

TRANSPLANT GAMES ARE INSPIRING

In late August **Newcastle upon Tyne**, England, together with Gateshead on the south bank of the River Tyne, enjoyed the privilege of staging the World Transplant Games – 2300 competitors, aged 6 to 84 from 59 different countries competing at 13 venues in athletics, swimming, cycling, football, tennis, golf and swimming among the many sports. They brought many thousands of coaches, family and supporters with them, making it an inspiring week for everyone involved, including the host city.



Left - the Canadian team at the opening parade, and Newcastle of the World's Zélie Guérin with some of the team members from Japan - visitors from Shinshiro met them later in the week - see page 3 about the visit.



Among the medal winners was **Neuchâtel's** Gisèle Ceppi - the oldest of the Swiss delegation at 73 years, who had a kidney transplant in 1999, and is a regular medal winner at the Transplant Games ! See photo right above. This time she won three gold and two silver! Well done Gisèle!

The World Transplant Games Federation is an organisation of 70 countries that celebrates successful organ transplantation and the gift of life through unique and inspiring events –the Summer and Winter World Transplant Games – every two years. The competitors are unique in that each one of them is alive and well as a result of a successful organ transplant. All around the world, there are thousands of people alive today, unified by this common bond. Some owe their lives to living donors, who are family members or friends, and others to the generosity of perfect strangers. The next Summer Games will be in Houston, USA in 2021. Maybe another one of our "Newcastles" may wish to bid to host in the future?



SECRETARIAT VISIT TO NOVE ZAMKY

Newcastles of the World's Zélie Guérin and David Faulkner, with Sue Wilson - also from Newcastle upon Tyne - visited **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia at the end of July for discussions with Mayor Otokar Klein and Head of Culture Katarína Hozlárová. Topics included the Slovak City of Culture 2020 programme and possible international collaborations via Newcastles of the World. It was a chance to meet others from the city, see the sights and enjoy the annual Porciunkula festival - see page 2



From 5-8 September **Nyborg** (Denmark) again hosts "Norden i Nyborg", the celebration of the arts and heritage of the Nordic countries. Visitors will be inspired to experience, listen, sing, discuss and taste what is special about the culture of the Nordic countries. One highlight is a session about Nordic diversity and relationships through a focus on literature, with famous guest writers exploring what Nordic literature has in common and also where the traditions differ. See <http://www.nordeninyborg.dk/>



FESTIVALS

The 2019 International Fantasy Film Festival **Neuchâtel** (NIFFF) attracted a record 48,000 festival-goers. It confirmed its position as a major event in the Swiss and international film landscape and is enjoying sustainable growth on the eve of its jubilee in 2020. The supernatural comedy **EXTRA ORDINARY** of the Irish Mike Ahern and Enda Loughman won the Narcissus HR Giger (CHF 10'000 endowed by the City of Neuchâtel). The international jury also recognized Miguel Llansó's creative hysteria **JESUS SHOWS YOU THE WAY TO THE HIGHWAY** with the Best Production Design Award.



Above - the NIFFF organising team



One city, two galleries, five concerts, six days, ten venues and 50 comic authors and theorists of the “ninth art” - this year's 13th edition of the **Herceg Novi** (Montenegro) strip festival (HSF) is from September 6 to September 11.

Reminding us that 2019 is full of significant anniversaries from the comics world, this year's edition of the HSF will mark historic moments for the genre - 90 years since Tintin, 80 years of Batman, 60 years of Asterix, 50 years of famous Balkan comic Dikan.

The thirteenth edition of one of the officially best strip festivals in this part of Europe ends at “Peoples” beach bar with the concert of the great Serbian rock band Viva Vops.

The latest edition of the Buskers Festival in **Neuchâtel** brought huge crowds to the city's streets (left) We look forward to next year when there will be performers from other Newcastles at the Buskers Festival.

Below - scenes from the annual Porciunkula festival in **Nové Zámky**, Slovakia at the end of July. Despite the rain, everyone enjoyed the music, stalls - and the goulash !



