



A SPECIAL DAY FOR NYBORG

What an occasion for the city of Nyborg and its people on July 2nd when the famous Tour de France cycle race arrived in town!

Preparations had been in place for at least three years, but all the work was worth. The eyes of the sporting world turned on our "Newcastle" in Denmark for the second stage of the race from Roskilde to Nyborg. The stage winner was Fabio Jakobsen of the Netherlands. Denmark's Magnus Cort Nielsen took the "King of the Mountains" points for best climber to take the red polka dot jersey. And how wonderful when the race began in Denmark for the first time that the overall winner of the 2022 Tour de France was also a Dane - Jonas Vingegaard! The arrangements in

Nyborg all went very smoothly and there were very large crowds welcoming the riders.

The public of Nyborg enjoyed all of the advanced celebrations in their city and the great festival atmosphere on the big day - and a very special guest was His Royal Highness Crown Prince Frederik (see the first photo below).

Page 15 of this newsletter has more photos and a message from Mayor Kenneth Muhs after the event.



The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • September/October/November 2022

30 YEARS OF PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP

Many Congratulations to **Shinshiro** ("Newcastle") International Exchange Association (SIEA) which celebrated its 30th anniversary at the beginning of August.

The Association promotes friendly relations between Japan and the citizens of other countries through exchanges, visits and



other projects in the fields of education/youth, culture, sports, tourism and economy, all to contribute towards improving international peace and understanding. The Association's work includes supporting those from other countries who have made their home in Shinshiro, either permanently or temporarily. Newcastle of the World thanks SIEA for its role in helping make our alliance a force for mutual benefit. See page 2 for more about SIEA.



COMMUNITY GENEROSITY SUPPORTS REFUGEES

A total of 5,590,197 yen (just over 40,000 euros/US dollars) was raised by the public of **Shinshiro**, Japan for the Newcastle Kizuna Fund. In early July, the collected donations were sent to three other "Newcastles" - Nové Zámky. in the Slovak Republic, **Jaunpils** in the Latvian Republic, and Nové Hradky. in the Czech Republic. The donations are being used to purchase food, clothing and medicinal supplies, to support accommodation costs and to cover children's educational activities. The Mayor of Shinshiro, Hiroyaki Shimoe, expressed his heartfelt thanks to the citizens of Shinshiro for their generosity.

Mr. Otokar Klein, Mayor of Nové Zámky (left) and Vice-Mayor Mr. Lukáš Štefánik, are pictured above on a Zoom call with Shinshiro and other Newcastle Mayors to discuss the assistance for refugees from Ukraine.

See page 3 to read more about this help and how the funds are being used in Nové Zámky.

NEXT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Unfortunately, the City of Neuchâtel will not be able to host the next Newcastles of the World conference, so our Executive Board of Mayors have met to discuss options for the future. The Board and the Secretariat will now be consulting with our other member Newcastles for a final decision on future arrangements.

Shinshiro International Exchange Association

Shinshiro International Exchange Association (SIEA) was established in August 1992. This was when Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication decided to respond to the rising number of residents from overseas in the country by promoting the expansion of international relations. The first chairman of SIEA was the then Mayor of Shinshiro, Yoshio Yamamoto (pictured right), and in September 1992 the Shinshiro International Volunteer Group was set up. The association began to organise exchanges between citizens (particularly high school students) and people from overseas to help them better understand other countries and cultures.



The Newcastle of the World project started as an activity of SIEA; in 1994 Mayor Yamamoto began to promote the idea of an alliance and a summit. SIEA coordinator Junko Tamura says: "We knew that there were several cities named New Castle in the world, and we started visiting several for research – New Castles in the USA, Neuburg (Germany) and Neuchâtel (Switzerland). In November 1998, the first Newcastles of the World Summit was held in Shinshiro. The association has played and will continue to play an important and central role in subsequent alliance exchanges, summits, and conferences."

Shinshiro's work has been recognised nationally when Japan's Tourism Minister presented a special award to the city via the former mayor. The Newcastles of the World Alliance pays tribute to the excellent officers of SIEA over the 30 years – first, Naomi Toda, then Saori Matsubayashi, next Tomoko Tamai and now Junko Ogawa.



The Mayor of Shinshiro, Hiroyuki Shimoe says "SIEA was established to promote friendly relations between the citizens of Shinshiro and other countries and contributes to the internationalisation of the city. As the number of foreign residents in our city continues to increase, we have been developing various projects to support communication and enhance the daily life of foreign citizens. Our aim is a multicultural society where foreign citizens can live comfortably in Shinshiro City together with Japanese citizens. In addition, the Newcastle Alliance, which has grown to 17 member cities in 15 countries, is a channel for our citizens to deepen friendly relations and international understanding with citizens overseas.

"Since the first summit in Shinshiro in 1998, we are pleased that meetings have been held every two years on a rotating basis, sharing various issues related to lifestyle, culture, education and business with Newcastle cities around the world. In 2018, we celebrated our 20th anniversary by holding the Newcastle Alliance Conference again in Shinshiro.



"It is rare to have relations with several foreign cities that continue and grow over 20 years. These relationships are very valuable and could not have continued without the efforts and support of many people. The City Council will continue to work with the SIEA, the parent body of the city's internationalisation efforts, to develop a city that is a good place to live for all people."

Mr Motokazu Tamura, the current SIEA Chairman says: "The purpose of the Shinshiro International Exchange Association is to contribute to world peace and the welfare of mankind by promoting mutual friendship among residents of Shinshiro City and citizens of Japan and other countries through cultural, educational, sporting and economic exchange based on mutual understanding and friendship.



"One of the main activities of the Shinshiro International Exchange Association is to support the Newcastle Alliance, but for the past four years it has been difficult to gather due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, advances in digital technology have enabled online exchange of middle and senior school students between Alliance cities.

"For example, the new Shinshiro Yukyokan High School is hoping to exchange students with Alliance cities. In addition, the recent difficult situation in Ukraine has shown us that our Alliance can play an important role for world peace by supporting the work of others in our Alliance who have been accepting and supporting refugees. We look forward to the next 10 to 20 years and to making the Newcastle Alliance even more relevant. We will continue to deepen our partnership with Alliance cities and contribute to world peace and the welfare of humanity."

