

## NEUBURG SET TO BECOME A UNIVERSITY CITY



Preparations are in full swing for the scheduled start of teaching on the new campus of the Technical University of Ingolstadt (THI) in **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria. Teaching will begin in the winter semester 2021/22, the first professorships have been appointed and the renovation of the first buildings on the site of the former Lassigny military barracks is well under way. Initially, around 80 students will start in the Bavaria-wide unique Bachelor courses "Sustainability and Environmental Management" and "Industrial Engineering Construction".

The construction of a modular building for around 500 students is also being planned, and is to be occupied by the winter semester 2022/23. "Civil Engineering" and "Digital Building Technology" courses will be added and the number of students will grow accordingly.

Neuburg's Mayor Dr. Bernhard Gmehling (*right*) says: "With the campus of the Technical University of Ingolstadt, Neuburg an der Donau is now becoming a university city itself, a real milestone for us. The campus enhances and enlivens a historical place in the centre of the city, just as the students will enrich and shape city life in the future "

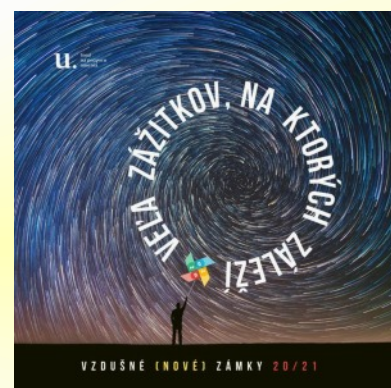
Prof. Dr. Walter Schober, President of the Technical University of Ingolstadt says: "With the Neuburg Campus we are creating something unique: an integrated knowledge quarter where students can learn, research and live. The focus is on sustainability. We are starting with courses that are unique in Bavaria - such as the Bachelor of Sustainability and Environmental Management or Industrial Engineering.



## The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • June/July/August 2021



The City of **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia and the country's **City of Culture** for 2020/21 has announced another restart to its cultural programme. In the next three months, the city intends to re-programme almost all events that were unable to take place on the original scheduled dates because of the latest Covid-19 lockdown.



The city says: "We are still determined to fulfil our plans and deliver our dream. We believe that the remaining programme is very attractive. This will involve bringing wonderful cultural experiences, with top artists from home, and if the situation doesn't change, also internationally. An example for mid-June is the Mongolian Seda Ensemble who will showcase the playing of traditional instruments, vocal techniques of their nomad ancestors and fascinating oriental rhythms. Together they will bring to Nové Zámky the captivating world of the Mongolian steppes and of Persian nights.

## SPORTING SUCCESSES FOR OUR NEWCASTLES

Although sport has had to endure a year or more without spectators, there have still been some very special moments of progress and success for sportsmen and women from our Newcastles. On pages 13 and 14 we have stories that document their achievements - in basketball, volleyball and tennis. We also mark the successful hosting of the first European sprint orienteering championships in **Neuchâtel**, our Newcastle in Switzerland - *see the photo on the right*. And the All-Japan Motor Rally championship stage, held again in **Shinshiro**, Japan. We also look forward with **Nyborg**, Denmark, to the next year's very special occasion when the city will host one of the stages of the famous Tour de France - the planning is firmly under way!



**THERE'S TWO PAGES OF YOUTH FEATURES AND STORIES INSIDE, TOGETHER WITH LOTS ON CULTURE, HERITAGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT- AND MANY NEWS ITEMS TOO.**



# PEOPLE

Newcastle upon Tyne has appointed the city's first ever non-white Lord Mayor in the 800-year history of the position. Councillor Habib Rahman became Newcastle's first citizen at the City Council's annual meeting in late May. The councillor moved to Tyneside from Bangladesh in 1985 at the age of 12 with his mother and six brothers, unable to speak English. Upon his election Councillor Rahman gave an emotional speech in which he paid tribute to his "inspirational" mother and directly addressed his late father, Azizur, who lost his life in a racist attack when Habib was very young. The new Lord Mayor, whose background is as a youth worker, described his appointment as "one of the proudest moments of my life" and pledged to use his year in office to promote respect, tolerance, and equality.



The new Mayor of **Newcastle-under-Lyme** for 2021-22 is Councillor Ken Owen. He has been elected as a borough councillor twice, first from 2014-18 and then re-elected in 2019. He is a member of the Newcastle Independent Group. The Mayor said: "I can't quite believe that I'm actually going to be the Mayor and am really touched by the thought. I'm an ordinary chap who became a councillor to do the best I can for the area I live in, and I will do the same as Mayor. I am passionate about North Staffordshire, I've lived in Newcastle for 51 years and I love the place. I can't think of a bigger honour than being the Mayor of Newcastle-under-Lyme."

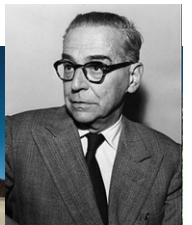


Singer Signe Svendsen was born in **Nyborg** (our "Newcastle" in Denmark). At the end of May the countries of Europe competed musically in the 65th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest, and we remember Signe as part of performers "Rollo and King" who competed in the 2001 contest and finished second with "Never Ever Let You Go". Signe later developed a solo career and she tours regularly; she is also a successful writer for television.

Here's the Eurovision performance from 2001 on this link - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LsoAEb9pW0>

## NEW MUSEUM IN HERCEG NOVI HONOURS NOBEL LAUREATE

Ivo Andrić is the only Nobel laureate from the former Yugoslavia. He won the prize for literature in 1961, and 60 years later the house in **Herceg Novi**, now Montenegro, where he and his wife Milica Babić settled, has become a splendid museum. The Eco-Museum in the house that Andrić had built was opened this spring. The house is surrounded by a garden with over 50 species – a garden that he and his wife loved. If you are a literature lover, this house will be a "must-see" place in Herceg Novi - a cultural centre that honours the author and his work.



