



## ELECTIONS IN OUR "NEWCASTLES" BRING SOME NEW MAYORS AND SOME RE-ELECTED

The final months of 2021 saw municipal elections in several Newcastles, with some new Mayors now in place and others re-elected for another term.

We welcome the new Mayor in **Shinshiro, Japan**, Mr Hiroyuki Shimoe - and we give our thanks and good wishes to former Mayor Ryoji Hozumi who stepped down after 18 years. See page 2 for Mr Hozumi's message to Newcastles of the World.

Elected as the new Mayor of **Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa** is Councillor David Xolani Dube, pictured below right, at his swearing-in ceremony; more about the New Mayor on page 3. The new Mayor of **Akhalsikhe, Georgia** is Irakli Lazarashvili, second from the right below - we will profile him in the next issue.

Re-elected are Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia** and Kenneth Muhs, Mayor of **Nyborg, Denmark**. We send our congratulations and best wishes to them all.



Images above from the wonderful "Hometown Holidays" festive parade in New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA - and the fireworks display (well, it is the "Fireworks Capital of America"! ) and the city's new Christmas tree.



# Merry Christmas

*And a Happy New Year!*



# PEOPLE



Mayor Hozumi with his successor (left); with the Japanese Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications receiving the award for internationalism (right); and - below left and right - with his team on his retirement.



## A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HOZUMI

Dear Family of Newcastle's of the World

This is Ryoji Hozumi who retired from the position as Mayor of Shinshiro on 12 November, 2021.

The pleasant interaction with members of Newcastle's of the World was one of the most impressive experiences during my career. I could successfully inherit the bridge between Newcastle's that the former Mayor Mr Yoshio Yamamoto had built and further develop it. It is the result of the unified cooperation of committed friends including the Secretariat in Newcastle's of the World. It was a heartbreaking disappointment that the Conference in Neuchâtel had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic that emerged in 2020, and direct interaction between Newcastle's became more difficult than ever before. The pandemic, however, could not break our ties. We still share hope for the future and that, I believe, is the proof of friendship that we have been growing for over 20 years. Our solidarity is the fortune that should be passed to the younger generation.

The Youth Council in Shinshiro, inspired by interaction with Newcastle's of the World, has developed such activity that it will be referred to in a textbook used by Japanese high schools from next year.

I believe Mr Hiroyuki Shimoe, the young and talented new Mayor of Shinshiro, will carry on the commitment to our international friendship project with boldness.

I wish all the members of the Newcastle's of the World Alliance a bright future, continued success and good health.

With sincere thanks,

Ryoji Hozumi, former Mayor of Shinshiro

The new Mayor of **Shinshiro**, Japan is Mr **Hiroyuki Shimoe**

He was born in 1965 and has been elected as a City Council member three times from 2009 onwards. He chaired Shinshiro City Council in 2015-2017.

The Mayor's hobbies include nature observation and motorcycle riding. His favourite sport is rugby, which he played in high school. He calls himself a "rugby geek" and is looking forward to the next Rugby World Cup.

The Mayor said: "The rich nature and biodiversity of our area is a treasure to the city. I am committed to my work of uniting all the citizens' efforts to make Shinshiro an even better city."



# “ALL CHANGE” IN ONE OF OUR LARGEST NEWCASTLES

It’s “all change” following the recent municipal elections in **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa** where a new Mayor and Council have been elected. Taking over as Mayor is Councillor David Xolani Dube of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

The Deputy Mayor is Councillor Shadrack Musa (Sugar) Thwala of TSSA (Team Sugar South Africa). The Speaker of the Council is Councillor Thengi Zulu of the IFP and the Chief Whip is Councillor Faizel Cassim of ActionSA.

These changes, which bring to an end the long run in office of the African National Congress (ANC), mean that a new coalition of interests will come together to manage the Council. The Council’s Executive Committee will be three ANC members, three IFP officials, and one representative from TSSA, EFF (Economic Freedom Fighters) and the longer-established DA (Democratic Alliance)

Via an interview in “The Newcastillian” magazine, we learn more about the new Mayor.