Mr. Tamura is a president of Tamuragumi Co. Ltd, a civil engineering and construction business. He is a member of the Shinshiro Rotary Club and makes a very positive contribution to the local community.





On June 30, the city of **Akhaltzikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia, held its annual day of commemoration of its most famous son, Shalva Akhaltzikhe. The events began with a church service, followed by a day of cultural events at the Rabati fortress.

New honorary citizens of Akhaltzikhe were announced and presented - Doctor Zviad Matoshvili, teacher Susana Akofova, and Bishop Anania Jania To Afaridze.

Saint Shalva Akhaltzikheli was an outstanding knight and warrior in the cavalry of Queen Tamar, during Georgia's golden age.

For his faithfulness, bravery and selfless service, she gave him the post of bailiff and appointed him the prince of Akhaltzikhe.



His name is associated with great victories in the Battle of Shamkhor in 1195, and, in 1204, the Battle of Basian. Later, he was captured by the Persians. He was asked to change his faith, but because of his refusal, he was thrown into prison and executed (1227). The song "Shavlego" was dedicated to his memory - the song became especially popular in the late 1980s when it was used as an unofficial anthem of the Georgian national movement against Soviet rule.

Thanks from Otokar Klein, Mayor of Nové Zámky

“In February, something unimaginable happened. Russia invaded Ukraine and thousands of people sought help in neighbouring countries – in Slovakia too.

At the beginning of March 2022 there were around 300 refugees from Ukraine in our “Newcastle”, Nové Zámky, most of them mothers with little children, and older people too.

The residents of Nové Zámky, private companies, volunteers, as well as the city office, helped immediately – we provided accommodation and food, the children gradually started going to kindergartens and schools, and some women began to work. The city opened a logistic centre where a lot of durable food, drugstores and clothes were collected. The centre still operates and provides Ukrainian families with food, medical and household supplies every two weeks.

In addition, the city established a transparent aid account.

In April came an offer of help from the city of Shinshiro, the “Newcastle” in Japan, who were raising money to help those displaced from Ukraine. Our friends in Shinshiro decided that the most practical way to help was to direct the funds to other Newcastles who were welcoming refugees in their cities and therefore incurring many unexpected costs.

The Mayor of Shinshiro held a Zoom meeting with those from our Newcastles in Latvia, Czech Republic and Slovakia to learn more about what services were being provided to the refugees.

Over 25,000 euros came to Nové Zámky into our dedicated and transparent account from the Shinshiro International Exchange Association.



We would like to thank Shinshiro for this truly generous show of solidarity. This gift will be used for the benefit of the Ukrainians who now live in our city, and specifically we are using the donation to pay for the renovation of a two-room and a three-room apartment for families from Ukraine who want to remain in Slovakia. Being part of the Newcastles of the World “family” has enabled this to happen. Dear Shinshiro – we cannot thank you enough!

SENIORS' ORGANISATIONS DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN

As a follow-up to last year's link-up between the **Shinshiro** (Japan) Federation of Seniors Clubs and the Elders Council of **Newcastle upon Tyne**, UK, our friends in Shinshiro wished to offer a presentation about life for older people in their city and the issues that are currently of concern to their Federation, notably how to bring more older people into their clubs and to help run them. This time the online link-up also included colleagues in **Neuburg an der Donau** (Germany) and **Newcastle, New South Wales (Australia)** who had expressed interest in participating and contributing their thoughts.

There is likely to be some research and recommendations emerging from this work, so if there is a seniors organisation in your Newcastle and you would like it to be involved, please email us at newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com.



ARTS AND CULTURE

The first two weeks of August is the time of the Summer Academy in **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Germany. It's a celebration of the visual arts and music with teachers and students from all over the world. The courses range from painting, sculpture, youth theatre, and classical music to jazz.

For the last two years the academy was only possible online in a restricted format. Fortunately, it was possible to go back to normal with this year's academy, almost all of the courses took place, and the traditional closing day offered open galleries, free student concerts and a cosy "after academy" party.



Young artist **Milan Prokeš** left the **Nové Hrady** area (Czech Republic) a few years ago to study in Lithuania, where he gradually settled.

For an exhibition in August in the Novohradská galerie Koželužna, he has returned home, together with fellow Lithuanian painters. The exhibition of their creative work is called *Calm Movement*.



A major exhibition - *Newcastle in Water Colour* – has been attracting large numbers of visitors to the Laing Art Gallery of **Newcastle upon Tyne**. The watercolours and drawings on display open a window on the changing character of Newcastle over the centuries and the lives of people in the past. Panoramic views and street scenes show how Newcastle changed from a small, medieval walled town to an important industrial 19th-century city. The city centre of grand neo-classical buildings, created by the developer Richard Grainger in 1830 to '50, is revealed in views of Grey Street, Grainger Street (see left) and the Central (railway) Station.

Author Muharem Bazdulj opened the 20th International Book Fair "Trg od Knjige" in **Herceg-Novi**, Montenegro, held on Belavista Square (the "book square") with the motto "the book is the true form of portable magic."

Over a week, visitors had a high-quality and diverse programme to choose from, as well as to select books for themselves from the offer of more than thirty publishers.

President of the Municipality of Herceg-Novi, Stevan Katić, said the festival has been growing for two decades, "and we with it, enriched by words that change our view of the world". He also noted the social role of the event as an important aspect, reflected in the fact that programmes for children and those dedicated to the Boke (local) publishing house are an indispensable part.



The Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the United Kingdom is hosting the first major European exhibition of sculpture, painting and prints by the renowned American pop artist Robert Indiana (1958-2018) - who was born in **New Castle, Indiana, USA**.

It's a ten month exhibition that runs into early 2023. Indiana's iconic LOVE welcomes visitors at the entrance to the park.

It is usually shown in an urban context, but here it is set within the countryside which is around a two hour drive from Newcastle upon Tyne.