In December 1961, in the concert hall of the Swedish Royal Academy in Stockholm, Ivo Andrić expressed his gratitude for the Nobel Prize by quoting from his essay *On Story and Talking*: "To be a man, born without his knowledge and without his will, thrown into the ocean of existence .... you have to swim to exist .. carry an identity .. withstand the atmospheric pressure of everything around us - all collisions, the unpredictable and unpredictable actions of one's own and others, which are not always to the best of our ability. And above all, you still need to shape and endure your thoughts about all this. In short: to be human."



# NEWS AND FEATURES FROM AROUND THE "NEWCASTLES"

## RIDING "DAPPER" - FOR A GOOD CAUSE !

"The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride" is a global initiative that unites classic and vintage style motorcycle riders to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer research and men's mental health. Here's the scene in **Newcastle**, New South Wales on 23 May, with many of the female and male motorcyclists dressed in their smartest outfits. In total, there were almost 200 registered riders in Newcastle who raised nearly 20,000 Australian dollars (12,500 euros; 15,000 US dollars). What a great idea!



## Panorama Camera for Neuburg on the Danube

After almost a year's preparation, the tourism office **Neuburg on the Danube** finalized its newest marketing project. A 360-degree-camera positioned on the highest building of the city, the tower of the "Hofkirche", is broadcasting live footage on the internet and German television of the historical town, the Danube and the castle.



The project has been made possible with the cooperation of the Austrian provider Feratel and the support of the foundation administration Hofkirchenfonds as well as the local parish community St. Peter and Heilig Geist. "Travel decisions are increasingly being made at short notice online so it is important to present our city in an appealing and accessible way", says Christiane Dusse, head of the tourism office.

You can see the live footage of Neuburg at [www.neuburg-donau.info/webcams](http://www.neuburg-donau.info/webcams)

"Hikeobics" is a brand, established in 2019 in **Newcastle, South Africa**, that promotes an active hiking lifestyle in the northern KwaZulu-Natal area, seeking to educate more people about hiking and its holistic benefits.

Founder Tsebisio Maruping (*pictured below*) is also a professional physiotherapist who believes that treatment should go beyond the consultation room. Her hikers are a mixture of patients she has treated before and members of the public who wish to try out the hiking experience. Hikeobics incorporates a range of hiking activities, active fun wear, camping and trail running, as well as special hiking experiences.

Tsebisio says: "We offer guided hiking experiences in different selected hiking farms or locations. We love comfort and style which is what our active wear ranges have to offer. We also offer hiking experiences for corporate, year-end functions, or small intimate groups. We hike because we want to exercise, whilst making memories."



Safe and healthy outdoor pursuits like hiking, golfing, fly-fishing, motorsport, birdwatching and boating are becoming top choices for travellers as the tourism industry begins to recover from coronavirus, and the area around Newcastle/northern KZN is well-positioned to take advantage say Tourism KwaZulu-Natal. The destination has a string of initiatives and projects in the pipeline set to reposition the Newcastle area as a premier tourism destination, focusing on events, natural assets and cultural heritage.

A revised Amajuba District Tourism Strategy now aims to reset Newcastle's tourism identity and brand, which is envisaged as a collaboration between the public and private sectors says Amajuba District Mayor Dr Musa Ngubane (*pictured right*)



Once a sleepy fishing village with rows of shabby houses, Kampung Sungai Budor in **Kota Bharu**, our Newcastle in Malaysia is now a spectacular setting to capture great photos. Ever since the houses were painted with a rainbow of colours, its rural landscape has changed, bringing an air of freshness and creating a cheerful atmosphere.



Today this charming Instagram-worthy hidden gem featuring houses in rainbow hues is a must-visit location for tourists to the state. The idea to add colour to this dreary village was mooted by the Kelantan Women's Association in collaboration with Kota Bharu Municipal Council (MPKB) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

To date, ten village houses have been painted with bright colours and many more are waiting in line to add more cheer to the surrounding area.

# MORE NEWS

**Kota Bharu**, our Newcastle in Kelantan, the northernmost state of Malaysia, has perhaps not enjoyed the same development of infrastructure and urbanisation as the rest of the country. So recent news that the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project was given the go-ahead was received very positively. The ECRL is a 640km rail link that could be instrumental in boosting economic development and activity in the state. An allocation of RM1.57 billion (300m EUR) under the 2021 Kelantan Budget has also been announced to stimulate the state's economy. Five very large projects have been identified to spearhead the ambition - the Phase 3 East Coast Expressway (LPT3), expansion and upgrading of Sultan Ismail Petra Airport, Pasir Puteh-Machang-Jeli road, Kota Bharu-Kuala Krai Expressway, and the Palekbang-Kota Bharu Bridge. Upon completion, the road projects are expected to reduce traffic congestion, especially during peak hours, on the weekends, and during the festive seasons. It would also improve connectivity and spur property development in Kelantan in the residential and commercial areas.



The expansion of Kota Bharu airport is necessary to accommodate the growing number of passengers. The airport is already working to maximum capacity and the new investment of RM440 million (90m EUR) will fund the construction of a new terminal building with separate arrival and departure halls, a multi-storey car park and five more aerobridges. The new terminal will be able to handle four million passengers a year, more than doubling current capacity.



Despite fierce objections from smaller municipalities throughout Latvia, the Government pressed on with its local government reorganisation plan to merge smaller authorities into larger ones. This means a loss of independence and community focus for counties like **Jaunpils** (“Newcastle”) which will now be part of the new Tukums region covering the present Tukums, Kandava, Jaunpils and Engure counties. Residents within the new boundary have now been invited to participate in the development planning of the region, linking them with the Latvian National Development Plan 2021–2027. The priorities of the sustainable development strategy of Tukums region for 2022–2042 have also been started. and Tukums Region Development Programme for 2022–2028. Lots of planning and strategies ! We wish our friends in Jaunpils all the best as they strive to maintain their own character and focus.

The University of Keele, based in the borough of **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, is proving again what a tremendous force a local university can be. The university is launching a new programme to help the town and area recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. “Keele Deal | Recovery” will bring together the University’s assets and expertise with those of its partners, including local authorities, health organisations, business bodies and community and cultural organisations such as Newcastle’s New Vic Theatre.



