

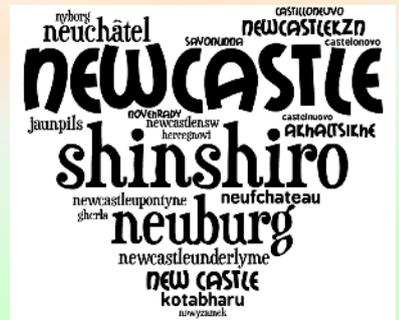


Newcastles News

The Newsletter of the
"Newcastles of the World"

October - November 2020

Sent by email to over 2500 people and organisations in over 50
"Newcastles" - please share it with your contacts too!



CONNECTING NEWCASTLES IN JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA !

On August 24th, Mr Tatsuya Suzuki, lawyer and business consultant from **Shinshiro** invited International **Newcastle INC**, from Australia, to facilitate a business class in Shinshiro's local high school. Miss Irini Kassas, Deputy Chair of International Newcastle INC., the organisation that also oversees the work of our alliance in Newcastle Australia, joined the class via ZOOM. Students were set the task of promoting Japanese products in the Newcastle, Australia, market.

In 2016 the residents of **Neuchâtel**, Corcelles-Cormondrèche and Valangin voted in favour of a merger between these neighbouring Swiss municipalities. Their neighbours in Peseux agreed, two and a half years later, to join too. The project will give birth, on 1st January 2021, to a new and large municipality of 45,000 inhabitants. In preparation for the change, new municipal elections will take place on October 25 and the voters of the city of Neuchâtel, and the other municipalities will together elect five members of a new Municipal Council and 41 members of the General Council, according to the system of proportional election.

With many countries experiencing a second wave of Covid-19 infections, unfortunately restrictions on normal life are again being put in place. As we write this newsletter, it is particularly disappointing to learn that from 1st October public events are again at risk in Slovakia. This means that **Nové Zámky's** programme as the national "City of Culture 2020" is once again affected - after the frustrations of the springtime cancellations. However, the conference organisers are a determined team and tell us "we can promise with certainty that we will not give up our VZDUŠNÝCH ZÁMKOV and we will do our best so that the Novozámans don't lose their planned programmes!"

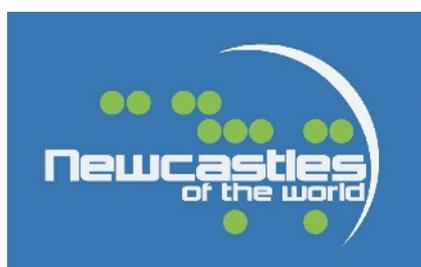


We're sure that the Newcastles of the World digital arts exhibition planned for the end of the year will therefore still take place - even if the timescale has to change. Our next newsletter will feature some of the entries that have been received from artists in many different Newcastles.

We see that Covid-19 has brought many challenges to the arts and to those who create, present and promote cultural activities. So in this edition of our newsletter, we celebrate the fact that in **Neuburg an der Donau**, Bavaria, Germany the renowned Summer Academy still took place despite the difficulties, and we mark the city's wonderful musical heritage with a two page feature - see pages 7 and 8.



www.newcastlesoftheworld.com www.facebook.com/nclsoftheworld www.twitter.com/NCLsoftheworld
Email: newcastlesoftheworld@gmail.com



Neuchâtel is known for its fine wines, and is celebrating the "Cru de la Ville" chasselas which has just won a gold medal at the Swiss Wine Grand Prix in Sierre from among over 3000 wines presented. The Eye of Perdrix 2019 has also picked up the silver at the Mondial des Pinots. It's sad that for the first time since World War II there is no annual "Fete des Vendages" in Neuchâtel. This harvest festival is normally one of the highlights of the year, but is cancelled for 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic – at least this is something to raise a glass to!



The winery of the City of Neuchâtel, one of the most beautiful on the coast, comprises 11.5 hectares. Nine different grape varieties are grown on the hillsides overlooking Lake Neuchâtel - Pinot Noir, Chasselas, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, Garanoir, Mara, Galotta and Gamaret



And there's a historic setting for the Caves of the City of Neuchâtel where they ferment and bottle their various wines. Since 1942, the outbuildings of the 17th Century Hôtel d'Alexandre DuPeyrou have housed the wine cellars. In the photo are MM Gerber, Lavanchy and Burgat, who are in charge of the City vines.