Above - this year's festival in **Akhaltzikhe** to commemorate medieval Georgian hero and saint Shalva Akhaltikheli.



The annual Shitaragahara Battlefield Festival took place in **Shinshiro**, our "Newcastle" in Japan in early July. This is the colourful and dramatic annual re-enactment of one of the most important parts of Shinshiro's history, at the site of the famous samurai battle, the Battle of Nagashino, also known locally as the Battle of Shitaragahara, in 1575. Here, the forces of Oda Nobunaga, armed with the relatively new matchlock guns, defeated the battle-hardened Takeda samurai army and prevented its march on the then national capital, Kyoto.

FROM ONE NEWCASTLE TO ANOTHER!



Welcome summer visitors to Newcastle upon Tyne from **Shinshiro**, Japan, are pictured on the Newcastle Quayside, meeting Newcastle United and Japanese international player Yoshinori Muto at Newcastle United football ground; also meeting Lord Mayor Councillor David Cook, and members of the Newcastle Youth Council with whom they spent some time sharing their experiences of youth democracy.



A strong friendship is building between **Kota Bharu**, Malaysia and **Shinshiro**, Japan. In our last edition we covered the creation of the new Peace Park in Kota Bharu and the plans for a Japanese festival of food and the arts to mark the opening. Friends from Shinshiro were able to share in this special relationship between the Kota Bharu area and Japan.



No, this is not a scene from a play by William Shakespeare - it's Councillor Martin Stenman (left) from **Nyborg**, Denmark, dressed as Danish King Christian II, with

Dr. Bernhard Gmehling, Mayor of **Neuburg** an der Donau ("Newcastle" in Bavaria) during the recent Neuburg castle festival. Several other Newcastles visited the costumed festival this year.

Neuchâtel Festival of Sports took place at the end of August - amazing sports shows to enjoy, including freestyle motocross with world champion Mat Rebeaud, trial bikes, parkour, acrobatic circus and slackline at 7m high!



SPORT



10.8.2019 TJ Nové Hradky - KFI ČR
Stojel: Sebou, Kuchar, Kabyl, Hromádka, Vyskočil, Kordule
V podrepu: Vašha, Ondra, Vašiček, Macho, Mlejnek



The football club **TJ Nové Hradky** - celebrated its 70th anniversary on August 10 with matches involving younger and older students and with displays, music and fireworks. But the main attraction was a very special match between former TJ Nové Hradky players and past stars of the Czech Republic national team - pictured right!

CALLING ARTISTS WHO LIVE IN A “NEWCASTLE”!



Working with the Newcastles of the World Secretariat in Newcastle upon Tyne, writer, comic performer and film-maker Sharon Race is helping to bring artists from other Newcastles together. The first step is a Facebook page which has just been set up. Sharon says: “*Newcastles of the World Artists Together* is to bring all creative people from the cities and towns named Newcastle around the world together - to unite in our talents, inspirations and works; a place to share our knowledge, innovations, creativity, visions and to connect - making the Newcastles one, together!” This will be a platform for artists to connect and collaborate - and Newcastles of the World hope to develop creative projects that bring artists together. Look up “Newcastles of the World Artists Together” on Facebook - like, and spread the word!

One of Sharon’s own fun projects is “Races Around the World” (check it out on Facebook too) - a blog that tells about “one woman’s adventures with her mother in tow” !



The annual **Artists and Artisans Show** was another huge success at the Memorial Arena, Newcastle, Canada.

(Right) - a beautiful panoramic collaboration depicting Broad Street, **New Castle, Indiana, USA** in 1910 created by 8 different local artists.



Symposium Novum 2019, the most important of the annual art exhibitions in **Nové Zámky, Slovakia**, opened recently in the town’s historic Imperial Riding Hall. *Below* are some photos.

Akhaltsikhe (Georgia) hosted an International craft exhibition in Rabati fortress (*above*) in early summer.



