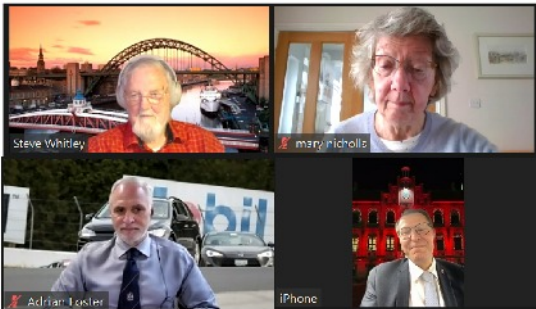


SENIORS CONNECT IN MANY NEWCASTLES

How wonderful to be able to help connect our Newcastles in so many different ways. At the beginning of July Newcastles of the World was featured as the main theme for “Older Voices”, the regular radio programme of the Elders Council of **Newcastle upon Tyne**. Guest contributors were Kenneth Muhs, Mayor of **Nyborg** (Denmark) and Adrian Foster, Mayor of **Clarington** (Canada) who hosted our 2016 Newcastles of the World conference in **Newcastle, Clarington** – he was accompanied on the programme by Jill Richardson of our Canadian Newcastles of the World team. Also participating was Mary Nicholls of Newcastle upon Tyne who attended our conferences in both Japan (Shinshiro) and Canada. Steve Whitley was in the chair as programme host. You can listen to the programme on <https://www.mixcloud.com/LLARC/older-voices-the-twice-monthly-radio-show-of-the-elders-council-of-newcastle-2-july-2021/>



The two hour Older Voices programme is broadcast on the first and third Fridays of each month, and also has regular features on topics such as music, gardening and fitness. The eleven-strong broadcast team (average age of 81) are all members of the Newcastle’s Elders Council. They tell us: “You CAN teach an old dog new tricks!”

Then, at the very end of July we were able to help connect the Federation of **Shinshiro** Senior Citizens' Clubs, Japan with the team from **Newcastle upon Tyne** Elders Council.

Through a Zoom link, the Newcastle team gave a detailed presentation, responding to a request from Shinshiro Seniors for information about life for older citizens in Newcastle upon Tyne – such as housing and leisure activities - and also about how the Elders Council represents older citizens and how it recruits its members. Check out <https://www.elderscouncil.org.uk/> to find out more about the Newcastle Elders Council.

Newsletter of “Newcastles of the World” • September/October/November 2021

GALA NIGHT ENDS NOVÉ ZÁMKY'S SPECIAL YEAR

The final gala night of ‘Vzdušné Zámky’, **Nové Zámky**’s special year as Slovakia’s City of Culture 2020 took place on Saturday 28 August at the city’s Imperial-Royal Historic Riding Hall, with a celebration of what has been achieved and a focus on building upon it for the future.

Just like the Olympic Games, because of the impact of Covid-19, the City of Culture 2020 programme had to be spread into 2021. But, somehow, the programme director and the rest of the great team that managed and promoted the year were able to cope, and presented wonderful events, time after time, right across the 18 month period .

Below are images from the gala night - with flowers for the city’s culture manager Denisa Felixová for overseeing the entire process - and a ‘we thank you’ message to the community in Slovak and Hungarian. Mayor Otokar Klein spoke of his pride at what had been achieved in such difficult circumstances, and, as an accomplished opera singer himself, he added to the celebration in song.



THERE'S LOTS MORE INSIDE - NEWS AND FEATURES FROM MANY DIFFERENT NEWCASTLES, PLUS A SPECIAL SPORTS PAGE ABOUT THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES AND COMPETITORS FROM TWO OF OUR NEWCASTLES

PEOPLE

JILL IS TOP SENIOR !

Many congratulations to Jill Richardson, a leading member of our Newcastles of the World team in **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** who this summer was awarded the accolade of "Senior of the Year" in her home municipality of Clarington (where Newcastle is located). This was mainly for her leadership role in the successful campaign for a hospice in her home area, but the citation by Mayor Adrian Foster also referred to her work for Newcastles of the World. Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, she could not receive the award in person at the City Council, and they could not put her on the big screen in the Council Chamber - but we have here ! Well done, Jill !



Elsewhere we feature the stars of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, but here's a different angle, from **Newcastle Australia**. The design of Jasmine Cracium was chosen for the Australian Olympic Tokyo 2021 Women's Surf Team. So, Newcastle's local surfing community had a further reason to celebrate, in addition to surfing being included for the first time as an Olympic event. Local young Aboriginal artist, Jasmine was brought up in Newcastle. Her design was inspired by Barkindji line art from her ancestors, in order to represent the fluidity of water - alongside the nickname given to the Olympic Surfing team, being Irukandjis. This is an aboriginal name for the deadly box jellyfish from the Yirrganydji people in north Queensland. Jasmine combined the two elements to create her design.

WELCOME, DAMIEN - AND A HAPPY RETIREMENT FOR RÉMY !

In July, the Chancellery of **Neuchâtel, Switzerland** welcomed a new project manager for the city's institutional relations. This is Damien Vaucher, 36, married and father of two boys. Damien (*pictured right*) obtained a master's degree in history from his city's university and previously worked in the Buildings Department, including organising architectural competitions relating to municipal heritage.