Born and raised in the city and educated in Blaauwbosch, he is a man deeply-rooted in the area. But, before becoming Mayor, Councillor Dube served as the IFP’s chief whip for five years. He gained a wealth of political expertise throughout this time, allowing him to work behind the scenes at times, while always focusing on the lives of the people he serves.

But when looking back on why he entered the political arena, he says, “I became involved in politics because its influence is virtually everywhere, and I wanted to be part of that influence, being able to help those who cannot help themselves, while focusing on the betterment of the town at large.”



Moreover, Councillor Dube is looking forward to ushering in a new era of leadership in Newcastle as a family-oriented individual and a community-driven politician.

“Newcastle is in my heart and a part of who I am. I want to be able to better our town for generations to come. Newcastle is an economic hub and has established businesses and tertiary institutes. Yet, so many people are leaving and I want to change this.” He intends to accomplish this by putting in place mechanisms to attract investment and ensure that the community thrives.”

## A MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE AND A SPARK OF JOY

**Herceg Novi Comic Festival** is an event that has been successfully held for 15 years, the only one of its kind in Montenegro. The festival is taking on an international character as an increasing number of famous comic artists take part every year. One tradition is that during their stay in Montenegro, the cartoonists put one of their drawings in a bottle and throw it into the Adriatic Sea. After 40 days, one of the bottles with illustrations of comic book heroes drawn at the festival had floated to Italy and had been found by a girl named Chiara at the beach of Le Cezine near the town of Lecce.

This was the fifth bottle found from the current festival. The previous four were found in Italy (Brindisi), Istria (Mala Draga Bay), Croatia (island of Pasman) and in Montenegro itself (Bigovo).



# IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME !

The Fenwick (department store) in **Newcastle upon Tyne**, UK is famous for its Christmas window displays. Since 1971 there has been a Christmas display in the shop's windows, and people come from near and far to look at them.

For the second year the much-anticipated "reveal" was held only online, with hundreds of thousands of people from many countries tuning in. The theme for 2021 is "Shaun the Sheep", an animated British children's television series (and film) and a spin-off of the Wallace and Gromit franchise. The display is based on scenes from the latest film about Shaun called "The Flight Before Christmas". These days Shaun the Sheep is followed across the world, from Germany to Japan and from the USA to India.

Last year's window theme was "The Wind in the Willows" and before that "The Snowman" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory", always with detailed sets and sophisticated moving figures across its six display windows that enchant children and grown-ups alike.



On December 5<sup>th</sup> in **Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia**, the popular annual Bikers for Kids' Toy Run kicked off the city's festive season. The event which has been running for over 40 years, raises funds and contributes toys for children in need, and also funds for the the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, and it was supported once again by the Newcastle community.

Following the bike run, spectators and riders enjoyed the music performed by local talent, Santa photos, food stalls, markets and motorcycle displays. The initiative brings joy into the lives of countless families in the greater Newcastle region through the fundraising efforts.



As usual, the citizens of **Neuchâtel** are enjoying the beautiful outdoor lighting that brightens up the city during the festive season.



Here - *left and right* - is the beautiful Christmas market in the old Kongeby, **Nyborg, Denmark**. Sadly, many Christmas markets across Europe have been cancelled because of Covid-19.



Unfortunately, this includes the market in **Neuburg an der Donau** which we always like to feature at this time of year.

# MORE CHRISTMAS IMAGES

The Village of Newcastle, Ontario, Canada - "Winter Wonderlights" and Santa Claus Community Drive-By



Santa in his sleigh



Frosty the Snowman



Robert Meets the Town Crier On King Ave before the Ceremony



All Lit Up at the Newcastle Community Hall



The City centre of New Castle, Indiana, USA is looking good at Christmas time.



New Castle, IN Mayor Greg York believes in Father Christmas too !

In **Nové Hradý**, Czech Republic, early December brings the celebration of "Mikulas" or Nicolas. 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, on Mikulas' eve, 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. This dressing tradition has survived to this day, and is still very pronounced and purposely scary. Here are photos from this December.