The 41st Summer Academy in **Neuburg an der Donau, Germany** took place from 28 July to 10 August – over 600 participants took part in 34 courses this year. Among them were about 270 children, who could enjoy the special activities arranged for them. And of course there were high quality performances from several art forms for the public to enjoy.



Schlossfest (Neuburg Castle Festival) and Music Exchange

Mr. Fumiyasu Yamamoto (right, below) who supported the Newcastles of the World conference in Shinshiro last year has forged a close relationship with the delegation from Neuburg an der Donau. He often goes on business trips to Germany and expressed a hope that he might visit the Schlossfest (Neuburg Castle Festival) which takes place every two years. So with the festival being on this year, as part of a five-person delegation from Shinshiro that was formed, his visit took place. Because this delegation was not officially from the city, they called it, “Katteni Houmondan” (in Japanese) or “footloose travellers”!



People in Neuburg welcomed the delegation from Shinshiro warmly. Since residents in Neuburg celebrated the festival with traditional Renaissance costumes, the Shinshiro delegation wore Japanese traditional clothes and marched in the historical event together.

Their goal was not only to get to know Schlossfest, but to participate in a joint musical activity in Neuburg. Ms. Mayumi Murata, who is a conductor and clarinetist of a brass band in Shinshiro, first met Mr. Markus Haninger from Neuburg during the 2018 Newcastles of the World Alliance Conference. During the conference, Markus had his clarinet with him and played in Mayumi’s wind band concert. This is how a music exchange between the two Newcastles began.



Mayumi Murata

In Neuburg, Mayumi rehearsed with the youth brass orchestra of the Neuburg band. Inspired by this great opportunity, a joint concert between Neuburg’s brass band and Shinshiro’s student brass orchestra in 2020 was proposed. Mayumi and other delegation members are now working closely with the city of Shinshiro to host this community concert in the summer of 2020.



The members of the Japanese “footloose travellers” would like to thank all friends from Neuburg an der Donau, who helped plan the trip and give everyone an enjoyable time !

Newcastle Australia has its fort too !

Many “Newcastles” take their name from replacement fortifications built over the centuries to defend the towns and cities, but others take their name because of coal mining and associations with the mining city of Newcastle upon Tyne in England. The latter is the case with **Newcastle, New South Wales in Australia** where the settlement was initially called Coal River, because of the supplies of coal discovered locally, then Kingstown and then renamed Newcastle, after England's famous coal port, around 200 years ago.

But this Newcastle also has its fortification – Fort Scratchley, built on top of Flagstaff Hill, overlooking the Tasman Sea and the Hunter River, less than 1 km from the Newcastle central business district. It was built in 1882, with heavy guns, to defend the city against a possible Russian attack. However, its guns were not fired in anger until 8 June 1942, during the shelling of Newcastle during World War II. The Australian Army left the site in 1972. The site is now owned by the city of Newcastle and fort is now a museum, staffed by volunteers from the Fort Scratchley Historical Society and open 6 days a week - admission and self guided tours (excluding tunnels) of the Fort is free. Local resident Margaret (Marg) Gayler has kindly written up the history of the fortifications and provided us with some photos (some below) – see article -

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/newcastle-fortresses.pdf>



A 68-pdr shortly after mounting at the Fort in 1874.

HERITAGE

NEWCASTLE CANADA'S PROUD INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

The world-renowned agricultural equipment manufacturing company Massey-Ferguson owes its origins to **Newcastle, Ontario** in Canada where Daniel Massey first established the Newcastle Foundry and Machine Manufactory in 1847. The company made some of the world's first mechanical threshers, at first by assembling parts from the United States, but eventually designing and building its own equipment. The company was renamed the Massey Manufacturing Co and in 1891 merged with A. Harris, Son & Co. Ltd to become Massey-Harris Limited, the largest agricultural equipment maker in the British Empire.

