



# Newcastles News

Christmas 2022  
New Year 2023

The Newsletter of the "Newcastles of the World" Alliance

[www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)

There was snow on the ground and a chill in the air, but the community came together again for the annual Santa Parade in our Newcastle in Ontario, Canada ! (See right)



Nové Zámky Mayor Otokar Klein meets St Nicholas as the city lights up for Christmas

A scene from this year's wonderful Christmas market in Neuburg an der Donau, Bavaria, Germany.



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR !

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# SHARING MORE OF THE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



**New Castle Pennsylvania's 2022 Holiday Parade and Light-Up Night - with the prize-winning floats**



**Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland, dives into the magic of Christmas this month: chalets with local products, winter terraces to eat, an ice beach, children's stories, a Christmas bullfight and a Silent Party will take you into a succession of incomparable moments!

This year, the City is responding to the challenge of energy sobriety by offering activities with little or no electricity, such as the phosphorescent elves' garden. At the Place des Halles and the English Garden, it will be possible to pedal on fixed bikes to make the luminous decorations sparkle!



**Fenwick**



Fenwick department store in **Newcastle upon Tyne** is famous across **England** for its annual Christmas window, with its seasonal themes, detailed sets and sophisticated moving figures, popular with children and adults alike. This year it's the popular storybook character Clarice Bean (*see right*).

## Lighting up everyone's Christmas!

ORGEKO, a company based in **Nové Zámky, Slovakia** is one of the most important companies in Europe for the production of display lighting decors for Christmas interior and exterior lighting. As well as for homes and gardens it specialises in decorations for parks, shopping centres, squares and entire town and village displays. 98% of the company's production has been realised abroad and they have participated in creating the Christmas ceremonies in many major cities, such as Paris, Monaco, London, Vienna, Madrid, Dublin, Prague and Rome.



Some (mainly European) countries mark December 5th/6th as the memorial day of Saint Nicolas, third century bishop of Myra. It's in the appearance of his helpers that the local traditions differ. In Central Europe, the helpers are devil-like figures and their origins go back to pre-Christian Nordic and Greek mythology. Dressed in animal hides, with horns, and a tail, they look like satyrs and fauns. Large masks or make-up are used to strengthen the scary impression. They carry chains indicating they had been tamed and are now helping their Saint. They also often carry bells, large jute sacks, and rods of birch branches.



In the Czech Republic, groups consisting of one saint, often one angel, and several devils roam the streets and visit the houses to find out which children have been good and which have not, and chase away bad spirits. In **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle, the dressing tradition has survived to this day, and is still very pronounced and purposely scary (*see left and right from this December*).



The annual **Newcastle Toy Run** is the oldest & biggest Toy Run in **Australia**. The Newcastle Toy Run is a “Bikers for Kids” Charity fundraising event, held annually in Newcastle NSW, on the first Sunday of December. For over 40 years the Newcastle Toy Run has collected toy donations, and raised funds, for disadvantaged children and those in need across the Newcastle Region. Here are some photos from this December’s event!



## CHRISTMAS FUN - AND A SERIOUS INTENT TOO



**Jaunpils** (“Newcastle” in **Latvia**) tells us about how Christmas is a little different in their country. If you visited a Latvian house a week before December 25th, you would see little that points to it being Christmas time. Maybe an Advent wreath, but probably no signs of a Christmas tree or other decorations. You see, Latvians decorate their trees and houses only a few days before Christmas, many not before the morning of 24th December. Latvian children get their presents from Father Christmas (*Ziemassvētku vecītis*) on Christmas eve not Christmas day.



But there’s a catch: if you want to receive your presents you have to do something in return! For each gift you’ll have to stand by the Christmas tree and recite a rhyme or sing a song. Fortunately, Latvian folk rhymes are only four lines long and fairly easy to keep in mind.

As opposed to many other countries where the main Christmas family meal is on the 25th December (and where Christmas Eve is a simple affair), Latvians go all out on the 24th December. In fact, traditionally a proper Christmas dinner is supposed to consist of 9 dishes. Some sources even claim 12 dishes! A Latvian favourite at Christmas time and for other special occasions is *piragi* – a delicious crescent-shaped baked pastry filled with onions, bacon, and sometimes other meats.

Here’s this year’s goose parade, a much-loved feature of the Christmas Market in Nyborg, our Newcastle in Denmark!



“New Castle Main Street” is the development agency for **New Castle Indiana, USA** whose mission is to encourage economic development, redevelopment, and improvement of the downtown area. One of their great projects was a promotional film tracking Santa as he visited the shops of the downtown area to buy presents for his own family. Even Mayor Greg York (*bottom left on the photo montage*) got in on the act. Newcastle Transit was co-sponsor with New Castle Main Street, Denney Adams is Santa, Josh Johnson the videographer and Elliott Lamb the narrator.



To view the film, click on <https://newcatedowntown.com/2021/11/26/a-new-castle-christmas/>

# MAYORS ARE ALL RE-ELECTED

In local elections during the past few weeks, the Mayor of three of our “Newcastles” have all been re-elected. From left to right below, Mayor Vladimir Hokr of **Nové Hradý** (Czech Republic), Mayor Adrian Foster of Clarington, **Ontario, Canada** (which includes Newcastle) and Mayor Otokar Klein of **Nové Zámky** in Slovakia. Congratulations to them all - we are grateful for their support of Newcastles of the World.



