seeing traditional set-piece floral displays, judges visited projects undertaken by community groups and volunteers. Queens Gardens was planted with annual bedding on the theme of the 850th celebrations, and the entry took a sustainable approach by providing herbaceous and perennial planting on town centre roundabouts, including pollinators, and native tree planting as part of the Urban Tree Planting Strategy.

Considerations for the judges included the extent of community involvement, the restoration of habitats and evidence of good ecological practices and year-round activity by volunteers, also the range of plant species and work to support wildlife. This year volunteers donated the equivalent of 4,000 hours of work, including planting over 10,000 trees. The borough also received a certificate of Achievement in Sustainable Gardening.



# FEATURE: FAMOUS SHENANGO CHINA FROM NEW CASTLE PA



Shenango China, with headquarters in **New Castle, Pennsylvania**, was one of the leading American dinnerware manufacturers for 90 years, including many decorative pieces. It's easily identified from the backstamp (underneath the ceramic dish) featuring Native Americans involved in various forms of pottery production. Famous commissions that Shenango produced included serving dishes for the White House, for example, commemorative plates for Dwight D. Eisenhower and dinnerware for Lyndon B. Johnson.

In 1939 Louis Helleman, a former American representative for Rosenthal China of Germany came to Shenango and arranged to have their shapes and patterns there - it became the well-known dinnerware Castleton China of New Castle. Helleman sensed a need for contemporary design in shape and decoration and commissioned outstanding artists to create fresh new designs. One of the most notable achievements in ceramic art was the shape designed by *Eva Zeisel (top right in photos above)* under the auspices of New York's Museum of Modern Art.

It was hailed across Europe and America as a new epoch in ceramic history and has been displayed in many US collections and also in many European museums including the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

The Lawrence County Historical Society, with headquarters in New Castle, has the largest collection of Shenango China in the world. More than 500 pieces are on display in its museum. The people who started the first potteries in New Castle did so because of the soft coal available locally which was used to fire the beehive-shaped kilns of that time. You can read more about Shenango China here -

<https://www.lawrencechs.com/museum/collections/shenango-china-collection/>



A new exhibition in **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, is about the weavers' group "Dzippers".

The aim of the organisation is to bring together and support rural women, build up their self confidence, coordinate creative development and new skills, promote Latvian family and folk traditions and transfer them to future generations.

This is achieved by teaching handicrafts, and through organising workshops, exhibitions and exchanges with other craft groups.



Photographs from the Harvest Festival celebration in **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia.





# BREAKING NEW GROUND FOR HOSPICE CARE IN NEWCASTLE, CANADA



In mid-October, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the new hospice in **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**. For the past six years a team of volunteers have carried out the planning, approvals and fundraising for this important project for the community - and prominent among them has been Jill Richardson (pictured top left). Jill was also one of the key members of the team that hosted our 2016 Newcastles of the World conference, was in the team in Shinshiro in 2018 and has been a consistent supporter of our alliance. The Board of Directors of Marigold Hospice Care (formerly called Durham Hospice Clarington) have worked tirelessly, with great support from among the community, to get to this stage. Over eight million Canadian dollars (€5.45m) have been raised and fundraising is continuing for furnishings, fixtures and equipment. Construction will start soon and will take up to 18 months. Hospice residences are an increasingly important of the healthcare system in many countries, by caring for patients who choose to live their final days outside of the more intense hospital experience.

## PEOPLE



Congratulations to Greg York who has just been elected Mayor of **New Castle, Indiana, USA** for his fourth term !

## GOODBYE TO EXCEPTIONAL PRESIDENT OF HERCEG NOVI

Dragan Janković, former president of the Municipality of **Herceg Novi**, Montenegro, has died at the age of 68, after a short illness. He was president three times and once vice president of the municipality. He also held the position of president of the Board of the "Dr. Simo Milošević" Institute, was the creator and founder of JU Herceg Fest, the founder of the Film Festival and the creator of the music festival "Sunčane skala". A longtime member of the local parliament, his time as President helped the city meet many difficult social and economic challenges and to become a welcoming home for many displaced people in the turbulent 1990s.



## FAREWELL TO A RESPECTED FORMER MAYOR

The people of **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia, were saddened to learn of the death of Ondrej Csanda, the first Mayor of the town in the post-revolutionary era.

He was Mayor for three terms from 1990 until 2002 and passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> October at the age of 75. Mr Csanda was a popular and respected figure, who was responsible for much of the development of the town and its institutions during his time in office.





From our Newcastles of the World cookbook, here's a delicious recipe from **New Castle, Indiana** for one of the state's favourite dishes.

Check out recipes from other Newcastles from our very own cookbook -

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/cookbook.pdf>



## PERSIMMON PUDDING, INDIANA, USA

Dawn Mitchell on the Indy Star says "Persimmons don't look like much, but those lucky enough to have such trees have the key ingredient for classic persimmon pudding. Often called the date plum or "possum apples," the fruit is considered native to Indiana. There are other varieties of persimmon such as Asian, California or Texas, but not as sweet and fragrant as the Midwestern variety.