The artist first used the word 'love' in a painting in 1961. In 1964 he began a series of LOVE paintings which used the slanted 'O' within a square format. Indiana said that this was "the most dynamic way to use four letters".

The sculpture of LOVE was first made in 1966, using aluminium.



The 21st edition of the **Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (NIFFF)**, Switzerland, attracted a total of 50,000 festival-goers for the first time. Among many top examples of fantasy cinema, the international jury granted the award for best feature film to "Summer Scars", the striking first feature film from French filmmaker Simon Rieth (see photo, left). The award for best production design was given to the drama "Blaze" from Australian director Del Kathryn Barton. During the nine days of the festival, 160 screenings took place.

PEOPLE

At its meeting at the end of June, the **Neuchâtel** (Switzerland) Municipal Council appointed its officers for the coming year. The municipal councillor and current vice-president **Nicole Baur** took over the presidency of the executive/cabinet from July 1 for the following 12 months, in parallel with her responsibility for the family, training, health and sports portfolio. She is in the centre of the photo, with vice-presidents Mauro Moruzzi and Didier Boillat behind her. In the background (from left to right) are fellow Conseil Communal members Thomas Facchinetti and Violaine Bléry-de Montmollin and Chancellor Daniel Veuve .



The people of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** and surrounding region have paid tribute to former Mayor **Marie Hubbard** who has died. One of the area's most influential politicians, she was the first female mayor of Bowmanville (then named the Town of Newcastle), inaugurated in 1988.

Marie was a councillor for the Town of Newcastle from 1980 to 1982, a councillor for Durham Region from 1982 to 1992, and then served as Mayor from 1988 to 1992. She then was appointed to the Ontario Municipal Board in 1997 and became Chair in 2003.

Marie is depicted on a mural in downtown Bowmanville at 26 King Street East, along with other influential local women.

Dr Thokozani Mhlambi is a professional cellist who has made the journey from a young man born and raised in Madadeni township, **Newcastle, South Africa** to become a celebrated and innovative international musician. His work represents a combination of storytelling, opera voice, jazz rhythms and African song. He moved away from performances expected from a cellist and began exploring ways of being creative with his instrument. He said "it has brought me into contact with people from all diversities, people I would never have met otherwise.

Longer-term, I would like to set up an institute for creativity and innovation in Newcastle, so my local community can benefit with a treasure."

He pursued music studies at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm, Sweden, and the University of Cape Town where he received his PhD. He has performed at leading venues such as the National Arts Festival, Soweto Theatre and the State Theatre in Pretoria. He has also been a visiting lecturer at universities in Finland (Jyvaskyla), and Brazil and has performed and spoken in places such as New Orleans, São Paulo, Maputo (Mozambique), New York and Vancouver (Canada).



He has become known across the world for incorporating art with music, having held an artistic residency at the prestigious Cite International des Arts in Paris France; he also has had his music used as a soundtrack for an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York where he presented a set of Zulu songs, performed on the cello and sung by him.



We were saddened to learn of the passing of **Alan White**, longtime resident of **Newcastle, Washington State, USA** and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer. He was best known as drummer for the famous rock band YES.



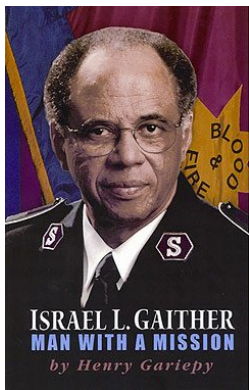
Earlier this year, what was described as the heaviest boxing match in history took place in Dubai between two of the strongest men in the world. It was a dramatic climax to one of the most bitter rivalries ever to hit the sporting world. Both **Eddie Hall**, born in **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, England and Hafþór Björnsson from Iceland had held the title of "The World's Strongest Man"

Now the story of the match, won by Björnsson, is the subject of a documentary by filmmaker Louis Theroux, son of the US travel writer and novelist Paul Theroux.



The film, "The Beast Versus The Mountain" was premiered in England on BBC television at the end of June. Björnsson is also an actor, and played Gregor "The Mountain" Clegane in the HBO series "Game of Thrones" for five seasons.

PEOPLE



Born in **New Castle, Pennsylvania**, son of a baptist preacher, Commissioner **Israel Gaither** was installed as the National Commander of the Salvation Army in the United States in 2006, the first African American to serve in that capacity. Eva Gaither, his wife, became President of the Salvation Army's Women's Ministries the same day, with responsibility for the advancement of women in developed and developing sectors of the world. She had been World Secretary for Women's Ministries in London since November 2002.

Prior to becoming Commander in the United States, Israel Gaither was Chief of Staff, the second-ranking officer at Salvation Army world headquarters in London. He had been Commander of the Southern Africa territory as well. He is the subject of a biography by Henry Gariepy which was released in late 2006. The Gaithers retired from active service as Salvation Army Officers in 2010.



Forty years ago this year, the film most associated with Japanese director **Naoto Yamakawa**, born in 1957 in **Shinshiro**, was released. It's a famous short film called *Attack on a Bakery*, based on a short story by the renowned writer Haruki Murakami. Murakami's novels, essays, and short stories have been bestsellers across the world, with his work translated into 50 languages; he has received numerous international awards. Yamakawa directed another well-received film based on a Murakami story - *On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl One Beautiful April Morning*. However, it was *Attack on a Bakery* that was most successful, winning the Grand Prix Award at the Melbourne International Film Festival.



It's a humorous film about two hungry and impoverished labourers who decide to rob a bakery but get more than they expected - watch it here, with subtitles - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J-BuRgQPug>



The Australian television soap opera *Neighbours*, which launched the career of Kylie Minogue and Jason Donovan among others, was broadcast for the last time at the end of July. What is not well known is that show's theme song, voted the world's most recognisable TV theme song, was written by British singer, actress and lyricist **Jackie Trent** – from **Newcastle-under-Lyme**.

In a recording career spanning almost 30 years, she issued a total of twelve albums and 51 singles, including “Where Are We Now My Love?”, A chart-topper in the UK in 1985.

