

AKHALTSIKHE CELEBRATES NATIONAL CENTENARY



May 26th was a very special day for Akhaltsikhe, our Newcastle in Georgia. The city hosted one of the country's main events to mark the centenary of the time in 1918 when the country first declared national independence from Russia and the Democratic Republic of Georgia was born. Spectacular cultural, educational and entertainment activities took place on a day which also marked 26 years since the Georgia of today became independent - and also 850 years since the birth of Georgia's national poet and hero Shota Rustaveli. He wrote the iconic poem, "The Knight in the Panther's Skin"; the Independence Day slogan was 'I come from the country of Rustaveli'. *See p10 for more photos.*

NEUCHÂTEL GOES WILD OVER ITS ANIMALS THIS SUMMER !

Twenty wild animals have made their summer quarters in the heart of Neuchâtel! Sculptor Davide Rivalta was commissioned to display his creations at key locations throughout the city - and they've become huge attractions. Visitors can meet a family of lions basking on the Ostervald wharf, a pack of wolves lurking around Farel, near the Collegiate, a bear in full swing in Place Pury, a rhinoceros on a raft and many others. Davide's animals were the product of a long period of study when he photographed and observed them so he could recreate their behaviours and character traits. Recognised internationally, his animals have been admired in many cities around the world.



See page 3 for more photos!

The Newsletter of "Newcastles of the World" • June/July 2018

NEW SHINSHIRO TEAM MEMBERS GEAR UP FOR THE BIG WELCOME



A huge thank you to Marie Desaules (pictured in the centre of the photo to the left) who has now finished her time on placement in Shinshiro with our 2018 conference team - and she's done a great job! Because of the continued generosity of Neuchâtel City Council, Marie has been replaced in Shinshiro by another young Swiss lady, Carole Murallaz, (far right) - welcome Carole!



Also joining to support the conference team in Shinshiro are two more international appointments, Taissa Marroig from Brazil and Marie Alvandi from the USA, who are both on the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching programme). Marie is to the left above and Taissa to the right. The whole team (pictured to the left of Carole above) are working hard to make the conference from 3-9 October an unforgettable experience. *See <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/2018/03/06/our-20th-anniversary-conference-shinshiro-japan-october-2018/>* (we'd love you to come!) and page 11 for more about the new team members and about "Newcastles of the World" activity including Zélie's visit to Nyborg.



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE HOSTS UK'S LARGEST SUMMER FESTIVAL

The "Great Exhibition of the North" is a free, summer-long celebration of the North of England's pioneering spirit,

running from late June to early September, based largely in Newcastle and across the river Tyne in Gateshead.



It will be the country's biggest event in 2018, and includes a programme of amazing exhibits, live performances, displays of innovation, new artworks and unforgettable experiences in its 80 days. The UK's largest water sculpture will perform hourly (10.00-23.00) with three specially commissioned soundtracks during every day of the Exhibition. It's 80m long and reaches the height of the Tyne Bridge. After dark the performance will include a stunning light display. The iconic locomotive "Rocket" (1829) will come home to Newcastle, on loan to Discovery Museum from the Science Museum Group in London. It's the most famous early railway engine, built in Newcastle where Robert Stephenson created the world's first locomotive factory. *See <https://getnorth2018.com/>*

PEOPLE MAYOR PROFILE - KENNETH MUHS, NYBORG

Kenneth Muhs has been Mayor of Nyborg Municipality in Denmark since the beginning of 2014. He is 45 years old and represents the Left party for whom he was a Parliamentary Candidate in 2013. Before that he was a member of the Ørbæk municipality which became incorporated into Nyborg in 2007. He is a mathematician who attended Nyborg Gymnasium in 1991. Mr Muhs is the subject of our Mayor profile for this edition.



What did you do before you entered politics?

I served in the Danish Royal Army for 20 years. I hold the rank of major.



What made you want to become a politician? How did it happen?

The reasons for me entering politics are several. First of all a huge interest in society issues, how to develop democracy both in a national as well as a local perspective. Furthermore I find it very interesting as well as rewarding to take responsibility within the local decision making process. But the most important reason is to make positive changes for the benefit of the population.

What are the biggest challenges facing your city?

I would say that the demography and the economy are two of the big challenges. In Denmark as well as in other countries we are getting older and older. At the same time there are fewer newborns in comparison with those who die - this is one of the challenges that our welfare system faces.

Following that, we recognise the economy is under pressure.

Every year we spend more money and therefore a challenge is to find ways to create additional income.



What are your hopes for the Newcastle's alliance?

I have high hopes. One is that the alliance will develop new ways of cooperation to facilitate more tourism.

I sincerely think that we have the necessary background to create both interesting and new fields of cooperation.

What would you say to persuade people to come and visit your city?

Nyborg is the first capital in Denmark and it was in Nyborg that the first constitution of the Realm was signed.

