



Newsletter No. 1, 2011

JANUARY

### Death of André Saillard

Tragically, so soon after the loss of his wife, Betty, we regret to report the passing of André Saillard. He was a stalwart of the Twinning for many years and served as both mayor and county councillor for Pithiviers. André was also an author, having produced a most interesting book about his wartime experiences as a *gastarbeiter* in Germany. One of our fond and lasting memories will always be of him playing the harmonica to accompany singsongs during twinning visits. The funeral took place on 19th January. His loss is irreplaceable and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his friends and family.

## THE 2011 TRIP TO PITHIVIERS

This year's visit to Pithiviers is from Thursday 16th to Tuesday 21st June. The main party will travel by coach. Once again, this has proved to be the cheapest and simplest option.

There is a booking form below to be returned with a non-refundable deposit of £50 per member for the main party. The total cost is likely to be in the region of £140 depending on the number of members travelling. You will be asked to pay the balance nearer to the time of the visit and, at the same time, those who choose to make their own way, separate from the main party, but who will be using the coach for the two day trips in France will be asked to pay their share towards the coach fare estimated at around £40 each. All figures are necessarily approximate and depend on the number of travellers.

We will shortly be receiving exact details of the visit but, in the meantime, we can disclose that on Friday we will go to Paris to visit the National Assembly building and the Pompidou Centre and the Monday visit will be to two Châteaux. On Saturday at midday we will be invited to the Mairie for the official reception and on Sunday the Twinning reception will be an outdoor "country" buffet. - There will also be a return "It's a Knockout"!

The Booking Form (on page 3) and deposit, where appropriate, must be returned to Joan Inchley by 28th February, latest.

## 2011 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<b>Saturday, 19th February:</b>	Beetle Drive, The Cottage ( <i>Booking Form on back page</i> )
<b>Saturday, 12th March:</b>	Lola Lamour Concert, Packington Memorial Hall ( <i>See back page</i> )
<b>Saturday, 30th April:</b>	"Royal" Garden Party chez Inchley
<b>May:</b>	Treasure Hunt
<b>Thurs 16th-Tues 21st June:</b>	Visit to Pithiviers
<b>Saturday 16th July:</b>	Bastille Day Event, The Belper Arms, Newton Burgoland
<b>August:</b>	Croquet Taster Evening, Moira Miners Welfare
<b>September:</b>	Family Event (Details to be announced)
<b>Saturday, 22nd October:</b>	Biennial Dinner, The Royal Hotel
<b>Wednesday, 9th November:</b>	Annual General Meeting, The Royal Hotel
<b>December:</b>	Christmas Walk and Lunch (Details to be announced)

## **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>Chairman</b>	Geoff Cort	Tel: 413770	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ptva@talktalk.net">ptva@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Bruce Mitchell	Tel: 413600	e-mail: <a href="mailto:beastfife@aol.com">beastfife@aol.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Joan Inchley	Tel: 224494	e-mail: <a href="mailto:joan.inchley@talktalk.net">joan.inchley@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Wilkinson	Tel: 414689	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ptwilk@talktalk.net">ptwilk@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Membership Sec.</b>	Nita Pratt	Tel: 412544	e-mail: <a href="mailto:BILL1920NITA@aol.com">BILL1920NITA@aol.com</a>

### **Committee Members:**

Sandra Adkins      Les Aldrich      Barry Clarke      Kirsty Cort      Sylvie Gough  
Peter Meadows      Elaine Shaw      Anne Thompson      Peter Thompson  
Bill Pratt (Honorary President)      Jim Johnstone (Town Council Representative)

**There is still one vacant place on the Executive Committee.**  
**If you would like to become a member, please contact Joan Inchley, above.**

### **Les Aldrich Joins the Executive Committee**

Following our appeal for new members of the Executive Committee we are pleased to report that Les Aldrich was elected to it at the December, 2010 meeting and has already done some sterling work in producing the posters for the Lola Lamour concert in March. He will be a valuable asset to our new committee. Welcome, Les!

### **Surplus Furniture and Missing Flags**

The long saga of the surplus notice board and cabinet base, ejected from the library at the time of its refurbishment has finally been resolved. The cabinet has been disposed of through Freecycle, which enables folks with surplus items to pass them on to someone, who can make use of them. In agreement with our friends in Pithiviers, we will be presenting the notice board to them as part of our 50th anniversary gift. We believe this is the most appropriate way to use this elegant asset, for which we no longer have a home in Ashby. On the other hand the missing table flags and bunting have now thankfully come to light, having been re-discovered amongst other memorabilia and are now back in circulation.

### **THE CHRISTMAS WALK AND MEAL**

Unfortunately the walk had to be cancelled this year due to the extraordinarily bad weather. Something, we believe, without precedent. Roll on next Christmas to re-establish this popular part of the annual event!

The meal went ahead and, as usual, proved to be the genial social event it always is to wind up the year.