Neighbours was the longest-running drama series in Australian television history, was broadcast in the UK for over 20 years, also in the USA, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand and (with subtitles) Belgium and Iceland.

Jackie Trent wrote songs for the likes of Petula Clark and Frank Sinatra and was romanced by Elvis Presley. But she was best known for her creative partnership with Tony Hatch, at one time her husband too, with whom she wrote numerous hits. She died in 2015.

Agota Kristof (1935 –2011), renowned Hungarian writer, lived in **Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland, for her rest of her life after fleeing from the repression that followed the Russian invasion of Hungary in 1956. Kristof will now be remembered by a square in the city to carry her name, between the main library and the lake. She received the European prize for French Literature for *The Notebook*, a novel that was translated into more than 40 languages. Neuchâtel City Council wishes to represent more women in public streets, to reflect greater diversity and inclusivity.



In 1887, he travelled from **Newcastle upon Tyne, England**, where he worked as an engineer, to South Africa to join the gold rush, but ten years later, **Henry Wiltshire** decided to settle in **Newcastle, Kwa-Zulu Natal**. He had been involved in England with the construction of railways and docks, and initially in South Africa he worked in the gold mining industry on the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg/Pretoria area).

Once in Newcastle he worked in the coal mines in the town and in nearby Dundee, and for some years he was President of the Natal Mining Association. During the Anglo-Boer War he served with distinction in the Imperial Guides and his squadron was involved, after the relief of Ladysmith, in the retaking of Dundee and Newcastle.



For his services he was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal, and in the following year he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the Natal Government for the Newcastle Division.

He died in 1915 at the age of 78 - *his memorial stone is pictured here.*

HERCEG NOVI HOSTS NATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The national Montenegro Film Festival has been held again in our “Newcastle”, Herceg Novi. The 35th edition was staged from 22-28 August. Here are photos from the opening night at the open-air amphitheatre of Kanli Kula fortress - and there was a welcome from Stevan Katić, President of the Municipality of Herceg Novi.



Audiences had the opportunity to enjoy film productions within five categories, three of which were competitive - feature, documentary and student films. The other two were part of wider initiatives - Kino Evropa and the programme of the Festival Network of the Adriatic Region.



With the aim of making the festival life visible, accessible and vibrant, the films were shown in four outdoor locations: at Forte Mare fortress as well as Kanli Kula, in the courtyard of the House of Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić and in the Park Hall amphitheatre in front of the Burovina Palace. In this way, the festival was positioned as a relevant cultural event for all citizens, but also as a strong attraction for tourists, promoting local heritage.

OTHER NEWS FROM HERCEG NOVI



Herceg Novi has become a member of the European Federation of Napoleonic Cities (FECN) Exchanges. Within the Federation, there are more than 50 member cities whose history is marked by Napoleon’s influence with the intention of creating a common cultural heritage. Destination Napoleon is a cultural route proposed by the Federation, and certified in 2015. The route seeks to unite European cities through Napoleon’s historical influence including exhibitions, cultural events and activities within schools and universities.



The house of the famous Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić in Herceg Novi has been enriched with his personal belongings, which were finally returned following the restoration of the house itself. Andrić (1892 –1975) was a Yugoslav novelist, poet and short story writer who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1961.



The objects in the house, which have formed a special exhibition this summer on the 130th anniversary of his birth, had been kept by his wife Milica’s family, and after many years of negotiation have now been returned to the place where they belong. These include furniture, photographs and letters.

A cooperation agreement was also signed between the Herceg Fest cultural institution (Herceg Novi) and the Ivo Andrić Foundation (Belgrade), which will jointly work on further and deeper study of his life and works.

MALAYSIA - JAPAN LINKS CELEBRATED IN KOTA BHARU

In June, our friends in **Kota Bharu**, the “Newcastle” in Malaysia, were delighted to see the return of the Kelantan Japan festival, marking the special friendship between the countries. The opening ceremony was attended by the Ambassador Mr. Takahashi, Consul-General Mr. Orikasa, and the Deputy Chief Minister of Kelantan YB Dato’ Nik Amar.

The festival was a collaboration between six co-organisers - Kota Bharu city; its sister city in Japan, Kasaoka city; ROHM-Wako Electronics; Universiti Malaysia Kelantan; Look East Policy Society and the Consulate-General of Japan in Penang. There were booths to introduce Japanese food and culture, and there was a Japanese drum performance.



City of Newcastle rallies community toward cleaner energy

Local and regional governments from around the world came together on 29 July to exchange ideas on how to electrify communities to fight climate change, create local jobs, and make the air cleaner for future generations.

As a long-standing member of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability - and Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy Oceania, **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes hosted the virtual webinar. Councillor Nelmes said by leading such an important conversation she aims to promote positive solutions, influence sustainability policy and drive action amongst local and regional communities.



"As a leader in this space, City of Newcastle is delivering its adopted Climate Action Plan 2021-2025, which sets out a roadmap for achieving emission reduction within its operations. This includes the development of a Fleet Transition Plan to target zero emissions from vehicles for 100% of the fleet by 2030.

"By joining more like-minded local and regional governments that are also committed to sustainable urban development initiatives, we look forward to sharing ideas and solutions on ways we can help create systemic change for our respective communities."



It was announced at the end of last year that **Newcastle upon Tyne's** city centre will be the new home for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in the North East, bringing together 9,000 staff. The Newcastle building will be the largest of HMRC's 14 regional centres, a project that will take until 2027 before being fully completed.

The realisation of this commitment moved a step closer last month at a ground-breaking ceremony on the site attended by representatives from HMRC, Newcastle City Council, developer Reuben Brothers

(Newcastle) Limited and their project development team. The new complex will provide 43,000 square metres of new Grade A office space in the heart of the city centre, bringing back footfall which will enhance the vitality and viability of the city's retail core.

The Mayor of **Nové Zámky, Slovakia**, Otokar Klein, met with Ľuboš Cibák, rector of Bratislava's University of Economics and Management (VŠEM) in Bratislava at the city hall recently.