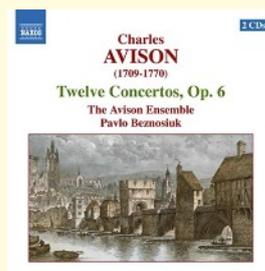


Alexandra Fitzek und Ulrich Hamm of Cap Creative have produced a wonderful new short film about the Schlossfest (castle festival, set in Renaissance times) in **Neuburg an der Donau**, our Newcastle in Bavaria. <https://youtu.be/Lq9UFN9Fpvc>

The festival takes place every other year on the last weekend of June and the first weekend of July, so let's hope that nothing gets in the way of the 2021 Schlossfest – be sure to mark it in your 2021 diary !



The famous BBC Proms (Promenade Concerts), in London's Royal Albert Hall, has now completed its 126th season of great classical music - on television and radio but sadly without live audiences this year of course. Featured in an evening of baroque music was a concerto by Charles Avison (1709-1770) - Avison was born, and lived his whole life in **Newcastle upon Tyne**; he was the most important British composer of concerto music of the 18th century.



The most digitally advanced library in the Australian state of **New South Wales** NSW was opened in early September on the ground floor of the City of **Newcastle's** new Customer Service Centre by Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes - with a little helper. The Digital Library offers visitors a range of state-of-the-art digital technologies including a podcasting studio, a 4.5m x 1.6m interactive digital wall that tells the story of local suburbs, as well as videos promoting the city, Google Earth, various live streams and a host of other learning materials.



The Digital Library also includes a programmeable robot, an industrial 3D printer, and only the second digital multimedia 'Magic Box' anywhere in the world, which provides a hands-free way of reading more than 400,000 items in the City's Heritage Collections, including 1,500 rare books.

International Newcastle INC. is proud to announce that they will be assisting Newcastle Civic Library by installing a Newcastle of the World feature app for the digital wall!

Newcastle Municipality, South Africa and the Newcastle Chinese Chamber of Commerce has donated thousands of Personal Protective Equipment to the Madadeni Hospital, in a bid to assist doctors and nurses as they tackle Coronavirus. Statistics announced by the premier of KwaZulu-Natal indicated that Newcastle Local Municipality may be becoming a Covid-19 hotspot. The Mayor, Councillor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba, himself had to go into self-isolation having tested positive for the virus. He said "I am hopeful and optimistic that the donation of PPEs will help manage new infections and assist our frontline staffers."





The achievements of **Nyborg Municipality** (Denmark) in green conversion and the “circular” economy have been recognised by the European Union. The city has made the shortlist of five cities for the final of the European Green Leaf Award 2021. The prize recognises cities with 20-100,000 inhabitants that are making a special effort in environmental management.

The decision will take place at a jury meeting later this year where the finalists will present their own city to an expert panel. The winning city is judged on its overall commitment, its communication with citizens and the city's potential as a role model.

The main themes of the award are Climate Change and Energy Efficiency; Sustainable Mobility; Nature, Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use; Air Quality and Noise; Waste Management and Water Use and the Circular Economy. Nyborg particularly featured the municipality's cycling strategy; the almost CO₂-neutral district heating system, where 98% of houses in Nyborg city are warmed by excess heat from the Fortum and Koppers industrial plants; and Nyborg Municipality's focus on the UN's sustainability goals.

In the jury's assessment, the city also received positive recognition for the municipality's waste management systems and for the creation of the independent citizens' group 'The Green Pilots', which promotes sustainability and green conversion.



International Coastal Clean Up Day marked in Herceg Novi

In mid-September volunteers from the the NGO "Don't Throw Bottles" from **Herceg Novi** collected 60 bags of waste, including bulky, old refrigerators, doors, marine waste and tyres from the seabed. The average weight of the collected waste was 360 kg. A group of eight divers at one local beach collected a containerful of waste from the seabed, including tyres and construction waste.

The action was carried out on the occasion of the International Day of Coast Cleaning in Montenegro, coordinated by the NGO "Zero Waste Montenegro" and "Our Action". It was all under the auspices of the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro, EU Info Centre, “Beyond Plastic Med” and the Prince Albert II Foundation of Monaco through the project "Youth for a Clean Adriatic".

Mount Horaiji in **Shinshiro**, Japan is 695 meters above sea level. Climbing 1,425 stone steps, you can visit Horaiji Temple and Horaisan Toshogu Shrine located halfway up the mountain. It is said that the temple was built by Rishu Sennin 1,300 years ago; the shrine is to Ieyasu Tokugawa, a founder of Edo(Tokyo) shogunate. The Mount Horaiji Maple Festival is held every November and many people from all over Japan come to see the beautiful autumn leaves as well as visiting the temple and shrine.