The company made advanced tractors and in 1938 the world's first combined harvester. During and after World War II, Massey-Harris undertook a number of contracts to produce tractors, tanks and self-propelled artillery vehicles for the U.S. Military. In 1953, Massey-Harris merged with the Ferguson Company to become Massey-Harris-Ferguson, before finally taking on its current name in 1958, now part of AGCO. The products of the Massey companies revolutionised agriculture, and for decades, Massey Ferguson has been the world's leading tractor brand. Currently, there are more Massey Ferguson tractors than any other, worldwide.



Daniel Massey (left) died in 1856, but the Newcastle Community Hall was built through the generosity of the Massey family.



The actor Raymond Massey was Daniel Massey's great-grandson, and the actors Daniel Massey and Anna Massey were Raymond Massey's children.

The Nové Hradý Smithy



The Nove Hradý blacksmith ("smithy") near the centre of **Nové Hradý**, Czech Republic, has a long history. A blacksmith and farrier (one who shoes horses) family had lived in this smithy from at least 1719. For two centuries this was the Grössinger family, passing from father to son. After the Second World War, the family was relocated to Austria and the family Karba bought the empty premises, but they were not blacksmiths. The son was a locally well-known painter of the South Bohemian landscape but neglected maintenance of the smithy. After his accidental death in 1999, the town council of **Nové Hradý** bought the now -derelict building and the first option was to demolish. However, the town decided to restore the premises in consultation with the national Cultural Heritage Protection Agency, and in association with master blacksmith Daniel Černý.

For the past 15 years, Robert Dulfer and the Rozmberk Society for Heritage Preservation and Regional Development has operated the smithy and blacksmith house as an active blacksmith museum and visitor centre. During the summer season apprentice blacksmiths can obtain experience in blacksmithing here and demonstrate their art to visitors. The historic workshop and accompanying living quarters are fully and functionally restored to a historic blacksmith workshop focused on local traditional crafts and products. The old stable and the barn house house exhibitions on the traditions of blacksmithing, coal mining, and other local traditions, and display original maps and locally made tools and utensils. The interior of the living quarters is restored to its 19th century condition and is used for special events and as an information and education centre for traditional crafts and products. Blacksmith Daniel Černý continues to collaborate with the Society in numerous projects for preserving traditional crafts and old folk traditions.

Gigantic fans and drums dance in a mesmerizing ritual!



Deep amidst the mountains of Okumikawa area in **Shinshiro**, Japan, is the old Senshoji Temple. Every year on 14/15 August, the townspeople hold the unique Omi-no-Hoka Festival at the temple's grounds, a local tradition persisting from the Kamakura Period and part of the local celebrations for Obon (Buddhist ancestral ceremony). In this strange event, a group of men with gigantic fans strapped to their backs dance around while playing very large drums - it's believed that the fans will both drive the music of drums to echo across the mountains, and "fan away" the sorrows for the year, whilst soothing the souls of the ancestors. 6

Sklandrausis

One of the many delicious recipes from different Newcastles that you can find in our Cookbook -

<https://newcastlesoftheworld.files.wordpress.com/2018/09/cookbook.pdf>

Sklandrausis (also known as žograusis or dižrausis) is a traditional dish in Latvian cuisine. It is a sweet pie, made of rye dough and filled with potato and carrot paste and seasoned with caraway.

Ingredients

Dough: 250g rye flour, 0.5 glass of water, a little butter.

Potato filling: 250g potatoes, 2 teaspoons of sour cream, 0.5 egg, a little butter, salt to taste.

Carrot filling: 400g carrots, 40g butter, 2 tablespoons of sour cream, 1.5 egg, sugar to taste.



Method Potato filling: boil the potatoes and dice them, add salt and melted butter, sour cream and egg.

Carrot filling: prepare just like the potatoes, only instead of salt add sugar.

Dough: mix the ingredients and make dough. Flatten it and with a round object (a mug, for instance) cut out the round pieces approximately 10–20 cm in diameter. Then turn up the edges of the pieces of dough (1 cm).

Place the prepared dough pads on an oiled baking sheet and fill them with a thin layer of the potato filling, then put the thicker layer of the carrot filling on the potato paste.