A visit to Nyborg is a visit to the centre of Danish democracy. Today Nyborg Castle is the only place in Denmark where you actually can visit "Danehoffet" which was the Danish Parliament in the Middle Ages.

Furthermore, Nyborg was a centre for the Reformation. So a visit to Nyborg will take you back in time.

But Nyborg is also a modern city with some of the best hotels in Denmark. You will find restaurants and exiting shops. The city is surrounded by fantastic nature. Clear blue water at the coastline gives you the opportunity to take a swim in some of the best swimming waters. Come and see for yourself - you will be made welcome !



NEW MAYORS IN THE UK

Councillor Gill Heesom (left) believes her work background (Territorial Army) – as well as eight years of experience as a councillor – will stand her in good stead for her role as the new Mayor of **Newcastle-under-Lyme**, UK, in the coming year. Councillor David Down is the new Lord Mayor of **Newcastle upon Tyne**, with a background as a local government officer in Portsmouth and then 20 years with Initiatives of Change, an international charity dedicated to peacebuilding and reconciliation. In the UK mayoral positions are generally for one year only and are ceremonial and community- orientated rather than political, but they also act as chair (speaker) of council meetings.



Jeany's Memoirs to become living stories

The Living Stories Project couldn't have come at a better time for Jeany Barrett. She had thought about writing her memoirs, but didn't know where to start. When she learned of the project put on by the Gift of Art gallery in her home of **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada**, she signed up. Not only would she like future generations to be able to read her memoirs, Jeany – who was co-chair of our 2016 Newcastle's of the World conference organising team - says she is also getting involved as a way of keeping her mind active by learning new skills. Ann Harley of Gift of Art says many seniors are excited about the project. "Seniors are often intimidated about writing their memoirs, and are challenged about where and how to get started" she said. Through this project, trained writers will assist seniors in aspects of writing their memoirs. They can be turned into CDs, videos, written publications or even a drama production.

Through a government grant, Gift of Art will facilitate production of the memoirs through an intergenerational collaboration. Youth from local schools will be recruited to turn the written stories into a format the seniors would like to pass on. The first of the eight memoir writing sessions at The Gift of Art was held in April and later in the year the project will move to the next phase, where youth from local schools will become involved.

CULTURE

NOVE ZAMKY'S HOPES FOR CULTURE AWARD

Nové Zámky will soon find out whether the city is to be Slovakia's "City of Culture" in 2019. Together with Banská Štiavnica and Spišská Nová Ves, Nové Zámky will present its case before a jury in June. The finalists have been preparing the programme of cultural events that they hope will secure them the title and the funding of 300,000 Euros. This is a pilot programme established by the country's Arts Support Fund which is also supporting the preparation of the bid with funding of 12,500 euros. In the preparation of the project, the city



u. fond na podporu umenia

office cooperated with more than thirty partner organisations.

Nové Zámky says "As part of the City of Culture project, it is our intention to attract people from the wide region as well as from abroad. Nové Zámky has not only partner cities in neighbouring countries, but are also members of the Newcastle Worldwide Alliance. If we win then we hope there may be projects that can involve our international partners" Nové Zámky's programme is designed around four themes: Art, photography, design and architecture; Literature, dramatic art, new circus, dance and music; Film, the Internet and new media; Minorities, youth, cohabitation, education and community life. We wish them the best of luck !

A very special book has been published in **Jaunpils, Latvia**. It's the second part of the book "Jaunpils manor, manor houses" which charts historical events in the district from 1920 to 2017. The author and editor is Ligia Rutka, the head of Jaunpils Museum, pictured right at the launch with Jaunpils Municipality chair Ligita Gintere (second right). The book is a rich source of material for all who are interested in the history of the parish, culture and people, especially for the younger generation to find out more about their native place, how their ancestors fought against foreign powers, how the participation of young people in the freedom struggle was protected by the independent state of Latvia, the occupation of foreign powers in 1940 and World War II, about the repressions of 1941 and 1949, with active and passive resistance, survival through 50 years of occupation and the experience of the revival of an independent Latvia.



Left is an attractive mural made by artists Wilo and Kesh on the Rue des Chavannes in Neuchâtel, our "Newcastle" in Switzerland - it is actually a giant game of snakes and ladders: throw the dice, move, and then go up or down, until you reach the sky!



Janet Kalajainen (right in photo) has two titles that follow her name: register + recorder. The county official, though, could very well add a third: amateur painter.

Two of her impressive works hang in her outer office. Now, she and JoAnn McCreedy, county conservation district manager, are giving other local artists a chance to see their creations on display in the Lawrence County Government Centre in **New Castle, Pennsylvania**. They've come up with an Art Contest that not only will spotlight the talent and creativity of residents, but also the beauty and traditions of Lawrence County. "This is really the people's building," Janet said. "and what better way to showcase it than to have the people's art displayed throughout the hallways."



The annual Newcastle Writers Festival in **Australia** hit a new milestone this year when more than 10,000 people – including 2000 school children – poured into the city centre for three days of literary delights. Well done to everyone involved!



