



# news from Novi Most New Bridge

Winter 2021

Meeting on a mountain after months apart!

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

@novimost   

This is the part where we'd normally be telling tales of our time together at Winter Camp, only there hasn't been a Winter Camp and we hardly spent any time together as Novi Most locations during most of 2020. However, this year kicked off with the opportunity for groups organised by Jajce and Čapljina to meet up and explore a new mountain together. The lack of queues for the lift, the big open slopes, and the half-empty cafe made this a perfect place for the teams to get reacquainted with the joys of joint activities. We hope this is the first of many in 2021!

Our teams from Sarajevo, Jajce and Čapljina have all been out on the mountains individually but a joint trip adds an extra dynamic to things. Matt, from our Jajce team, gave us his thoughts at the end of the day. "It's really good to see people excited to see you, who you haven't seen in a long time, and to make connections again with young people from different towns. That was a really positive thing and it shows, yes, there is resilience in the friendships that young people from our town have built with young people from different Novi Most locations and there's resilience in the idea of us working together when it's possible."

In our last New Bridge, Becca wrote about the hopes Čapljina team had for a weekend away. Here she explains why it was good that it happened.

"Praise God, the Čapljina team were able to do their weekend away at the end of November! Right up until the last moment it was uncertain whether it would be able to go ahead due to restrictions but it did, and a good time was had by all. The group consisted of six young people as well as Marija, who's currently in the Novi Most scholarship programme. When reflecting on the weekend, Marija remarked that she had been surprised at how willing the group was to engage in discussion and openly share about their hopes, dreams and fears through the theme of identity. In a follow up session after the weekend, Marija shared her testimony with the group, responding to the question "Where would you be if God wasn't in your life?" It was a great opportunity for them to hear from another young person, who is a committed Christian, about how instrumental and meaningful her faith in Jesus is."

We asked Marija to introduce herself...



"Hi, my name is Marija. I'm 22 and come from Čapljina. I'm in my last year of University studying graphic design in Mostar. I grew up in church, attending camps, conferences and Novi Most activities. Over the past couple of years I've really enjoyed helping plan teen camps. I'm grateful for the opportunity Novi Most is giving me to work alongside the team in Čapljina this year. I can see that young people really like spending time in Centar, not just for the activities they can do but also for the friendships they make there."



Ivica offers Budo directions from the chair lift!



Jajce chases Čapljina down a mountain!



You can watch video highlights from the joint snowboard trip in Matt's vlog 'A New Mountain' at [youtube.com/WeDoAdventure](https://youtube.com/WeDoAdventure)

The sun shone on the campsite...



...but it was too cold for swimming!



Our scholarships support students who are studying in BiH and also want to be involved in our work.





Rowan's pop-up Christmas concert in a hotel car park!

We like this photo, not just because it captures the pop-up Christmas concert Rowan organised but because it was taken by one of the young people who comes to Novi Most Jajce. His mum works in the hotel pictured, and sent him a message about the concert happening in its car park. It sums up the spontaneity of the event.

The pop-up concert was Rowan's unadvertised way of bringing a bit of festive cheer to people who just happened to be in the right place at the right time, a few days before Christmas. It was an opportunity for her Novi Most violin students to play together in front of family and friends. It was also a chance for the town wind band, which she conducts, to perform new tunes they had been rehearsing. The hotel manager was very happy with how it went; it may now become a tradition!



In his spare time, Budo plays in a blues band. The band, called 4 Hombres & Flowery, may not have gighed in 2020 but they did start recording an album of original blues songs. Their first single, 'Kad te sanjam' was released by Croatian record label Dancing Bear in June. Regional music portal glas.ba put it in their Top 10 list of local language songs released in BiH in 2020. That's worth celebrating!

The band are recording in Jajce, with Matt as producer. He hopes this inspires the young musicians he and Budo work with. "We want young people to make the most of the musical opportunities we're giving them; they need to see us making the most of ours. It shows what is possible." He and Budo are working with a new band, a group of their music students, who are ready to record the first song they have written. Matt hopes that this band will just be the first of many they help to make new music this year.

By the time you read this, 4 Hombres & Flowery will have released their second single. It's called 'Moj blues' and the music video for it was filmed during their latest recording session so it gives you a glimpse of Matt's studio in action. You can find the video at [youtube.com/DancingBearTube](https://youtube.com/DancingBearTube)



The Jajce Zimska bajka, or Winter Fairy-tale Run, was a virtual 5K charity run organised by Floorball club 'Lavovi Jajce' in partnership with Orphan's Promise. Behind the scenes Rowan provided Dina, Pastor of EC Jajce and Lavovi leader, with administrative support, including liaising with the company running the race registration system and getting the medals designed and ordered.

The run was organised to raise money for exercise equipment for a 7 year-old girl with Cerebral Palsy. The girl's mother is from Jajce and has a connection to the work of the church going back many years. The response to the race was fantastic, and far exceeded Dina's expectations. Over 150 people ran, or walked, 5K. Many were from Jajce, but also from across BiH, and parts of Europe. Together almost 5000KM, about £2500, was raised, which all but reached the fundraising target. It's great to play a part in a good news story like this.



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