Bake the pies at medium heat until the dough becomes dry and the carrot filling is light brown.

Serve with milk and honey or with skābputra (a fermented milk and barley porridge).

Latvian cuisine is typical of the Baltic region and, in general, of northern European countries. The food is high in butter and fat while staying low in spices except for black pepper, dill or grains/seeds, such as caraway seeds.

Latvian cuisine originated from the peasant culture and is strongly based on crops that grow in Latvia's maritime, temperate climate. Rye or wheat, oats, peas, beets, cabbage, pork products and potatoes are the staples. Meat features in most main meal dishes. But fish also is commonly consumed due to Latvia's location on the east coast of the Baltic Sea: smoked and raw fish are quite common. Latvian cuisine offers plenty of varieties of bread and milk products.

A lot of popular dishes in contemporary Latvia come directly from other countries, often as a result of their historical domination. For example, dishes adopted from Soviet cuisine include dressed herring (Latvian: Siļķe kažokā), various dumplings, shashlik (šāšliks) and many others.



JAUNPILS, LATVIA

The symbol of Jaunpils municipality is the magnificent 14th Century medieval castle, which together with the Lutheran church from 1592, Watermill (1802) and the 17th Century Swedish Wall forms the village's cultural historical centre.

Jaunpils Pienotava has been making dairy products for over 100 years and now produces more than 20 different type of cheese, sour cream, cottage cheese, dessert, puddings, sweet and salty curd mass.



YOUTH

Neuburg Students Collect Money for Congo Water Pipe

One hundred and thirty students of the Vocational School of **Neuburg** (Germany) have taken part in a project to help to build a water pipe for the village of Kizela in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They ran 3,000 laps each over a distance of 150 metres, collecting money from sponsors among their relatives, friends and local companies - 5000 Euros which they handed to Priest Serge Senzedi.

Father Senzedi left Kizela seven years ago to work in Neuburg. The people of Kizela had to walk 3 kilometers (2 miles) to reach their water supply station, from where the water had to be carried back. Now, a new water pipe will make life a lot easier for the community. This is the third project already which the students of Neuburg have helped to finance. With their help a school and an office block may be built in the village.



Sporting Excellence Award Winners (L-R)
Ricardo Fuller, Robert Banks, Beth Roberts, Lauren Cadwgan, Greg Butler
Terry Conroy and Karen Dobson OBE

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

It was a night filled with celebration, reflection, pride and emotion. The annual Celebration Awards of **Newcastle-under-Lyme** (UK) College again showcased the College, its students, apprentices and employer partners at their very best. Held at the College's £5.5 million Performing Arts Centre the evening saw 39 different awards presented for outstanding contributions and successes; including dedicated sixth form awards, awards for each of the vocational subject areas offered at the College, apprenticeship achievement and employer recognition awards.

Special guests who helped Newcastle College Principal, Karen Dobson present the awards included Stoke City football club legends Terry Conroy and Ricardo Fuller, who were joined by Robert Banks, son of the late Gordon Banks OBE - England's most famous goalkeeper who died just this year - who kindly presented the Sporting Excellence awards named after his late father.

Born in **Newcastle, South Africa**, Nerissa Naidu is no stranger to international business. Her latest accolade is an exciting new part of her global journey, after being selected for the Forum of Young Global Leaders (YGL) by the World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting in China. She now joins an elite group of young leaders embracing: "The challenge of striving to create a meaningful, positive impact in the world."

She hopes to work with the African contingent of the WEF, and aims to affect as much change as possible during her five-year tenure with YGL. "I want to champion change through global financial inclusion. We need to empower people financially, to look at sustainable finance and an investment portfolio for the poor, despite people living for each monthly pay cheque."



Apprentices and interns who completed their training in the city of **Neuchâtel** were invited to a closing ceremony (*see right*) The President of the municipal council Thomas Facchinetti gave them his best wishes for their future before offering them a pen: a symbolic gift that will allow them to sign their first contract! A trainer employer, the city offers learning in a wide variety of trades and commercial professional maturity courses. This year, 29 young people and young girls have successfully completed their training. Congratulations to them all !