Excitement in Neuchâtel with the arrival of the animals (see front page)



YOUTH SHUHEI IS A GREAT ROLE MODEL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Shuhei Takeshita is only 27 years old but he is already a member of the city council in **Shinshiro**, Japan and was largely responsible for creating the Youth Assembly in his home city.

Shuhei says: "When participating in the World Newcastle Alliance Conference held in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK in 2012, I was surprised by the differences in awareness and concerns of young people in Japan with those in some other countries like the UK. In Japan they did not have a voice and did not discuss issues about their future and their city. Voting among young people in elections is low and declining. In Newcastle upon Tyne, the young people took part in city-wide elections for their youth council and were involved in consultations about the city budget, about planning matters, they set priorities for action and met with politicians and other decision-makers



On my return I took the lead to help start a voluntary organisation - "Shinshiro Youth Group".



At the Shinshiro Youth group, we held international exchange events to invite international students to Shinshiro, workshops with young people in the city, participated as community volunteers, and so on.

Our Mayor Ryoji Hozumi was impressed with this activity and embraced the thought that "Shinshiro needs the power of young people", so with his leadership a youth assembly was created and the city council agreed that it should have its own budget. Using city taxes is a big step, but it helps young people take responsibility and gives them encouragement. And so we generated great excitement in the city by the active participation of young people in Shinshiro - and it attracted attention from all over Japan, as it was a first!

I then decided to seek election to become a city councillor in Shinshiro and was very pleased to win a seat in the elections of last autumn. As a young city councillor it's hard work, but I want to open up a new path so that many young people will continue to be active in Shinshiro. It was a special pleasure for me that Shinshiro became the host city for the first-ever Newcastles of the World youth conference in December"



Jaunpils (Latvia) is participating in a nine month youth international programme agency project for the review and development of youth policy in the municipality. The objective is to improve the quality of life of young people of 13-25 years of age, through a range of initiatives concerning their values, patriotism and civic identity, participation in decision-making and public life, as well as supporting formal youth work. The direct output will be the youth development planning document and the development of a long-term programme of work that covers:

- Exchange of experience and training for young people.
- The viability and suitability of a jaunpils youth дума (council) as an advisory mechanism
- Development of participatory skills and promotion of consultation practices between young people & policy makers.

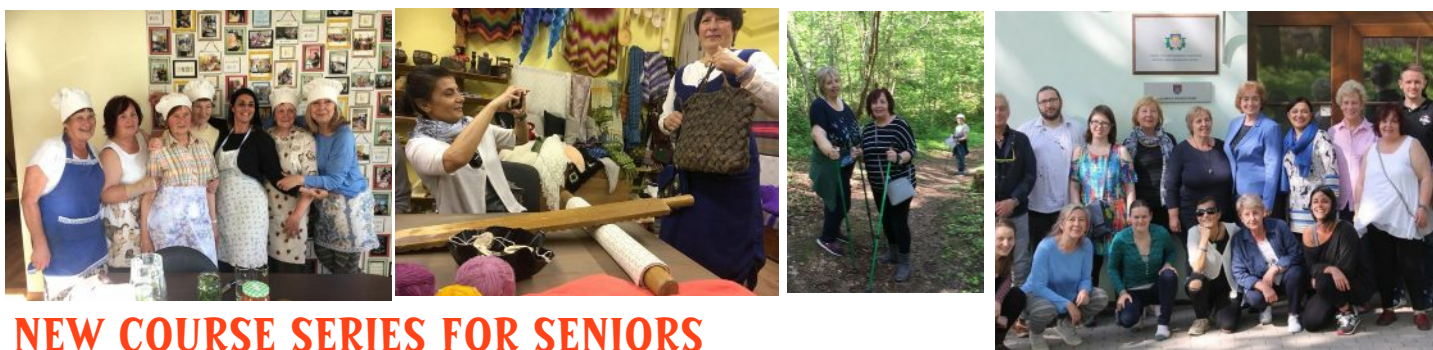


In our "Newcastle" in **Denmark**, over 140 students met at **Nyborg Gymnasium** (school) recently to review and discuss the topic that had been the theme of our Newcastles of the World youth conference last December. The topic was "what attracts young people to visit, work and stay in our city?" and what should be the content of a special "app" that we're developing to help young people get the best possible experience when they visit another of our Newcastles of the World?

COMMUNITY

QUALITY LEARNING = QUALITY AGEING

Our main Newcastle of the World conference theme in 2016 was about working with and for older people to ensure excellent quality of later life. **Jaunpils**, our Newcastle in Latvia, is a member of a 30-month European Union- funded programme (Erasmus +) called “Quality Learning Experience = Quality Active Ageing” which is a very good example of this work. There are partners from Spain, Bulgaria, Italy, England, Lithuania and Greece. Jaunpils recently hosted their part of the programme, a joint staff training event which included projects on cooking and healthy eating, craft workshops, use of recycled materials, cheese-making (one of Jaunpils’ main economic activities) and Nordic walking. Each partner will host such a training event, part of developing collaborative networks/approaches and the creation of a Good Practice Guide (with two examples from each partner) on How Learning Contributes to Active Ageing. Lifelong learning is an important contributor to active ageing and ensures that people stay active, have a sense of purpose, do not become socially isolated (with impacts on mental health) and increase their circle of friends to rely upon.