The city has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with VŠEM to continue mutual cooperation between the city and the academic community. The two institutions will cooperate in organising lectures for students and employees of the city office, cultural and social events, in the use of human, informational and technical potential, as well as in the field of professional and scientific research.



VŠEM prepares professionals for public administration by providing higher education study programmes - and also professionals in small and medium-sized enterprises in economics and business management.

Rector Cibák said. "We would like to expand our relationship with Nové Zámky to include cooperation in final theses, organizing professional internships, educational seminars for local governments, or other forms."



The City of **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA** was awarded funds to create a Riverwalk bike trail. The project will finally be completed in early October, with bike lanes and planters boxes, restored sidewalks, and new paving.

The Riverwalk provides a connection between the parking, shopping, office and entertainment areas, incorporating a pedestrian-friendly way along the water, with fronting on the new Cascade Center.



EXPERIENCING AND ENJOYING THE PAST TODAY

Mid-August brought the annual medieval festival in **Jaunpils** in , our Newcastle in Latvia where the great fourteenth century castle formed the main (but not only) backdrop to the activities.

The day began with a service in the Jaunpils church and continued until midnight with a grand concert by the world music group "Kanisaifa" in the castle courtyard. It had something for everyone - fashionistas, history buffs, gourmets and music fans - and a theme built around "The Heresies of Count Cagliostro" - the 18th century mesmerist and occultist Alessandro Cagliostro.



Mid-August also saw the magnificent spectacle of "Danehof" in **Nyborg**, our Newcastle in Denmark, celebrating the city's royal heritage with a staging of its unique medieval history.

The city was buzzing with life – just like the days when Nyborg was the capital of Denmark and the king and his knights met at the Danehof pageant.

For Danehof 2022 there were processions, battles, stalls and taste experiences, as well as music and entertainment all weekend. The festival has grown over recent years and now takes place all the way from the ramparts of Nyborg Castle through the historic town centre and down to the harbour where the Ladbydragen (the dragon ship) and the sailing ship Lisa von Lübeck were waiting for visitors.

And this year, the recently-restored city square was a focal point for the festival.

You can watch King Erik V receive his knights ahead of their tournament -

<https://www.facebook.com/Danehof/videos/485075646793420>



Can it really be ten years ago ?!

Here are some images from our 2012 Newcastles of the World conference in **Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom.**



In August each year, many guest groups of musicians and acrobats take up residence at **Neuchâtel**, our "Newcastle" in Switzerland, for five days. There's no stage, no sound systems, no light shows – the groups simply perform with the 'natural acoustics' of the streets and other public spaces of the city.

After the years missed because of Covid-19, it was great to have over 100 street artists back for the 31st edition of the buskers' festival. Here are some images from this year's festival. The performers were from Brazil, England, Cuba, Italy, Ukraine, Mongolia, Spain, Peru, Kenya, Germany, Belgium, Senegal, France, Czechia, Chile, America, Argentina, Poland – and from Neuchâtel! from Klezmer to Flamenco, Irish folk to Ukrainian beats !



YOUTH

Between 12 and 21 August, an international youth workcamp was held in **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the South Bohemia region of the Czech Republic. Fifteen young volunteers aged between 18 and 26, from Japan, Thailand, Spain, Mexico, Turkey, France, Switzerland, Poland and the Czech Republic, came together for work and leisure activities.

The work involved the improvement of the local nature and tourist infrastructure, specifically Terčino Údolí Park (Tereza's Valley) and Nové Hradý Castle Park - the maintenance of nature trails, clearing of brushwood and helping with the reconstruction of the artificial waterfall.



There were also creative, cultural and family activities and a guided tour of the town with Mayor Vladimír Hokr to learn about the past and present of the town, about cross-border Czech-Austrian projects, and about tourist trails in the area. They also visited the World Heritage site of Český Krumlov, and in the evenings there were presentations by the young people about their national food.

They were also involved in creating a video introduction and invitation to Nové Hradý as one of the goals of the workcamp is to generate feedback from the volunteers on their perception of the city.



On August 12, **Akhaltsikhe** Castle, the municipality and the United Nations Population Fund organised a festival to mark International Youth Day. The Rabati castle complex area was packed throughout the day with diverse, informative and entertaining events: a "Newcomer Forum" was held where young people held a dialogue with local government and civil sector representatives. In an exhibition installation, "Youth for Social Change", active young people from different regions of Georgia took part.. The evening ended with the Festival of Colours and a Gala Concert with Mebo Nutsbidze, Natia Dumbadze and DJ Natuka Popkhadze .



In August, as part of the Pumpura project "EsTev" activity "Piespēle", young people in **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, met an inspirational person, Latvian international basketball player Krister Zorik.

He signed autographs and, together with public health specialist Andri Friedrichson, engaged young people in a range of sports activities. At the end of the month, Zorik was playing for his national team against Great Britain at a match that was played in . **Newcastle upon Tyne!**



In **Australia**, the collection of **Newcastle** Art Gallery has been put in storage while the building's long-awaited expansion takes place, but that hasn't stopped a passionate group of volunteers from creating new ways for young people to connect with the works of art.

The Gallery's Youth Advisory Group has spent the past year working on their Youth to Collection (Y2C) Project, which culminated in June with the official launch of their interactive digital platform. Designed to increase youth engagement with the most significant public collection of art in regional Australia, the project kicked off with the creation and publication of six publications. Each featured interviews with emerging local creatives alongside selected works from the Art Gallery collection that correspond to the its collecting areas of ceramics, sculpture, prints and drawings, photography, painting and new media.

The group are now looking to expand that engagement online with the development of an interactive digital platform and video series that will allow the community to continue to connect with the collection whilst the Gallery undergoes its \$40 million expansion.



Congratulations to the Youth Parliament of the City of **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland, which is celebrating 30 years this year. The Parlement des Jeunes de la Ville de Neuchâtel was created in 1992 with the aim of establishing a constructive dialogue between young people and the municipal authorities. The Youth Parliament is made up of young men and women aged 16 to 25 (the number of parliamentarians is open and varies each year), representing schools located on the municipal territory, various associations and sports clubs, as well as than the "youth" sections of various political parties.