Unfortunately, the festival has had to be cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic - but we can still enjoy these photos sent by our colleagues in Shinshiro!



During national lockdowns, measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 led, among other things, to a reduction in the number of cars on the roads and to increased cycling and walking. The annual European Mobility Week (this year from 16-22 September) provided the perfect opportunity for towns and cities to encourage sustainable mobility alternatives among local residents. Several of our “Newcastles” took up the challenge – in **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia the activities included creating a special cycling route around the city – especially for young cyclists to experience and enjoy.



Herceg Novi making great EFFORTS !

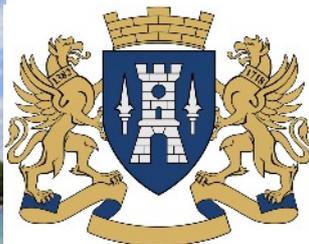
Herceg Novi has officially become a member of a prestigious European association that links fortified cities - the European Federation of Fortified Cities (EFFORTS). Membership represents Herceg Novi's commitment to stand together with other cities whose castle heritage forms an important part of Europe's history.

In Herceg Novi there are no less than four fortresses! (Kanli Kula, Forte Mare, Španjola and Citadela) and a dozen other fortified structures. The latest issue of the EFFORTS newsletter tells the story of some of them; you can also read about the EU project FORTITUDE where the Municipality of Herceg Novi is also a project partner. See <https://www.efforts-europe.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Newsletter-August-2020.pdf>

EFFORTS has around 90 members and its mission is to exchange expertise and skills, promote cooperation, and emphasise the importance of fortification heritage.



Forte Mare (left)
and Kanli Kula
(right)



Vladimir Hokr, Mayor of **Nové Hradý**, our Newcastle in the Czech Republic writes: "Although this seemed almost unrealistic in early June in view of the coronavirus crisis, the summer tourist season and some cultural events actually went unexpectedly well. Most of the population of the Czech Republic decided not to travel abroad, and in many areas also used the incentives of regional and municipal self-governments for discounts on stays or admission to tourist facilities.

"So the holiday season was busy and I am glad that not only visitors to Nové Hradý, but especially locals visited many places and events. There has been a rich choice of concerts, exhibitions, theatrical performances for children - and of course the 5th edition of the Festival Jihočeské Nové Hradý in late August. This again featured Jaroslav Svěcený, one of the most important contemporary Czech violinists."



A former military base in the **Akhaltsikhe** municipality of Georgia will soon be turned into a multifunctional recreational area thanks to a memorandum of understanding signed between the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) - German Society for International Cooperation - and the municipality.

The Mayor of Akhaltsikhe municipality Zaza Melikidze said that the 'abandoned and nonfunctional' military base has been hindering the urban development of Akhaltsikhe for a long period of time. Last year, part of the territory of the former military base was transferred into the ownership of Akhaltsikhe municipality. "We want to revitalise this territory and ensure its integration into the Akhaltsikhe urban system" said the Mayor. Since 1992, with German Government funding, GIZ has been actively supporting Georgia in the areas of good governance, sustainable economic development and environment and climate change.

REGENERATION OF FORMER MILITARY BASE IN AKHALTSIKHE



The Mayor (left) and the Director of GGLD Programme Christoph Beier sign the memorandum. (Photo: GIZ)



JAUNPILS' WATERMILL IS NOW A CULTURAL VENUE FOR THE COMMUNITY

An old watermill that was recently regenerated in **Jaunpils**, Latvia has now become an exciting cultural venue for concerts in the town. The municipality, which owns the watermill, began the concerts this summer, and it has immediately become a popular venue - a great example of new uses for heritage properties.

YOUTH



Here are photos from **Jaunpils** (Latvia) of its new youth centre, which was just opened this summer, with the help of EU funding. So now the young people of the town have their own home for informal activities. Ligita Gintere, Municipality chairperson (*second left in photo to the right*), carried out the official opening.



Nik Zaris Nelydia Binti Nik Sen, better known by her stage name Nelydia Senrose, is a young Malaysian actress from **Kota Bharu** who is making a name for herself. At the age of 13, she began her acting career by playing supporting role as Melissa in TV3's primetime series Spa Q. Nelydia has won many television and film awards and featured to date in over 20 television series, ten tele-movies and three films



The latest film, "Jebat", in which Nelydia is the co-lead, has just screened at the beginning of September and has been very well received.