The programme builds on some of the major areas of the University’s existing engagements in six interrelated themes: Innovation and Enterprise; Cultural Regeneration; Digital Futures; Inclusive Working Futures; Health and Wellbeing; Sustainability and Food Security.

The Deal incorporates a number of ambitious projects led by Keele, including a further expansion of the University’s Science and Innovation Park to attract high value digital, life science and food security organisations into the local area. It will also see the University working with local partners to develop responses to the job losses and changing labour market caused by the pandemic, ensuring that the current and future workforce generations are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed. A further example of the Deal’s impact will see Keele build on its existing partnerships with healthcare organisations to undertake collaborative research into the long-term implications of Covid-19, informing local care planning and supporting clinical education needs.

## NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS IN NEWCASTLE, ONTARIO

Starting with 20 plots this year, the Newcastle Community Garden has begun building small plots on 0.35 hectares of land at the Diane Hamre Recreation Complex in the village. Only organic gardening will be allowed. Wood chip pathways will ease on weeding and preserve water. The Newcastle Community Garden received final approval from Clarington Council at the March meeting.



# ENVIRONMENT

## Wildflower haven coming into its own

Thanks to the efforts of forward thinking, community-minded, eco-friendly people in **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**, butterflies, bees and other pollinator insects will be in for a treat when the new, one-acre Lovekin Meadow Pollinator-Wildflower field comes into bloom. The labour and equipment required to cultivate and plant the site was generously provided by Kirk Kemp, owner of Algoma Orchards of Newcastle, pictured, *right*, with Leo Blindenbach, one of the organising team for the 2016 Newcastles of the World conference in the town. The large field is on the west side of the important Samuel Wilmot Nature Area (SWNA), an environmentally significant nature area surrounding Wilmot Creek & Lake Ontario waterfront.



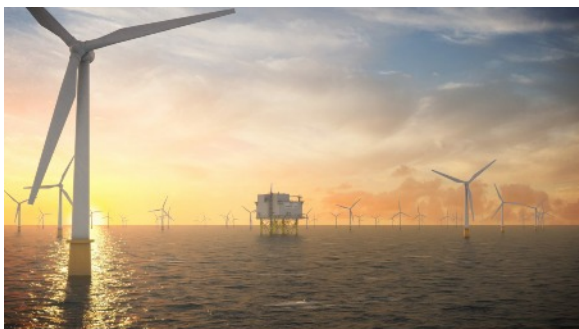
This project began well over a year ago when the Nature Area was awarded a special grant by Wildlife Preservation Canada to buy sufficient wildflower seed to establish the garden. This has allowed the continuation and expansion of the work of recent years to enhance habitat and protect essential pollinator species such as monarch butterflies and a variety of bees. SWNA was asked by the Canadian Wildlife Federation to be part of a workshop to showcase best practices in this work. The project in Newcastles wasn't mega-budget but focused on what can be done almost exclusively by volunteers without dedicated professional expertise.

In mid-April over 100 people gathered in the sunshine in Henry County Memorial park in **New Castle, Indiana** for a ceremony to honour the park's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and Indiana Register of Historic Sites & Structures. The ceremony was held at Salem Shively Lake in the park with a backdrop of the "Big" Four monument that honours the war dead from WWI, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.



The sign designating the park's inclusion on the registers was unveiled at the end of the ceremony. The project was that of the group *Citizens to Preserve Henry County Memorial Park* and has been almost three years in the planning. A flyover in a Stearman PT 17 biplane by pilot Kelly Wilson took place during the National Anthem- the first official flyover of Memorial Park since the Wilbur Wright memorial was dedicated in April of 1923. In attendance at that original ceremony were the siblings of Wilbur Wright; Orville, Katharine, and Loren.

The designation proudly proclaims that 94 acres of Henry County Memorial Park are now listed on the National and State registers which is a great distinction and will open the park up for grant opportunities it was not eligible for before,. It will also boost tourism to the city's wonderful gem of a park that honours county war veterans and has been called the largest living war memorial park in the state of Indiana.



Plans have been unveiled for a new multi-million euro operations base at the Port of Tyne serving the world's largest offshore wind farm, which will create more than 200 jobs in the **Newcastle upon Tyne** area. It will serve as the main hub for the wind farm, which will be capable of powering six million homes once complete. SSE

Renewables is leading on the construction of the wind farm and Equinor will operate the wind farm for its lifetime of up to 35 years, creating more than 200 direct jobs in the region. Some roles will be based onshore, such as planners, engineers and

management, while other roles such as wind turbine technicians will be based offshore at the wind farm itself, with workers living for two weeks at a time on a vessel more than 130km out to sea. Further work in the region will come from the manufacture of the huge rotor blades for the turbines. The farm at Dogger Bank is being built in three equal phases of 1.2 gigawatts (GW) each.



# REGENERATION AND INVESTMENT - NEW PROGRAMMES IN MANY NEWCASTLES



**Newcastle-under-Lyme** Borough Council has been successful in its bid for funding from the UK Government's Future High Streets Fund, and £11m (£12.5m EUR) has now been secured for investment in regeneration over the next few years.

These include demolition of the former Civic Offices building and the significant redevelopment of the whole Ryecroft site as a key anchor-site for the town. This will comprise a mix of employment and residential uses, a new multi-storey car park, new public space and better pedestrian and cycle connectivity with the residential areas north of the town centre. Also, the creation of a series of linked, spacious and modern town centre plazas and public spaces, plus an improved street market with a community event space in High Street - the heart of the town.

The Leader of the Council, Simon Tagg, said: "This huge amount will help us achieve our priority of a 'Town Centre for All' and make Newcastle-under-Lyme town centre fit for the opportunities of the 21st Century."

## "Return" of Neuburg's Pedestrian bridge?

Fifteen years ago the city council of **Neuburg** decided to build a pedestrian and cyclist bridge across the Danube, before a public petition stopped the project. Today, the planning of a second car bridge is rekindling the old plans of the pedestrian one too.

The position of the bridge is planned to be an integral part of an improved bicycle traffic concept for the city and should increase safety along the school paths.