## DEMONS AND ANGELS



Lucie Schattauerová

# IT'S WINTER IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE SO, OF COURSE, YOU CAN EXPECT ..... SNOW



Recent photographs: Left above, the beautiful Renaissance castle (schloss) of **Neuburg an der Donau**, Germany; next - Neuburg's Old Town; and the two photos to the right are from **Jaunpils**, Latvia outside the Medieval castle.

The eighth edition of the Neuchâtel festival “Chocolatissimo!” was a real triumph, attracting many thousand people to the Peristyle of the Town Hall and to other venues in the city. Workshops for children, tastings, tours, shows: almost everything was sold out. Since 2014, the City of Neuchâtel and a dozen Neuchâtel confectioners and chocolate makers have presented Chocolatissimo!, a taste and festive event that takes place at the beginning of November. It's a way to celebrate Neuchâtel's chocolate heritage every year and to showcase the high quality of the numerous chocolate factories in the region. For the 2021 edition, the particular theme was comics, and was well-received after the year of 2020 which had seen almost all the activities cancelled.



In **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia the whole of the month of December is filled with a rich cultural and religious programme. There's a huge advent wreath that decorates the main square, Christmas lights, children's performances, good music and a magical atmosphere.



ORGEKO, a company based in **Nové Zámky** is one of the most important companies in Europe for the production of display lighting decors for Christmas interior and exterior lighting. They have participated in creating the Christmas ceremonies in many places in Europe such as Paris, Monaco, London, Vienna, Madrid, Dublin, Prague and Rome.



It's been a long wait for **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro, but finally its musical "The Dream of Boka" has seen the light of day on the stage. "Boka" is the name of the area around Herceg Novi and the magnificent Bay of Kotor. In the musical the audience is led through a nostalgic story that connects the past, present and future with distinguished people from different times in the history of the city living in a single dream.

They include a former mayor, Mirko Komnenović (after whom the city museum is named), great artists such as Zuko Džumhur, Vojo Stanić, Miloš Crnjanski and Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić. The dream is presented as a symbol of eternal life and immortal emotions, a cry for a better, more beautiful and more ideal life. A lot of collective effort, creativity and love has been invested in the musical, and the story is voiced through a wide range of famous songs of many origins, including Russian.

**'Oh Yeah I Forgot About That' exhibition at the Newcastle Museum**



In **Newcastle, Australia**, the Newcastle Museum has welcomed a new and exciting exhibition that gives locals and visitors a peek into Newcastle's history over the past ten years. Artist Trevor Dickison captures in his artwork some memorable moments to mark the Museum's 10th anniversary and its transformation over those years since it opened its doors in 2011.

The artwork is vibrant and larger than life, reflecting events and landscapes that have influenced the Museum's location and transformation. It is a creative way of reminding locals and visitors of the changes that the city and Museum have undergone over those past ten years.



Above are some wonderful photos from the recent show by folk ensemble "Erison" in Rabati Castle, Akhaltsikhe, our "Newcastle" in the **Republic of Georgia**.



Since 2006, the Kilgour Prize at **Newcastle Art Gallery (Australia)** has encouraged innovation within portrait and figurative painting.

One of Australia's major art prizes, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the Prize awards \$50,000 (30,000 Euros) for the most outstanding work of art, and a People's Choice of \$5,000 to the painting voted most popular by the general public.

The main 2021 award was to Lori Pensini with an intimate reflection (left) on her own *Indigenous lineage to her ancestry*.

The "People's Choice" was awarded to Nathan Paddison with his colourful abstract work titled 'Flour Sail' being a "self-portrait of harder times, the flowers representing anything I could find to make a quick buck even a droopy flower".

**KILGOUR PRIZE WINNERS**





Born in **Nyborg**, our “Newcastle” in Denmark, Erik Balling (1924-2005) was a celebrated TV and film director – and recently a dedicated space in the refurbished centre of the city was officially inaugurated with his name. Balling is known as a director of a large number of films and TV productions, including the hugely popular Olsen Gang films, *The House at Christianshavn* and *Matador*. His feature film *Qivitoq* (1956) was nominated for a Golden Palm at the 1957 Cannes Film Festival and for an Oscar as Best Foreign Language Film.