Besides history and architecture, Damien is passionate about food, wine and culture. He also likes to go for long outings in the forest with his mountain bike and explore the underground world in caves or mines, despite being a very tall man (2m/6ft 7inches) !



In addition to being the contact person in Neuchâtel for the alliance of Newcastles of the World supporting Daniel Veuve, now Chancellor (Chief Executive) of the City, Damien will be the driving force behind projects affecting his city. Rémy Voirol (*pictured left*), who was Chancellor from 1993 and attended many conferences of Newcastles of the World, retired from the City in the early summer. We wish him a very happy retirement!

Harrison Ford, the film actor who is world-famous for his role as Indiana Jones, has been in England in the **Newcastle upon Tyne** area filming for the latest in the movie series.

Here he is, spotted walking on the Newcastle Quayside during a break from filming. The fifth Indiana Jones film involves a good deal of filming up the North East coast at the dramatic Bamburgh Castle, which was transformed into a film set. On the previous day the star enjoyed a bike ride down the coast and stopped at 'The Ship's Cat' restaurant for lunch where he is reported to have ordered the sea bass and a plate of mussels !



NEWS

CELEBRATING A HISTORY OF MUSIC AND PAGEANT IN HERCEG NOVI

In **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro, there has been a celebration to mark 135 years of the work of City Music and 50 years since the day when the city's famous majorettes began to join the celebrations.



A ceremonial parade took place from Nikola Đurković Square all the way to the plateau in front of the Municipality building. A photo exhibition was set up at Fortress Forte Mare and a cultural and artistic programme was held. To create the best possible working conditions for the future development of music in Herceg Novi, in 2020 the Municipality renovated the City Music pavilion. In his speech at the celebration, Mayor Stevan Katić, said that the City Music and majorettes represent the symbol of Mediterranean emotion and the strength and firmness of the Orjen mountains.

Newcastle City Hall Façade Conservation Works – Completion Ceremony

On 25 June, **Newcastle** City Council, New South Wales, **Australia** held a completion ceremony for the Newcastle City Hall façade conservation works. The much-loved City Hall was opened in 1929. In 2016, the restoration of the famous clock tower began, and repairs have been carried out to all four façades. The completion ceremony included performances from the local marching band, the Marching Koalas, the University of Newcastle choir, and salutes by the Australian Army Band.



An enthusiastic address was given by the Governor-General in marking the completion of the façade. The conservation works have been warmly welcomed by the Newcastle community.



AIMING FOR THE STRATOSPHERE !

SolarStratos is an aeronautical project aimed at flying a solar-powered airplane for the first time to the stratosphere.

It is a project founded by Swiss explorer, adventurer and lecturer Raphaël Domjan, born in **Neuchâtel**. SolarStratos is a two-seater solar plane built by Calin Gologan with which the team plan to achieve an altitude record.



The SolarStratos airplane is equipped with solar cells but is not able to fly directly on solar power, thus is accurately described as a battery-powered electric airplane that is equipped with solar cells; it is planned to be the first manned solar-equipped aircraft to enter the stratosphere. The SolarStratos mission will allow Domjan to reach more than 25,000 metres (82,000 ft), to altitudes hardly ever achieved with conventional propulsion aircraft. This eco-exploration aims to demonstrate that renewable energies make it possible to go beyond what is possible with conventional modes of propulsion. Ultimately Domjan and the SolarStratos team wish to commercialise the technologies developed during the stratospheric mission, in particular by developing stratospheric solar drones.

Domjan initiated and completed the first round-the-world trip using solar energy between September 2010 and May 2012 aboard the MS catamaran PlanetSolar. In 2015, he carried out the first polar solar navigation in the Arctic Ocean. In August 2020, he made the first jump from an electric plane and the first solar free fall. This amazing man is a pilot, mountaineer, diver and parachutist; he is a member of the Explorer Club of New York as well as the Société des Explorateurs Français.

ARTS AND CULTURE

A Little Quieter than usual at the Neuburger Summer Academy

The **Neuburg** (Germany) Summer Academy celebrated its 43rd edition from August 1st to August 15th. It's always in the first two weeks of August - an academy of visual arts and music with teachers and students from all over the world. The courses range from visual arts, sculpture, youth theatre, old music, classical music to jazz. It has been the second year of a restricted academy – no open galleries, no student concerts and only limited tickets for teacher concerts. Even though it was again an academy of restrictions, it received large interest from students and locals alike. The Artistic Director and the city's Office of Culture are already working on further improving and rejuvenating the courses and trying out new concepts for next year's academy.



Knut Natzeck, a Neuburger, who lives in Frankfurt had his work spread out on his studio floor for his online show

Award of Nyborg Municipality's Culture Prize 2021



At the beginning of September, the Committee on Culture and Leisure awarded **Nyborg Municipality's Culture Prize 2021** to actor Morten Hee Andersen (on the right in the photo). The award took place in KinoVino at a preview of the film 'Margrethe the First', in which Morten plays Erik of Pomerania. Morten was born and raised in Nyborg, spending his youth in Nyborg's cultural surroundings at Nyborg Youth School's Rockmusical, Nyborg Voldspil and Teatergruppen Fidus.