This summer, Newcastle's of the World delegates were invited to participate in the online forum of *The Making Connections RoundTable Show*. This focused on youth leaders and challenges they have faced during COVID-19.

The global network connection show was organised and hosted by Rotary International and Toastmasters International. Participants from Slovakia, UK and Australia spoke of the Newcastle's of the World Alliance and shared their inspiring stories.

Further adult delegates from the Alliance were also present. Thanks to Irini Kassas (*right*) of Newcastle's in the World **Australia** for alerting us to this opportunity and for her own contributions to the event.



AN UNFORGETTABLE YEAR FOR CHRIS IN SHINSHIRO



Northumbria University engineering undergraduate Chris Brownhill (B Sc Mechanical Engineering) has now returned to **Newcastle upon Tyne** for his final year of study from a 10 month placement with the OSG Company at its factory in **Shinshiro** in Japan. The Shinshiro factory of this large engineering company makes high speed steel drills. On his final day at the factory at the end of August there was a farewell link-up by Skype of Chris with Mr Daiki Nakamura, senior manager at the factory and other factory colleagues; the Mayor of Shinshiro Mr Ryoji Hozumi and his team at City Hall who did so much make the placement possible and make Chris welcome, and the Newcastle's of the World Secretariat in Newcastle upon Tyne. Chris gave an excellent presentation about his time in Shinshiro.

Newcastle's of the World thanks everyone who helped make this opportunity a reality - and an unforgettable experience - for Chris.

Nové Hradý in South Bohemia in the Czech Republic is located just one kilometre from the Austrian border. Across that border, Nové Hradý and the town of Weitra im Waldviertel have been developing their cooperation in culture and tourism. Their new programme is called "Music Connects", which has a two year timescale, and is supported by the EU.

The project expands the offer of musical and musical-literary events, especially for schoolchildren and young people who play, write, recite or listen. The project has nine activities (project outputs) including a guitar festival, art competition, meeting of children's choirs, and a musical-literary journey through Gabrielenthal and Terčína valley countryside. The goals are to deepen cooperation between municipalities and schools, expand the music offer, and offer new educational events.

"HANDS" ACROSS THE BORDER



Mayors Patrick Layr of Weitra (left) and Vladimír Hokr of Nové Hradý

KOTA BHARU LAUNCHES SIGHTSEEING BUS TOUR

Despite the global pandemic, the state of Kelantan in Malaysia remains optimistic about promoting domestic tourism under the “Visit Kelantan 2020” campaign. Since Covid-19’s appearance all over the world, the tourism industry has been among the most affected sectors. Airlines, tour operators, hotels and travel agencies have struggled to keep going. So the municipality of **Kota Bharu** (Newcastle) took a positive step to promote domestic tourism in the city by launching the Kelantan Sightseeing Bus Tour in September. The bus was launched by The Minister of Culture , Heritage and Tourism of Kelantan , Honorable Dato’ Md Anizam bin Abd Rahman (*pictured*).



The city of Kota Bharu Tourism Malaysia and local travel company, Jasa Teratai Holidays collaborated to introduce the bus that covers three travel package for tourists. The service provided is also supported by five big hotels in Kota Bharu to encourage tourists staying at their hotels to buy the travel package at a very special price and to visit tourist spots in Kota Bharu and surrounding areas.

There is a Saturday Fun Package, Shopping Package and Panaromic Package that tourists can choose to suit their travel needs. Each travel package is a half day tour with a local tourist guide as leader. Among the must visit destinations in Kota Bharu are the famous Siti Khadijah Market, PCB Beach, Batik factory, Giant Kite Gallery, Floating Market Pengkalan Datu, Wakaf Che Yeh Night Market and the Istana Jahar Museum. The Sightseeing Bus Tour operates on a daily basis from 8am till 6 pm.

Lloyd Johnson (*far left in the photo*) has been performing, both on his own and with friends, to collect donations for Clarington’s new residential hospice which will be built in **Newcastle, Canada**. Here he is joined by (*on bench, left to right*) Marie Pedwell and Councillor Margaret Zwart, and Fred Cambers. Standing (*left to right*) are Jill Richardson, Clarington Hospice, Susan Johnson, Donna McFarlane, senior advisor Durham Region Hospice and Marion Timmermans, Clarington Hospice. To date the local Music in the Park programme has raised over four thousand Canadian dollars (€2500) for the hospice.