And on the topic of elections ... our good friend, Willie Woo of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**, formerly a councillor at Clarington Municipality, has again become a councillor, this time for the Durham Region for Clarington Wards 3 and 4. Willie was part of the organising team for the 2016 Newcastles of the World conference in his home community, and also travelled as a delegate to Shinshiro, Japan for our 2018 conference. Congratulations, Willie!



Queen Elizabeth II, the longest-reigning monarch in British history, died in September, aged 96. Since her accession in 1952 Her Majesty had been Head of the Commonwealth of Nations; our Newcastles in Australia, South Africa, Canada, as well as in the UK and other Commonwealth member countries mourned her passing. The photos are from visits to **Newcastle, Australia**, with former Mayor John McNaughton and his wife Margaret showing a treasured photo from a visit when he was Lord Mayor.



Eight days of celebrating chocolate took place in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in October with the latest edition of the “Chocolatissimo” festival. Chocolate boats, fish and other sea monsters occupied the Hôtel de Ville and attracted over 10,000 people. The President of Chocolatissimo, Pierre Walder, pictured below with his chocolate fountain, was a happy man.



As well as celebrating the city’s wonderful heritage in chocolate-making, one of the aims of the festival is to showcase chocolate artisans and young people in training who were able to exhibit their works.

...and each year new chocolate flavours are introduced !



The **Shinshiro** (Japan) International Exchange Association was awarded the Aichi Prefecture Award for Distinguished Service in Promoting Multiculturalism on 19 November. The award is in recognition of the fact that the organisation has been active since 1992 with the aim of promoting mutual understanding between Japanese and foreign nationals.



A lovely winter shot of the castle and church of **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, sent to us last week.

## HERCEG NOVI'S COLOURFUL FESTIVAL



The 54th edition of its famous Mimosa Festival in **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro, will be held from February 17 to March 4, celebrating the yellow flower that blooms in what is Europe's earliest springtime.

This is the biggest winter tourist and promotional event in the country and will be opened and closed by concerts of regional music. At the opening there will be a parade of City Music led by local performers Music Đenović, majorettes and trombone players, and the closing ceremony will be followed by a large international carnival parade. The traditional mimosa, fish and wine festival on the riviera of Herceg Novi will be held on February 18, with the first of several masquerade balls on the same date.

The festival has a very wide reach. It has been already been promoted internationally, with events in Belgrade and Sarajevo and in also in Novi Sad at its International Tourism Fair.



The Launching Ceremony for attractive new lighting at Wakaf Che Yeh Kota Bharu Kelantan Wholesale Market in **Kota Bharu**, Malaysia was officiated by Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Haji Takiyuddin Bin Hassan, State Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, in November.

We were sad to learn of the passing of Jeany Barrett of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**, who chaired the steering committee for our 2016 Newcastles of the World conference there. Jeany's passion for gardening led her to the Newcastle Horticultural



Society where she was President for many years, and helped green the village.

Here is a montage of images from the wonderful Fête des Vendanges in **Neuchâtel, Switzerland** which celebrates the harvesting of the grapes in this important wine-producing area. The imminent arrival of the new wine of the year is a time for music, fireworks and a huge parade in which many members of the community take part. The parade floats are so eye-catching!



Riga Food 2022, the most important food industry fair in the Baltic, brought together together 412 companies from 25 countries in the Latvian capital. **Jaunpils** pienotava was one of the companies who exhibited.



In the Heart of England "Britain in Bloom" Awards for 2022, **Newcastle-under-Lyme** has won the coveted small city category, as well as a discretionary award for the upgraded Grosvenor Gardens (see right).

It's a 20th consecutive gold award for the borough.

The competition is the regional element of Britain in Bloom which is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society to encourage communities to improve their environment.



# NEWS FROM AROUND THE NEWCASTLES



## MARKING THE BATTLE OF NYBORG

Each year, the city of **Nyborg**, our Newcastle in Denmark, marks the anniversary of a battle that played a big part in its history. In the photo (*left*), Mayor Kenneth Muhs and other dignitaries are paying their respects at the memorial at Lindealleen. The Battle of Nyborg was fought between Sweden and the combined forces of Denmark, Dutch naval forces under Michiel de Ruyter, troops of Brandenburg-Prussia, and Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth forces. The battle was engaged on 14 November 1659 on the Danish island of Funen at Nyborg. This was the final major battle of the Dano-Swedish War which had begun in 1658. The Swedish King Charles X Gustav, who was present, admitted defeat and returned to Sweden.

Bringing the people of Armenia and Georgia closer together based on shared principles and common heritage which transcend boundaries was the key objective of the 2nd Stage of the Leadership Academy for Cross-border Cooperation for local authorities of the bordering regions of Armenia and Georgia which took place in **Akhaltikhe**, our Newcastle in Georgia) from 17-19 October.

The Leadership Academy Programme, implemented in the context of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia, was opened by Ministers of the respective national Governments. The Academy has been developed by the Council of Europe's Centre of Expertise for Good Governance and will be implemented in several stages on alternating sides of the border with the objective of deepening knowledge, developing networks, and supporting the establishment of cooperation mechanisms.