In 2016, he graduated as an actor from the Danish Performing Arts School in Copenhagen. He then starred in several well-known Danish series such as 'The Ways of the Lord' as priest's son August, in 'Nursing School' as Erik Larsen and in the acclaimed 'Peace on Land' as the psychopath Mike. Morten has been a regular part of the Royal Danish Theatre, with several exciting performances, and he stars in the upcoming Danish film 'Venuseffekten', as well as 'Margrethe the First'.



The **Newcastle (Australia) Museum** has recently received further awards to add to its extensive list of accolades. The museum has been awarded the Australian Museums and Galleries Award 2021 in two categories, these being the industry's highest honour at national awards, and also the Museums Australasia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards 2021.

Janet Falotico, for **New Castle Pennsylvania USA**, has been pleased to report that the summer has finally seen major outdoor events taking place again in the city. In particular, residents have welcomed the excellent series of summer music concerts in Riverside Park. Building on earlier new investment, the park now has a beautiful canopy and signage for the performance stage (see photo, right)



Every two years, the Renaissance in **Neuburg an der Donau** comes back to life on the last weekend of June and the first weekend of July. The historic old town is the unique backdrop for a fascinating spectacle - the whole city follows in the footsteps of the 16th Century Count Palatine Ottheinrich (Otto Henry) and celebrates a great festival. Due to the coronavirus, the festival had to be cancelled this year as it attracts more than 100,000 visitors. To pay homage to the beloved event and to build excitement for the festival in 2023, the Office of Culture and Tourism, together with the Schloßfest association, organised a three week exhibition of images from past festivals. Because of an overwhelming positive reception, the exhibition was extended for four more weeks. You can get a taste of the Neuburg Schloßfest through the exhibition photos and film – they are now available on www.schlossfest.de

PEOPLE

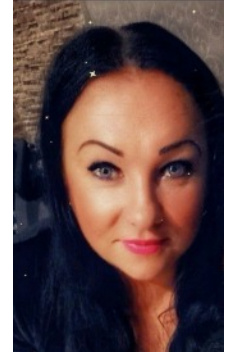
NEW ROLES IN JAUNPILS



At the beginning of July, the Latvian Administrative Territorial Reform came into force and the territory of **Jaunpils** municipality became part of Tukums municipality. Ligita Gintere (*top, right*), who was Chairperson of the former Jaunpils municipality, said: “We would like to thank our deputies and employees for the work done, and for their energy and enthusiasm which was invested in the development of Jaunpils on a daily basis. The work of Jaunpils and Viesatu continues at a parish level, and we must believe and hope that each change will lead to a better future.”



However, Newcastle of the World was delighted that in the elections for the new local authorities in Latvia, Ligita stood and was successful. She and her party are now be represented on the Tukums Council. We're also very pleased that Baiba Rasa (*bottom, right*), who has been our Newcastle of the World contact in Jaunpils during this time, has been appointed to head up the new Jaunpils and Viesatu local parish administration. We wish them well.



Born in **Newcastle, South Africa**, Faith Sithole is making a name for herself in the literary world as she addresses the difficult and often unfavourable issues that women have to endure and the toxic relationships that can be so damaging to their lives. Faith has written a book, ‘Healing a Bruised Heart of a Broken Woman’, and, due to the book’s success, she was nominated by ‘The Book Behind’ Awards in two separate categories: Best Upcoming Female Author and Best Healing Book. The Book Behind Awards’ vision is to encourage writing and reading, and celebrate unsung yet inspirational authors.

Discussing her book in frank terms, Faith explained that in her own journey she encountered very difficult relationships. She said "I once found myself in a space, where I was so desperate for healing, and as a result when I could not heal, I thought it was better to take my own life. By the grace of God, I was able to resurrect from the deep problems that I had found myself in, and, when I saw the light, I thought that was worth being written down and shared with people at large.”

Bob Cook, from **Newcastle**, New South Wales, Australia reports the passing of local artist Frank Kadlec (pictured). He escaped the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and came to Australia as a refugee with his wife, one year old son and only the clothes on their back. He was a master metallurgist and found work at the BHP steelworks in Newcastle where he became foreman within four years and worked until it closed. He was an accomplished artist in metal and ceramics and his final artwork, completed just three months ago and pictured here, remembers the part that steelworkers played in the city’s powerful industrial heritage. Bob and Frank were friends and colleagues in the Newcastle Industrial Heritage Association.



We are saddened to hear of the death, from Covid-19, of Daniel (Dan) Mabuyakhulu who many will remember from his attendance at several of our Newcastle of the World conferences, representing **Newcastle South Africa**.



He is pictured (*below, right*) with Mayor Hozumi of Shinshiro, Japan at our last conference. Dan was a former mayor of Amajuba District (which includes Newcastle), Executive Committee member of Newcastle Municipality, former provincial chairperson of the South African Democratic Teachers’ Union and former national chair of the National Council of TVETS, the body that represents Training and Vocational Education and Training Colleges. Education was his passion but at the time of his death, he was working in the office of the Provincial Premier, advancing the cause of farm workers and farm dwellers, particularly in matters of land reform.