Denmark was meant to host the Grand Départ (start) of the famous Tour de France cycle race in 2021 but the race itself has had to be moved back one week next year. Because Copenhagen is already hosting the 2021 European Football Championships, it was therefore decided to move the Grand Départ to a different venue for 2021; Denmark will now host in 2022 instead. The third stage of the 2022 tour stage on 2nd July will still be the 190km from Roskilde across the Great Belt Bridge to **Nyborg**.

But, looking on the bright side, it’s 12 more months for the people of Nyborg to enjoy the anticipation of the world’s most famous cycle race in their city!

Councillor John Cooper is the new Mayor of **Newcastle-under-Lyme, United Kingdom**. This was decided at a borough council meeting that was attended both in person and via video-conference after it was delayed from its usual May date due to the coronavirus crisis. Mr Cooper has been a councillor in the borough for two decades, and this will be his second term as Mayor.

He is a former engineer, and will chair council meetings and represent the borough at civic events during the remainder of the municipal year.



NEUBURG - CITY OF MUSIC

Despite all the restrictions caused by Covid-19, the city of Neuburg an der Donau was able to hold a “beautiful and unforgettable” 42nd edition of its **Sommerakademie** (Summer Academy), with a mix of socially-distanced outdoor performances and a large number of online concerts. The Protean Quartet was the winner of this year’s Biagio-Marini competition - the only permanent competition for early (17th Century) music in Bavaria, for young chamber music groups committed to performance practice and playing historical instruments.



The Sommerakademie is just one element of Neuburg’s rich musical heritage, and there is a great variety of opportunities for local people to learn, play and listen.



The **Stadtkapelle Neuburg** (the city orchestra/band) has almost 500 members, and of over 250 active musicians more than half are music students and young musicians under the age of 18. Around 70 musicians play in the main orchestra under the direction of city music director Alexander Haninger. The repertoire includes both symphonic and traditional and entertaining brass music, and there are over 100 performances each year. Concert tours have been made to Bali, France, Italy and the USA. The city has had a youth wind orchestra since 1969 – currently with around 60 musicians with an average age of 15. Its aim is to prepare the young musicians for the regular orchestra, but it also undertakes its own independent concert tours.

In 1979 Werner Lecheler, teacher of music, German and ethics at the Maria Ward Realschule in Neuburg, gathered young singers who wanted to make music at the Neuburg Castle Festival. The **Windrose** choir was born and since then the choir has given numerous concerts of sacred and secular choral music, accompanied or a capella, from the Middle Ages to contemporary modern as well as gospels, jazz and pop music. The city also hosts the **Leuchtfuehrer** (“Beacon”) choir which began in 1985 and performs spirituals, gospels, musicals and more popular songs of all sorts.



For the past ten years, under the musical direction of Stellario Fagone, choir director of the Munich State Opera, the **Junge Oper Neuburg** has brought opera to young enthusiasts in the Neuburg area. It’s an association that is unique of its kind in Germany, combining youth development with the best of European culture. La Traviata (see left), Rigoletto and La Bohème are among the operas that have been performed to enthusiastic audiences.

The **Fanfarenzug Ottheinrich** was founded in 1977. With hand-painted flags, historic Landsknecht drums and fanfares without valves, the fanfare procession has dedicated itself to maintaining the history and tradition of its beautiful hometown. Unique are the colourful robes, berets, doublets and breeches, individually made by local tailors. In addition to the local appearances at the Schloßfest and the Fischergasslerfest, which are among the first appearances in the club's history, the **Fanfarenzug** now regularly plays at festivals in Germany and Austria and represents the city on visits to Italy, France and the Czech Republic.



Musica aliter is a Neuburg-based project ensemble for "early music" in which committed music lovers and professional musicians from across southern Germany take part. Replicas of historical instruments are used for the practice and performance of Renaissance and baroque music

MORE MUSIC FROM NEUBURG AN DER DONAU



The Neuburg Music School has existed since 1974 and was awarded the certificate of "educational institution with a vocational character" from the government of Upper Bavaria. Several generations of students have passed through the private educational institution and the range of instruments that are taught has also been steadily expanded.



A special highlight of the music school are the many concerts and preludes that are organized for the music students, for example the annual concerts in the Neuburg City Theatre.



The oldest musical institution of all in Neuburg is the choir of the **Neuburg Liederkranz** (left), founded in 1847. The focus on performing sacred music has expanded to embrace a wide repertoire performed at the well-known "Carnival Concerts", launched in 1979; appearances at the Neuburg Castle Festival as well as spring, autumn and Advent concerts. The Baring Church Concerts, every two years, are well-known beyond the region.