DIA BRINGS DISTINCTION TO ST DOMINIC'S

YOUTH

The fight against plastic pollution has never been more critical, with our oceans expected to carry more plastic than fish by 2050.

Dia Singh, a Grade 11 learner at **St Dominic's School, Newcastle** in KwaZulu-Natal, is doing her bit to change this, and in doing so is firmly planting **South Africa** on the world's environmental map.

The 16-year-old's Plastic Incinerated by Plastic (PIP) system won the first runner-up spot at the Hewlett Packard Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics held this spring in Dubai. The PIP system aims to extinguish the world's plastic by simply burning it. The flammable plastic fuel produced by the burning can be re-injected back into the system to help destroy even more plastic in a closed, and safe environment.

As part of her submission, Dia performed numerous scientific experiments and drafted several engineering designs as well as single-handily developed an app that can help locate and analyse plastic data to be burned by her system.



SCHOOL PROFILE: Situated on a hill about a kilometre from the centre of Newcastle, St Dominic's School, a leading Independent School with Christian values, was founded by Mother Rose Niland. She was born in Cape Province in 1860 and her father, Thomas Niland, was the son of an 1820 Settler, from Ireland.

Mother Rose might never have found her way to Newcastle, if it hadn't been for that important commodity, coal. At about this time, coal was being discovered in Northern Natal, and a town called Newcastle was established at the coal face. In 1891 Mother Rose was sent by her community in the Cape, the Oakford Community, to open a new foundation in Newcastle. Within a week of their arrival at their new home, the first convent was opened with 30 students. Traditionally St Dominic's had been a girls' school, but in 1986 the decision was taken to allow boys the opportunity of private education.

PROJECT ZULU



JESS AND ANHARAD HELP OUT AT MNTIMANDE PRIMARY

During the month of August, the **Mntimande Primary School** in Madadeni Township in the municipality of **Newcastle, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa** had special visitors from the United Kingdom.

Jess Redfern and **Angharad Price-Griffiths**, students from the University of the West of England, have been in the school to teach the young learners as part of an educational exchange programme.



Through the School Principal **Thulanti Phakathi**, a good friend of Newcastles of the World, the school has been involved for several years as a part of the University's "Project Zulu" programme; it's a suite of educational development projects to promote lifelong learning opportunities across township schools in KwaZulu-Natal.

The school has been given a donation to help develop a media centre with audio-visual equipment that will cater specifically for learners who have experienced barriers to their learning. Jess and Angharad have also been fundraising for the school.

As their time at the school ended, Thulani told them "I would like to take this opportunity to praise you for the hard work for our school. Thank you and the people who assisted you with donations. Thank you for teaching our kids English; our community is so humbled, the teachers are so humbled; the non-teaching staff are so humbled. We love you. We miss your charisma already. Thank you!"

Thulani brought young members from his Mntimande dance group to **Akhaltsikhe** (our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia) in 2017 for the St Shalva festival – they were terrific, and performed alongside young musicians from **Newcastle upon Tyne**.



Only four months after arriving in Germany from Ukraine as a refugee, **Maksym Pokhylko** completed his qualifying degree at **Neuburg Secondary School**. In the picture he can be seen with his class teacher **Philipp Voitle** and the headmistress **Anne Graf**.

On 23 August, a multinational sports day (The **Shinshiro** Mini-lympics) was held at the Prefectural General Park in the city. People from many countries, including Brazil, Vietnam, China, the USA, Canada, Cambodia and Japan, who live in the city, competed in six mixed-nationality teams. 11



MORE NEWS

Next year, the market town of Newcastle-under-Lyme (host of our 2006 Newcastles of the World conference) will celebrate its 850th anniversary.

The Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme rose in prominence in 1173 when King Henry II granted the town its first Royal Charter. The Royal Charter gave special rights and freedoms to Borough residents that went on to help shape the borough as we know it. Perhaps most notably this included the right to hold an outdoor market, a long-held tradition that is still an important aspect of the town's vitality and success.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council has written to key partners to offer them an opportunity to support the programme of celebratory events planned for the borough next year. The Leader of the Council, Simon Tagg, said: "We welcome support us in this landmark event, not only to highlight the borough's long history but to leave a legacy for the future."



This year, the annual Newcastle Canada Day Celebration on July 1st also marked the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for Newcastle's beautiful Community Hall.

The occasion was a tribute to the forefathers of the Village of Newcastle and the Massey family who donated the magnificent building for the community. Many will remember it as the centre of our Newcastles of the World Conference in 2016. A large celebration is planned for the centenary of its opening in July 2023. Myno Van Dyke of the Newcastle Historical Society, gave an informative talk on the history of the hall and the Massey family. The Canada Day Celebrations ended with a spectacular display of fireworks along with a Lights and Music Show.



It's been fireworks time again in August in **Shinshiro**, our "Newcastle" in Japan. For the first time in three years, the annual display in Sakurabuchi Park was able to be held but the scale was still reduced due to Covid-19. One of the summer traditions of Shinshiro, the hills and mountains that form its backdrop amplify the explosions from over 2000 fireworks echo in a spectacular fashion.



Within the framework of the program "Renewed Regions", major greening activities are underway in **Akhaltshikhe**, Georgia. In central recreational areas and squares, new attractive trees and bushes have been planted.



The City of **Kota Bharu**, our Newcastle in Malaysia has organised the first "Safe City Run" programme and has also launched "CCTV Friends". Both projects are designed to contribute to the maintenance of a safe city and promotion of a healthy and positive mindset for citizens. Over 1000 people took part in the 6km run - government and private agency staff, students, teenagers and others from many different walks of life.



The **Neuburg** winegrower Josef Tremml cultivates the "smallest vineyard in Bavaria" high above the Danube, at the foot of the Eula Valley with a view of the beautiful historic old town. Tremml now offers tours of the vineyard - and also hiking and "forest bathing" in the nearby woods before wine-tasting.