Erik Ballings Plads, designed by Harrebek Architects is a gathering point for events, and is decorated with motifs from the film world, notably a sculpture of three iconic members of the Olsen gang on the way to a heist.



## KOTA BHARU'S UNIQUE ART FORMS

Kelantan state in Malaysia has a rich cultural heritage and in its capital, the city of **Kota Bharu**, the Gelanggang Seni cultural centre serves as the primary avenue for showcasing the best of art and performances. Admission is free and the shows are especially designed to be child-friendly.



On show are a wide variety of activities such as top-spinning, silat martial arts demonstration, kite making (*see left*), Rebana Ubi drum performances and wayang kulit (shadow puppetry) performances, and many more.

In Wayang kulit, the puppets are made from buffalo hide, painted with translucent colours, and mounted on bamboo sticks. They are held up behind a white screen which is placed in front of a light source, so you only see the shadows performing on the white cloth screen.

You might think shadow puppetry to be a sedate undertaking, but not in Malaysia. The show is accompanied by music performed with the serunai (flute), often supported by clashing cymbals and heavy with drums. The Tok Dalang is the master of narration who tells the stories of kings, warriors and adventures in the original Kelantanese dialect, with a unique voice for each character.

In a way, these are the Shakespeare of South East Asia, telling stories from the Indian classics such as *The Ramayana*, and like Shakespeare, there's comedy mixed with high drama. This local entertainment is unique to Kelantan and it used to be the children's favourite pastime before the era of electronic gadgets and mobile phones!



**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 Hradý, 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.

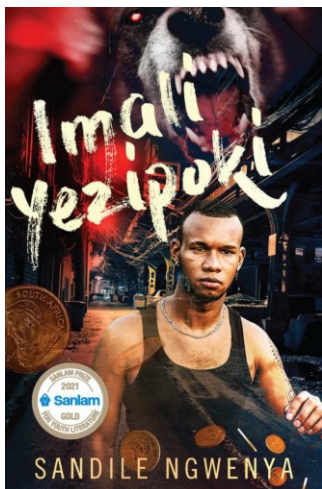


# PEOPLE

Congratulations to Leo Blindenbach from our **Newcastle in Ontario, Canada** who has received the very special honour of a 2021 Senior Achievement Award for the province of Ontario. Leo has a remarkable record of service to his community and a huge commitment to maintaining the quality of the local environment. And he was one of the key members of the committee that organised our 2016 Newcastles of the World conference in his home community.



In **South Africa**, Newcastle-born author, **Sandile Ngwenya** (aged 25) has won a national award. Ngwenya won first prize in the 2021 Sanlam Prizes for Youth Literature Competition with his isiZulu novel, “Imali Yezipoki” The competition was open to all of South Africa’s 11 official languages and the winners were announced in Cape Town. The novel is about Sgedede who, with the help of a witchdoctor, digs up his late grandfather's buried treasure of Kruger rands. He underhandedly converts them to cash with the help of some clever IT friends, but his family's sudden wealth raises eyebrows in the community, and Sgedede is consumed by a guilty conscience. His luck runs out when it emerges his grandfather might be involved in the murder of his new girlfriend's father. Meanwhile some old "friends" turn up, also in search of the coins.....



## Latvian Minister of Economy visits Jaunpils

In late autumn, Government Minister Janis Vitenberg visited **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in **Latvia** to recognise the success of local entrepreneurs and business people. The Minister (*centre of the front row, right*) visited a range of businesses and held discussions with local entrepreneurs as well as Tukums Municipality Council chairman Gundars Vaza (the new local administration) and elected member Ligita Gintere (*second row, second left*), former chairperson of Jaunpils municipality before the recent amalgamation into Tukums.



Baba Rasa of the Jaunpils parish (*second right, front row*) reports that “the day was filled with positive impressions, and gave an appreciation of the importance of business development in smaller, rural communities, and the success that can be achieved”.