The programme of the state "City and Rural Area" is currently funding projects by paying up to 75 % of investments made for bicycle traffic.

The funding is only granted though under certain conditions, among having an official expert report, which will cost the city around 20.000 Euros. The whole plan has to be submitted by the end of 2021.

But not only that – the bridge itself needs to be completed by the end of 2023! Mayor Bernhard Gmehling calls it an ambitious task but will try everything to bring about an extension of the deadline to ensure the realisation of the project.



The Republic of Georgia has developed a new framework for regional development, and when the "Renewed Regions" commission visited **Akhaltshikhe** for the Samtskhe-Javakheti region it identified several locations for urban renewal. Besik Amiranashvili, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, stated that "there is a very interesting plan for Akhaltshikhe".

This will involve renewal of the city's main bridge, major street and city square renewal, revitalisation of the central park and some further work at the town's splendid Rabati fortress.

On a visit to Madadeni Township, the Mayor of **Newcastle Municipality** in **South Africa**, Councillor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba (*on the right in the photo*), accompanied by Siphon Hlomuka, Member of the Executive Council of KwaZulu-Natal Province, announced huge new investment in water and sanitation infrastructure for the area. The expansion and upgrading of the Water Treatment works, which will cost R69 million (4 million EUR), is set to make a notable difference in the lives of those living in the area. Additionally, through upgrading the facility, Cllr Dr Mahlaba emphasised that the upgrade allows for further housing development in the foreseeable future. Completion is earmarked for June 2023.



The **Neuchâtel** purification plant (Step) is preparing for a complete metamorphosis: by 2025, it will be transformed into a major energy recovery centre. It will also treat micro-pollutants more effectively. With a photovoltaic roof imitating waves, the site will become an open space, aesthetically neat and interesting to visit. A project led by the City in collaboration with Viteos, the project will make the Neuchâtel Step one of the most innovative in Switzerland, shaping the energy future of the canton in an even more sustainable and climate-friendly way

**Newcastle, NSW, Australia** is set to play a major role in new energy generation in the state as the location of a proposed 250 megawatt gas generator. Liddell coal fired-power is facing closure in order to be transitioned into a sustainable energy hub which will see its closure by 2022-2023. During its 50 operational years, Liddell has produced approximately 8000 GWh of electricity per annum, providing power to over a million Australian family homes.



# HERITAGE

The North Hill Historic District is a residential neighbourhood in the city of **New Castle, Pennsylvania** that was entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1999. It covers an amazing 91-blocks, 450 acres and almost 1900 properties, many of them ornate homes and mansions from the 19th century. The district includes a variety of architectural styles including Late Victorian, and Late 19th Century revivals. Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, and Colonial Revival are the most common design styles of homes closest to the downtown area. Below are just a few of the splendid houses.



Formalising a long-standing relationship, the City of **Newcastle, Australia** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Fort Scratchley Historical Society (FSHS) Incorporated, in a shared commitment to uphold the significant military history and cultural importance of Newcastle's iconic fort. The MoU sets out to guide the partners on how they will work together to uphold Fort Scratchley as a treasured part of Newcastle's military history as well as being an important city tourist attraction.

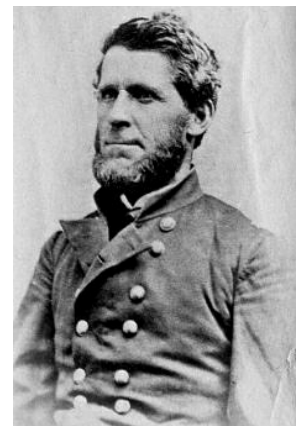


Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes (left, in photo) said: "Fort Scratchley is consistently recognised as one of Newcastle's premier cultural tourist destinations. It is important that both the community and visitors can experience one of Newcastle's most iconic landmarks for generations to come and learn all about the role the fort has played in our city's military history. The City of Newcastle will continue to play a significant role in providing FSHS with financial, promotional and management support in their work toward advocating for one of our City's most iconic attractions." Built in 1882 as a former coastal defence installation to defend Newcastle against a possible Russian attack, Fort Scratchley is now a museum. The Australian Army left the site in 1972.

FSHS are passionate volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the Fort's museum rooms and offer the community guided tours, conduct tunnel tours, and fire the historic guns each day.

William Grose (1812 – 1900) was a lawyer, politician, author, and brigadier general in the Union Army during the American Civil War. He was born in Ohio to a family with strong military ties. In 1829 the family moved to **New Castle, Indiana** where William worked as a farm labourer and in a local brickyard. He studied law in New Castle, where he lived the rest of his life, having established a successful law practice.

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Grose was appointed colonel of the 36th Indiana Infantry, a regiment he recruited, trained and later led. He participated in numerous campaigns and battles with distinction, and during the Siege of Atlanta in July 1864, he was commissioned a brigadier general. After the war, he returned to New Castle and resumed his law practice. Interested in social improvement, Grose took a prominent position on the Indiana commission that oversaw the construction of mental hospitals. In 1887 he won a seat in the Indiana State Senate.



The Gen. William Grose House in New Castle is the home of the Henry County Historical Society, open to the public.



# HISTORY

## MUSEUM TELLS THE STORY OF THE FAMOUS BATTLE

This is the time of year when **Shinshiro**, our Newcastle in Japan, marks the famous Battle of Nagashino-Shitaragahara with both a very large scale historical re-enactment and a battle flag festival. Sadly, because of Covid-19 they will not go ahead this year. But you don't have to wait until 2022 to find out more about this historical battle and experience how it must have been. Museums in Japan have been closed during the latest state of emergency - but they're expected to open again very soon - in which case visitors to the excellent Shitaragahara Historical Museum in Shinshiro can find out all about the importance of this battle in the history of Japan.

Visible from the rooftop observation area of the museum is the long, thin valley known locally as Shitaragahara where the battle, IN 1575, took place. During what is known as the Warring States Period of Japanese history, the forces of Oda Nobunaga and Tokugawa Iyeyasu defeated the renowned samurai, Takeda Katsuyori, whose army had attacked Nagashino castle. Nobunaga's use of firearms to defeat Takeda's cavalry is considered a turning point in Japanese warfare, which, together with his tactical innovation of wooden stockades and rotating volleys of fire, led to a decisive victory. You can see the reconstructed stockades from the museum.



