

February 3, 2016 7:30 p.m.
Township Building

The reorganization meeting of the Twinning Committee was held tonight. Members present were William Chambres, Penny Geikler, James McCann, III, and Mary Washington. Staff present was Nancy K. Gibson, Public Information Officer.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Ms. Gibson opened the floor for nominations for chair. Ms. Geikler nominated James McCann as chair and William Chambres as vice chair. There being no further nominations, upon motion of Ms. Washington, and approved by Committee, the floor was closed for nominations. Mr. McCann was unanimously elected chair, and Mr. Chambres was unanimously elected vice chair. Mr. McCann assumed the chair.

3. Upon motion of Ms. Washington, and approved by Committee, the minutes of the November 4, 2015, meeting were accepted.

4. **2015 Lottery Report:** Mr. McCann reported two winners in November and three winners in December for a two-month total payout of \$125. Mr. McCann will report the total number of winners and payouts in 2015 at the next meeting.

5. **2016 Lottery Report:** Mr. McCann reported three winners in January for a total payout of \$75. Ms. Gibson reported she has received 122 sold tickets so far, which represents gross income of \$2,440. She commented that a total of 152 tickets were sold in 2015. [As of January 31, 2016, the lottery bank account balance was \$10,789.15, which does not include any deposits for 2016 ticket sales.]

6. Under **Project Reports**, the following items were discussed:

A. **Twining Archives:** No report.

B. **Exchanges:**

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i. Scouting: Mr. McCann reported that Boy Scout Troop 22 is trying to organize a video about the Township, similar to the one created by UK scouts.

ii. Historical Commission/Society: Mr. McCann reported that he sent the UK Historical Society a copy of the Historical Commission's eNewsletter, which included the most recent copy of *The Wall Paper*.

iii. Older Adult Community Link: Ms. Gibson already received three names and email addresses from the La Mott Community Center for seniors who are interested in establishing a link with UK seniors. No Rowland seniors volunteered at the last meeting, but the Rowland Community Center Director was asked to raise the issue again at the group's next meeting. [No Rowland seniors expressed interest in participating.]

iv. School Links: No report.

7. Old Business: No report.

8. New Business:

A. EAC Invitation: Mr. Chambers volunteered to attend the Environmental Advisory Council's "Get to Know Sustainability" Party on Monday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Rowland Community Center.

B. Westminster Theological Seminary London Program: Mr. McCann joined the Township Manager in a meeting with Dr. Carl Trueman and other Westminster Theological Seminary representatives on February 1 to learn about their London Program. Dr. Trueman has ties to Cheltenham UK and may attend a future Twinning Committee meeting to explore opportunities for joint efforts and programming.

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C. *The New York Times* printed an article on “In England, Cheltenham Enjoys a Cultural Renaissance” on January 13, 2016 (see attached). Ms. Gibson will post links to the article on Township outlets to promote Twinning efforts.

9. There being no further business, upon motion of Ms. Geikler and approved by Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager

Per Nancy K. Gibson
Public Information Officer

The New York Times <http://nyti.ms/1mXQWMg>

TRAVEL

In England, Cheltenham Enjoys a Cultural Renaissance

Heads Up

By SHIVANI VORA JAN. 13, 2016

On a chilly Saturday evening in Cheltenham, England, a smartly dressed crowd gathered at a bar spilling out onto the terrace at No. 131 the Promenade, a boutique hotel in the center of this Cotswolds town. The mix of locals and tourists sipped drinks and nibbled on fried Spanish almonds, while eagerly waiting for a table at the property's hot restaurant (also called No. 131) featuring locally sourced fare.

It was hard to believe from the vibrant scene last spring that just a few years ago this 18th-century townhouse sat empty and dilapidated, but then, in a situation that's reflective of the city itself, there was a renewal, and buzz ensued.

About two hours west of London, Cheltenham, with a population of 110,000, is one of the biggest communities in the Cotswolds, a popular vacation spot for the British. And while much of the region is notable for sprawling meadows dotted with daffodils and storybook villages with cozy stone houses, Cheltenham feels more like a sophisticated mini metropolis.

Though its origins are medieval, the town became famous after the discovery of mineral waters in 1716, which attracted a stream of travelers

including King George III and Jane Austen.

Then for much of the 19th century, it was known for the Regency architecture characterized by wide streets lined with horse chestnut trees and elegant townhouses with stucco facades and wrought-iron balconies.

Though that appearance is still intact, Cheltenham's reputation as a spa haven faded in the last century, and apart from a nearby racetrack, it seemed to have lost its cachet. Other Cotswolds towns such as Gloucester became the hot ones to visit.

That has changed now with stylish new hotels, restaurants, art spaces and festivals infusing fresh vigor into the area.

Cheltenham's renaissance is partly credited to the husband and wife, Sam, 37, and Georgie Pearman, 42, who own No. 131 the Promenade. The stylish couple said they moved to the Cotswolds from London more than eight years ago hoping to live at a slower, more fulfilling pace.

They found that outlet by starting a hospitality group that they named the Lucky Onion. Their first venture, about nine years ago, was a pub near the outskirts of downtown called the Tavern, a bright two-story space with exposed brick walls, wood floor boards and blue banquettes serving seasonal and creative local food.

There are five Lucky Onion hotels and restaurants, but the showpiece is the chic No. 131, which opened in late 2013 on Imperial Square. The couple spent nearly three years on the refurbishment, which blends past and present. Touches include antique radiators and cast iron bathtubs from the late 19th century in the 11 rooms mixed with sleek velvet couches and modern artworks by British names like David Hockney in communal spaces.

The hotel's bi-level restaurant and its bar, Crazy Eights, is packed every weekend. Alan Gleeson, who was the head chef at the Michelin-recognized Cotswolds pub, the Wild Rabbit, runs the kitchen. "Where possible, a

farm-to-fork approach is present across all of our menus,” Mr. Gleeson said.

Another happening spot in Cheltenham is the 61-room Montpelier Chapter, in a Regency-era townhouse that’s a five-minute walk from No. 131. The hotel does double duty as an art gallery: There are 160 contemporary paintings, prints and sculptures from established and up-and-coming names on display, like the multicolored glass block sculpture in the garden, which the notable British artist Peter Fillingham constructed from 1.9 tons of material including ancient sandstone.

Indeed, the arts are a driving force behind Cheltenham’s resurgence. The Wilson, an art gallery and museum, for example, reopened in late 2013 after being closed for more than two years for a \$10 million expansion to a three-level space that’s 20 times its original one-room size.

The arts scene extends to Cheltenham’s several festivals including ones for science, jazz and literature. Most have existed for a while but are enjoying newfound fame. The Literature Festival, for example, started in 1949 as a modest effort but is now a 10-day extravaganza that has drawn marquee names like Salman Rushdie and Hilary Mantel.

Not all of Cheltenham’s festivals have a long history. Anna Saunders, 50, a longtime local resident and poet, founded one for poetry in 2011 to showcase the genre in a fun way. The lineup has included a children’s workshop and hip-hop poetry.

Ms. Saunders has seen the festival grow from a four-day affair to a two-week celebration, from late April to early May. “I wanted to get across that poetry isn’t just about traditional readings,” she said. “With Cheltenham’s growing appetite for culture, people seem to be really receptive to that.”

A version of this article appears in print on January 17, 2016, on page TR4 of the New York edition with the headline: A Cultural Renaissance in the Cotswolds.