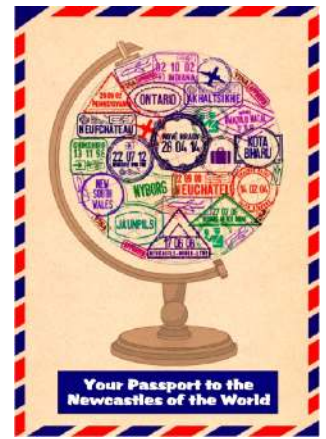
The Under-17 Open Nordic football championship was hosted in **Nyborg**, Denmark in early August, with national teams from the Nordic countries and guest teams such as Mexico - and Denmark won!



Passport Spotlight on New Castle, Pennsylvania

New Castle, Pennsylvania is one of our community of Newcastles who've signed up to our special Passport scheme to support you to visit other Newcastles around the world. The Newcastles Passport scheme promotes tourism and friendship between Newcastles around the world. Each Newcastle taking part has carefully selected a series of special offers just for visitors from other Newcastles.

Visitors sign up for a free 'Passport' through our website, then the named contact from that Newcastle gets in touch to start arranging their special visit. Each Newcastle is committed to offering a personalised touch, with a warm and friendly welcome to anyone living in or from an affiliated Newcastle.



All about New Castle, Pennsylvania

The city of New Castle in America is waiting to give you a warm welcome to Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. It's situated 50 miles (80km) North West of Pittsburgh near the Pennsylvania-Ohio border, with a population of 23,000 and is the commercial centre of a fertile agricultural region.

New Castle is known both as the "hot dog capital of the world" and the "fireworks capital of America." Its chili dogs are the product of Greek immigrants who came to New Castle in the early 20th century and established restaurants along with their homes. The notoriety for fireworks is because of two local fireworks companies of international stature, S.Vitale Pyrotechnic Industries, Inc. (Pyrotecnico) and Zambelli Internationale.



Our friends in New Castle, Pennsylvania have arranged some fantastic and exclusive offers for visitors:

- Share a meal with Janet Falotico, Lawrence County Tourism Executive Director, and elected officials such as the mayor, city council, and county commissioners upon availability.
- Dine with a host family and/or other local residents upon availability.
- Discounted Walking/Guided Tours including seeing haunted downtown, an underground railroad & "Simple Life" Amish tours - the Amish (below right) are a traditionalist Christian fellowship with Swiss/German origins, known for simple living, plain dress, and reluctance to adopt many conveniences of modern life.
- Scottish Rite Cathedral Complimentary Tour - used today for wedding receptions, banquets, and most notably for performances by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra
- Historic Warner Cascade Theatre Museum (below left) on the site of the very first Warner Brothers theatre!
- Hoyt Mansions Tour (right above - lower photo) - there are many wonderful historic houses in New Castle.



To see all the Newcastles around the world taking part in the scheme, visit our website at <https://newcastlesoftheworld.com/projects/passport/> Please note these special offers are only open to visitors to each Newcastle and are not available to residents of those cities.

BUSINESS AND TOURISM

With headquarters in **Newcastle upon Tyne**, Greggs is the UK's largest bakery chain (1800 outlets) and has just opened its first drive-thru shop in its hometown. With indoor seating for 40 people as well as 40 seats outside, the drive-thru offers Greggs' core product range across the day, including the brand's famous vegan sausage roll which launched at the start of the year.

Greggs is also one of the UK's most socially-responsible businesses. The Greggs Foundation is a grant-making charity which improves the quality of life in local communities, distributing around £3 million per year to charitable organisations throughout the country. The innovative Greggs Breakfast Club Programme was established in 1999 to help primary school children get a nutritious start to their school day.