Inside, the museum contains an impressive range of items and documents related to the battle. There is a large selection of over 50 matchlock guns. Old maps, scrolls, paintings, and video presentations round out a most rewarding experience. Some fine examples of samurai armour and weapons and folding screens fill the many glass cases.

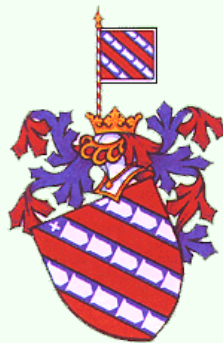
English information is scarce, but the displays are relatively easy to understand and are well worth seeing.

## HISTORY CONNECTS TWO NEWCASTLES

Our Newcastles in the Czech Republic and Slovakia are over 300km apart but there is a fascinating historical connection between them.

Karel Bonaventura Buquoy (or in French Charles Bonaventure de Longueval comte de Bucquoy) was a military commander of French-Belgium ancestry who fought for the Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years' War. In 1618, Emperor Mathias placed him in command of Imperial forces sent to Bohemia to put down a rebellion among the Czech aristocracy. He won several important battles, and, as a result of his successes, Emperor Ferdinand II gave him estates in South Bohemia at **Nové Hrady** ("Newcastle") and nearby.

The Comte died in 1621 during the siege of **Nové Zámky** (then called "Neuhäusel"). This battle formed part of a war waged by the Habsburg army against the troops of Gábor Bethlen, who was Prince of Transylvania and briefly King of Hungary.



The estates granted to Buquoy by Emperor Ferdinand remained in the family for over 300 years until 1945. Throughout that time, the Buquoy family built a lasting legacy in Nove Hrady. The Buquoy Funeral Chapel in the town houses no less than 28 family tombs.

The print (*above right*) depicts the death of Buquoy in the battle. Visible are soldiers on horseback brandishing swords and troops carrying pikes. Also visible in the background is the Star fort of Neuhausel, now Nove Zámky, and an engraved portrait of Buquoy.



# ARTS AND CULTURE

## “Signs of the times II”

A range of sculptures by the **Neuburger** sculptor Gerhard Brandl has been presented at one of the cities art galleries - due to Corona only in form of a virtual tour available on the city’s homepage.

The works represent 35 years of artistic work that reflects the exhibition’s title. Using a variety of material over the years like bronze and brass, the learned carpenter Brandl then returned to his roots by working mainly with wood, inspired by African art – always in his own interpretation and with a humorous twist.

## REMEMBERING A LANDMARK FILM

Opening in cinemas exactly 50 years ago in 1971, the British crime film “Get Carter”, starring Michael Caine and Britt Ekland and set in **Newcastle upon Tyne** and surrounding area, has built an international following. Following its subsequent 1993 home video release, the film received acclaim and endorsements from directors such as Quentin Tarantino and Guy Ritchie, which led to it earning critical reappraisal.

In 1999, Get Carter was ranked 16th on the British Film Institute’s Top UK films of the 20th century; five years later, a survey of British film critics in Total Film magazine chose it as the greatest-ever British film.

It’s the story of a man returning to his home city to avenge his brother, who died in mysterious circumstances, and it set a trend for gangster films of the succeeding generation.



The Swiss Women Artists Project (Swap) association has been running a course in **Neuchâtel** about women artists who have a link with Switzerland, from the 18th century to the present day. These courses, which began in March until June have a social aim - to make art and culture accessible to all audiences, by placing the spotlight on artists long excluded from studies in Art History. The objective is to improve the visibility and recognition of women artists and to encourage exhibitions and scientific research around their works.

The municipal theatre of **Neuburg** hosted this year’s “Oberbayerischer Kulturpreis 2020” (culture award of upper Bavaria). Winners were the music cabaret artist Martina Schwarzmann as well as Neuburg’s own puppeteer group “Fadenspieler”. A small group of guests was able to attend the event; the rest were able to follow the event via live-stream on the website of the Oberbayern district. Living and crafting cabaret art is what made last year’s winners stand out. The puppet theatre had its beginnings in a puppet-crafting course and evolved over the years into one of Neuburg’s most creative and extraordinary cultural clubs said Mayor Bernhard Gmehling who hosted the event. The members not only write their own plays, they also make their own puppets and marionettes.

## NEUBURG’S PUPPET THEATRE ARE WINNERS AS THE CITY HOSTS AWARDS



Residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme (United Kingdom) were recently able to view stunning portraits in the “Familiar Faces” outdoor exhibition in two locations in the town centre. Local artist Adina Lawrence took portraits of the town’s local business owners, highlighting the towns heritage and the businesses’ resilience during these tough times. The project was in collaboration with Appetite Stoke and Grain Photography Hub.



## RETURN OF “THE HOMECOMING”

Newcastle will also be working with Appetite this summer when the town will again stage “The Homecoming”, one of the biggest events in the town’s calendar. It celebrates the heritage of Newcastle-born Philip Astley, the inventor of modern circus, with circus performers of all types performing in the streets of the town.



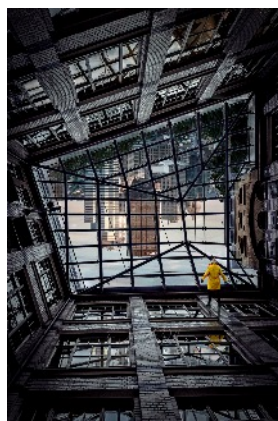
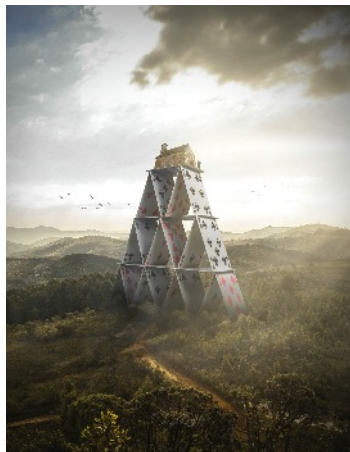


## More about artists from Newcastle who featured in the BIENÁLE ZÁMKY Newcastle of the World project in Nové Zámky in December/January.

