



**C H E L T E N H A M**  
T W I N N I N G   A S S O C I A T I O N



Annecey, France  
680 miles 1093 kms

Göttingen, Germany  
1 miles 982 kms

Cheltenham, USA  
5552 kms

Weihsai, China  
5388 miles 8671 kms

Kisumu, Kenya  
4184 miles 6733 kms

Stampersgat,  
The Netherlands  
368 miles 595 kms

# Context for twinning (1)

CBC has been twinning since 1950!

Our twinning strategy (2009) sets our vision for twinning:

*To have strong and sustainable international links which bring benefits to Cheltenham and help to deliver the sustainable community strategy*

With 5 objectives:

1. To effectively promote and market international activities
2. To increase our business links
3. To improve our educational links up to university level
4. To involve more young people
5. To develop and strengthen cultural links

# Context for twinning (2)

## Current focus

Promoting and organising a programme of international activities to support cultural, business and educational opportunities with a focus on children and young people

## Our focus supports:

- Cheltenham's place vision
- Council's priorities - Cyber-central, No Child Left Behind



# Twinning IS Winning

- In 2019 over 450 people took part directly in visits or exchanges with our twin towns
- Of these 255 were under 25 years of age
- In addition host families and other supporters and providers were involved
- Some 30 events were organised or supported
- Strong links and plans to develop these further
- But, there is a modest budget and one part-time twinning officer



**ANNECY**



# Twinned since 1956

- Very active annual programme, including festival, school and cultural links
- Work placement opportunities for young people in both towns.
- Some 50 Annecy pupils attend GlosCol's International summer school each year
- Students from Balcarras and Pates Schools visited Annecy in 2019
- Under graduates at the University of Glos on the Animated Film degree course annually visit Annecy and take part in the International Animated Film Festival
- Other recent cultural visits have included Gloucestershire Morrismen, Cotswold Blue Badge Guides and retired educationalists from Annecy.

## Plans for 2020

- Links with Cheltenham Festivals
- **Jazz Festival link** – The Director of Festivals is attending Annecy's Jazz Festival in April and the Director of the Conservatoire de Musique in Annecy is attending Cheltenham's Jazz Festival 8-10 May with a view to exchange of musicians, orchestras and choirs for Jazz and Music Festivals
- **Paint Festival Project** – artists from both towns will exchange and paint a twinning themed mural – in Annecy in June and in Cheltenham in September
- Exploring ways to bring over an exhibition from Annecy called 'Punchlines' at same time as the Cheltenham Paint Festival
- **Music Festival Links** – a band from Annecy has been invited to play at the opening weekend of the Music Festival in Cheltenham in July as well as at the Midsummer Fiesta and a Cheltenham band has been invited to Annecy's Fete de la Musique in June

































# Visit to Annecy 7-14 October 2020

- Visit for local residents is being organised to experience the culture and tradition in Annecy of the Retour des Alpagnes
- Package with overnight stays in Ypres and Brugges and 5 nights in Annecy has been prepared
- Homestay in Annecy is a option
- For further details contact Annette Wight















**SOCHI**





# Twinned since 1959

- Prior to 2019, the last Cheltenham visit to Sochi was in 2007 with Sochi visiting Cheltenham for the 2012 Olympic Torch Parade
- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary marked by a visit to Sochi in November 2019
- Attended International Tourism Forum, International Film Festival and Sochi City Day
- Looking to develop relationships, maybe a Tourist visit
- Progressed talks on educational and sporting links
- Sochi want to bring sports people to Cheltenham in 2020 – possible football link with Cheltenham Town
- Engaging Balcarras School in linking opportunities with Sochi School No.1









Richard speaks on Russian TV about the wonders of Cheltenham!