### **YOUR ASSOCIATION—YOUR NEWSLETTER**



This is your Association and we are keen to ensure you all participate as much as you wish. Not everyone has the time or inclination to join the Executive Committee but you may still have views or ideas that can contribute to our continuing success. You can contact any one of the officers or committee members listed above or drop a line to the newsletter. We would like to run a regular "Letters" section and welcome your contribution to it. Write to The Editorial Committee, c/o 27, Burton Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics., LE65 2LF or e-mail to: [ptva@talktalk.net](mailto:ptva@talktalk.net). The next Newsletter will be published in March so please send your contribution by Monday 28th March, latest. Thanks and look forward to hearing from you!



### **The Association Website**

The website is regularly updated, so those with Internet access can enjoy early news of activities and forthcoming events - even before they get into the newsletter! The latest newsletter can now be accessed and downloaded from the site. Hits on our site in December were 186 and for January will be around 140. The web address is:

**[www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk](http://www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk)**

Following a production record of 125,000 tonnes

## The Sugar Factory is to invest almost five million Euros

*The board of the Société Vermandoise de Sucreries (SVS) has not given way to the siren voices of European politicians, who envisage the reduction of the number of sugar factories in Europe. Though a number of them (80 sites, principally in eastern Europe, Spain, Greece, Italy and France) have closed their doors over two years, the SVS group has decided to maintain the one at Pithiviers-le-Viel, which has just ended the 2010 programme with a result close to the historic level of 2009 with the production of 125,000 tonnes of sugar.*

### **Five or six Jobs secured**

*At the traditional meeting for the presentation of performance to employees, which took place last week, Eric Deneu, General manager of the site, emphasised the determination of the group to maintain activity on the site, despite a quite difficult global market for sugar. In order to keep market price at a satisfactory level world-wide production (160 million tonnes) is currently down by six million tonnes. However the "Sugar Reforms" prevent the*

*enterprise from exporting its production and do not shelter it from any new fall in market price: "The situation is paradoxical", remarks Eric Deneu, "Prices paid to manufacturers have not inversely raised the price of consumption." Let us not forget that of the thirty kilos consumed per person per year in France, only two are consumed in pure state, the rest is included in agro-industrial preparation (bakery, dairy products, sodas, etc.).*

*Despite all, the sugar factory is to invest close to five million Euros in several items of equipment, notably a carbonation tower, which will facilitate the capture of steam for re-heating water after re-integration of herbal juices (also enabling the reduction of odour in the lagoons). We note amongst other investments replacement of the computer system for tracking despatches and heating automation, repairs to the ground in the bulk-loading section, implementation of the second stage of the factory's purification system, etc. Equally the firm should be recruiting between five and six new personnel.*

## **2011 PITHIVIERS VISIT - BOOKING FORM**

*\*Delete as appropriate*

**\*I/We will travel by coach with the main group    \*I/We will book my/our own travel.**

**Number of people in your party: .....**

**Are you a smoker? YES/NO\***

**(We have already arranged to stay with: .....)**

**I enclose a cheque for non-refundable deposit £\_\_\_\_\_ (£50 per traveller in main group)**

**Name: .....    Telephone: .....**

**Address: .....**

**E-mail address: .....**

Complete/return to Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, LE12 9SR by **28th February, latest.**

**Beetle Drive**  
**Saturday, 19th February, 19.30 at The Cottage, Ashby-de-la-Zouch**

Ever popular for an evenings entertainment the Beetle Drive will include a cold buffet supper and a glass of wine. For further liquid refreshment feel free to bring your own drinks. As usual, the prize will be a bottle of wine for the winner.

The very reasonable price is £6.50 each and the booking form is overleaf. Please let Joan know by Wednesday, 16th February so we can prepare for the numbers taking part. Look forward to seeing you there!



**LOLA LAMOUR**  
**Saturday 12th March— 19.30 at Packington**  
**Memorial Hall**

A number of us had the pleasure of seeing Lola at the National Memorial Arboretum during June's 50th Anniversary visit from Pithiviers. She is an excellent performer evoking all the spirit of 1940s war-torn Britain and we look forward to a first-class evening's entertainment. when she graces us with her presence at the Packington Memorial Hall on Saturday 12th March, 2011. The evening will have a 1940s theme and includes a hot supper at tables so accommodation will



be limited. Tickets are already on sale to the public and are going well so please book as early as possible to avoid disappointment. The very reasonable price is £10.00. Bar available. Look forward to seeing you there!



**Beetle Drive - Saturday, 19th February**

Please book ☐ places for The Beetle Drive at £6.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: ..... Tel. Number: .....

E-mail address: .....

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to "Ashby Pithiviers Association" to  
Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9SR. by **Wednesday 16th February.**



**Lola Lamour Evening- Saturday 12th March**

Please book ☐ places for the Lola Lamour evening at £10.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: ..... Tel. Number: .....

E-mail address: .....

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to "Ashby Pithiviers Association" to  
Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9SR. by **Monday 7th March.**