Stilvoll dargebotene Renaissance-Gesänge: Der Neuburger Liederkranz gab ein eindrucksvolles Hofkonzert im Kongregationsaal. Foto: Johannes Seifert

The Neuburg Madrigal Choir (left), originally conceived as a combined instrumental and vocal formation, was founded in 1976 and since then has musically enriched the biennial Castle Festival. The choir grew out of the pure Renaissance era and now gives touring choral concerts within Germany and beyond. The range includes musical works from the early Middle Ages to the modern age, preferably performed in the original languages. The hallmarks of the choir are multiple "courtly" appearances in historical clothing from the 16th century.



The **Trumpet Choir** of Evangelical Lutheran Christ Church was founded as long ago as 1948 as the first Protestant trombone choir in the Bavarian region south of the Danube.

For over 70 years, the **Neuburg Baroque Concerts** have set a musical highlight every October. The magic of historical performance venues and the musical excellence of the festival ensure a unique overall experience. Music of exquisite quality with internationally renowned ensembles and soloists can be experienced, for example, in the Knight's Hall or the Ottheinrichssaal of the Neuburg Palace, in the palace chapel, in the provincial library, in the City Theatre and in the congregation hall.



The **Baringer Brass Band** has a history that goes back as far as the 1920s. A great performance by the brass band took place in May 1985 in the fully occupied Munich Olympic Stadium, before an FC Bayern match!



The Birdland Club of Neuburg (named after legendary saxophonist Charlie "Bird" Parker) is one of the most distinguished jazz clubs in the whole of Germany and is known to jazz lovers across Europe. It has hosted such all-time greats as Stéphane Grappelli, Nat Adderley, the Dutch Swing College Band and Chris Barber. Usually there are around 70 concerts a year, of all styles of jazz, mostly with internationally renowned groups, at the Club, also events at the Audi Forum Ingolstadt.

The Birdland Radio Jazz Festival takes place in cooperation with national and international bands over October and November in cooperation with the "Bayerischer Rundfunk". There are also "Art Of Piano", special concerts with pianists of national and international reputation. "There have been 18 "Live at Birdland Neuburg" own label CD productions so far. The Club hosts the European Jazz Academy for aspiring jazz musicians.

ASTRONAUT COUNTS NEW CASTLE PA AS HOME

Earlier this year, astronaut Andrew (“Drew”) Morgan completed a 272 day spaceflight, one of the longest ever for an American astronaut. And there’s a “Newcastle” connection, because although not born in **New Castle, Pennsylvania**, he regards it as his home and it’s where his parents still live.

Drew is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, and was recruited by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 2013 to be part of its 21st “class of astronauts”.



He became part of expedition 60, 61 and 62 and launched into space on board Soyuz MS-13 on July 20, 2019 from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan for nine months at the International Space Station (ISS) with his two crewmates from the European Space Agency, and the Russian space agency, Roscosmos.

Six hours later the trio rendezvoused with the ISS. The crew contributed to hundreds of experiments in biology, earth science, physical sciences and technology development. Drew also conducted seven spacewalks, totalling 45 hours. His extended stay in space will increase knowledge about how the human body responds to longer-duration spaceflight, through the various investigations he supported.



His flight spanned a total of 4,352 Earth orbits and a journey of 115.3 million miles before returning to earth on April 17th after the fourth-longest single spaceflight for an American astronaut.

During this period, Morgan participated in a segment of “Some Good News”, an internet show hosted by American actor John Krasinski to spread good news during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. He also cast a ballot from space in the Pennsylvania elections!

NEWCASTLE MAN’S ART HEIST MADE INTO A FILM

The extraordinary story of how an unemployed bus driver from **Newcastle upon Tyne** in England pulled off an Old Master art heist has been made into a film which premiered at the 77th Venice Film Festival in September.

The unique 1960s case involving the curiously-named Kempton Bunton made headlines at the time but faded from memory over the years.

Now the film, “The Duke”, starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren brings the story back into spotlight. It is named after Goya’s portrait of the Duke of Wellington which was stolen by Bunton from The National Gallery in London, the only painting ever to be stolen from the gallery.



HERCEG NOVI IS PROTECTING ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE

Work has been completed in **Herceg Novi**, Montenegro on the reconstruction of the 100 year old City Music pavilion. This is thanks to the Municipality, the Secretariat for Culture and Education, the Agency for Construction and Development of the City – and the city’s renowned architect and conservator, Srdjan Marlovic. The building was opened by the President of the Municipality Stevan Katić, who said that the restoration of the building was important both to preserve a building of exceptional historical and cultural significance for the city, and to provide the best possible conditions for the city’s cultural agencies and activities. The music pavilion will be the home of the Herceg Novi Brass Band but also used for a range of other cultural activities. The President reminded those attending that the cultural and historical heritage of Herceg Novi is an invaluable asset, and there is an obligation upon all who live in it now to preserve and cherish it.