On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the President of Switzerland, Mr Guy Parmelin, was received in **Neuchâtel** by the city council for an official visit - pictured below in the centre sitting alongside Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin, Président du Conseil communal of Neuchâtel.

The in-depth discussions focused in particular on the Neuchâtel innovation ecosystem and its skills. With the head of the Federal Department of the Economy, Training and Research (DEFR) he visited a company specializing in intellectual property, before a visit to the City Cellars and a reception at the Hotel DuPeyrou.



On 16 June 2021, as national President, Monsieur Parmelin had hosted the 2021 Russia–United States summit at Villa La Grange in Geneva between Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden.



# Looking back at beautiful times with Newcastle of the World



## My experience as a teenager, and what happened since

Hello, my name is **Timothée Marti** (my name was Pages until a few months ago, when I married). I'm 29 years old and I've been very active in the youth parliament of **Neuchâtel** in Switzerland. I joined it when I was 16 and left it with 25. During these 9 years I had the chance to participate in a lot of projects and a few international exchanges/events like those of the Newcastle Alliance.

My first event of this kind was the Schlossfest (castle festival) in **Neuburg-an-der-Donau**, Germany in 2009. It was not under the umbrella of the Newcastle Alliance, but I got in touch with a lot of people from this network. I became friends with some of them, who I met a few times on other occasions since, like the Alliance's gatherings but also the yearly Neuburg-Neuchâtel exchanges. In 2010, I had the chance to be part of the Alliance's gathering in KwaZulu-Natal in **South Africa**, which had a big influence on me in many ways. It was an amazing time and it motivated me to be even more active in politics and fight for youth's rights.



In 2012, at the conference in **Newcastle upon Tyne**, we could present the project of creating youth parliaments in the Alliance's cities around the world. This project was the result of the reflexcons which originated 2 years earlier in South Africa. I couldn't go to the following gatherings, but I kept contact with some who I had met at our conferences and tried to visit as many Newcastle of the World during my trips in Europe.

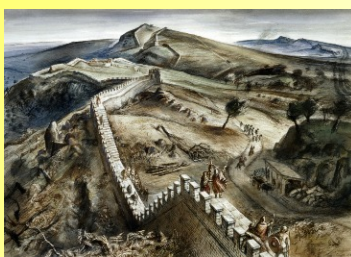
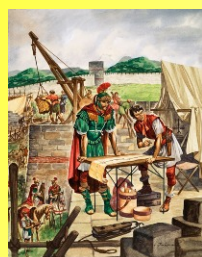
I left the youth parliament in 2017 at the age of 25 as I was finishing my bachelor's degree in Linguistics. During the years in the youth parliament I was part of an amazing number of projects which definitely had a positive effect on the lives of many people in my city. It was an amazing time!

Since then, my way took a curve as I discovered my dream job: paramedic. After 3 years of paramedic school, I got my diploma in February and have been working in Basel, Switzerland since then.

My experiences as an active member of the youth parliament have brought me a lot. And a big part of these experiences was made through events, and meeting other young politically-active people around the world. So, I want to thank the people of the Newcastle of the World for their work and for always making it a high top priority that the youth participate actively in the network.

In our newsletter we often report on events that mark the 50<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup>, 200<sup>th</sup> etc anniversary of a significant event in the history of one of our "Newcastles" - but 2022 will see a celebration of a 1900<sup>th</sup> anniversary !

Hadrian's Wall "1900 Festival" will mark the 1900th anniversary of the beginning of the building of the Roman Wall across northern England, stretching from **Newcastle upon Tyne** and east coast across to the west. Organisations, communities, and individuals are planning to celebrate this unique anniversary in a huge number of different ways across the year in a programme that will include everything from community events to high profile arts commissions. Emperor Hadrian began building this defensive wall in the year 122 - to control movement and trade (via customs posts) from the area to the north. The Wall marked the boundary between Roman Britannia and unconquered Caledonia to the north; it lies entirely within England and has never formed the Anglo-Scottish border.