### **Ingredients** for 15 servings

2 cups persimmon pulp; 2 eggs; 1 cup white sugar; 4 cups all-purpose flour; 2 teaspoons baking soda; 6 cups milk; 1 tablespoon butter

### **Method**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

In a large bowl, stir together the persimmon pulp and eggs using a whisk.

Stir in sugar. Combine the flour and baking soda; stir into the persimmon alternating with milk until smooth. Pour into a large greased crock or casserole dish. Drop dabs of butter on top.

Bake for 2 hours in the preheated oven, stirring every 15 minutes.

Pudding will be dark brown when finished. Serve hot or cold.



## SUGAR CREAM PIE

As Indiana's state pie, this also goes by the name of "Hoosier Pie." Born from Amish and Shaker communities that settled in Indiana in the 1800s, this "desperation pie" — a category that refers to pies made when fresh fruit wasn't available or money was short — is as simple as it is delicious says *Saveur*.

### **Ingredients** - Pastry for single-crust pie (9 inches)

1 cup sugar; 1/4 cup cornstarch; cups 2% milk; 1/2 cup butter, cubed  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract; 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

### **Method**

Preheat oven to 450°. Roll out pastry to fit a 9 inch pie plate. Transfer pastry to pie plate. Trim pastry to 1/2 in. beyond rim of plate; flute edge. Line unpricked pastry with a double thickness of heavy-duty foil. Fill with pie weights, dried beans or uncooked rice. Bake 8 minutes. Remove foil and weights; bake 5-7 minutes longer or until light brown. Cool on a wire rack. Reduce oven setting to 375°.

Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch; stir in milk until smooth. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook and stir 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Remove from heat; stir in butter and vanilla. Transfer to crust; sprinkle with cinnamon. Bake 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

Cool on a wire rack; refrigerate until chilled.

## NEW CASTLE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



New Castle is a city in Henry County, Indiana, 44 miles (71 km) east-northeast of Indianapolis, on the Big Blue River. The city is the county seat of Henry County, is home to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and to the museum dedicated to Wilbur Wright, one of the pioneers of flight, and is the birthplace of the famous pop artist Robert Indiana.



# YOUTH

More photos from our recent conference, here of the youth delegates who held their own sessions as well as presenting to the main conference their views for the future of the alliance. Lukas Shorer of **Neuburg** (*right in photo*), Dionis Paratte of **Neuchâtel** and Ondřej Bureš of **Nové Hradý** made the presentation.

The photo below is of the youth delegates showing their support for the “Show Racism the Red Card” campaign.



**Akhaltzikhe** (Georgia) Municipality City Hall has invited expressions of interest for selection of members of Akhaltzikhe Youth Council (ages 14-24). The notice says: “If you are a motivated and interested young person wanting to develop your knowledge, skills, correct values and then apply the experience to other young people, then this programme is for you.”

Mariam Zazadze, Youth department specialist at Akhaltzikhe Municipality City Hall who supports the Youth Council has expressed her appreciation of the outgoing members of the Youth Council (*see photo*)



The New Castle Playhouse (**New Castle Pennsylvania, USA**) has improved its creative programming for children and youth through a variety of programs. The Youth programs now include a full-scale Children’s Theater production, the Rising Star Summer Workshop, Stars of Tomorrow, and the NCP Mini-Stars who are now seen as the young, talent ambassadors of NCP who perform throughout the community.



It was success for the young dancers and singers coached by our friend Thulani Phakathi in the District Championships in **Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa** in October - well done !



The Youth Parliament of **Nové Zámky, Slovakia** organised the “Teen Fest” Youth Festival of Participation in September. It was the second year with the participation of young Novozámčans - musicians, artists, all volunteers.



The Youth of the Slovak Red Cross, the 52nd Alexander Dubček Scout Choir, and the GHETTO Art Complex Dance School also took part.

**Shinshiro** City has an excellent monthly magazine for its citizens called “Honoka” but the Shinshiro City Youth Council proposed that there should also be a "Young Honoka," for the youth of the city. The first issue came out this summer and the second has just been published online - <https://www.city.shinshiro.lg.jp/shisei/machidukuri/wakamono-gikai/yanguhonoka.files/yanguhonokaaki.pdf>



# ABOUT OTHER NEWCASTLES



## NEW CASTLE COLORADO

Rochelle Firth of New Castle, Colorado tells us about her “quaint little town” on the western edge of the Rocky Mountains, USA and the activities that its Recreation Department offers for young people of all ages.

There’s a full program of arts and crafts experiences such as Kids’ Market (where under-16s can peddle their creations and ideas to the whole community), Kids’ Kitchen, Creative Makers and the Kids’ Craft Club.

The season’s big event for kids and families has been Trick-or-Treat New Castle. It’s fun for the entire family - this free event held by local business owners and the town brings everyone to downtown for Halloween activities and lots of candy. Activities include free hayrides, axe throwing, cupcake decorating, haunted mazes and costume contests. Even adults enjoy dressing up for the evening fun. To end the year, the town hosts the Holiday Tree Lighting, Chili and Mac & Cheese Cookoff and has an ice rink for kids to play hockey and figure skate on.