NEW COURSE SERIES FOR SENIORS

Neuchâtel, a member of the Network of Age-Friendly Cities of the Union of Swiss Cities, pays the utmost attention to the health, activity and mobility of its elderly population. It is in this context that there are free courses this spring for seniors, in a collaboration between the Council and its partners, Pro Senectute Arc Jura, Büro für Mobilität, TransN and Pro Bike. On the menu are exercises to secure your bus journeys with a walker, control ticket machines at the station or an introduction to the electric bike. While a recent prevention campaign called "Going Smooth" emphasises the good coexistence between cyclists and seniors on shared spaces, these new free courses are offered to anyone wishing to maintain their mobility.



In early May the city of **Nyborg** recognised a number of special community volunteers at an awards ceremony. In the presence of the Mayor Kenneth Muhs, the chairman of the Culture and Leisure Committee Councillor Erik Rosengaard presented a cheque, certificate and flowers to Ann Rasmussen from NGIF Gymnastics & Athletics, Maria Jensen from Kongshøj Scout Group and Nyborg Castle Buelaug , a group of over 40 volunteers who foster medieval archery, involving children and adults.

Newcastle City Council (New South Wales Australia) has thanked hundreds of volunteers who help make the city a better place at a special morning tea marking the country’s National Volunteers Week. Many of them gathered at Newcastle Museum to be thanked by Lord Mayor Nuttali Nelmes and Council CEO Jeremy Bath for the countless hours they’ve dedicated to the community over the past year.

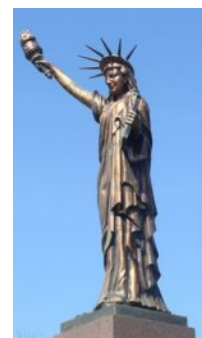
Nyborg and Newcastle NSW celebrate their volunteers



Volunteers from all walks of life lend their skills, passion and time at various locations across the city including Landcare sites, libraries, the Museum, Art Gallery, Civic Playhouse and at major events like the Newcastle 500 and A-League Grand Final live site. Volunteers also sit on many committees, help manage city parks, fields and halls, and act as city guides through the NewCREW programme.



Did you know that there’s not only a Statue of Liberty in New York but also in New Castle?! There are mini Statues in several communities around the USA and one is in **New Castle, Pennsylvania**. It’s a source of pride to the citizens and recently the lady received some serious TLC from some local volunteers coordinated by New Visions and Lawrence County Action. New flowering shrubs and plants were put in around the base of the Statue as part of 'Clean and Grow New Castle' Thanks to local business Pita for adding new flags and 'adopting' the island this summer to help keep it beautiful.



ENVIRONMENT

NEUCHÂTEL SAYS NO TO STRAWS

The Swiss city of **Neuchâtel** has decided to ban the use of plastic straws in cafes from 2019, following a global trend to reduce plastic waste. The ban, which could come into force on January 1 next year, is set to make Neuchâtel the first municipality in the country to outlaw the use of plastic straws. The ban has the support of hotel and catering association GastroNeuchatel and has largely been welcomed by local restaurant owners. "The aim is to bring together the cafes, restaurants and bars that have decided to draw a line on plastic straws by replacing them with reusable or biodegradable ones," said Leila Rolli, initiator of the environmental movement *En Vert Et Contre Tout*. "This is an easy and economical approach for the environment, and allows everyone to make a small gesture each day," she said.

The city has also launched an awareness campaign to give restaurants time to prepare for the change.

The city is launching a campaign offering the cafetiers-restaurateurs free compostable straw kits to raise awareness of their clientele. There are several alternatives: no straw at all, or straw in corn starch, stainless steel, bamboo or cardboard. At a press conference communal councillor Violaine Blétry-de Montmollin (left) and Leila Rolli, didn't worry about ending up with pink moustaches after drinking straight from the glass - no straw!



SMART MOVE, NEWCASTLE !

Newcastle has become the first **Australian** city to get an electric bike sharing network after the Federal Government selected the city to lead the way. Transport for New South Wales and local start-up company Bykko rolled out 100 bikes for hire at 19 electric charging stations across the city in a first step in the city's grand transport transformation. "The electric bike sharing project is designed to make it easier to move around the city and is another step towards the introduction of a multi-modal transport system for Newcastle," Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said.



"This initiative was kick started in 2016 by the Council's place-making grants programme and now forms part of our Smart City Strategy. The roll out of e-bikes today is just the start of an expanded network that the Council is delivering". Electric bikes improve transport options, the environment and community health. The Council's collaboration has provided technical advice, electrical connections and civil works to support this first stage. Multi-modal transport systems are part of the "Smart Move Newcastle" project, for which Council and partners received a \$5million Australian Government grant.