The wonderful city museum has mementoes from previous Cheltenham visits on permanent display

# Sochi International Film Festival Awards (SIFFA)

- Sochi host this in November each year, with a smaller ceremony in London.
- In February 2021 Cheltenham will host these Film Awards with a gala ceremony
- The 2-3 day event will also include a musical recital, film screenings, masterclasses, workshops and an exhibition
- Twinning Association is working in collaboration with the Ladies College, the university, Chapel Arts, local businesses and other providers for sponsorship



















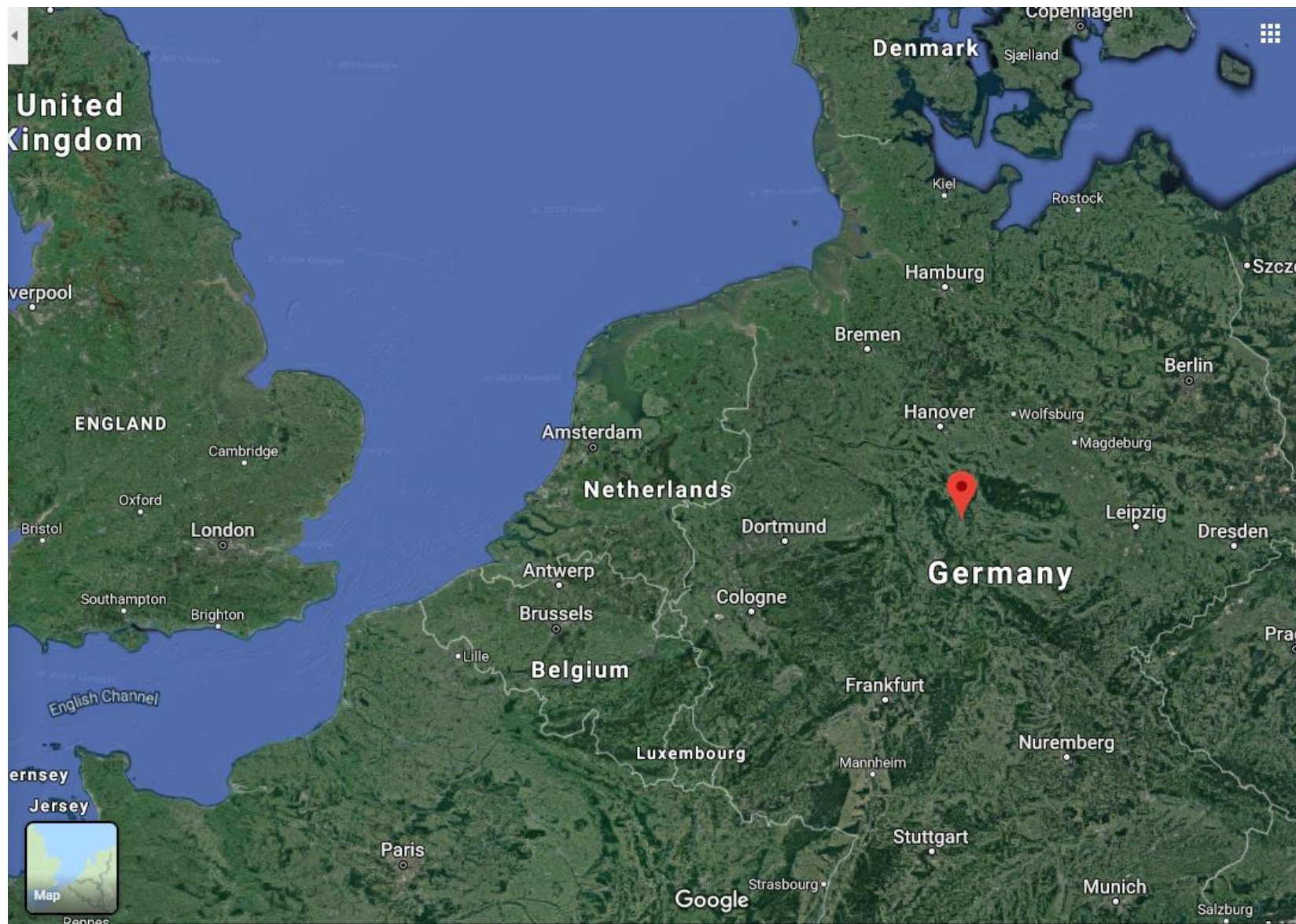
With Irina Badayan, Pro Rector of the Olympic University, the first dedicated Olympic University in the world. Irina was Deputy Head of Education for Sochi in 1990