“SAKURA”, a volunteer group located in **Shinshiro city**, Japan has received the 2022 Award for Distinguished Services in Promoting International Exchange from the Aichi (provincial) prefecture International Exchange Association. “SAKURA” won the award for their 14 years of volunteer work in Shinshiro city, making visitors and residents from overseas feel at home. This includes English language tuition and exchanges, and a home stay programme.



Great displays here in the tourism office of **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria, Germany - and doesn't the large Newcastles of the World poster look good?!



If you would like this image to be sent to you for your display, just drop us an email at [Newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com](mailto:Newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com) And click here for a slideshow of photos of our magnificent 17 "partner" Newcastles who are at the heart of our alliance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyGKBeyWgul>



James and Kathie Mackay from **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia**, visiting **Newcastle upon Tyne, England** in the autumn, enjoying the sights and the autumn (fall) sunshine - and meeting Lord Mayor Karen Robinson.





Northumbria University in **Newcastle upon Tyne** has been named the University of the Year 2022 in the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards. The awards are widely recognised as the 'Oscars of higher education' in the United Kingdom. The impressive win recognises exceptional performance, as well as bold, imaginative and innovative initiatives that have advanced a Higher Education institution's reputation.

It marks Northumbria's remarkable transformation to become the UK's first research-intensive modern university. The strategy, which began in 2008, embedded quality research at the centre of everything that the University does, alongside a clear social mobility mission, and alignment to business and the demands of the regional and local economy.

This year Newcastle University was shortlisted alongside Northumbria for Times' University of the Year Award 2022, offering further evidence of the combined strength of the city's universities. It is the first time, outside of London, that two institutions from the same city have appeared on the same category for this prestigious award.

An important step has been taken towards the construction of a second bridge across the river Danube in **Neuburg an der Donau**, which would relieve increasing traffic congestion.

The plan documents have just been submitted by Neuburg City Council to the Government of Upper Bavaria for their examination. Pictured with Mayor Bernhard Ghmeling are legal director Ralf Rick, lawyer Anett Schneider and construction engineer Florian Schmid, who took a total of 42 folders of information to Munich personally!

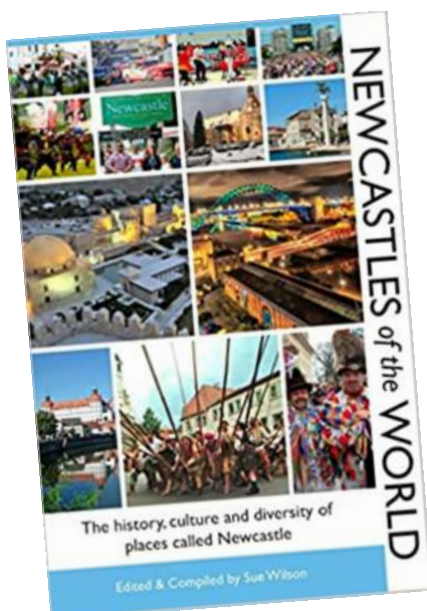


## TIME CAPSULE IS BURIED IN THE VAULT

We reported in an earlier newsletter this year of the special programme of celebrations in New Castle, Indiana, USA, to mark 200 years since the establishment of Henry County, with New Castle as its county capital.

In early October a time capsule was placed in a vault inside the historic County Courthouse in New Castle, to be opened in 2072. There were press cuttings, posters and other memorabilia that reflect present times including a reproduction of the famous LOVE pop art image created by New Castle's Robert Indiana, and a copy of Mark Sean Orr's book "Henry County Memorial Park".

In celebration of the county's 150th birthday in 1972, a time capsule had been buried in the lawn outside the courthouse with instructions to open in 2022. Sadly, when opened, most of the contents had been subject to water damage. The new capsule is in a safe inside the courthouse so it should keep everything well-preserved.



Christmas is just days away and you may be desperate for a last minute gift. So why give not a copy of the book edited by Sue Wilson about the Newcastles of the World? It's a colourful paperback that tells the story of our alliance of Newcastles; but most of all it tells you about the history and culture of our many different "Newcastles", from small villages to big cities - and it's full of photographs that draw you into the stories. Order online from Amazon at £7.99 (less than 9 euros, around 10 dollars) - see <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Newcastles-World-history-diversity-Newcastle/dp/0951048872?fbclid=IwAR2EJxLjzxMkTa->

# Newcastle-under-Lyme's Big Celebration in 2023



The Borough Council of **Newcastle-under-Lyme** in England Council is pulling out all the stops to organise a memorable year-long events programme to celebrate a momentous milestone in the town's proud history. Preparations are well underway to deliver an action-packed calendar of cultural and heritage activities throughout 2023 in honour of the borough's 850th anniversary, with a view to delivering a lasting legacy.

Newcastle-under-Lyme was granted its first royal charter of incorporation in 1173 by King Henry II after a population grew around a "new castle" built by the Normans. An engaging and inclusive anniversary programme is being developed by an "850 working group" in conjunction with partners, local businesses, councillors and sponsors. There will be a new logo recreating the borough crest, which will be used in all promotion, as well as a dedicated section of the Council's website which is now live, and there will be window displays and bunting throughout the town centre and a programme of educational activities for schools.