Dan’s late brother Mike - who also died this year - was a member of the Provincial Government’s Executive Committee. We send our condolences to the Mabuyakhulu family.

NEWS

PBS television station at Ball State University has produced an excellent video (in four segments) about the city of **New Castle, Indiana** USA and its community. The film, which is over two hours in length, features profiles of many of the organisations that make this community so strong, and so attractive to visitors. The story is also told through a fascinating series of interviews with local residents whose contributions have been so important to the city - including our good friend of Newcastles of the World Beverly Matthews (pictured); Beverly tells the story of the Henry County Community Foundation, of which she was CEO until recently, and the benefits that it brings to the local community in all sorts of ways.



Ball State PBS is the Indiana University Public Broadcasting Service (licensed television station) which includes among its output high quality local programming, as well as educational services.



You can watch the video, called “Now Entering New Castle”, on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eK9sOKZkX5M>



A giant amphibian has hopped on to one of the largest traffic roundabouts in **Newcastle-under-Lyme** thanks to the talents of young engineers and funding from sponsors.

Apprentices from PM Training made a 2.5m sculpture of a frog leaping onto a lily pad which has been installed on the traffic circle near Keele University. The eye-catching piece of public art – constructed from galvanised mild steel – has been designed by internationally renowned sculptor and North Staffordshire-born Andy Edwards who is famous for ‘The Beatles’ at the Waterfront statue in Liverpool and the Christmas Truce statue in Belgium.

Bayley Palmer, 17, and Luke Steadman, 19, worked with Phil Brown, PM Training’s Artworks Manager, to work out an appropriate construction method to bring Andy’s initial sketches to life. It took the team approximately three months to complete the project. The initiative, sponsored by Derek Mawby Surfacing and Newcastle-under-Lyme Business Improvement District, is the latest commissioned by the Council to highlight indigenous animals and plants as part of its annual “Britain in Bloom” campaign.

THE LETTER OF CULTURE

The "Square of the Cyrillic alphabet " (‘Trg od ćirilice’) is a traditional spiritual and cultural event that has been held in **Herceg Novi**, our “Newcastle” in Montenegro, for the past eight years. It is about the preservation and celebration of Cyrillic in literature, the arts and devotion, and is held in association with the Association of Writers of Montenegro and the Association of Publishers and Bookstores of Montenegro, via an international book fair.

This year, the event opened on the occasion of the 170th anniversary of the death of the Prince-Bishop of Montenegro and great poet, Petar II Petrović-Njegoš. His epic poem "Gorski vijenac" dates from 1847. English is the tenth language into which it has been translated. The poem, written in the vernacular of the 19th century, is imbued with philosophical elements and carries a message of wisdom. Njegoš had spent his childhood in Herceg Novi, studying at the school next to the church of St. Salvation.



He transferred into verse his love for the city of Herceg Novi.

The Cyrillic Square presents an academy, a sermon, a cultural and artistic programme, a film screening, and gallery exhibitions. The book fair this year was particularly dedicated to the 200th year since the birth of the great Russian writer Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky. The motto of the fair was as expressed by Dostoevsky:
“To stop reading books - means to stop thinking”



FEATURES

THE BEACH OF PASSIONATE LOVE !

Moonlight Bay is the name of the Pantai Cahaya Bulan beach, located just outside Kota Bharu, our Newcastle in Malaysia. This magnificent beach can rightfully be considered one of the best corners of the Kelantan state. Its warm golden sand, swaying coconut palms and crystal clear water are a huge attraction to locals and visitors alike. The beach itself extends for 1.2 kilometers along the coast. Most often vacationers flock here on weekends. They bask in the sun and admire the surrounding natural beauties. Souvenir shops are scattered in nearby villages where you can buy embroidery, songket (traditional Malay fabric) and handmade items with copper embossing. In addition to exciting land walks, visitors to Pantai Cahaya Bulan Beach enjoy water sports. In the midday heat, you can relax in comfortable cottages in the shade of casuarina trees. Strolling and kite flying are among the favourite past times of tourists and locals alike.



Some years ago, the name was changed from Pantai Cinta Berahi ('beach of passionate love') to Pantai Cahaya Bulan – which means 'Moonlight Beach'. In Malay, both 'moonlight beach' and 'beach of passionate love' uses the same acronym – PCB. Locals refer to the beach – the most famous in Kelantan – as PCB, although amongst the older generation, PCB still carries the meaning of love and passion its name once stood for !

The **Nové Hradý** Fisheries Ltd (Rybářství Nové Hradý s.r.o.) is one of the most important and extensive in the Czech Republic. It was established in 1993, with its main activities being fish farming and geese breeding. In fish farming, it continues a tradition which dates back to the 13th century in the Nové Hradý region. Complementary activities include sport fishing, sale of ornamental fish species, earthworks, and transportation of fish. Novohradský carp and Novohradská goose are very popular products, and the Company owns the only recognised breed of geese breeding in the Czech Republic. Farming takes place on no less than 330 lakes with a total area of 1,258 hectares. The Company operates a modern fish hatchery, whose technology uses heat pumps to heat water, and it operates its sports fishing on three ponds.