The tourist organisation of **Herceg Novi, Montenegro** (*see left*) has been granted 122 000 € for the "Wonder" project through the Adriatic-Ionian Transnational Programme (EU - Interreg). The main objective of the project is to increase the attractiveness and competitiveness of destinations from the Adriatic-Ionian region through a child-friendly and family concept, and to support sustainable tourism through new, innovative methods, working with partner cities in Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Albania and Croatia. The project will last 24 months.

'Cannabis Destination of the World' !?

Dr Ahmed Jamalodeen of **Newcastle, South Africa** is one step closer to realising his dream, of turning the town into the 'Cannabis Destination of the World'. South Africa's first crop of legally-grown industrial hemp has just been harvested on his farm. Dr Jamalodeen, a general medical practitioner, businessman and seasoned farmer, began planting hemp (*cannabis sativa* - not the type from which you can become "high") in December last year, when he became the first commercial farmer in the private sector to receive a government-issued permit to do so. The rest of the family-owned 5 000 hectare farm is used for cattle farming, as well as the planting and cultivation of timber, pecan nuts, soya, maize, barley and other crops.

He says "this can bring global markets to our doorstep and foreign currency into KZN. It will increase the value of farms, recondition the land and create opportunity for farm labourers to be paid bigger salaries. We want to bring the world to South Africa and to KZN and Newcastle in particular, and say, 'We are open for business!'"



Thanks to Newcastle Advertiser for the story and photo

Internet sites suggest more than 60 000 uses for the hemp plant, including applications in medicine, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, clothing, plastics, biofuels, and even construction.

Dr Jamalodeen (centre in photo) said "We are just the pilot project and we are still learning, but now that the first harvest is out we have begun exploring possible uses, looking into which companies have an interest in working with hemp or adding it as a product line, and investigating who has the expertise to drive the industry forward. For example, we know the roots of the plant can be used for tea, stems can be used to make hempcrete, which is used to make environmentally-friendly building material, the flowers can be used to make oil, and the seeds can be cold pressed to extract omega rich hemp oil. The waste product is high in protein and can go into livestock feed. We can also give out seeds to other farmers, so they won't have to bear that cost."

Neuburg District Exports on the Up – The export of companies of the rural district of **Neuburg-Schrobenhausen** (Germany) amounted to 29.1 percent of output last year, another increase of 1.8 percent, according to the Bavarian Office of Statistics. 74 companies of the rural district of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen exported goods to the value of 665 million Euros to the USA, China and states of the European Union. 56% of the goods, mainly cars, machines and electronic equipment, were exported to EU countries, 20% to Asia and 11% to the USA.

MORE NEWS AND FEATURES

THE FINAL HOMECOMING

The citizens of **Newcastle, Australia** said farewell to HMAS (Her Majesty's Australian Ship) Newcastle when the city's namesake ship made her final homecoming this summer, with a local woman at the helm. A quarter of a century after her maiden call, HMAS Newcastle called into port for the very last time with Newcastle born-and-raised Naval Officer Anita Sellick in command.

Commander Anita Sellick joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1994 after graduating from the Australian Defence Force Academy. The ship's arrival and departure was marked by a seven-gun salute from the historic guns at Fort Scratchley and the award of the Key to the City to Commander Sellick. To celebrate the association, the ship exercised its Right of Freedom of Entry to the city of Newcastle at a ceremony, and marched through the streets.

"The association with HMAS Newcastle has been a long and significant one for our city," Newcastle Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes said. "We're proud of our history with HMAS Newcastle, which was commissioned here in 1993, and proud to host an event to give her a fitting send off."



AKHALTSIKHE BENEFITS FROM USA COLLABORATION

The United States and Georgia will partner to renovate the ancient Jewish cemetery of **Akhaltzikhe**, which houses tombs dating back to the 17th century. This was decided during a meeting between Georgian Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport Mikheil Batiashvili, and Paul Packer, Chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad (see photo). The two signed a Memorandum of Understanding which envisages further collaboration in the cultural field. During the meeting, Batiashvili highlighted the USA as one of Georgia's key strategic partners, with close partnerships when it comes to education.