A strong focal point for the year will be a celebration of famous and influential residents – past and present – involving exhibitions, film showings, talks, online content and a range of family-friendly activities. There will be a different theme each month: January – "Fascinating Folk"; February – "Newcastle People in the World"; March – "Business and Industry"; April – "Literature"; May – "Military"; June – "Big Celebration"; July – "Sports"; August – "Heroes of the Borough"; September – "Rights and Protests"; October – "Arts"; November – "Science and Engineering"; December – "Living Legends".

In addition to one-off events, there are plans to deliver a lasting legacy through proposals for a Lyme Forest containing 850 new lime trees on the former Keele golf course; a new printed book of the History of the Borough; a special subway mural at Queen's Gardens; "Aspiration Keele" – inspiring local students to study at Keele University; the creation of an annual Local Heroes Award ceremony to continue to focus on rising stars from the borough; a heritage blue plaque nomination scheme to acknowledge residents' contribution to society; the launch of an annual history lecture; plus a new statue in the town of the late Queen Elizabeth II.



## Shinshiro's Autumn Splendour

In November, the trees in **Shinshiro City, Japan** and on Mt Horaiji began changing from green to yellow and red.

A carpet of ginkgo leaves had formed on the site of the former primary school at the foot of Mt. Horaiji, where children were playing happily.



The story of the history of the railways in Boka Kotor, **Montenegro**, and the surrounding area, including **Herceg Novi**, has been told through a major photographic exhibition in the city. It featured exactly 121 photographs of author Josip Weber who has researched and collected material on the subject for many years - it was 121 years since the railway came to Herceg Novi, so one photo for each year!

## 121 years of railway history told in photographs

The arrival of the railway was crucial to the development of the city. It was not only an attraction, but a big step towards the realisation of a long-standing dream - direct transport connectivity with the cities of Sarajevo, Zagreb and Vienna, and further on to Prague, Paris and elsewhere. The railway became a ticket to the improved prosperity of an area, as the basis of both passenger and freight traffic - and a huge stimulus to tourism.



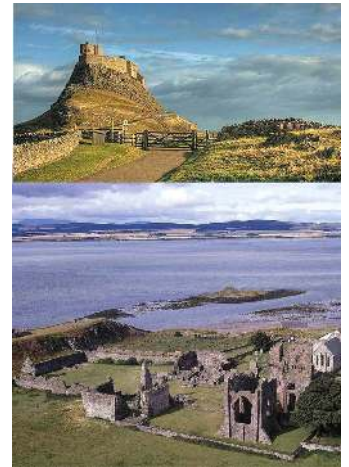


# CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Eadfrith was **Britain's** first great artist who, 1300 years ago, wrote and illuminated the entire gospels to create the astonishingly beautiful and historic book that has been on display at **Newcastle upon Tyne's** Laing Art Gallery this autumn.

Eadfrith was bishop of Lindisfarne, known as "Holy Island", the island off the Northumberland coast to the north of Newcastle. Delegates to the 2012 Newcastle of the World conference visited the priory and castle of Holy Island. The book, in Latin, still has its vellum pages bound together, but they can only be displayed one double-page spread at a time.

The Lindisfarne Gospels are a treasured part of the Christian heritage of Northumberland and of Great Britain. The book's permanent home is the British Library in London, but those who live in the North East believe that they should be brought north for good to where they were created.



## Historic lifeboat to be preserved for future generations

The lifeboat involved in some of the most dramatic rescues in the maritime history of **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** will be preserved for future generations as part of a project being carried out by Newcastle Museum. The first stage of the conservation work, which will see damaged timbers in the vessel's bow replaced by a skilled local shipwright, will get underway next year after the museum was awarded investment through the Federal Government's Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme.

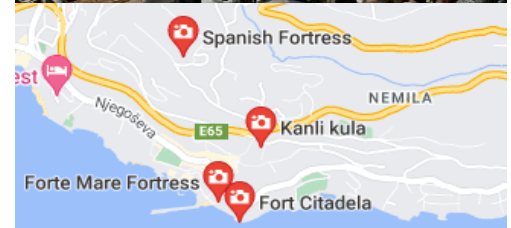


Newcastle Museum Manager Collections and Community Partnerships, David Hampton (*pictured above*), said the Victoria is a central and significant artefact from Newcastle's maritime history used between 1897 and 1946 to enact some of our harbour's most daring rescue missions. "For almost half a century, the Victoria and its brave crew contested the turbulent waters in what was at the time one of the most dangerous harbours in the world to come to the aid of ships off Newcastle's coast." This included the dramatic rescue of 32 men on board the stricken French sailing ship *Adolphe*, which ran aground on the harbour's notorious sand shoals in 1904.