Many of us in Newcastles of the World remember meeting up with representatives of Rybářství Nové Hradý when we were there for our 2014 conference, and we experienced a rather strange fishermen's ritual (see the photo on the left!) that was demonstrated to us on the city square at an event that marked the opening of the tourist season.

For more information, see <http://www.rybarstvinovehrady.cz/>



Glacial "Erratic" found and preserved

In August, a huge Glacial Erratic was discovered during an excavation in a construction site in the heights of **Neuchâtel, Switzerland**. The City decided to preserve this rock that was left from an Alpine glacier during the Ice Age, some 15,000 years ago.

A special lift crane was necessary to raise the 55 tons colossus. It was finally carried on a truck and situated on a roundabout near Pierre-à-Bot, where the Glacial Erratic will soon be contemplated in an environment of moraine and alpine grasses, with a view to the Alps. In the neighbourhood, a much bigger erratic, discovered in 19th Century, was used by scholars to demonstrate glaciation theories.

A glacial erratic is glacially-deposited rock differing from the size and type of rock native to the area in which it rests. "Erratics" take their name from the Latin word 'errare' (to wander), and are carried by glacial ice, often over distances of hundreds of kilometres. Erratics can range in size from pebbles to huge boulders such as Big Rock (16,500 tonnes) in Alberta, Canada.



PEOPLE

One of the most interesting people to come from **New Castle, Pennsylvania**, USA is Jack Cole, a celebrated illustrator and cartoonist in the golden era of comic books. He was best known for creating the comic superhero "Plastic Man" and also created the hero 'Midnight' for Smash Comics.

The Plastic Man stories were described by comics historian Paul Tumej in "The Lost Cartoons of Jack Cole" as "a bulging, jam-packed inventory of screwball humour, breakneck storytelling, visual innovation, underground eroticism, and dark obsessions that stretches from the birth of the American superhero comic through World War Two and into the first days of Cold War dread in America.



Cole reinvented himself as a gag cartoonist for men's magazines when the comics industry collapsed in the early 1950s. He shot to the top of his new profession as Playboy magazine's premier cartoonist. He later reshaped himself again into a syndicated newspaper comic strip artist - the coveted achievement for a cartoonist of Jack Cole's generation - and also sold numerous gag cartoons to top-paying, nationally distributed magazines in the USA.

In recent years, the availability of golden age comic book scans, digital newspaper archives, and old photos and records via the Internet has created new interest in Cole and his work.



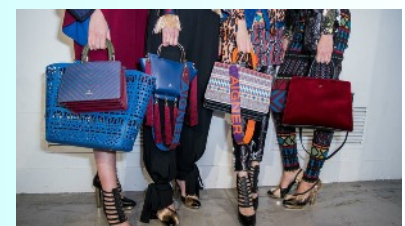
Cole died in 1958 at the age of only 43, but was posthumously inducted into the comic book industry's Hall of Fame in 1991. <http://www.tcj.com/the-lost-comics-of-jack-cole-part-1-1931-38/>

Étienne (István) Aigner was born in Érsekújvár, in the former Kingdom of Hungary, in 1904 (now **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia). He was the founder of what became the internationally-famous Etienne Aigner US and Etienne Aigner AG, two presently separate high fashion houses, based respectively in New York City and Munich, Germany. Both companies produce luxury goods including handbags, shoes, women's ready-to-wear, wallets, and leather accessories. Aigner was at first a bookbinder. Shortly after the Second World War, he started creating custom-made high-end leather goods for a number of haute couture (high fashion) boutiques in Paris. Aigner established himself designing handbags and belts for the European fashion elite. In 1950, after successful apprenticeships with designers Christian Dior and Cristóbal Balenciaga, Aigner arrived in New York City from Paris with plans to launch his brand in the new burgeoning American market.

In 1950, he introduced his Antic Red leather open-pocket bag with angular processing (Antic Red being the brand's signature colour). He also perfected the Aigner logo after his monogram, the "a" for Aigner shaped into a horseshoe.

In 1959, Aigner opened his first showroom in Manhattan, New York City.

During the 1980s Aigner stretched its product range by awarding licences for watches, jewellery and eyewear. In 1990 licences were awarded for the womenswear and menswear collection. Aigner died in New York in 2000.



Here's the Lord Mayor of **Newcastle upon Tyne**, joining in a Bollywood dance at the annual Mela festival. The Mela is a family arts festival celebrating Pakistani, Bengali, Indian and other South Asian cultures and the open-to-all event is hugely popular with families from all communities in the city. This year's two-day event at the end of August was been scaled back a little, and did not have quite the usual focus on international acts.

However, it still turned out to be a well-supported festival of contemporary and traditional music and art performances, with a huge range of stalls including the likes of craft, clothing and jewellery. Held in the city's Exhibition Park, the festival is also Newcastle's annual celebration of the city's diversity, based on the culture, art and traditions of the city's South Asian residents.