Located on a hill overlooking the ancient Jewish quarter, the imposing Jewish cemetery of Akhaltzikhe houses tombs, some dating back to the seventeenth century. The inscriptions in Ladino that you will notice on some of them confirm that at least some of the Jews of the city had arrived from the Ottoman Empire and originally came from the Iberian Peninsula.

Akhaltzikhe has the oldest synagogue in Georgia still at least partially in service. Built in 1863, this Georgian rite synagogue was extensively renovated in 2012 and now features a beautiful interior of painted wood.



Ivan Salatić's "God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya" triumphed at the 33rd edition of the Montenegro Film Festival at Filmski Festival **Herceg Novi**, to take the Golden Mimosa for Best Film. The festival was another great success, drawing large crowds.

Earlier this year the festival was awarded the effe label. Effe (Europe for festivals/Festivals for Europe) is a European commendation for the quality of art festivals that are engaged not only in the arts field, but draw the local community into its activities, and are open to the international community. The International Jury was assessed by the Herceg Novi- Montenegro film festival for its significance at local, national and international level, with an emphasis on innovation and quality programmes.

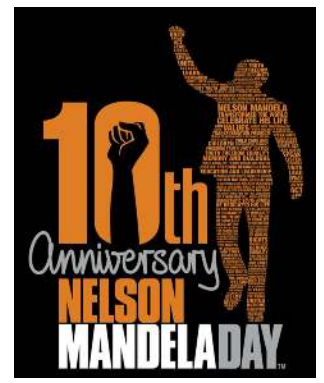
HERCEG NOVI'S NATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

AND MORE NEWS AND FEATURES

As **South Africans** all over the country commemorated Nelson Mandela International Day on July 18, **Newcastle's** Majuba College spent its 67 minutes of community service at Bumbisizwe Special School in Madadeni township and Vumanisabelo School in Osizweni township.

The college planted and prepared vegetable gardens at both schools. Majuba TVET College Student Development Practitioner, Busile Kunene said the team wanted to give the schools something that would last.

“Our purpose was to give back something the school can take care of and continue to help them, even after we leave and all the Mandela Day celebrations are over. We also took some of our farming and agriculture students with us, because this is what they deal with.” The college emphasised it chose schools because the late Dr. Nelson Mandela loved and was always surrounded by children, especially on his birthday. Bumbisizwe Special School Principal, Miss Jele expressed her joy: “As a school, we are very grateful for the college to be here and in choosing us for such a wonderful initiative.”



In **Kota Bharu** (our “Newcastle” in Malaysia) they have a great love of birds. Many homes have pretty little birdcages near their main entrances and in the evenings thousands of little birds chirp away from the rooftops. On a larger scale, bird singing contests are held in the city most Friday and Saturday mornings. Decorative bird cages on long poles hold the performers; the audience listens and judges the chirps and tweets! For more see - <https://www.thestar.com.my/.../2.../03/23/the-original-tweeters/>

International street artist Steve Cousins is from **Newcastle, Australia** but now lives and works in **Newcastle upon Tyne UK** as entertainer, producer and compere of projects and performances across the globe. He’s an amazing solo entertainer (juggler, fire-eater, balloon artist and more) and circus ringmaster of Let’s Circus, and he’s currently featured in an exhibition at Newcastle upon Tyne’s Discovery Museum called “Arrivals Tyneside”, about people from all over the world who have made the Newcastle upon Tyne area their home :

https://www.jeremyabrahams.co.uk/arrivals_tyneside



JAUNPILS HOSTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

The meeting of the Board of the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments will be held on September 3 at **Jaunpils Castle**. Ligita Gintere, Chairman of Jaunpils Municipality Council and a prominent member of the Association, has secured this opportunity to host and to promote Jaunpils to other members of the Association.

In particular she will present examples of how her municipality is implementing the European Union Sustainable Development Goals.

ABOUT NEWCASTLES OF THE WORLD



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