## THE FASCINATING FORTRESSES OF HERCEG NOVI

In the autumn, as part of the programme of the Days of European Cultural Heritage, there was a celebration of the amazing fortresses in **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro. The city has become a member of the European Federation of Fortified Cities - EFFORTS, and is now on the map of the European cultural route of fortified monuments, "Forte Cultura". In the central pedestrian area of the city, an exhibition was staged of the fortresses in Herceg Novi in the past and today. There is also now a programme of visits to the fortresses for pupils of Herceg Novi's primary schools, with the aim of making the children better acquainted with the cultural heritage of their city. See

[https://www.inyourpocket.com/herceg-novi/fascinating-fortresses-of-herceg-novi\\_75460f](https://www.inyourpocket.com/herceg-novi/fascinating-fortresses-of-herceg-novi_75460f)



# BUSINESS AND TOURISM

## NEUBURG'S COMMITMENT TO TRAINING

Training, future, career information! These were the keywords for the important regional training fair in the Parkhalle of **Neuburg**, Germany recently. "A-Zu-Bi!" was the sixteenth edition of the fair and had 64 exhibitors presenting 148 professions and 45 courses. Many thousands of visitors attended.



Global weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin is poised to establish a national missile defence centre in **Australia** at Williamstown - home to **Newcastle** Airport and the Royal Australian Airforce base.

“The Lockheed Martin facility will lead skills development and research in the field of integrated air and missile defence and place Williamstown at the centre of a significant development in Australia’s defence capability said Newcastle Airport chief executive Peter Cock.



**Newcastle upon Tyne** International Airport has just been named UK and Irish "airport of the year" at the annual travel industry awards - for "strong new routes", the overall passenger experience and its carbon reduction measures and strategy. In 2020, it became the first Airport in the UK to operate a fully electric airside bus.



The airport has hit 3 million passengers this year as it builds back custom after the travel restrictions of recent times.

A wind-assisted bulk carrier that Japan hopes will lead a global effort to reduce fuel use and carbon emissions in sea transport sailed into the Port of **Newcastle, Australia** recently before an official welcoming ceremony. Mitsui O.S.K. Line’ “Shofu Maru” arrived on its maiden voyage 17 days after leaving Japan, the first vessel to use a patented hard sail technology known as “Wind Challenger”, which is regarded as a huge environmental step forward for global shipping. The Port Authority took a convoy of media and Mitsui and shipping industry representatives to record the ship’s arrival, before the Channel Berth ceremony which was attended by more than 70 people, including the new Japanese Consul General Tokuda Shuichi.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEP FORWARD FOR GLOBAL SHIPPING



## CELEBRATING THE HOTELS OF KOTA BHARU

There is a new awards scheme for the best hotels in **Kota Bharu**, Newcastle in Malaysia, and a celebration dinner was held on 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Grand River View Hotel.

The ceremony was officiated by YB Dato' Dr Haji Izani Bin Husin, Chairman of the Kelantan State Local Government, Housing and Health Committee.

The event is designed to recognise and celebrate the hoteliers who have cooperated with the City Council in the economic development in the city, especially in the tourism sector.

Over 50 hotels have taken part, including hotels under the Malaysia Association Hotel scheme, and also budget hotels.



## Let's Speak English: Introducing British Culture

Students in **Shinshiro**, Japan, enjoy afternoon tea with the Secretariat whilst developing their English Language skills

Through an online link-up with Zélie Guérin, Carrie and Stella Brookes, the Shinshiro International Exchange Association and Shinshiro International Team, forty-five students from Shinshiro Junior High School and Yana Junior High took part enthusiastically in 'Let's Speak English: Introducing British Culture'. They learnt about opportunities in Newcastle of the World, practised speaking English and had a delicious afternoon tea as part of an introduction to British culture.

As well as asking Zélie questions about British culture, the students had the opportunity to ask Stella, Carrie's 16-year-old daughter, questions on what is currently trending in the UK. They were fantastic participants. It was great fun!



Mr Kenji Matsumoto, Head of the Shinshiro International Exchange Association said: "Thank you very much for your English lesson. The students enjoyed it very much and told us the afternoon tea was delicious. The teachers are very happy that their students had a very precious time with you. We appreciate you, Carrie and Stella spending very early and busy morning hours with us."

## Marc-Antoine's 'grand tour' of Newcastles

"I have to say that these were the greatest visits in the world" said Marc-Antoine Strahm, a French teacher from Neuchâtel, our Newcastle in Switzerland, as he shared stories about his 'grand tour' of Newcastles. His travels took him to Neuburg, Germany, Nové Hradý in the Czech Republic, Nové Zámky, Slovakia and Herceg Novi in Montenegro.

Marc-Antoine talked enthusiastically about the wonderful welcome he received in each Newcastle, how he learnt about the great historic moments these Newcastles are associated with, as well as finding out about their cultures, art and literature. Marc-Antoine said he felt moments of emotion as well as having lots of laughter with our friends in each city who included the Mayor of Nové Hradý (*pictured bottom right with Marc-Antoine*), a former Councillor, City Officials and Tour Guides. He thoroughly enjoyed meeting each representative as well as going on fascinating tours and so appreciates the time given to him.