The Wall is a World Heritage site. A significant portion of the wall still stands and can be followed on foot along the adjoining Hadrian's Wall Path. The largest Roman archaeological feature in Britain, it runs a total of 73 miles (117.5 kilometres). It is one of Britain's major ancient tourist attractions and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. You can also visit the remains of many of the forts along the Wall.

# NEWS from around the Newcastle

## NEW INVESTMENT MAKES NOVÉ ZÁMKY AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

By 2023, the Slovakia Centre for Energy and Biological Waste Evaluation will be established in the city of **Nové Zámky** ("Newcastle"). It is a project of SPP company in cooperation with Brantner, Bytkomfort and the city council. The waste that today end up in the landfill will be evaluated thanks to unique technology and turned into biocompost, biomethane or other reusable material. This will be one of the model projects of the circular economy in Slovakia.

"This is the most environmentally acceptable solution of our time - unprepared municipal waste will not reach landfill," said Otokar Klein, Mayor of Nové Zámky (*second from the right in the photo*) at the announcement of the project.

"I am pleased that, thanks to the initiative of SPP and Brantner, we will create a solution that takes waste treatment to a new, sustainable level in the long term."



## Town centre landmark reopens after refurbishment



An iconic building in the town centre of **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, England has reopened its doors to the public following a refurbishment. The Guildhall's ground floor has been given a makeover - funded by Newcastle's advanced Town Deal - to help the historic building play an important part in the regeneration of the town centre. Residents, shoppers and visitors are once again accessing services from a community and voluntary sector hub at the historic Guildhall where versatile meeting space on the ground floor of the Grade II listed building has been created- making it more suitable for multiple uses, There's also a new-look reception area, fresh wall decoration and carpeting.

The refurbishment was carried out while the Guildhall, which dates back to 1713, was already closed due to the pandemic. *Pictured are Hilary Jones, from the Friends of the Guildhallgroup, council leader Simon Tagg and Jill Norman of "Support Staffordshire".*

Congratulations to **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic who have again won an award for being one of the most family- and seniors- friendly communities in the country.

Pictured, right (with certificate) is Mayor Vladimir Hokr at the presentation.



## SUCCESS FOR AKHALTSIKHE

Local self-government representatives of **Akhaltzikhe Municipality**, Republic of Georgia attended a conference held in the capital, Tbilisi recently on the theme of "Local Self-Government Platform 2021" - the challenges facing local administrations and the programmes that brought success and change.

Gela Nozadze, Chairman of Akhaltzikhe Municipality Council, took part in the event at which Akhaltzikhe Municipality was awarded a certificate for successful implementation of the "Civil Budgeting" programme.

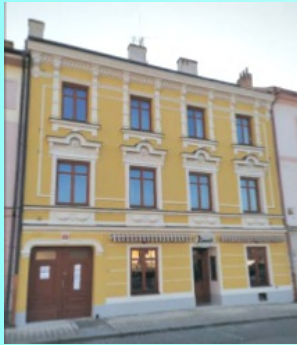


# MORE NEWS



For our “Newcastles”, the issue of transport connectivity to the major cities of our countries is an important one. So it was very good news in Japan recently when a new express highway bus service from Tokyo/Yokohama and Kyoto/Osaka began operating through **Shinshiro**. The City Council of Shinshiro signed a comprehensive cooperation agreement with JR Bus Kanto Co. earlier this year. So “Please come and visit us, Newcastle friends!” say our people in Shinshiro - it’s so much easier now.

With the help of funds from the Czech Government, **Nové Hradý** has been able to carry out important restoration work to a number of its most beautiful and historic buildings.



**Remembrance Day** Following the cancellation of ceremonies in 2020 due to COVID-19 and health restrictions, this year the 103rd anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the First World War was able to take place in **Newcastle, Australia**.

So on 11 November, the City Council ensured that veterans were commemorated, and a remembrance event was organised and held in Civic Park. The wider Newcastle community also ensured they took time out of their day to remember service persons lost during all conflicts, holding a minute’s silence on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

The same day was recognised in many countries, for peace and to commemorate the efforts of armed forces veterans who fought for the defence of their countries. In **Nové Hradý**, Mayor Vladimír Hokr paid his respects at the grave of the unknown soldier.