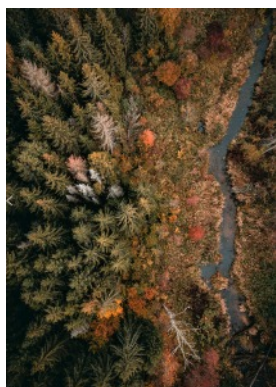
AARON ELLIOTT of **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA** runs “Forward Trends”, a full service creative and development studio. Aaron says: “With a unique, multifaceted background of experience, I am a trusted partner to clients of all sizes from around the country. I offer a rang of services including Web Design, Web Hosting, Graphic Design, Creative Services and more. I have always had a passion for art, design and just being creative.

In my previous role, I found that coding all day and dealing with intricate technology issues can become monotonous. In order to relieve stress and to have a creative outlet, I started creating artwork in Photoshop - my version of “doodling”, in order to relax my brain. I eventually started to post some of these to Instagram which grew organically into a substantial following of 26,000+ followers, and led me to produce artwork for television personalities, musicians and famous photographers among others.”

Here is some of Aaron’s stunning work.



JURIS GRINFELDS has lived almost all his life in the village of **Jaunpils** in Latvia. His first experience as a photographer was in the early 2000’s but he says that at the time it was just “foolin, around”. In 2014 he started bachelor studies in film directing. Juris says: “It was here that I realised that I wanted to pursue my career in this field. I believe that I was born to create things in many ways, photography is one of them. I researched online videos on how to do photography and that’s when I learned all the basics. Primarily I do nature photography - my passion is to find places, see them from a different point of view and hopefully show nature’s beauty to others as well. But I don’t concentrate only on one thing - I also like to photograph people, sports, architecture and so on. I believe that I will learn all my life and be better in my craft by discovering new techniques, styles and ways to capture moments and views.” Enjoy some of his work below:



**The City of Newcastle, Australia** has welcomed the news that the Federal Government has committed \$66 million (41m EUR) towards Newcastle Airport’s runway upgrade. The airport project is a key part of the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan plan and expected to create 4500 jobs. It is estimated to generate over \$12 billion in economic benefits through international airfreight, industrial expansion and stimulation of the visitor economy.

Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said the project will provide a vital boost for Newcastle and the wider region during the next two decades. “The announcement is fantastic news for the City of Newcastle and broader region, following ongoing advocacy to bring our airport’s runway up to international standard and allow it to accommodate long-range, wide-bodied aircraft. Newcastle and the Hunter Region are also home to a wide range of businesses supplying products and services to an expanding global customer base. This upgrade will allow for a significant increase in the commercial activity flowing through the airport”.

Newcastle Airport is jointly owned by City of Newcastle and Port Stephens Council, with the runway upgrade a top priority for the adjoining local government areas.



# YOUTH

## AVENIR - A PLATFORM FOR CREATIVE YOUTH IN HERCEG NOVI

Kreativni Centar Avenir (Creative Centre Avenir) is a **Herceg Novi** (Montenegro) non-governmental organisation that promotes the French language through plays and songs. This association has an increasing number of members of all ages. Receiving many awards, Avenir members have toured much of Europe, from Paris to Moscow.

Of course, because of Covid-19, the members of Avenir have not been able to travel, but they have been constantly working on new ideas and new projects. Through an online platform at the French Theatre Festival in Zagreb, they have now won an award for the most creative independent group work for a new piece of drama.

The talented young people in Avenir from Herceg Novi performed the play *In Search of Happiness (A la recherche du bonheur)*. This was a big challenge for them - they designed the play, guided by the knowledge gained from summer workshops.



Street art, skateboarding and songwriting all formed part of the City of **Newcastle, Australia**'s celebration of New South Wales **Youth Week 2021** in April. The creation of a community mural kicked off a suite of youth-led activities under the theme of "Together More Than Ever".

For the past eight years, City of Newcastle has been working with the Newcastle Youth Council to coordinate a grants programme for the delivery of Youth Week initiatives. This year the programme included a Young Artisans Marketplace; workshops about the history of street art and activism and a Youth Mock Council at the Town Hall. This featured learning about civic governance and bringing forward three motions on issues relevant to young people which the full City Council voted to receive and refer for investigation.



Deputy Lord Mayor Declan Clausen is pictured with Youth Council members. "The City is supporting another two collaborative projects that showcase and recognise local First Nations talent and promote positive use of public space," he explained. "Newcastle Youth Week is planned and delivered by young people for young people and provides opportunities for local youth to connect with each other and their local communities."



Sixteen-year-old Suhaan Singh, who attends school in **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**, achieved the accolade of being selected to represent South Africa at the 2021 Virtual Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair in the USA. Suhaan had used a Lego kit to create a



Covid-19 screening and sanitising robot, and also developed a data capturing app to accompany his invention. His invention had already won a medal at the 2020 Eskom Expo South African International Science Fair. Newcastle Mayor, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba welcomed Suhaan and his parents to the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall and presented him with a science textbook ahead of his trip to America.



Simone Nicola Filippo and Caroline Bourrit are two young Swiss artists from **Neuchâtel** who will benefit from the award of residencies, one in Cairo, the other in Brussels, in the second half of 2021. Caroline is Holder of a master's degree in Contemporary Arts Practice and will explore the application of value systems, in particular around the notion of landscape. Simone will soon finish his master's degree at the Cantonal Art School in Lausanne and seeks to be inspired by the Egyptian city to realise a publishing project. The residencies are made available to creators by the City of Neuchâtel in partnership with the Conference of Cities in Cultural Matters (for Cairo) and the Jura Arc Communities (for Brussels).