A few months ago Marc-Antoine contacted me asking about the 'Newcastles Passport' tourism scheme. He was pleased to use the 'Newcastles Passport' on his 'grand tour' and is now considering visiting further Newcastles in 2023. See <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/passport/>

*The personalised welcome and customised hospitality is very much a part of our passport offer. So thank you to the hosts for rolling out the red carpet for Marc-Antoine - in Herceg Novi (see bottom left) to Ivana Palikuća of the Municipal Office for international cooperation (pictured on the left next to Bojana Živković of the city Tourism Organisation and Marc-Antoine), also to Biljana Belušević of JUK Herceg Fest and Gospava Kosović of the House of Ivo Andrić; to the tourism team in Neuburg (see Marc-Antoine's photo of the beautiful Renaissance castle); to Libor Ondrejčík and Katarína Hozlárová in Nové Zámky; and to Mayor Hokr in Nové Hradý.*



# TEN YEARS OF OUR NEWSLETTER !

Next month marks the tenth anniversary of our Newcastles of the World newsletter, though we did have pilot issues ahead of the 2012 conference.

In that time there have been over 40 editions carrying more than 2000 news items, features and photographs. We have built up a direct mailing list of around 2500 people and organisations in over 50 different “Newcastles”, as well as distributing it via Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

We hope that you enjoy reading the news about our unique “friendship alliance”. We don’t think there is anything quite like our organisation anywhere else in the world, linking towns and cities that share the same name and learning about the different cultures and communities in our respective countries ! How many stories can our regular readers recall from that first edition? You can check out all of them in our newsletter archive -

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/newsletter-archive/>



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The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" | January 2013

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Send us your news for the next edition!  
By the end of March - to [david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:david.faulkner@newcastle.gov.uk)  
How about a Youth Council page?

**Awards for Newcastle KZN**  
Newcastle Municipality won two prestigious awards at the Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) department's KwaZulu-Natal Excellence Awards in September.  
Mayor Azeul Rehman was announced the **best local performing mayor** in the province on account of his exceptional leadership of the municipality and for overseeing progress in many aspects of service.  
And for making Executive Committee meetings paperless through the introduction of online agendas, the municipality received an award for the **most innovative project**.  
In a separate scheme Newcastle was named the second cleanest town in South Africa during a prize-giving held in Johannesburg in late November.  
The road which led to the finals has seen Newcastle also bring home the award for the **Cleanest Town in KwaZulu-Natal**, and with the second place nationally the town was given R3 million to spend on improvements.

**Green and efficient**  
The competition not only judged the towns on its general cleanliness, but also on the town's green cleaning projects which included the cleaning of the Neanda River, the placement of bins throughout the town, and the wailing off of the taxi rank among others.  
"KZN is moving forward and Newcastle is one of the driving forces within the province," said Mayor Rehman as he thanked the community for its support.

**Shinshiro City's new Youth Assembly**  
A special conference in October of around 200 people was attended by the Mayor of Shinshiro and other senior officials to hear from the delegates to the 2012 Newcastles of the World summit about their experiences.  
One of the outcomes was to encourage the youth delegates to set up their own Youth Assembly. "Our youth members have now started to think about our city from the point of view of young people" said **Miho Ishino** "We thank David Matthews and all the youth members of the Newcastles of the World summit for supporting us to establish it". The delegates have also been sharing their experiences with the people of their city via local radio.  
It was a special year for international collaboration in Shinshiro as it was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city's International Exchange Association.

**Nové Hradý to host Summit in 2014**  
We're pleased to announce that **Nové Hradý**, in the South Bohemia region of the Czech Republic, will host the 2014 Newcastles summit. Mayor **Vladimír Hokr**, who brought a delegation of nine people from his town to the 2012 summit, confirmed his willingness to host once we all became aware that Newcastle in Ontario, Canada, would prefer to wait a little longer before presenting a summit. (See page 7 for more)

**International Newcastle**

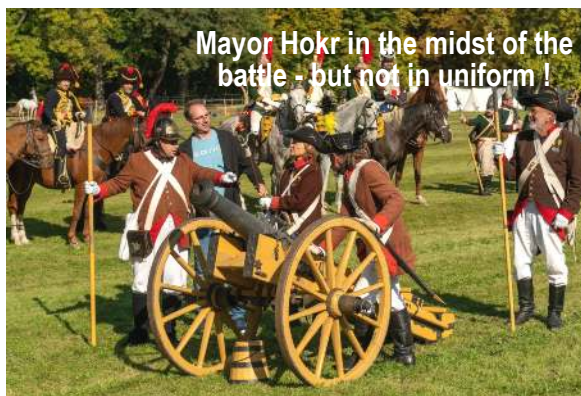
## RE-LIVING THE ARRIVAL OF NAPOLEON'S TROOPS IN NOVÉ HRADY 200 YEARS AGO

A stunning re-enactment of an important moment in the history of **Nové Hradý**, in the Czech Republic, took place in October.



In October 1805, Napoleon's troops, who were en route between the two famous battles of Ulm and Austerlitz, arrived in Nové Hradý and were confronted with soldiers from the Austrian/Russian alliance. There was a risk of huge damage to the town, and the French troops demanded money to leave.

This was averted when Luisa Goll, the daughter of a local teacher and an accomplished singer and musician, came to sing (in French) to the troops which persuaded them to listen and then leave peacefully. There is a monument in the town square marking this time.



Mayor Hokr in the midst of the battle - but not in uniform !