Under it eight more solar- powered charging stations will bring Newcastle into line with the cycling connectivity of European cities such as Antwerp, Copenhagen and Bordeaux. Other Smart Move initiatives that will roll out in the near future include autonomous vehicle trials, a network of renewable energy powered docking stations for electric vehicles, and inroad sensors to provide data on parking availability via apps.

"Cleaning Day 2018" in the **Jaunpils** region (Latvia) was a great success - public places were cleaned up, trees were planted and landscaped house courtyards were cleaned up.

Particularly active this year were young people, who went "plogging" -a special fitness regime that took them around one of the lakes of Jaunpils whilst at the same time collecting litter and debris.



A record number of volunteers took part in "Operation Clean Sweep" in **Newcastle, Ontario, Canada** this year (April).

Over 200 helped clean up Samuel Wilmot Nature Area, Newcastle, Bond Head, and The Port of Newcastle. 1800 pounds (800kilos) of garbage was collected - and this year there was a barbecue for helpers.



In the last issue we reported the opening of "Forest Adventure", an exciting new outdoor activity park in **Shinshiro** City, our Newcastle in Japan. Here (left) is the Mayor having a try!



Clarington Municipality (Canada) is working with local restaurants on a "sidewalk patio" programme to support the businesses and make the sidewalk (pavement) more visually attractive - it's about rerouting the sidewalk or extending patio seating to parking spaces, keeping pedestrian safety in mind. Above is an example in the main street of **Newcastle**. 6

TOURISM AND BUSINESS

The Annual Newcastle Home & Lifestyle Show is on June 3rd at the Arena, **Ontario, Canada**. More than 80 vendors provide expert advice while at the same time showcasing their products and services to the large number of visitors from the Clarington area of Durham County.

The show is a great opportunity for businesses to connect with customers and for residents to find solutions for all of their home and personal improvement needs. The Newcastle District Chamber of Commerce promotes this show - does your "Newcastle" have something similar?



SUSTAINING THE VITALITY OF OUR CITY CENTRES

Northumbria University in **Newcastle upon Tyne** has obtained an Arts and Humanities Research Council to study "The Future of the City Centre" in the face of pressures from online and out-of-town shopping and falling demand for commercial space. The University has three international partners - in Brazil and South Africa - but most important of all in **Newcastle, Australia** where Dr Marcus Jeffries of the University of Newcastle leads. Each partner will host a major symposium - in Newcastle upon Tyne it will be in September 2018, and the one in New South Wales, in February 2019. We identified this as a major issue for all of our Newcastles at our 2014 conference, so we will share information about the project and its conclusions - and we encourage those of you in Newcastle upon Tyne and Newcastle, Australia (or even from further afield) to attend the local symposium.

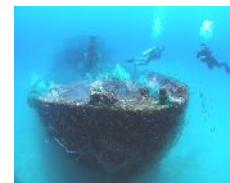


There will be a project website soon - but in the meantime please see <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/news-events/events/2018/09/ahrc-network-future-of-the-city-centre/>



Under the banner "Kota Bharu Welcomes the World" our Newcastle in Malaysia sets out its many attractions for tourists and business. See <http://www.mpkbbri.gov.my/en/visitors/kota-bharu-info>, but we also like to read travel blogs - see this one - <http://iwandered.net/2015/08/18/why-you-should-visit-kota-bharu-in-kelantan/>

One new specialist attraction for deep sea divers is the large number of wrecks of Japanese warships off the coast. But maybe they're not yet as popular as visiting the famous Siti Khadijah Central Market or the Istana Balai Besar palace.



There's a wonderful new book recently published in the Czech Republic about the mountain landscape that surrounds **Nove Hradý**. Written by Michaela Vlčková "The Spiritual Landscape of the Novohrad Mountains" is dedicated not only to landscape and heritage but also to human stories. The municipality hosted an author's reading and an associated exhibition of photographs and paintings.

NEUCHÂTEL IN CONNECTED MODE

There's a wonderful tourist train service that runs through the city of **Neuchâtel**. Here's what one tourist says about it: "Welcomed by a smiling driver, our whole little family climbs on board the new electric tourist train. A few minutes later, the silent engine starts and our journey begins. We re-discover the old town of Neuchâtel with amazement. Threading its way through pedestrians and on-lookers, the train takes us through the streets of the city and climbs to the Château and the Collégiale. There's a 10 minute stop for the children to stretch their legs and the adults to look round these two magnificent witnesses of Neuchâtel history.

When it's time to set off again, our driver signals to us and we board the train again. We return to the Place du Port admiring the charms of the Quartier de la Main and the shores of the lake... The children are already asking - when are we going on that little train again?"