# YOUTH



There there will be a great summer of activities for young people in **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia with the success in the “PumpuRS” Youth Initiative Competition. The project “Levestes Spicie” (or “Present” - as in “here and now”) has been 100 % financed by the European Social Fund, following a successful bid. The project provides nine days of activities, both educational and informal, aimed at experience and understanding what the feeling of presence and its effect means. The aim of activities during the summer is also to reduce the negative impact of remote learning on mental and physical health.

The competition is organised within the framework of the European Social Fund project “Support for early termination of learning, with a specific aim” to reduce premature termination of training through preventive and intervention measures”. It’s about increasing the motivation to continue education and promote active participation in everyday life - and also to engage at-risk groups in activities and youth initiative projects outside formal education.

## FEATURE - NYBORG YOUTH COUNCIL AND YOUTH COMMITTEE

**Nyborg**, our Newcastle in Denmark, has an active Youth Council (Nyborg Ungdomsråd) which aims to create an attractive social environment for all young people between 15 - 25 years in the municipality.

It is an important voice for young people and has made a significant contribution by helping to develop and implement Nyborg’s youth policy. Flowing from that policy, a strategy and action plan has been prepared with initiatives and activities for the year 2021 – 2022; among other things, Nyborg Youth Council's website becomes the central website with information for young people.

The Youth Council participates in the political agenda of Nyborg Municipality and has an important influence on the decision-making processes within the youth area. It also spends funds on creating events for young people such as “OpenMic” and “Second Hand Bazar”, concerts and festivals, and has developed a climate emergency campaign this year.

The Youth Council comprises a board of seven young people, elected at the annual meeting, plus activity groups. Grejsen - Ungdommens Hus (Youth House), is a meeting place for Nyborg's young people between 15 and 25 years, a venue in the centre of Nyborg where everyone can socialise and meet for events and activities.

You can find more information about the Council's articles of association, board and members, Youth House, campaigns, activities and much more on this website: [www.nyborgungdomsraad.dk](http://www.nyborgungdomsraad.dk)



Nyborg Municipality has itself established a dedicated Youth Committee, with the participation of city council members, young people and representatives from the educational institutions in Nyborg Municipality. It was set up as part of the 2019/20 budget process with a view to developing and formulating the youth policy for the municipality.

Chaired by City Councillor Tilde Nielsen, the Committee’s vision for young people is for Nyborg Municipality to be a municipality where young people are taken seriously and are part of mutually-binding communities; where young people's visions, thoughts, dreams and ideas can become a reality; and where young people and families with young people want to settle.

You can find and read more about the youth policy 'Young people in Nyborg' on this link – <https://www.nyborg.dk/da/Politik/Politikker-og-strategier/Ung-i-Nyborg>

The Council Chamber of **Newcastle Municipality** in KwaZulu-Natal, **South Africa** came alive on 6th May, with 22 schools from around the Amajuba District attending a Youth Parliament Programme. Nonhlanhla Mbonane, regional manager for the Electoral Commission of South Africa and Newcastle Municipality Speaker Samukelisiwe Yende explained the purpose of the day was to introduce school learners to the electoral process, and promote public participation within the community, while educating school-goers on the workings of a democratic country.

With municipal elections later this year, they said that extensive efforts were being put into public participation this year, principally when focusing on the youth and first-time voters. “We need to put youth in the forefront in decision-making, involving them to see how they can help develop and improve the country and its decision making.” 12





The City of **Neuchâtel**, Switzerland, hosted the European sprint orienteering championships from May 13 to 16. Some 250 athletes from 28 countries competed over four days, in the city centre but also in Saint-Blaise, and three finals were broadcast live on national television. This represented a magnificent business card for the whole region. It was the first time that the event had taken place in this format, exclusively featuring short distance races in urban settings. The spectacular setting of the streets of the Old Town and Castle Hill added to the excitement for the participants and spectators alike.



Tove Alexandersson of Sweden won the women's main event and her compatriot Emil Svensk won the men's event. The home nation won the team event and also the men's knock-out event (Sweden the women's). The president of the communal council, Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin, presented the medals.



From 20th to 23rd May, the community of **Nové Hradky**, our "Newcastle" in the Czech Republic, participated in an interesting run, the "Memory of the Nation" run. Runners write on their start number, for example, a relative who went through a communist camp, someone else who is a role model and recently died, or the names of prosecuted journalists, political prisoners or others who gave their lives for the Czech nation.

It couldn't be a mass run this year because of Covid-19, but individuals and family groups took part, using an app on their smart phone to log their involvement for any of 1k, 5k or 10k runs.

Despite cancellation of some of the race categories because of bad weather, the **Shinshiro** Rally took place again in March. The winner of the main event was Toshihiro Arai, with co-driver Naoya Tanaka driving a Subaru WRX STI, followed by the Hiroki Arai/Noritaka Kosaka team.



The All-Japan Rally Championship is a national rally event organized by the Japan Automobile Federation (JAF) registered clubs and organisations. It has been held for more than 30 years and the Shinshiro rally was the second scheduled event in this year's championship. How sad that because of Covid-19 spectators were not permitted at this event, which is so special in Shinshiro's sporting calendar.

The **Newcastle (upon Tyne) Eagles** produced a vintage display to emerge winners 68-66 against London Lions in a dramatic British Basketball League Play-off final. When previous player-coach Fab Flournoy left for the NBA and Canada, many thought the legacy and glory era might have been over.

Not a bit of it. Coached by local man Ian MacLeod the legacy rolls on – it's the third national trophy in two seasons and the 27th in the club's history – the most successful team in British basketball.





# SPORT

Even before this year's race takes place, preparations are in full swing for next year's Tour de France and in particular its start in Denmark (1-3 July).



The race's second stage will put **Nyborg**, our Danish Newcastle, on the world sporting map when the riders cross the Great Belt Bridge and cross the finish line on Storebæltsvej in Nyborg.

In mid-May the Danish tour organisers received a delegation visit from the French race organisation, ASO, to discuss the setup, logistics and organisation for the Danish tour start. When one of the world's biggest sporting events comes to Denmark, it will happen with hundreds of thousands of spectators, up to 2,000 accredited media people and 22 cycling teams with 176 world-class riders.