**GÖTTINGEN**





# Twinned since 1951

- 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2021
- Bi-annual exchange of local residents
- 70+ people took part in the 2019 visit to Göttingen
- Exchange of information on policies and best practices, eg climate change, transport plan.
- Cheltenham as a Festival town promoted and opportunities for mutual collaboration discussed
- Link between Film Festivals and Music Festival
- Exchange of artwork between Cheltenham and Göttingen Camera clubs
- Annual programme of youth exchanges and work placement opportunities
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Youth for Peace Camp in August 2020 – 8 local young people taking part































# Deutsches *THEATER* Göttingen















70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cheltenham-Göttingen  
twinning in July 2021 in Cheltenham  
Anniversary concert with Cheltenham  
Symphony Orchestra planned



**WEIHAI**

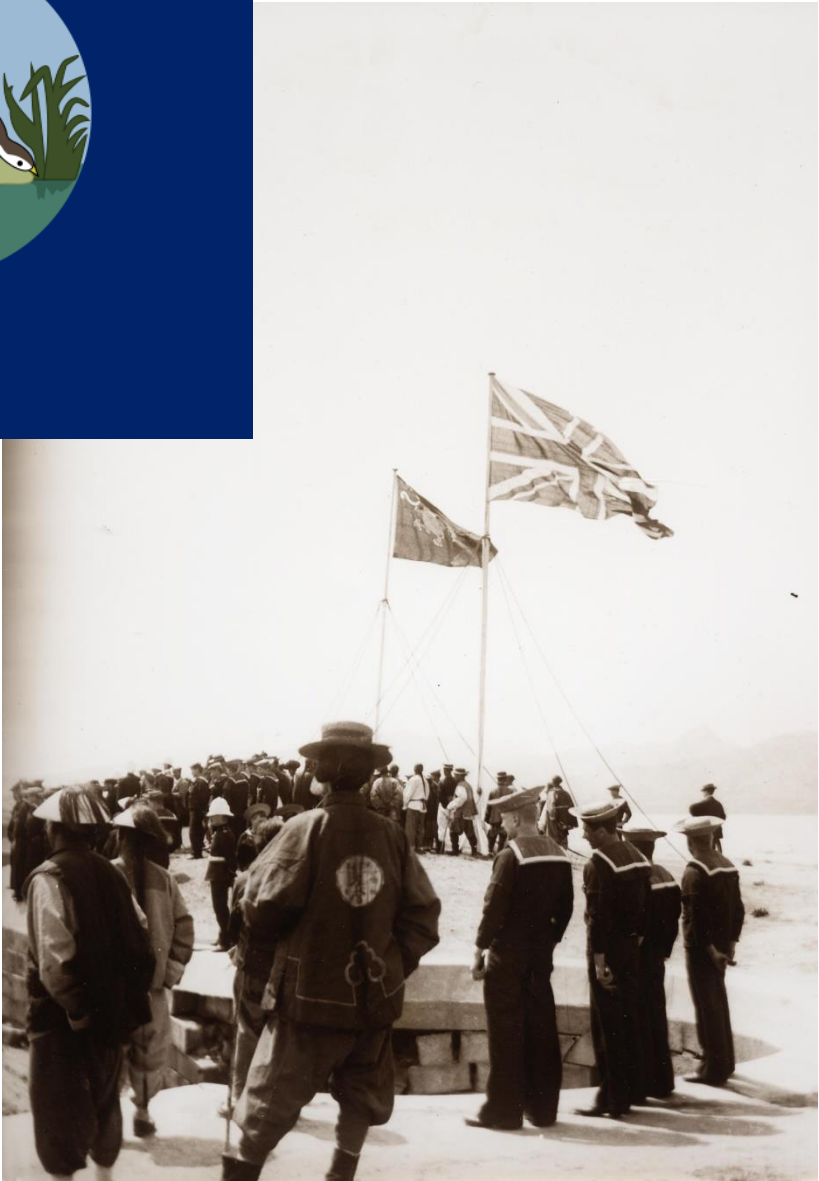
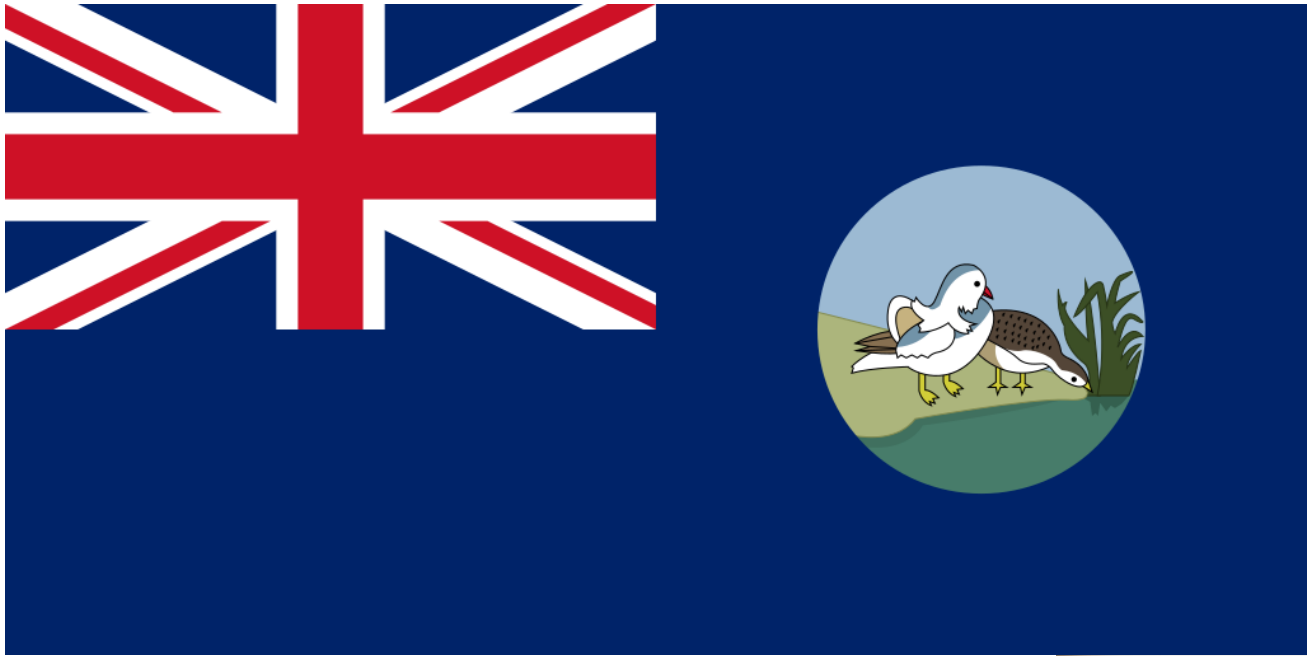