In addition, with the new app "Totemi" you can explore the city via an intriguing and interactive fantasy journey called "Ghosts of the Belle Epoque", plunging into the history of the early twentieth century, between political agitation and an unhappy love story!

HERITAGE

NEW CASTLE PA'S MAGIC STORY

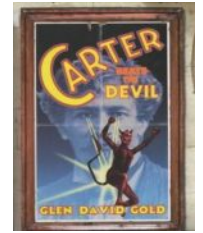
Charles Joseph Carter, born in **New Castle, Pennsylvania, USA**, was a renowned American stage magician, also known as "Carter the Great". Carter's first theatrical experience was in Baltimore, aged 10, where he appeared as "Master Charles Carter the Original Boy Magician".

His amazing story is the theme of a novel by Glen David Gold called "Carter Beats the Devil"

This involved the 29th President of the USA Warren Harding and various other historical figures as well as FBI agents trying to solve a plot that the illusionists becomes involved in.

There has been interest in making a film of the book and at various times the names of Tom Cruise and Johnny Depp have been mentioned to play Carter – but it hasn't happened yet ! Carter began his career as a journalist and lawyer but he grew an interest in magic. Due to stiff competition from the number of magic acts in the USA at the time, Carter achieved his greatest fame beyond the USA. Among the highlights of Carter's stage performances during his career were the classic "sawing a woman in half" illusion (an elaborate surgical-themed version with "nurses" in attendance), making a live elephant disappear and "cheating the gallows", where a shrouded Carter would vanish, just as he dropped at the end of a hangman's noose.

Carter purchased the famous Martinka Magic Palace in 1917, a time when he was unable to continue his world touring magic show. The story goes that he kept his lion, Monty, in the back room of the shop and when it would roar, the startled customers would run for the door!



SHINSHIRO CITY AND THE FAMOUS BATTLE OF NAGASHINO

On May 5th, **Shinshiro City** staged its annual Nagashino Battle festival on the original site in the area of the former castle. The highlight of the festival is a demonstration by men, dressed in period costume, using authentic matchlock guns, just as Oda Nobunaga's forces did more than 400 years ago. During the Sengoku period (1482-1573), the Takeda family was one of the strongest clans in Japan, known in particular for its successful cavalry charges. Yet in 1575, it found itself up against something that rendered it powerless — the new western technology of firearms. In early July that year, allies of Oda attacked and defeated Takeda Katsuyori's forces, which had besieged Nagashino castle at what is also known locally as the Battle of Shitaragahara.



GHOSTBUSTERS AT WORK IN NEW CASTLE, INDIANA

Thornhaven Manor in **New Castle, Indiana, USA**, was built in 1845 on 1000 acres of woods, meadows and marshland, and has been abandoned since the 1970s. This once palatial mansion is now overgrown and rundown, and. It looks every bit the haunted house it is said to be and the house is now the subject of much investigation by "ghostbusters" for paranormal activity.

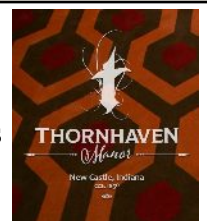


The owner said that the first he knew of it being haunted was when the agent was showing him the property. He heard a scream and heard a door slam. A couple who are the owner's friends were visiting and heard footsteps in the kitchen. The home has seen death: one little child, Lizzy Powell, the youngest to die, at 2 years old, and one murder - Ruben Bailey, a caretaker, was poisoned with rat poison by a son-in-law. Some investigators have captured a scream on audio and thermal images of the figure of a woman.

A former owner's grown son had also died in the home after a leg injury received in the civil war, and the wife of a son, Emilia, who had mental illness, drowned herself in the river. The woman caring for Emilia went to find her and felt "led" to the river where she was found.

The Manor is now part of a non-profit organisation seeking special status for the restoration, historical preservation and educational research of the property. At the end of May local volunteers began a major clean-up of the area around the property. Read more here about the ghosthunters at the Manor:

<http://www.southernindianaghosthunters.com/Thornhaven-Manor.html>



OTHER NEWS

As part of the 2018/19 budget Public Consultation Programme (and Roadshows) in **Newcastle, South Africa**, Mayor Councillor M.E Nkosi visited the Community of Charlestown to formally handover projects to the Community. The most significant was a new Water Treatment Plant as part of the drought intervention project aimed at providing the Community of Charlestown with emergency water supplies. Another completed infrastructure project saw 256 families receiving electrification of their homes for the first time.



Asylum Camp to become University Campus in Neuburg



It has been announced by the Bavarian Parliament that that the asylum camp that was established in the centre of **Neuburg an der Donau**, Germany, will be moved to a different location in the coming five years and its large grounds will become the home of a branch of the Technical University of nearby Ingolstadt. The campus will not only provide homes for students but also lecture halls, a library, cafes and small shops. By the end of 2023 about 1000 students are expected, especially for science and engineering studies such as civil engineering, sustainable building projects, intelligent energy management.

President of the Technical University in Ingolstadt, Dr Walter Schober stated that a team of researchers will then work on different projects and if things develop well Neuburg will see a rising number of students in years to come.