We have carried stories in the past about the achievements of Eddie Hall, from **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, United Kingdom, who won the title of the "World's Strongest Man" in 2017.

Now Eddie is turning to boxing for the first time, and on Saturday, September 18 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, USA he will be fighting Hafthor "Thor" Bjornsson in a 6-round heavyweight bout, billed as "The Heaviest Boxing Match in History". Bjornsson weighs over 30 st (almost 200 kilos), whilst Eddie "The Beast" weighs a mere 26 st or 165 kilos.



Both Hall and Björnsson will go into the fight with numerous accolades in strength athletics, yet without a single boxing match on their records. Hall holds the title of 2017 World's Strongest Man and won UK's Strongest Man every year from 2011 to 2016. Björnsson won 2018 World's Strongest Man and has placed in the top three positions of the competition every year since 2012. He also won Iceland's Strongest Man every year from 2011 to 2020.

Bjornsson's has appeared as "The Mountain" in television's Game of Thrones. In 2016, Hall set a new world record in deadlifting with 500 kg (~1102 lbs) at the 2016 Europe's Strongest Man competition. He held the record until May 2, 2020, when it was broken by Björnsson, who lifted 501 kg (~1105 lbs) in his personal gym in Reykjavík. Hall disputes whether this was a legitimate lift, being held in a private house – so this is a grudge match !

In **Akhaltshikhe**, Republic of Georgia, construction of a sports complex has begun. Large and small swimming pools will be provided in the complex, together with training, weightlifting, boxing and wrestling halls.



The project also includes the construction of an open cafe and small shop.

The project is being implemented by the Georgian Ministry of Infrastructure Municipal Development Fund, co- financed by the Asian Development Bank, at a cost of over €2.8m.



## CHAMPIONS !

Congratulations to Viteos NUC (**Neuchâtel**) Volleyball who have just won their second LNA Women's Swiss championship title. In celebration, the city illuminated the Town Hall in orange, the colour of the club.



Stevan Katić, the president of **Herceg Novi**, our Newcastle in Montenegro, has congratulated locally-born tennis star Danka Kovinic for the greatest achievement of her professional career recently in reaching the final of the prestigious Charleston Open.

On her way to the final she defeated Petra Kvitová, twice a Wimbledon winner. The event is the oldest professional all-women's tournament in America and previous winners have included many of the tennis all-time greats such as Serena Williams, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Martina Hingis.





# FROM THE NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD SECRETARIAT

## Project Panorama – Come and Join Us!

There's a whole vista of projects in the Newcastles Alliance for you to participate in. Designed to benefit Newcastles working collaboratively and individually with the Secretariat, we invite you to take advantage of these projects now, in order to help your Newcastle succeed. This article focuses particularly on education and youth projects.

With virtual links connecting Newcastles throughout the pandemic, we encourage you to join our "Developing education links" project, bringing secondary level schools together, initially through online links with potential for future school exchanges post-pandemic. Currently, schools in Neuburg, Germany and Nové Zámky, Slovakia are seeking links. There are exciting opportunities here. Links are presently developing through this project between Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK and Shinshiro, Japan. We're also pleased to highlight existing school links between Neuchâtel, Switzerland and Shinshiro. Don't let your Newcastle miss out – come and join us!

Continuing with the theme of education projects, more Newcastles are getting involved in our "Learning from other Newcastles" video production project, led by Nyborg, Denmark. Students are making videos on their own Newcastle and what it means to them as young people. If your Newcastle isn't already participating, please contact me.

The Connecstle youth travel and tourism app is a unique product being developed through a strong collaboration between Shinshiro, Neuchâtel, Newcastle upon Tyne and the Secretariat together with representation by youths in other Newcastles. There is scope for further involvement by youths across Newcastles. This is a dynamic project, looking ahead to a brighter time globally when youths can travel between Newcastles, experiencing each other's cultures and languages once again in person.

Our Newcastles of the World online project communications platform enables everyone to communicate swiftly and progress collaboration more quickly than by prioritising email. It's easy, swift and user-friendly. Teachers are chatting with each other through the online platform. If you're not taking advantage of this yet for project collaboration, please get in touch to get started.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Zélie Guérin, Project Director, Secretariat,  
Mobile - ++44 (0)7818436312 Email: [zelie@zelieguerin.com](mailto:zelie@zelieguerin.com)



We have a presentation about **Newcastles of the World** for those of you who still don't know too much about us. David Faulkner, coordinator of Newcastles of the World, says: "I give many of these presentations to various groups in the Newcastle upon Tyne area – for example, in recent weeks to the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Society and also to the Northumberland and Newcastle heritage society. They often kindly place the presentation on their own websites or YouTube channels which helps us reach an even wider audience – below is a link to a recent talk of mine"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiLnfZMSZjU&t=12s>

Read here about the Lit and Phil – <https://www.litandphil.org.uk/> - it's a 200 year-old library, the largest independent library in the country outside London, and so much more. The mission of the Northumberland and Newcastle Society is to protect and enhance the landscape, culture and built environment of the area for future heritage. Find out more here - <https://www.nandnsociety.org.uk/>

David says: "I encourage other Newcastles to take this presentation and use it as a basis to engage their local people about our family of Newcastles around the week and how we can work together in so many areas of common interest.

The presentation can be downloaded from our own website -

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2021/05/newcastles-of-the-world-presentation-may-2021.pdf>

If you would like to promote "Newcastles of the World" to the citizens in your Newcastle, we have a range of material and ideas to help you do so - just email us at [newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com](mailto:newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com)

**ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD** : There are more than 100 different "Newcastles" or "New Castles" around the globe, in many different countries and different languages. It was the mayor of one of them, in Shinshiro, Japan, who took the initiative to bring the Newcastles together via the Newcastles of the World summit in 1998 .

Subsequent gatherings were held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland in 2000; USA (New Castles of Indiana and Pennsylvania) 2002; South Africa 2004 and 2010; UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne); Germany (Neuburg) in 2008; Nové Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2014; Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016 and in Shinshiro again in 2018. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism between us all.