Each year the festival is opened by the Lord Mayor, but this year the mayoral address was a "special" moment, as it came from the city's first-ever South Asian Mayor, Councillor Habib Rahman. Addressing the crowd as he opened the festival, Coun Rahman said: "Newcastle is a proud City of Sanctuary, we are black and white, we are united and we stand together in our common fight to fight oppression, every form of abuse, victimisation and harassment." 8

NEWS

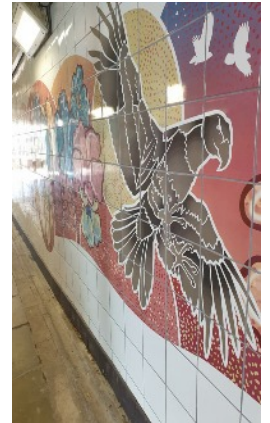
STYLISH SUBWAY ART

A project to revamp a number of pedestrian subways in **Newcastle-under-Lyme** town centre has received great public support.



Seven underpasses have been redecorated, with new security lighting installed to make them brighter, safer and more appealing to shoppers who use them. The first to be finished was completely retiled with custom-made, locally produced tiles featuring artwork by local artist Elizabeth Taylor. All the designs are inspired by the town's 'Britain in Bloom' campaign, with other tunnels being decorated with tiles featuring artwork by another local artist, David Salt, together with images created by local schoolchildren during Newcastle Borough Council's annual painting competition.

The project is funded as part of a £1 million (1.2m euros) grant awarded to Newcastle from the Advanced Town Deal Fund, to be spent on town centre regeneration and economic growth. The tiles have been designed and manufactured by Digital Ceramics, whose director Mark Wood said: "We worked on similar projects in other towns and it was shown to increase footfall into the town centre by 25 per cent."



Shown above are some of the many special vintage cars that featured in the August edition of the Broad Street Cruise-In, in **New Castle, Indiana**. New Castle's love of motors cars has its roots in the famous car company that was based in the city for many years. The Maxwell-Briscoe Company opened a huge automobile factory in 1907 in New Castle. For a time, Maxwell was considered one of the three top automobile firms in America, along with General Motors and Ford.

The factory in New Castle continued as a Chrysler plant after its takeover of Maxwell until its demolition in 2004.

The renowned **Neuchâtel** International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF) returned for ten days at the beginning of July for its 20th edition. Organised in a context still rife with uncertainty in terms of health measures, the hybrid edition of live and online events ended with remarkable attendance numbers of over 34,000 people despite the cinemas being limited to two-thirds capacity. NIFF is the only festival in Switzerland dedicated to fantasy and its related genres, which gives it a unique identity.



The winners of the festival competitions were LAPSIS, a cutting social satire from American filmmaker Noah Hutton that opened the festival and won the prestigious H.R. Giger 'Narcisse' award (CHF 10,000 from the City of Neuchâtel). The dynamism of Swiss fantasy industry was also rewarded, as Tim Fehlbaum's ambitious film TIDES took two major prizes: the award for Best Production Design (CHF 5,000) and the RTS Audience Award (broadcasting rights purchased by the RTS). The ceremony concluded with the festival's new General Director Pierre-Yves Walder taking up his new post with immediate effect.

In the United Kingdom, the first North East International Film Festival will take place in **Newcastle upon Tyne** over three days in November.

The Festival is attracting global audiences and submissions while maximising the opportunity to showcase local talent, companies and stunning film locations.



The Festival has a broad scope but an inclusive narrative. This will be underpinned by the decision to include not only the standard international submission categories but also more diverse, collaborative and inclusive ones such as F – Rated Films films (films directed by women and/or written by women), Best LGBTQ+, Best Student Film, Low/No Budget Films, Most Diverse Work and the first ever VisABLE category which is to represent disability in all its forms, together with workshops and special screenings.

NEWS AND FEATURES

One of the most important alluvial forest areas on the German Danube is located between **Neuburg an der Donau** and Ingolstadt. To underline the importance of this natural heritage and to support the renaturation of the Danube, the district of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen came up with the vision of an alluvial centre in Grünau Castle, just outside the city of Neuburg. This opened in 2008, and comprises the floodplain institute (Aueninstitut), the floodplain information centre and the floodplain forum.

It is a major nature conservation project that is used for research, information for the public and the exchange of professional experience on the subject of floodplain and river management.

The research focuses on floodplain and water ecology as well as the associated renaturation tasks.

The most important aspect is to give the nature, which has been impaired in these areas, a sustainable perspective again, with recognition of the importance of the floodplain as habitat for many plants and animals.

Conflicts of use such as exist in the field of water and forestry must be taken into account.

The floodplain information centre, together with the nature conservation authority, offers more than 20 fixed tours every year as part of the Bayern Tour Natur.



A renaissance castle in the middle of the alluvial forest



Danube alluvial forest between Neuburg and Ingolstadt



Grünau Castle was the gift of Duke Otto Henry, the Duke of the Duchy of Pfalz-Neuburg, to his wife Suzanna of Bavaria. The white-stone hunting lodge in the Renaissance style with three towers was built in the middle of the XVI century. The finishing of the upper floors was entrusted to the famous Jörg Breu the younger of Augsburg, whose frescoes have survived to these days.