At the end of May, Regional Administration and **Akhalsikhe** Municipality City Hall leaders, as well as World War II veterans, laid wreaths of flowers at the War Memorial in the city, and a tribute concert of traditional Georgian folk music was held. This marked the 73rd anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the defeat of fascism. The dignitaries included Municipality Mayor Zaza Melikidze, (left in photo).



The end of the war in **Nové Zámky**, our Newcastle in Slovakia, was also marked, signifying the liberation of the city by the Soviet army. A memorial to the end of the Second World War was made by talks by eyewitnesses, laying wreaths at the Memorial to the Victims of Violence, an improvised World War II re-enactment, presenting historical weapons, military technology, and pyrotechnic effects, but based on real events.



Shinshiro City, Japan, marked the official opening of its fine new municipal offices with a formal ceremony to cut the ribbon



OTHER NEWS

In April a ceremony took place in **Nové Hradý, Czech Republic** for the opening of the reconstructed Empire theatre inside the modern Castle in the town. Over 100 guests attended with Mayor Vladimír Hokr and regional governor Ivana Stráská - representatives of the Academy of Sciences, university officials from Austria and the USA as well as the Czech Republic, theatre historians and producers. The evening's cultural programme included scenes from the life of the Buquoy family, folk songs and other local traditional music, plus an operatic aria by Marta Kolesnik.



The Newcastle Airshow (**Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**) returns on Saturday 2nd June and it's the only airshow in KZN province. The South African Airforce will be at the Total Air Newcastle Airshow in full force with A109, Gripen, Silver Falcons, Oryx, Cassa and more. There will be the Golden Eagles parachute jumpers and other acrobatic teams, with amusements and exhibitions to entertain young and old, food stalls and a beer garden. Don't miss it if you live in KZN. See <http://www.airshownewcastle.co.za/>

KOTA BHARU'S FAMOUS CLOCK TOWER

It was good to have the Malaysian "Newcastle" **Kota Bharu** represented at the recent youth conference in Shinshiro, Japan and intending to come to our main conference in October. There are good links already between Kota Bharu and Japan which are symbolised through Kota Bharu's much-photographed clock tower. The clock tower was launched in 2005 by Mr Yosuke Yoshioka, President of ROHN-WAKO of Kasaoka City, Japan which operates a large semi-conductor factory in Kota Bharu. The company's investment in Kota Bharu, with recent plant extension, helped pave the way for Kota Bharu and Kasaoka to become twin cities in 1999. The clock tower is referred to as Kota Bharu-Kasaoka City Clock Tower and is a visual representation of the link between the cities. It was relocated in 2015 to be closer to the night market in the city centre which is better for attracting tourists.



Aquarium for Neuburg ?

There had been plans to establish a third National Park in Bavaria along the Danube between the towns of Donauwerth and Ingolstadt with Neuburg in the centre of it. However, the new Minister Presidents for Bavaria is not a supporter of the idea and instead has proposed a Danube Aquarium in Neuburg or elsewhere in the District. This could be attractive for local people and tourists but as yet there are no firm plans.

Myno Van Dyke (right), a long time member of the **Newcastle Village (Canada) District Historical Society** was recognised recently with a special heritage award by Mayor Adrian Foster and Clarington council for his achievements in the area of heritage preservation and education.



The old watermill in **Jaunpils, Latvia** is to be reconstructed under EU InterReg project funding aimed at promoting a better understanding of industrial heritage and to revive heritage buildings for the benefit of tourism.

Three more photos below from Akhaltsikhe's centenary celebration (see front page)



NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD NEWS

A report from project Director Zélie Guérin - A Wonderful Welcome in Nyborg, Denmark

“I’ve just had a tremendous visit to Nyborg. Sanne Hoffensetz Andresen, Head of Tourism in the municipality organised an excellent visit programme involving a number of colleagues and a range of site visits. We discussed areas of collaboration, including developing projects with young people, initiatives to promote tourism between the Newcastle, as well as exchanging knowledge on our cultural heritage. We visited Campus Nyborg, which has an innovative approach in co-locating schools, combined with international courses and opportunities. Newcastles of the World provides an international platform to create new opportunities by sharing ideas and getting involved in new project development. The visit has strengthened links and generated new ideas and I’m looking forward to next steps.

I would like to thank everyone I met in **Nyborg** for making me feel so welcome and would encourage you to visit this city, which is the heart of the kingdom of Denmark. With its rich cultural life and fascinating heritage, Nyborg has the great ambition of securing UNESCO World Heritage site status for its castle. The whole municipality and citizens are joining forces on this, full of commitment and energy.