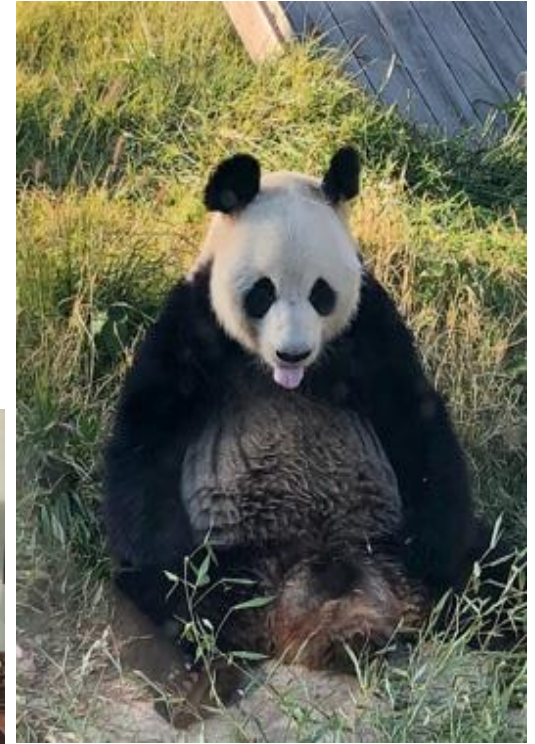


# Officially twinned in 1998, friendship link since 1987

- 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary visit in Oct 2018 to Weihai
- Memorandum of Understanding on Deepening Sister City Relations signed
- Visit progressed educational links, with plans for further co-operation in sport, culture, commerce and tourism
- Approx 50 Weihai students attend GlosCol's international summer school every year – although this year could be different