The growing of wine in Neuburg can be traced back to Roman Times. A few decades ago hobby winegrower Josef Tremml started the revival of this old tradition by planting a hundred vines on a hillside next to the Danube, in the Eula Valley. Then he turned his hobby into a business by planting another 600 vines on 990 square metres in Laisacker, a suburb of Neuburg.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Residents of **New Castle, Indiana, USA** have enjoyed a summer of great outdoor music, not only in the series of "Fourth Friday" downtown concerts but also great shows in the Arts Park Youth Concert Series - the photo is of "Hot Take", one of the park performers in August.

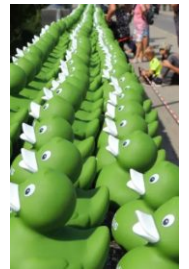


The city of **Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland, switched off public lights in many parts of the city during the Perseids Meteor Shower on 11th August. It was seen by the city as a great opportunity to reconnect with darkness and appreciate the show from the sky. But the City Council has decided to go further and progressively switch off large parts of its public lighting all year, contributing to the struggle against light pollution and also sparing energy.

At the **Neuburg** Summer Danube Swim, 600 swimmers jumped into the river with air mattresses, swimming rings, bathing islands or swimming noodles.

They were waiting for the green Julius ducks to be thrown off the Danube bridge - the swimmers had to try to catch as many numbered ducklings as possible.

The more ducklings a swimmer gathered, the better the chances were in the raffle that accompanied the race. The main prize was a stand-up paddle board worth 500 euros.



In June, the Mayor of **Akhaltikhe** Municipality, Irakli Lazarashvili met the Ambassador of Japan to **Georgia**, Imamura Akira, and other staff of the embassy, who were visiting Samtskhe-Javakheti region. At the meeting, prospects for future cooperation with the municipality were discussed. The Ambassador was especially interested in the socio-economic situation, and the tourism potential in the municipality. The parties agreed to deepen their cooperation and expressed hope to implement joint projects.



Here are photographs from August's Broad Street Cruise-in (**New Castle, Indiana**) - a monthly drive-by of vintage cars to celebrate the city's motor car heritage. New Castle was the home of the famous Maxwell car - thousands of people worked at the factory (later Chrysler). This time there was a cruise-in for the kids too !



And more classic cars - this time it's the annual Donau Classic which came to **Neuburg** in June. 100 classic cars from eight decades of automobile manufacture made their stop on the Schrankenplatz as part of a drive-through check. Now in its 17th edition, the two-day vintage car rally has become firmly established within a few years and is now one of the best-known in Europe.



The last weekend in August saw the "mela" in **Newcastle upon Tyne**, the annual celebration of South Asian culture.



FROM THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD SECRETARIAT

Relaunching our **Newcastles Passport** tourism scheme!

Now that many people can travel again following the lifting of the pandemic restrictions, we are relaunching our Newcastles Passport scheme to promote tourism and friendship between Newcastles.

Each Newcastle taking part has previously selected a series of special offers just for visitors from other Newcastles. The offers, shown on our website, include special discounts from local businesses or a customised programme if the visitor has special interests – places to visit or people to meet, including the Mayor. Please have a look at the website: <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/passport/>

The Newcastles Passport provides you with the opportunity to have tremendous cultural experiences across Newcastles of the World. Ten Newcastles are currently participating in the Newcastles Passport: Neuchâtel (Switzerland), Shinshiro (Japan), Neuburg (Germany), New Castle, Pennsylvania (USA), Newcastle upon Tyne (UK), Akhaltsikhe (Georgia), Jaunpils (Latvia), Nyborg (Denmark), Herceg Novi (Montenegro), Nové Hradý (Czech Republic). Just imagine enjoying free Swiss chocolate in Neuchâtel, becoming a ‘real medieval hero’ in the romantic 7th Century castle in Jaunpils, going on a guided Amish tour in New Castle, Pennsylvania and having afternoon tea with members of the Elders Council in Newcastle upon Tyne, among the many experiences you can have!



In 2019, a group of nineteen visitors from Shinshiro were welcomed to Newcastle upon Tyne. Hosted by the Secretariat, our friends were delighted with the city’s rich cultural offer as well as having the opportunity to meet the Lord Mayor. They had a discounted tour of the castle (Newcastle Castle), using the Newcastles Passport.



Marc-Antoine Strahm, a French teacher from **Neuchâtel** is planning a grand tour of Newcastles, travelling to Neuburg, Herceg Novi and Nové Hradý this autumn. He is considering visiting other Newcastles in the future.



Marc-Antoine said: “I was born in the canton of Neuchâtel in Switzerland and did all of my studies there. I have always found this city very pleasant to live in for many reasons: being able to live close to a lake, enjoying the forest and the mountains to the north, the dynamic university campus and experiencing a very high quality way of life.

This year, after 10 years teaching French in a professional high school, I have decided to take a year off to travel in Europe and beyond. The very fact of being able to integrate into my trip visiting other cities of the same name is original, interesting and very enriching to me who loves my own city so much. What are the other ‘Neuchâtel’s’ like? What is their story? Besides the castle, which gives them their name, are there other points in common with my Neuchâtel? And in addition to all of the cultural and discovery aspects, collaborating with Newcastles of the World allows me to set new and different milestones for my trip.”



ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

www.newcastlesoftheworld.com



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. Our aim is to foster individual, group and civic friendships, with practical links through culture, education, business and tourism.

A message to the community of Nyborg from Mayor Kenneth Muhs

“On behalf of Nyborg City Council, I would like to say a huge thank you for your enormous effort in connection with the Tour de France project. Together, we showed the whole world what we as a municipality can achieve when everyone contributes with their skills and, not least, many, many hours of hard work from associations, volunteers, employees, citizens and businesses. We had a dream to be the world's best hosts together - and we succeeded. All the many practical matters were under control. The city was beautifully decorated everywhere, and there were lots of good and relevant experiences for the many thousands of guests.

Many, many thanks to all our fantastic volunteers and local associations who have contributed to making the Tour de France in Nyborg an unforgettable and shared experience and for your great commitment to a historic day”.