Zélie (left in top photo) with Sanne and also with Martin Stenmann (left) and Peter Wagner Mollerup

The combination of beautiful countryside and coastline, with picturesque buildings and an emerging reputation for fine dining makes it a very attractive place to visit. Despite having an intensive programme I still got to experience Danish ‘hygge’, that special Danish convivial, cosy welcome! Nyborg has two business conference centres and first-class hotels, with very good transport links, including direct access to the motorway, a highly efficient railway system and a deep water port, making it an attractive place to do business. Industry specialises in working to create a cleaner environment and creating environmentally-friendly energy. There is a lot to explore in Nyborg!”

MORE ON THE NEW TEAM IN SHINSHIRO CITY- continued from front page

Marie’s introduction : “My name is Marie Alvandi. I am from Chicago, USA and have been working for the City of Shinshiro under the JET Program since April 2018. I have been involved with translation work between English and Japanese and have been preparing for the Newcastle Conference that will be held in Japan later this year. I am excited to learn about all the different Newcastles around the world and looking forward to meeting everyone.”

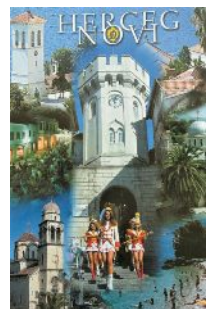
Taissa’s introduction : My name is Taissa Marroig, I’m from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I’ve been working as a Coordinator of International Relations under the JET Programme since April and my jobs include working on the Portuguese Assistance Service and doing translations in order to improve the quality of life of the Brazilian citizens in Shinshiro. I also studied English, so I’m looking forward to take part and help however I can to make the Newcastle Conference a success. I hope to meet everyone soon!”

Carole’s introduction: “ My Name is Carole Marullaz. I come from Neuchâtel Switzerland. I am taking over Marie Desaulles position in Shinshiro. I studied International Relations with a concentration in International Economics. It’s my first time in Japan and I can’t wait to discover it. I have some basic knowledge of Japanese. I will be visiting schools and especially preparing for the 2018 conference in Shinshiro! I can’t wait to meet you all in October”



NEW FRIENDS IN HERCEG NOVI, MONTENEGRO

Newcastles of the World Coordinator, David Faulkner, recently combined a holiday in Montenegro with a visit to the municipality (and beautiful, historic city) of **Herceg Novi** (“Newcastle” of course) where he was based. He met Simonida Kordic, Head of International Cooperation for the Municipality, and discussed opportunities for involving Herceg Novi in collaborative projects with other Newcastles in areas of common interest.



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 and 2010, UK 2006 (Newcastle-under-Lyme) and 2012 (Newcastle upon Tyne), Germany (Neuburg) in 2008, Nové Hradky (Czech Republic) in 2014 and Newcastle, Ontario, Canada in 2016. The aim of Newcastles of the World is to foster links of friendship, culture, education, business and tourism between us all.

SPORT



Président de la Ville de Neuchâtel Fabio Bongiovanni (right) and senior politicians and officials were also there to add their congratulations.



Neuchâtel Xamax have returned to the Swiss Super League after a great season in which they finished as champions of the Challenge League. The whole city celebrated the success of their football team in a wonderful day in late May.



And in Neuburg an der Donau, Germany, VfR Neuburg is back in football's national league after a 31 year absence. They finished as champions of the district league Schwaben Nord and coach Christian Krzyzanowski (right) can claim much of the credit for the team's success.



The Slovak Aerobic Gymnastics Open was held in Nové Zámky recently, with a record 650 competitors from 16 countries, a record.



They competed in all age categories of sports aerobics and the organisers put on a spectacular event.

The highlight was the participation of world champion Ivan Veléz from Mexico, who dominated the competition in the men's category. He is pictured left above receiving his trophy from deputy mayor Lukáš Štefánik. In the women's class the winner was Slovak Anita Lamošová, who has been chosen for the World Championship in Portugal. The championship took place under the auspices of the Mayor of Nové Zámky Otokar Klein, hosted by Fitness club - Aerobik Bánov at the Milénium Sports Hall. Photos from Miroslav Klobučník.



Although they lost the play-off final to Melbourne Victory, Newcastle Jets football team in the Australian A League have had a great season. With the final actually being played in Newcastle, the whole city went soccer crazy - it's the way that sport can really build civic pride and pull people together.



Newcastle-under-Lyme College (England) was delighted to welcome England goalkeeper Jack Butland to meet its football team and other students recently. Jack plays for the local Premier League team Stoke City and has just been named in the England squad for the World Cup in Russia. He was England's youngest - ever goalkeeper when first selected for the national team.



There's another success in karate for Nové Hradý's Tomáš Hermann, a member of karate club TJ České Budějovice, Czech Republic. In April Tomáš won the gold medal in his category at the World Cup event in Lodz, Poland.

Newcastle Falcons are Newcastle upon Tyne's rugby union team, and they've had their best season for many years. Their achievement in reaching this season's title play-offs has been rewarded with two major accolades at the Aviva Premiership Awards. The Fijian winger Vereniki Goneva - who was top try scorer in the Premiership - has been named player of the season while Dean Richards picked up the best director of rugby award at the ceremony in London in early May