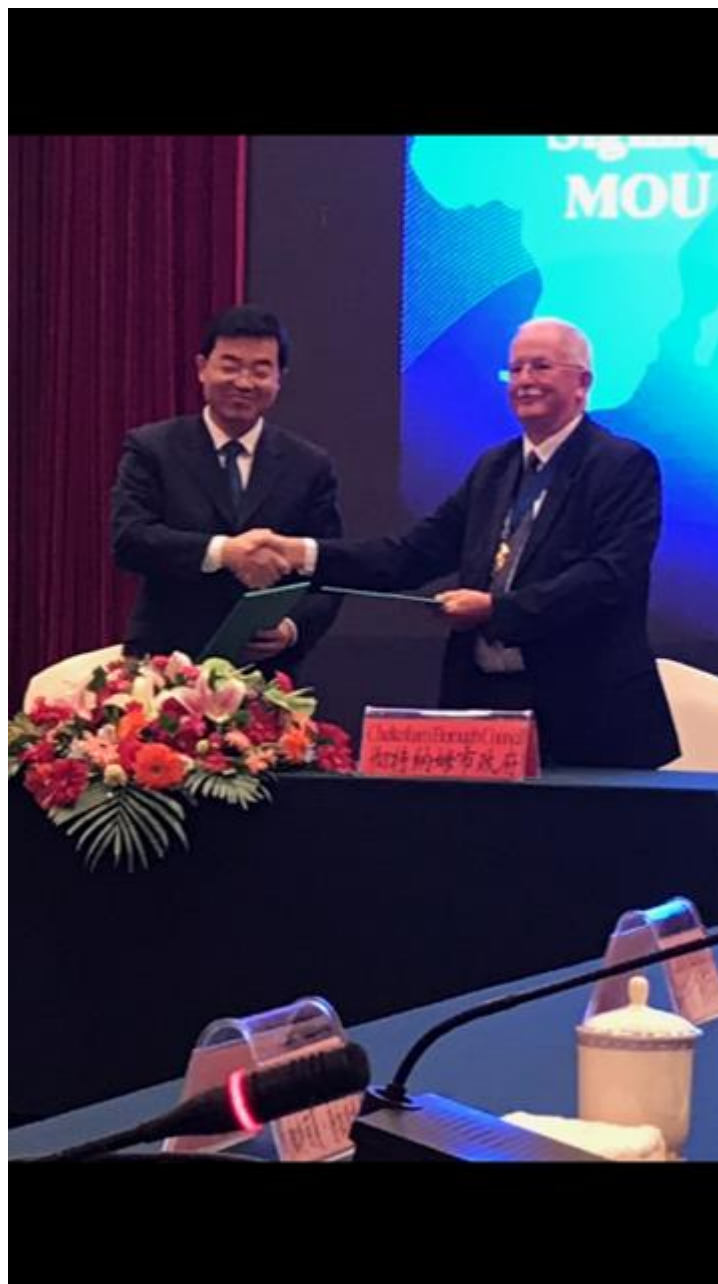
















走遍四海 还是  
*East or west,* 威海  
*Weihai is the best*



Weihai IVY International School

威海常春藤学校

*Education is Life,*











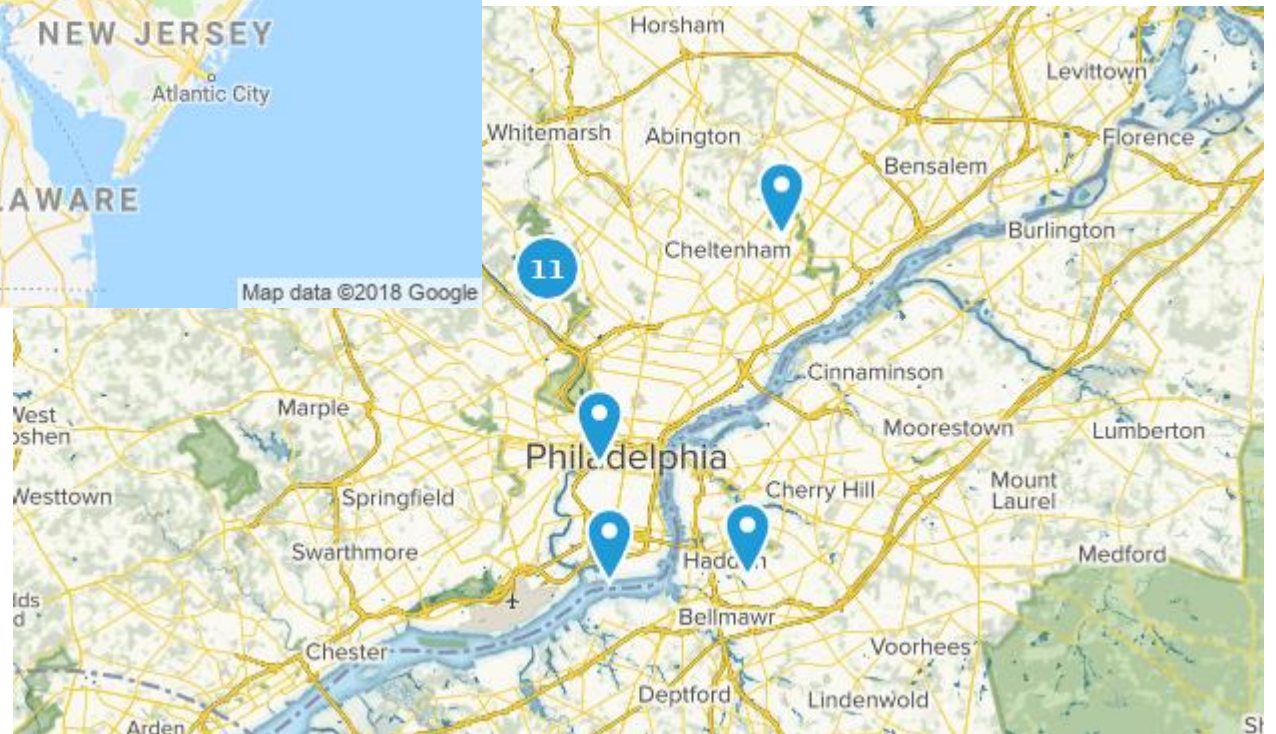








**CHELTENHAM PA**





# 70 years of friendship

- Sept 1950 marked first official visit of the Mayor of Cheltenham to Cheltenham PA
- Last visit to Cheltenham PA was in 2003
- Cheltenham PA came to us in 2012 for Olympic Torch Relay
- 2020 marks 70 years of friendship and this occasion will be marked in some way
- Share same crest and motto

# Cheltenham Township Pennsylvania



historic  
green  
I CHOOSE  
CHELTENHAM  
creative  
diverse  
progressive













# **STAMPERSGAT**

## **Friendship Link**

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Visit in 2021

- Stampersgat liberated in 1944 by Gloucestershire Regiment
- In 1970 a street was named 'Dennis Leestraat' in commemoration of Corporal Lee who is buried in the cemetery
- A Friendship link between Stampersgat and the Cheltenham Branch of the Gloucestershire Regiment was formed.
- Bi-annual visits take place
- Next one to Cheltenham in May 2021







# **KISUMU**

## **Friendship Link**



# Friendship town since 1985

- Kisumu is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest city in Kenyan and sits on Lake Victoria
- Hoping to rekindle friendship link
- Linking schools through technology
- I-Mmigrate Exhibition in Gloucester from 15 February organised by people with links to Kisumu





# Future of twinning

## Current focus:

Promoting and organising a programme of international activities to support cultural, business and educational opportunities with a focus on children and young people

## Future focus:

- Cheltenham's international relationships
- Responding to climate change challenge
- Supporting delivery of cyber-central
- Ensuring activities are accessible to our children and young people
- Doing our bit to support delivery of the UN's Sustainable development goals
- Work with the world for global and local benefit



<https://cheltenhamtwinning.wordpress.com>