The route included the 18km crossing of the Great Belt Bridge, the third largest suspension bridge in the world. Later, the bridge was bathed in the Danish national colours in honour of the Tour de France winner Jonas Vingegaard.



Congratulations to karate players Nemanja Mikulić and Nenad Đuričić from **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro, on winning bronze medals this summer at the European Championship in Prague..

The Newcastle 500 Supercars event could return to the streets of **Newcastle, Australia** next March. Councillors have voted to support new dates for the final event to be held under the existing agreement between Supercars Australia and City of Newcastle. The event would be held as the season-opening race, although its staging is still subject to approval from State Government agencies. The Covid-19 pandemic prevented the final race scheduled under the existing contract from proceeding in 2021 and 2022.




EUROGYM is the biggest European gymnastics event for young teenagers, held every two years. The city of **Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland, was selected as host for 2022. It brought together 3000 young gymnasts aged 12 to 18 for a week in July for the 13th edition of the event and the 3rd edition of the European Gym for Life Challenge (EGFL). They experienced a wonderful week of seven days of festivities, shows and gatherings.

EUROGYM is a forum for young gymnasts without competitions and the programme focuses on sports activities, fun, exchanges and encounters. There was an opening ceremony, a gala and a closing ceremony as well as workshops and tourist excursions that allowed the participants to discover the Neuchâtel region, its lake and its mountains.

Each delegation put together ten-minute performances and presented their productions (rhythmic gymnastics, dance, air track, acrobatics) to the public on several stages and in public spaces in the city.

There were also many demonstrations by the gym companies of Neuchâtel and all over Switzerland - 126 bands in total!

Young athletes from **Nové Zámky** achieved success at the Slovak Youth Track Championship in July, winning several medals and being placed fifth among 52 participating clubs. Peter Csikós, *pictured left*, won the 800m race in a time of 2:00.33, a student club record. In the following week, Peter represented the Slovak Republic at the distance at the European Youth Under 16 Olympic Games in Banská Bystrica. For the first time he ran below the magic time of 2 minutes and, with a time of 1:59.71 minutes, he made it to the finals.




Tomas Sarina from **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany, recently became European Champion in professional bodybuilding. Tomas, *pictured right*, now has a new goal - to become Mr. Universe!



Newcastle New South Wales land hockey defender Matthew Dawson, *pictured right*, claimed back-to-back gold medals at the Commonwealth games in early August in Birmingham, England as Australia dominated the hockey tournament. After defeating England 3-2 in the semi-final, Australia overwhelmed India 7-0 in the men's Gold Medal match, maintaining their perfect run at the tournament over more than two decades.



Newcastle New South Wales athlete Christie Dawes, who has represented Australia seven times in the Paralympics, competed in the women's T54 marathon and the 1500 metres races at what was her third Commonwealth Games appearance.



Vicky van der Merwe from **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa** won a bronze medal, with her bowls partner, Desiree Levin, at the Commonwealth Games. Vicky is on the right in the photo.

The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Games was the largest ever held, with 72 participating nations and ticket sales of 1.2 million. It was also the first major international multi-sports event to be an integrated event, meaning that the para and non-para games held at the same time. In addition, it was the first games to host more women's gold medals than men's.

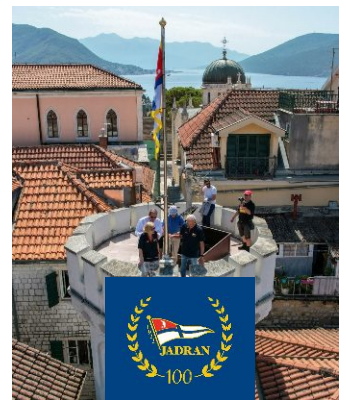
SPRINTING TO VICTORY !



Runner Mindia Endeladze from **Akhaltikhe**, our Newcastle in the Republic of Georgia, has won medals at an international competition in Marsa, Malta, where athletes from 20 European countries participated. Mindia, pictured left, took second place in the 200 metres sprint and third place in the 100 metres.

FLYING THE FLAG TO MARK 100 YEARS

A special flag was raised on the Tora Tower in **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro, to celebrate 100 years of the local sports club *Jadran*. But this is not just any swimming club. *Jadran* was founded on July 8, 1922 with sections for swimming, rowing, sailing, tennis and clay pigeon shooting. The water polo club PVK *Jadran* is a 16-time winner of the National League and 13-time winner of the National Cup.



The flag was raised by the fastest swimmer in the former Yugoslavia, Tia Čamdžić Dožić, and by a member of the champion generation from 1958 – water polo player Boris Čukvas. An exhibition of photographs, “Jadran’s First Hundred” - was held and a special postage stamp marks the centenary.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE TO HOST RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP - AND THE OPENING CEREMONY

The Rugby League World Cup will be the sixteenth staging of this international tournament and will be held in England from 15 October to 19 November. It was originally to be held in 2021 but the COVID-19 pandemic caused it to be postponed. The tournament will be competed for by 16 teams, the favourites being Australia, New Zealand, England & France.



The opening ceremony will be held in **Newcastle upon Tyne** at St James’ Park, the football stadium of Newcastle United, and will be followed by the first match, England Men versus Samoa Men. The city of Newcastle will also host matches at Kingston Park Stadium, starting with Italy Men versus Scotland Men. This stadium is the home of both Premier League Rugby side Newcastle Falcons and Championship rugby league team Newcastle Thunder. For the first time the Rugby League World Cup will be run in parity with the Women's and Wheelchair tournaments with all participants being paid the same, while all 61 matches across the three tournaments will be broadcast live.

Readers may be more familiar with the sport of rugby union (the last rugby union world cup was held in Japan) Rugby union came first, initially known as ‘rugby football’. The Rugby Football Union was formed in 1871 by English clubs, before the game spread further to Australia and New Zealand during the 19th century. In 1892, a proposal to pay players when they missed work for a rugby union match was voted down. As a result, in 1895, leading clubs in the north of England decided to create their own game, with different rules, scoring and pitch size.