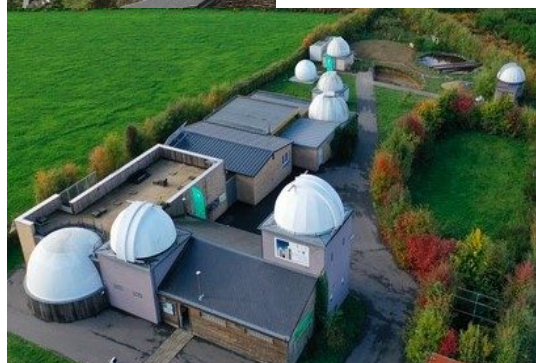
*Photos of events by Kelley Cox, New Castle Recreation and local photographer Charles Englebert.*

## NEUFCHÂTEAU, BELGIUM

We were pleased to welcome to our conference Mayor Francois Huberty and colleagues Louis Micheline and Izabela Novak of Neufchâteau, Belgium.

With a population of 8000 people, Neufchâteau is located in the Luxembourg province in the region of Wallonia. The town is in the heart of the beautiful Ardennes, with its natural beauty of green valleys, its wooded forests and its lakes. There were signs of habitation in the area from 5000 years ago but the history of the town begins in 1199 with the beginning of the construction of a castle. Little is left of the original castle other than the griffon tower, which nonetheless is an important local landmark (*see below*).

There is however a 1/20th scale reproduction of the castle on site (*see right*); read about this project here - <https://www.lesoir.be/art/496580/article/actualite/regions/2014-03-18/un-parcours-autour-l-ancien-chateau>



The Observatoire Centre Ardenne, (*pictured left*) on the outskirts of Neufchâteau is a place for amateur and professional astronomers to meet and exchange.



The town centre, and (above) The Palais de Justice



It houses a 610 mm aperture telescope, one of the most powerful in Belgium. The centre offers regular or à la carte activities throughout the year: visits, observations, conferences, courses for children and adults, company days, exhibitions, open days on occasions such as the Night of Shooting Stars, Night of Darkness and Astronomy Day.



# HERCEG NOVI - EUROPEAN CITY OF SPORTS !

Herceg Novi, our Newcastle in Montenegro, has earned the prestigious title of European City of Sports for 2024, it was announced by the International Organization - ACES Europe.



**SPORT**

The award ceremony is on December 7 in Brussels, when the leaders of the Municipality and the Secretariat for Social Activities and International Cooperation will be presented with the flag of the European City of Sports. The city will gain national, regional and international sporting credibility, with opportunities for significant new resources to improve its sports infrastructure and for building cooperation with European clubs and institutions.

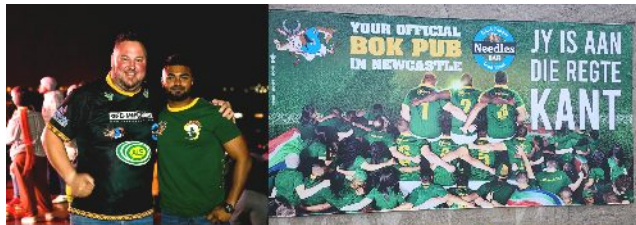
In September, over 50,000 runners took part in the 2023 Great North Run, the world's biggest half-marathon, from Newcastle upon Tyne to the coast. Peres Jepchirchir of Kenya won the women's race; Tamorat Tola of Ethiopia was the men's race winner, ahead of multi-Olympic champion Mo Farah, running in his last-ever race.



More success for the Karate Club of **Nové Hradý**, this time at the World Martial Arts Games in Germany in late September. Pictured, left to right, Martin Herrman Jr was champion in his karate class – and there were medals too for Nikola Morongová (both silver and bronze in different classes) and for Karel Morong (bronze). Over 1200 competitors took part in the tournament.

Geoffroy Bagnoud, transport engineer at the City of **Neuchâtel**, is Swiss triathlon champion in the 25-29 years category.

In mid-September, he qualified for the "Ironman" World Championship that takes place next year in New Zealand. A distance of 1.9 km of swimming, 90 km of cycling and 21.1 km of running: this is the feat that he achieved in just over four hours in suffocating heat, on September 17 in Cervia, Italy.



Congratulations South Africa on winning the rugby World Cup again at the end of October - for a record fourth time. Here (left) are the scenes from the Fan Park in our **Newcastle in Kwa-Zulu Natal**, celebrating the victory.

## ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD



There are more than 100 different "Newcastles" or "New Castles" around the globe, in many different countries and different languages. It was the mayor of one of them, in Shinshiro, Japan, who took the initiative to bring the Newcastles together via the Newcastles of the World summit in 1998. Subsequent gatherings were held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (New Castles of Indiana & Pennsylvania) 2002, South Africa 2004 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) & 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2014, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016 and in Shinshiro again in 2018. In 2023 our conferences resumed as we returned to Nové Hradý who hosted it with the support of Nové Zámky (Slovakia). Our next conference will be held in Jaunpils, Latvia in 2025. Our aim is to foster individual, group and civic friendships, with practical links through culture, education, business and tourism.