This is one of several projects in which the Municipality of Herceg Novi is investing for the revitalisation of previously neglected buildings of exceptional importance. Mr Katić also referenced the Museum “Njegoš School”, and stated that works on the adaptation and reconstruction of the House of Nobel Laureate Ivo Andrić are nearing completion. The opening of the City Music Building was not only pleasing to the eye but also to the ear - three compositions were performed by opera singer Nikolina Pušara (*see right*).





THE FIRST SOCIALLY-DISTANCED POP CONCERT !

What is believed to be one of the world’s first socially-distanced music venues (if not the very first) opened in early August in **Newcastle upon Tyne** and ran for several weeks with a large and varied programme.

Guests were guided to their own personal viewing platform – 500 of these were specially built. They were lined up in aisles for customers to enter and leave safely. Staff had full PPE and each platform had its own hand gel station.

Local singer Sam Fender (pictured), who has topped the UK charts, kicked off the programme of concerts - all 2500 tickets were sold out almost at once, as they were for the concert by the great Van Morrison (“Brown-Eyed Girl”). Events also included top comedy acts, live DJs and a kids live action show in Dinosaur World Live.

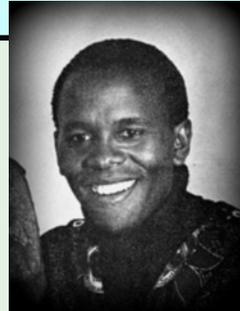


NYBORG AND THE VENUS EFFECT

The Danish film “Venuseffekten” (“the Venus Effect”) has recently gone into filming, and there have been two weeks of filming in **Nyborg** and **Svendborg** municipalities. It’s a modern romantic comedy and the debut feature film of Anna Emma Haudal – as writer as well as director – who already has a strong record in Danish television.



One of South Africa's most celebrated sculptors was born 75 years ago in **Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal** - Stanley Bongani Nkosi (popularly known as Mfoza) works mainly in terracotta and bronze but his paintings and drawings also sell well at auction.. As a result of his London exhibition in April 1974 being shown on British TV he met the former British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan who acquired two of his pieces. This led to further press coverage and sales, including to singer Diana Ross. He never looked back.



A WELCOME BOOST FOR THE ARTS

In **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**, Clarington Municipality Mayor Adrian Foster has presented Ann-Marie Harley of A Gift of Art gallery with almost 23,000 Canadian dollars. This is the gallery’s share of the proceeds from the Mayor’s annual Gala for the Arts. In the year of Covid-19 challenges, the cheque from the gala is particularly welcome.



MAYUMI’S MUSIC + HARUKA’S SUNFLOWERS - HELPING TO BEAT THE VIRUS



In August, a concert was held by a local **Shinshiro** (Japan) brass band - “Horai Brass Band”. The conductor was Mayumi Murata, who also conducted amazing music during the Newcastles of the World conference in 2018. She decided to hold this concert to cheer up those fighting against Covid-19, through the medium of music.

The former Kadoya Elementary School in Shinshiro was chosen as the venue since it was the setting for the shooting of a well-known drama named “Cheering Songs” and receives many visitors.

During the concert, sunflowers were in full bloom in the school grounds.

The sunflowers were cultivated from the seeds of Haruka’s Sunflower, named after 11-year-old Haruka Kato of Kobe, who died in the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake after being trapped in her collapsed home. Sunflowers later bloomed at the place where Haruka’s home used to stand. Seeds from those sunflowers were planted in many places in the Kansai region and were given to survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The flowers became a symbol of recovery. In 2012, Shinshiro was granted seeds by the tsunami-hit city of Kamaishi and our students have continued to grow these sunflowers, wishing for peace. Surrounded by the sunflowers, visitors enjoyed beautiful music, helping to bring hope for the recovery.



FEATURE: THE HENRY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NEW CASTLE, INDIANA



Based in New Castle, Indiana, the Henry County Community Foundation is a public trust which raises permanent funds from private individuals and organisations for philanthropic purposes. On September 25th, the Foundation announced its latest grants totalling 158,000 US dollars (135,000 Euros), part of over \$23 million (€20m) in grants and scholarships raised since the Foundation was formed in 1985.