Shedding full light on the past

2020 saw a wave of anti-racist protests around the world. In **Neuchâtel**, a petition called for the removal of the statue of David de Pury, an 18th century merchant, born in the city, but based in Lisbon for most of his life, who owed his fortune in part to the exploitation of slaves.

David de Pury is also known as the benefactor of Neuchâtel, making his hometown the main heir to his immense fortune. Another petition called for maintaining the monument, but with an explanatory plaque.

The City Council's response, which has satisfied the petitioners, is an ambitious plan: the statue will remain with a sign, but also with an artistic installation (to be created) that will promote dialogue. A 'Colonial Trail' will be set up and the City will support scientific research concerning the slave trade and Neuchâtel.

The goal is to acknowledge and shed full light on history and to fight against racism and discrimination.

'AMERICA DAYS' IN AKHALTSIKHE

In early June an 'America Days' celebration took place in **Akhaltzikhe**, Georgia. The American Embassy in Georgia brought the sounds, sights, and energy of the USA to the city, marking the special friendship between the two countries.



Akhaltiskhe was the second of four Georgian cities that were the location for these celebrations in the summer. 'America Days' also showcased American culture and information on the diverse USA - supported programmes in Georgia. There was an American Studies Conference at Samtskhe-Javakheti State University and an Information Fair at the Rabati Castle, followed by a concert by American hip-hop and rock fusion band "Dangerflow", also at the castle. There was also a range of other American music, and spectators watched street dancing performed live by both Georgian and American artists and youth. At the Information Fair, visitors learned about USA educational exchanges, consular and immigration services, various grants and assistance programmes, the diverse work of the American Agency for International Development, and other development projects in Georgia supported by the government of the USA.

SPORT - The Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo

We all know how difficult it was for Japan to stage the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, but sport lovers around the world have said 'thank you' to Tokyo for hosting these great occasions. However, it was sad that spectators could not be present at the venues, and that tourists could not visit Japan to enjoy its wonderful attractions and culture.



Here we learn about the Paralympic Torch Relay which was held from 12 August until 24 August, during the transition period from the Olympic to the Paralympic Games. Flames were collected in over 800 municipalities across Japan for the Torch Relay and were united with the flame lit in Stoke Mandeville, England, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement. The flame of "Hiondori", **Shinshiro's** over-400-year-old fire ritual, was among those collected. Flame torches are swung dramatically during the "Hiondori" ritual at the location of the Battle of Nagashino, to commemorate the souls of samurai warriors who died on the battlefield in 1575.

Many athletes with connections to our "Newcastles" took part in the Olympic and Paralympic Games - here we feature some from Newcastle Australia and Herceg Novi, Montenegro

Several athletes from **Newcastle, Australia** represented their country at the Olympics. Supported through the New South Wales Individual Scholarship programme, Poppy Olsen competed in the inaugural Olympic women's park skateboarding event. The 21-year-old finished second in her heat, and performed well in the final, finishing fifth overall.

Emily van Egmond, a Novocastrian who has been the flagship of the Matildas (Australia's national women's soccer team) for the past decade, took part in her second Olympics. The 28-year-old midfielder, who recently recorded 100 games for the national side and has participated in three World Cups, played in every game in Tokyo and helped her country to fourth place overall, narrowly missing out on the bronze medal in the play-off against the USA. Five times world champion sailor Will Ryan from just south of Newcastle became Olympic champion at the Men's 470 class with Mathew Belcher.

Lauren Parker says the best is yet to come after winning silver in the triathlon at the Paralympics. The 32-year-old led for almost the entire race, before being beaten by one second by American, Kendall Gretsch.



An amazing total of 21 representatives from **Herceg Novi** were at the Olympics Games. There were athletes, coaches, a doctor, a physiotherapist and a referee. Sailor Milivoj Dukić was winner of the Second Olympic Regatta. The representative of the water polo national team of Montenegro, Aleksandar Ivović, was named the best scorer of the Olympic Games, having scored 23 goals. The water polo national team of Serbia won a gold medal, and one of the players who contributed to that victory was Andrija Prlainović from Herceg Novi. Basketball player Ana Dabović played in the team that reached the semi-finals. Before the Olympics, Ana had delighted her home city of Herceg Novi by bringing a gold medal from the European Championships in France. On their return, an Olympic night that featured a concert by Vlado Georgiev was organised in the city's Boka Park to congratulate all the participants.

"Thirteen athletes, five coaches, a doctor, physiotherapist and judge, is a reason for pride, and speaks not only about the sports spirit of Herceg Novi, but also about the potential that we undoubtedly have" said Mayor Stevan Katić.

Herceg Novi - a small town with a big Olympic heart!



MORE SPORT

From 2nd to 4th September a major international sail racing event was held in **Nyborg**, Denmark. “Vegvisir 2021” saw 400 sailors take part from eleven different countries in this extreme race - in addition to Denmark, also Germany, Sweden, Hungary, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, France, Austria, Switzerland and Slovenia. Sailors could choose three options; a long 225 nautical mile course, a medium 158 nautical mile and a short 72 nautical mile course. The long course was just for pairs (2 people on board), while the two shorter ones had the participation of both pairs and singles (1 or 2 persons on board).