**NAPOLIONOVA VOJSKA V JIHOČESKÉM PŘÍHRANÍČÍ**  
aneb jak odvážná dívka město Nové Hradý v roce 1805 zachránila!

**14.10. - 17.10. 2013**  
HISTORICKÝ ŠKOLNÍ PROGRAM  
Jihoceska vojna v roce 1805  
Program obsahuje:  
- Zábavní a vzdělávací programy  
- Ukázkové představení  
- Ukázkové představení  
- Ukázkové představení  
- Ukázkové představení

**interreg**  
Evropský regionální rozvojový program  
Přes hranice s partnery z ostatních regionů



At the beginning of December, youth representatives from several Newcastles met online at the initiative of Yuki Kasegawa of **Shinshiro City**, Japan. The idea was to exchange information about the various youth councils and assemblies in different Newcastles and to discuss possible future ideas for collaboration.

Five years ago this month, young people from many different "Newcastles" gathered in **Shinshiro**, Japan for their own conference - a very special occasion, with wonderful hosts.



In addition to the host Newcastle, it was good to hear from representatives of Nyborg (Denmark), Kota Bharu (Malaysia) and Neuchâtel (Switzerland). Zélie and David from the Secretariat were also on hand.



Members of the Youth Society of **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, visited the local animal sanctuary recently and are pictured (*right*) with one of the beautiful huskie dogs.

## SHINSHIRO TEACHERS WIN EDUCATION ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Teachers in the city of **Shinshiro** have won a prestigious Education Encouragement Prize from Japan's Chuden Education Foundation. Mr Taiki Imaizumi and Ms Tomoe Suzuki, teachers at Shinshiro Junior High School, have promoted international exchanges with other Newcastles.

In their dissertation "Fostering of students who enjoy interaction in English --through an innovative approach to 'Newcastles of the World' " they explained that the students' interaction with Zélie Guérin the students of Neuburg (Germany) and other Newcastles has been very influential in developing an appetite to learn English.



The teachers commented: "Thanks to the school in Neuburg, Ms Guérin and Shinshiro International Exchange Association, our students have been positively encouraged to learn English and have enjoyed, and benefited from, the interaction with people from other countries".



# POSITIVE MEMORIES OF NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD FROM MARIAM

Hello everyone! My name is Mariam Pamsm-Conteh, and I was particularly involved in Newcastles of the World between 2015 and 2019. I started through being a member of the Youth Council in my home city of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom. Having been part of our Youth Council from the age of 15 to 18, I then became a representative to the Youth Parliament within the UK. Being able to represent Newcastle on the national stage at the age of 18, I was very excited to receive an email a few months later from the Newcastles of the World Secretariat, inviting me to its conference in Canada, 2016.

Participating in the Canada conference was a great experience, where I was able to meet some of the older members of our Youth Council as well as it providing an introduction to the Elders' Council in Newcastle upon Tyne. However, the greatest aspect was interacting with all the other cities outside the UK. We all had different experiences but were all still very proud of being from our respective Newcastles and were very keen to represent our cultures and experiences despite differences in age, gender and social status.

Having the Canadian 2016 conference as an introduction to the community of Newcastles of the World was great as it allowed me to take a more leading role in the next few years. Firstly, came the 2017 Youth Conference, which is one of my favourite memories ever. This was held in Shinshiro (Newcastle), Japan. We, as young delegates, came together with great ideas, enthusiasm, and a hunger to change our cities for the better. We left the conference with not only an amazing performance from the Shinshiro host city but with a plan that was in motion, getting ready to showcase to the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference a year later.

Working with Zélie Guérin, Project Director in the Secretariat, Tia Bjørnholt Christiansen, teacher, Nyborg (Denmark). Yuki Kasegawa, Head of the Youth Council in Shinshiro and David Faulkner, Co-ordinator of the Secretariat, alongside the Shinshiro International team during the summer of 2018, we were able to put together a great conference. I enjoyed having a work experience placement with Zélie during this time. All of the Newcastles in the Alliance were invited to the Conference, and we made the Youth section a more leading part of the Conference overall. We, as young people, left with the result of a website in development, new connections and a team of dedicated people who to this day, are working on the project.

I learnt so much from my time with Newcastles of the World. It gave me skills and experiences that I am still boasting about to this day with memories I will never forget! I have to thank the Secretariat for making my university experience a little bit busier, exciting and worthwhile to still be using it to gain jobs in my now old age of 25!



## ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD

In 1998 the Mayor of Shinshiro in Japan took the initiative to invite representatives of seven “Newcastles” to his city. They have continued to meet – in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000, USA (Indiana and Pennsylvania) in 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, Newcastle-under-Lyme (UK) in 2006, Neuburg an der Donau, Germany in 2008, Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 2012, Nové Hradky, Czech Republic (2014), Newcastle Ontario, Canada (2016) and Shinshiro again in 2018. The aim of our Alliance is to foster friendship and collaboration, and to share and enjoy each other’s heritage and culture. Each gathering takes one or more discussion themes to ensure practical, usable outcomes, also involving our young people.



