



# *Rozmberk Society*

Society for heritage preservation and regional development

## **Annual Report 2014**

### **Introduction**

The Rozmberk Society was established in April 1998 as a public benefit corporation for heritage conservation combined with regional development. Our main operating area covers most of the Trebon Basin and Novohradská hills, comprising the mostly flat, rural fishpond region in the eastern part of South Bohemia, Czech Republic.

### **I. Activities and Projects in 2014**

#### **1. Kojakovice Peasant and Emigration Museum**

Since 2001, the Society operates a small museum in the former school of the protected village of Kojakovice. The Center was open only in the summer months June through August. Regular opening hours outside those months was not possible due to one staff member unexpectedly leaving to establish his own business. We managed to get staff for the rest of the high season but not beyond that.

#### **2. Nove Hradý Blacksmith Shop and Education Center**

Since 2004, the Society operates the historic blacksmith workshop and house in Nove Hradý. During the summer season, the blacksmith workshop was open for public. Two apprentice blacksmiths who had worked with us earlier worked here during the summer season. They also worked with Daniel Cerný in his "Smithy in the Woods" to get further education and experience in blacksmithing.

Occasionally, visitors were allowed to try their hand on forging a nail. On request, we provided several special demonstrations - participation events for schools, companies, and groups (including disabled people).

#### **3. Annual traditional actions**

The Society again hosted the traditional end-of-season Apple-pie day in Kojakovice. The smithy saw the traditional Easter, Potato-day, and Devil's forging events with activities for children and adults and tasting of many types of South Bohemian sweet pies. All events were well visited by locals and visitors from the region.

Like each year, the Society organized a week-long summer camp next to the Nakolice fish pond. Over 40 children of the Jílovice basic school and other children from the surroundings attended this thematic camp.

#### **4. Newcastles of the World Conference**

The Society acted as logistic organizer for the Newcastles of the World Conference 2014, hosted by the Town of Nove Hradý. Eleven Newcastles from nine countries, including South Africa, Canada, and Japan, attended the event from April 28 to May 4. The Conference was a big success achieving a closer cooperation between members and establishing a formal secretariat for the association. The conference closed with a market event showing the local population the culture of the Newcastles from other parts of the world.

As part of its activities, the Society set up a second website for the association. The [Newcastles Forum](#) site was established to increase and

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# *The Rozmberk Society*

streamline communication between individual people from Newcastles, and form a communication platform to discuss both local and international aspects of the Newcastle communities and activities.

## **5. Small projects**

The Society received three grants from the region of South Bohemia. Two of the projects enabled us to enlarge the blacksmith exhibitions and print additional information material. The third grant was used to organize and document three cultural actions as our part of the Newcastles of the World Conference activities. Small projects

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## **6. Staff**

Like last year, the Society employed unemployed people (long-term unemployed, school absolvent, over 50, and mothers returning to work) with subsidy from the regional Labor Office. We give on-the-job training and encourage our temporary staff to use our employment as springboard to long-term employment elsewhere.

In 2014, we employed five people on 6-month contracts. Two contracts were ended early because one staff found other long-term employment and a second started with his own company. A third secured a next job after completing his contract with us. Altogether a good result for our Society as a jump-off point for unemployed toward long-term employment.

## **II. Financial Year 2014**

The full financial report over the year 2014 is published on our website and is available upon request.

This year, a significant part of our income came through services for organizing the Newcastles of the World conference. Additional funding came from three grants from the Region of South Bohemia, subsidy from the regional Labor Office and donations from the Town of Nove Hradky and the WSPK bank.

The pre-financed SZIF project completed in 2013 was submitted for auditing and repayment. This process will be completed in the fiscal year 2015.

An insignificant amount of income came also through our two visitors' centers. With a turnover of 882 thousand CZK, the Society was able to write a positive balance and lower outstanding private loans.

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