Organiser Morten Brandt has been working with Nyborg Sailing Association and Nyborg Municipality to hold the race this year.



In June the first stage of the 2021 Latvian Amateur Motocross Championship took place in **Jaunpils**. The organisers had been preparing for a year! Krister Sergis of the Latvian Motorsport Federation was delighted that the competition could start again after all the postponements caused by Covid-19. "Motocross people have been waiting for this for a very long time. Many thanks to the organizer of the Jaunpils stage Ikars Leimans and also Vairis Koškins, the owner of the track, for taking on this difficult stage and starting the competition", he said.

The event was a great success.



“True to tradition, seven neighbouring municipalities in the Funen region of Denmark met to contest the Municipal Competition 2021. And with victories in all of the disciplines (beach handball, beach volleyball and beach football), the trophy went to **Nyborg** Municipality. The team from Nyborg consisted of Kenneth Muhs (Mayor), Erik Rosengaard (council member), Martin Stenmann (council member) and Lars Andersen (official). The competition was held on August 19th in the municipality of Kerteminde, the previous year’s winner.

The competition takes place in the municipality that won the year before and it is the defending municipality that chooses the discipline to compete in.

This was the eighth time in a row that the competition was held and Nyborg had won in 2017 (gokart) and in 2019 (rowing).



Visitors to **Newcastle upon Tyne** from **Shinshiro** in 2019 had the special pleasure of a tour of St James’ Park Park, the home of Newcastle United football club, and of meeting Japanese international footballer Yoshinori Muto (see photo) who had joined the club in the previous year. Sadly, he has now moved on. In August, Newcastle United football club’s website reported: “Japan international Yoshinori Muto has left Newcastle United by mutual consent. The club and player have come to an agreement on the final year of his contract, with the 29-year-old making ten starts in all competitions following his 2018 move from Mainz 05. He made a further 18 appearances as a substitute and scored twice - the first on his first league start, away at Manchester United, and the other against Leicester City in the Carabao Cup. Muto spent last season on loan with Eibar in Spain's La Liga. Everybody at Newcastle United thanks him for his efforts at St. James' Park and wishes him well for the future”. So does Newcastle of the World - we remember his lovely welcome to visitors from his home country.



FROM THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD SECRETARIAT

My Newcastle

What makes your Newcastle special to you?

Students aged 12-18 years are telling the story of their own Newcastle by creating videos to show what it's like to live and study there. The purpose is to encourage learning between Newcastles.

Nyborg, Denmark is leading on the "My Newcastle" video production school project. You can view the films made so far on our [My Newcastle YouTube Channel](#) and read the introductions to them below.

Get involved

Martin Stenmann from Nyborg, said: "We are keen for students aged 12 to 18 years in more of the Alliance's schools to get involved. Tell us what is special about your Newcastle through the "My Newcastle" video production school project."

"It is great to have videos by students from Nyborg and Shinshiro, Japan so far. On the horizon are films by Neuburg, Germany and Newcastle upon Tyne." : Zélie Guérin, Project Director, Newcastles of the World. Previously, we called this project "Learning from other Newcastles" and have now renamed it to **My Newcastle**.

Nyborg, Denmark: https://youtu.be/iFmcC0u_SAo

Nyborg is a city in the centre of Denmark with a great history. In the early 16th century Nyborg was the first capital of Denmark. In the video you will meet Twana, Lauge and Tristian, grade 9 pupils from Birkhovedskolen, as well as Carsten, the principal at Birkhovedskolen, Mette the School librarian and Kenneth - the mayor at Nyborg Municipality.

Shinshiro, Japan – our history and nature: <https://youtu.be/H96AR0shRXo>

In this video you will see the beautiful nature around Shinshiro in Japan. You will discover a lot about the fascinating history, which is attached to our Japanese "Newcastle". And please have a look at the delicious, chargrilled rice cakes.

Shinshiro, Japan – Student life: <https://youtu.be/Jq8NWa7OIGI>

Here you will learn about student life in Shinshiro, Japan. Join a home cooking lesson, listen to a lecture from a Hiroshima Bombing Survivor and find out why students in Shinshiro wear slippers in classes.

To find out more about getting involved, contact Zélie Guérin E zelie@zelieguerin.com



Here you see students from **Shinshiro**, Japan watching the "My Newcastle" video about **Nyborg**, Denmark. We hope that many more "Newcastles" will join this initiative.



"A Day in the Life of Newcastle" is an exhibition by **Newcastle upon Tyne** City Learning photography students with additional contributions from photographers in Shinshiro, Japan and Newcastle, South Africa.

The initial exhibition was at a theatre in the north of Newcastle and is followed by the principal exhibition in the main City Library in September. We have encouraged photographers in other Newcastles to contribute their photos for the exhibition and for our own website. See *right* for one of the photos from Newcastle upon Tyne, by Nick Lambert- - for more images from Newcastle upon Tyne, see <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/a-day-in-the-life-of-newcastle-photography-exhibition/>



Shinshiro International Exchange Association has assembled photos from this project into a film that is available for viewing on YouTube - see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Am0ivuYtkUI> and for an exhibition in their city.

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; Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016 and in Shinshiro again in 2018. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism between us all.