**A NEW CIVIC LOGO FOR NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA,**



Many of the “Newcastles” in **Italy** meet together as “Castelnuovo d’Italia” from time to time, for brotherhood and to share information. Alberto Soli (of Castelnuovo Rangone) has sent us this photo of their most recent meeting in Castelnuovo del Garda.

Represented are administrators and former administrators from these municipalities - Castelnuovo Belbo (Asti), Castelnuovo Calcea (Asti), Castelnuovo Don Bosco (Asti), Castelnuovo Nigra (Turin), Castelnuovo del Garda (Verona), Castelnuovo del Friuli (Pordenone), Castelnuovo Rangone (Modena), Castelnuovo Berardenga (Siena) and Castelnuovo Parano (Frosinone).

# FROM THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD SECRETARIAT

## My Newcastle - What makes your Newcastle special to you?

The “My Newcastle” video production project is taking off. So far, students aged 12 – 18 years in **Nyborg** (Denmark), **Shinshiro** (Japan) and **Neuburg an der Donau** (Germany) have made films on their Newcastle. Following this, the students decided to make some short movies including messages with feedback on each other’s videos. The messages illustrate how they are learning about the culture and heritage of the Newcastles participating in the project. We hope that more Newcastles in the Alliance would like to get involved. There’s a lot of potential for young people to share information on what makes their Newcastle special and to develop their knowledge of other Newcastles. As the project progresses, there is increasing scope to make friendships and learn about different cultures.

### INDUSTRIAL WORK PLACEMENT: CASE STUDY

To get involved, please contact: Zélie Guérin, email - [zelie@zelieguerin.com](mailto:zelie@zelieguerin.com)

#### Shinshiro, “Newcastle”, Japan



Early in 2022, we will release our case study, which tells the story of an international work placement, facilitated by the Secretariat. Chris Brownhill, Northumbria University mechanical engineering graduate had a successful placement with the global leader, OSG Corporation, in **Shinshiro** (Japan). Chris said: “This was an amazing challenge, a once in a lifetime chance, learning new skills through working in Japan. It’s an amazing opportunity that the Newcastles of the World Secretariat has provided.”



**Shinshiro International Exchange Association** invited Zélie Guérin to deliver some online lessons to students at Shinshiro Junior High School.

Gaining an insight into Newcastles of the World, the students enjoyed practising and increasing their confidence in spoken English, as well as learning about British cultural traditions. There was also a Q&A session.

Over 50 students participated, working in small groups in different classrooms because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Connecting Newcastles Globally  
Zélie Guérin,  
Project Director  
Lesson 3  
09.12.2021



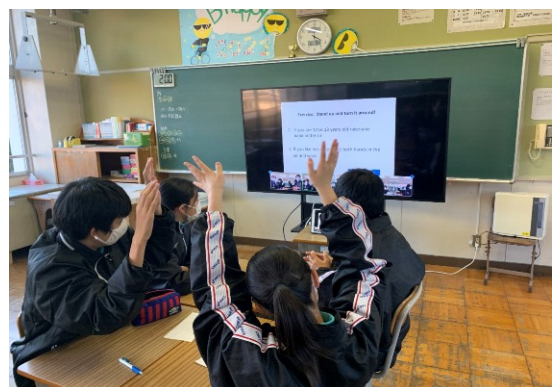
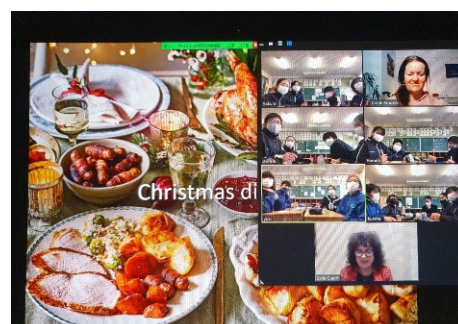
Mr Imaizumi, the English teacher and the students gave positive feedback:

“It was the first experience for my students to have online interaction in English. However, Mrs Guérin’s warm personality broke the ice with them, so that they could all really enjoy the lessons”.