[www.newcastlesoftheworld.com](http://www.newcastlesoftheworld.com)

# SPORT

## Royal Run to come to Nyborg !

# ROYAL RUN



29. maj 2023

Du er inviteret til Royal Run 2. udsælgning, når kronprinsen igen inviterer til folkefest i egnen.

The Royal Run is a major event in **Denmark** when over 10,000 runners are headed by either HRH The Crown Prince or HRH The Crown Princess - and for the next edition, on 29 May 2023, the chosen location is our Newcastle, **Nyborg**. It's a huge community festival of running.

The running party is coming to Nyborg less than a year after the world's largest cycling race Tour de France also stopped by, and it is no coincidence, says Morten Mølholm Hansen, CEO of the Danish Sports Federation and member of Royal Run's steering committee. "We have had a desire to hold the Royal Run on the island of Funen again, and when we experienced how the whole of Nyborg embraced the Tour de France this summer, we had no doubt that the city will be the right one to host this extraordinary exercise event".

In mid-October, **Newcastle upon Tyne** hosted the opening welcome ceremony for the Rugby League World Cup and the first game – England v Samoa. Over 40,000 people were at the Newcastle United football ground St James' Park to see the dominant victory of the home country, with two of the ten tries scored by Dominic Young (see photo of one of them - bottom right on the photo montage).



Dominic is an Englishman who plays his club rugby for the Newcastle Knights team – in **Newcastle, Australia!** He's of Jamaican descent but said "my mum's side of the family are all from Newcastle upon Tyne; it's weird really, especially when I'm playing in Newcastle in Australia – where a lot of the suburbs have similar names to Newcastle upon Tyne".

Some other matches in the tournament were also played in Newcastle, but Samoa took their revenge by beating England in a second game between the teams at the semi-final stage. However, congratulations go to Australia who beat Samoa in the final to once again win the World Cup !

## SHINSHIRO HOSTS WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

Rally Japan - the home of championship-winning manufacturer Toyota - hosted the final round of the 2022 FIA World Rally Championship in mid-November. The 19 legs over 3 days total 283km, included a special stage in **Shinshiro** (our "Newcastle"), which itself has a great reputation as regular host of the all-Japan national rally championship.

Established in 1973, the FIA World Rally Championship is widely regarded as the most challenging motorsport championship in the world. The WRC pits drivers and production-based cars against some of the toughest and most varied conditions on the planet, everything from snow packed forest tracks to rock-strewn mountain passes.

More than 1,000 people who won tickets to watch the rally visited Shinshiro City to cheer on and take photos of the rally cars as they started their engines and roared down the course.



## HUGE MULTI-SPORT EVENT FOR NEWCASTLE, SOUTH AFRICA



Taking place from 8 December 2022 until 11 December 2022, the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) – KZN Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (SADC) Games (SALGA Games) brought participants from the 61 Municipalities of KwaZulu-Natal Province to Newcastle, Utrecht and Dannhauser—with thousands of sporting enthusiasts in attendance.

With over 5000 athletes from across KwaZulu-Natal descending on Newcastle and its two neighbouring towns, Newcastle Mayor and SALGA second Deputy Chairperson, Xolani Dube, highlighted that the games provide a much-needed financial boost for local tourism and small businesses, many of which are still battling the effects of Covid-19.

The 2022 **Great North Run**, the world’s largest half-marathon race, took place in early autumn (fall) and began with religious and community leaders paying tribute to the late Queen Elizabeth II. Over 50,000 runners have raised many millions of UK pounds for charities. Run from **Newcastle upon Tyne** to the North Sea coast at South Shields, some of the world’s greatest distance runners took part.

The men’s race was won by Uganda’s Jacob Kiplimo and the women’s race by Kenya’s Hellen Obiri. Kiplimo is the world record holder at the distance and won by the very large margin of 66 seconds ahead of Olympic 10,000m champion Selemon Barega, with Ethiopia’s Kenenisa Bekele, three-time Olympic champion, third.

The women's race came down to a three-way sprint between two Olympic champions and a world champion. Obiri, the 4-time World Champion, won her second successive Great North Run and defeated reigning Olympic marathon champion Peres Jepchirchir and World record holder and Olympic champion in the 10000m Almaz Ayana.



Rugby league fans in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** have gathered outside City Hall to celebrate the success of the Newcastle Knights’ in winning the 2022 Women’s Rugby League title. Bringing home the trophy for the first time since the Newcastle men’s side won the 2001 Premiership, the 24-woman squad finished grand final winners with a 32-12 victory over the Parramatta Eels. Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes hosted a civic reception at City Hall, congratulating the team and club officials on their efforts throughout the season.

The team was also presented with a Key to the City. “These women are fantastic role models, showing women and girls everywhere that anything is possible, even in a sport like rugby league traditionally played by men,” said the Lord Mayor.

## CALLING YOUNG CHESS PLAYERS !

Nyborg, Denmark will be holding an international school chess tournament for young people on February 10th, 2023.

Playing chess in school as a part of education is an old tradition in Denmark - chess promotes concentration, logic and mathematical skills.

Nyborg is inviting pupils from the age of 8-15 years from all Newcastles to participate in this online chess tournament, to take place from 10.00 - 12.00 Danish time. Further information will be sent shortly after the Christmas break.