Among the latest grants to organisations and their projects based in, and serving, New Castle are: expanding programmes at Victory Lane Camps for children with special needs; repairs and equipment at Raintree Friends Housing care facility; to the Kiwanis Club for 500 pairs of shoes and socks to local children in need; support for the refurbishment of picnic tables and benches in Memorial Park; the development of the Main Street program for the renewal of the downtown area; providing seizure readiness kits in all community schools; the HOPE Initiative/Alliance 4 Youth and Families – student support and training for childhood educators.

The mission of the Foundation is to provide help where the needs are the greatest, and the benefits to the community and its citizens are most substantial; to provide public-spirited donors a vehicle for using their gifts in the best possible way now and in the future; and to provide excellent professional stewardship of those gifts which it receives and manages.

The Foundation manages over \$40 million in charitable assets and nearly 400 individual funds – each of which supports the unique charitable intent of the donor who established their fund. The Foundation addresses the broad needs in the area which include, but are not limited to, the following five categories:

Health & Medical – to include the support of hospitals, rehabilitation centers, not-for-profit health and medical related programs including safety and wellness and recreational programs;

Social Services – to include the support of human service organizations, programs for children and youth, and services to the elderly;

Education – to include support for programs in preschool, elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education, scholarships, and special education programs;

Cultural Affairs – to include the support of programs and facilities which are designed to establish a diversified county cultural program that offers widespread opportunities for participation and appreciation;

Civic Affairs – to include the support of programs and facilities related to criminal justice, community development, employment, citizens' involvement, leadership training, and other community activities.

Community Foundations began in the USA as long ago as 1914 as instruments of civil society designed to pool donations into a coordinated investment and grant making facility dedicated primarily to the social improvement of a given place.

Now more than 750 community foundations operate in urban and rural areas in every state in the USA, and the community foundation model has spread around the world. David Faulkner, our Newcastles of the World Secretariat Manager, used to work for the Tyne & Wear/ Northumberland Foundation, based in Newcastle upon Tyne.



Beverly Matthews, who is retiring at the end of December after almost a decade as President and Executive Director of the Henry County Community Foundation, is a great friend of Newcastles of the World.

We had the pleasure of meeting her at our conference in Newcastle, Ontario, Canada at our 2016 conference (pictured here on the left with Janet Falotico of New Castle Pennsylvania), and since then she has given great encouragement to our alliance.

Beverly is a native of New Castle, who previously owned her own consulting business and worked in public relations for a public utility and for the Chrysler Corporation. She has been a volunteer community activist throughout her career, serving on the Henry County United Fund board and acting as campaign chair. She also serves on the New Castle-Henry County Economic Development and Healthy Communities of Henry County board of directors, and has been involved in many local community fund-raising and improvement projects. We wish Beverly a happy retirement !

From the Newcastles of the World Secretariat



BE SWIFT ON SLACK!

Calling Newcastles' lead contacts

We use Slack, the user-friendly project communications tool for faster, immediate communication on our Newcastles' projects.

The secretariat is facilitating some exciting projects, designed to create new opportunities across Newcastles. Slack can help us have swifter project communications.

Newcastles of the World is in good company, with NASA, LinkedIn, BBC, European Youth Parliament and other leading global organisations choosing Slack as their preferred online internal communications platform.

Some of us use it regularly. For example, the team for 'Connecastle' - our youth travel and tourism app project, Shinshiro International Team and the secretariat, communicate on Slack. A great benefit is that it's enabling us to work together on 'Connecastle', in a more streamlined way on complex technical development. Slack is helping us to 'tighten up' our method of communication.

Here are some great benefits

- We have different projects under one platform at the same time.
- Each Newcastles of the World project can have its own dedicated channel.
- Slack is a collaboration hub that can replace email to help teams co-operate seamlessly.
- You can make announcements on projects that can be seen by all participants simultaneously.
- You can use Slack both on your computer and mobile phone.
- Switching on notifications keeps communications flowing smoothly.
- In this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, where there are travel restrictions, Slack facilitates swift project communication across the world.

Achieving successful projects

Come and join us in 'Slack' project collaboration, on our journey to achieving successful projects. Did you know, for instance, that some secondary level schools are interested in forming links with secondary schools in other Newcastles? Please get in touch on Slack to get involved!

Zélie Guérin, Project Director, Secretariat

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 & Pennsylvania) 2002, South Africa 2004 & 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) & 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradý (Czech Republic) in 2014, Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016 and in Shinshiro again in 2018.

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