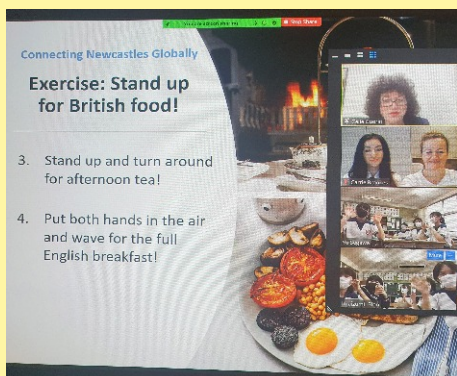
“The students learnt more about Newcastles of the World and became motivated to communicate in English.”

Zélie-san has a very bright personality and the online lesson was fun.

I thought that the English I spoke could not be conveyed to Zélie-san, but I’m glad I was able to convey it. It’s good that Zélie-san knows about Japan. It was fun to communicate with her - more so than I expected”.



Carrie Brookes from the Secretariat participated, and her daughter Stella, who is 15 years old, took part in lesson 2. The students were delighted to have the opportunity to ask Stella questions.



# SPORT

## FROM ONE NEWCASTLE TO ANOTHER !

The Australian football (soccer) season began again in November and **Newcastle Jets** have many new players in their squad. One of the new star players is Spanish midfielder Mario Arqués who joined the Jets from Kelantan FC in Malaysia – Kelantan are based in **Kota Bharu** (“Newcastle”), so he’s moving from one “Newcastle” to another! Arqués joins the Club having spent the majority of his early career playing in Spain, and more recently, the Ukraine Premier League, Indian Super League as well as the Malaysian Premier League.

The 29-year-old midfielder was a product of the famous Villarreal youth academy and featured for Elche in the La Liga, Spain’s top division.



### NEW OWNERS FOR NEWCASTLE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

The English Premier League football club **Newcastle United** has been bought by a group led by Saudi Arabian interests. The kingdom's Public Investment Fund, which has an 80% stake, is chaired by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, though the Premier League said it received assurances that the Saudi government would not control the club. Other investors are PCP Capital Partners and RB Sports & Media. Many Newcastle fans have welcomed the takeover, hoping that the Gulf kingdom's investment will transform the team's fortunes on the pitch, but it has been condemned by critics of the country’s human rights record.

Newcastle fans are not only excited about potential investment on the pitch but also about future upgrades to the training ground and stadium - but for the meantime, the club is struggling at the foot of the Premier League. Amanda Staveley, Chief Executive Officer of PCP Capital Partners, said: “This is a long-term investment. We are excited about the future prospects for Newcastle United. We intend to instil a united philosophy across the Club, establish a clear purpose, and help provide leadership that will allow Newcastle United to go on to big achievements over the long term. I am really confident that with the investments coming their way, we will see an enhanced club. Our ambition is aligned with the fans – to create a consistently successful team that is regularly competing for major trophies and generates pride across the globe.”

Jamie Reuben of RB Sports & Media, said: “We look forward to a great future for Newcastle United. Newcastle is a fantastic city, which is why our family has been investing heavily in the area for many years and - with our partners - will now invest more in regeneration. To become part of this great Club and its amazing fans is a privilege”.



There have been more successes for the karate club members from **Nové Hradý** in national and international competitions (*see above*).



Everybody’s on the move in Tour de France yellow in **Nyborg**, Denmark - it’s one of the host cities of a stage in the famous cycle race when it comes to Denmark in the summer of 2022. Mayor Kenneth Muhs is front, right.



The players of ice hockey club **HC Nové Zámky** have been received by Mayor Otakar Klein (*second from the left in the back row*) at the civic offices. HC Nové Zámky is a professional team that plays in the Slovak Extraliga, the top level of ice hockey in the country. The team is nicknamed *Býci*, meaning "Bulls" and have currently won 8 matches out of the 25 played so far this season.