



ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 4, 2011

JULY

The 50th Anniversary Visit to Pithiviers

Marking the 50th Anniversary of the French side of the Twinning, a large party (around 45) left Ashby early on Thursday 16th June. Greeted by our hosts at Place Charles de Gaulle, we went home with them to prepare for the morrow.

On Friday we were taken to Paris to visit the Pompidou Art Centre. We then drove through the city centre to Les Invalides, where, despite our delayed arrival, we were treated to an excellent lunch at "Chez Françoise". In the afternoon we were



shown around the National Assembly building by a very good English-speaking guide from whom we learned a great deal of both the building and the Assembly.

The weekend was, as usual, spent in Pithiviers and Saturday began with a lengthy parade around the town led by *Grouz Banda* playing in the style of the Midi. There was much dancing! A group photograph was then staged. At the Mairie a presentation of a hand-made wooden salver from National Forest wood was made to Pithiviers by Cllr. Geraint Jones, who, with his wife, had joined us in Paris. In return, the Deputy Mayor of Pithiviers presented Ashby with a charming picture of a scene by a local artist. We then enjoyed the hospitality of the municipal



council at the Vin d'Honneur. The rest of the day was free with host families although some members took up the invitation to the annual ceremony marking General de Gaulle's call to arms in 1940.

Those who wished attended Mass in Pithiviers on Sunday morning. At midday the Twinning festivities began in earnest in the Parc de Bellecourt, where an excellent outdoor buffet had been provided. On behalf of the Ashby Association, Geoff Cort then presented our two gifts of a notice board and a "silver" plaque which we explained was intended to be presented annually for whatever local achievement they might consider appropriate. The Pithiviers twinning also made the generous gift of a presentation biro to each Ashby



member as well as a copy of yesterday's group photo. The local Deputy (MP), Mme. Marianne DuBois then presented each Association with a bronze medallion of the National Assembly to mark the 50th Anniversary and a really splendid new cup for the winning team of the "It's a Knockout" contest, which was to follow.

The contest, following the pattern of last year, was one upon which national honour hung heavily. After its frankly abysmal performance in 2010, the Ashby team

threw itself into this year's events with gusto. Their determination was signalled from the start by a rousing "Haka" and some very vigorous performances resulting in a complete reversal of last year's result 5:1 and winning the new cup. Everyone enjoyed it enormously and it seems likely now to become a regular feature.



Monday saw the second excursion this time south to the Château de Gédelon, a fascinating piece of experimental archaeology which involves the complete construction of a medieval castle between 1996 and 2022 using volunteer labour and only the tools and methods available during the 12th century. We lunched nearby at a charming restaurant by a lake and on the return journey stopped off at a delightful little town, Briare sur Loire for refreshments.

The return journey on Tuesday was something of a nightmare having hit every traffic jam between Pithiviers and Ashby, most especially through Paris. Having left



at 7.30 (6.30 UK time) we finally arrived home at 10.30 pm! However the company on the coach was good and we still had the happy memories of a wonderful stay with our French friends.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday 17th August 2011: Croquet Taster Evening. (*Booking form on page 4*)

Sunday 4th September 2011: Picnic Evening. (*Booking form on page 4*)

Saturday 22nd October 2011: Biennial Dinner at the Royal Hotel, Ashby. (*Details in September Newsletter*)

Wednesday 9th November 2011: AGM at the Royal Hotel, Ashby. (*Details in September Newsletter*)

Wednesday 7th December 2011: Christmas Walk and Lunch. (*Details in September Newsletter*)

PLANNING THE COOK BOOK

One of our planned fund-raising ventures, which we feel will also be of great interest to members and friends is a cook book, which we plan to publish in time for Christmas this year, based upon typical French recipes. If you have any you are able and willing to contribute would you please send them to Sandra Adkin at The Nook, 14, Main Street, Swannington, Leics., LE67 8QJ. Or e-mail to: sandraadkin@msn.com.



Maybe your French hosts could offer something for the book—even in French—as we are happy to do the translation.

Visit of Julien Dupré

Once again, during the month of August we will be hosting a young man (19), to whom Standard Soap have kindly offered a work-experience engagement to help improve his English. He will be staying with both the Robinsons and the Inchleys but it would be helpful if we could arrange for him to spend some of his leisure time with youngsters nearer his own age. So if you have family or friends who would be happy to meet him and introduce him to Ashby life of their generation please contact Joan Inchley on 01530 224494 or joan.inchley@talktalk.net.

John Tuckey

It is with great regret that we announce the death of John Tuckey on Saturday 2nd July. John was actively involved with the Association in earlier years, actually cycling between Ashby and Pithiviers at that time - a feat of which he was justifiably proud. He was well-known as the local vet in Ashby over many years and was a pillar of the local British Legion, where his lengthy and active service was recognised at a national level.

We extend our sincere condolences to wife, Mary and family on this sad loss.

The Bastille Day Barbecue

About 20 people took part on Saturday 16th July. This was a tribute to their enthusiasm for this popular event as it was pouring with rain at the scheduled starting time of 11 am. A temporary retreat was made into the *Belper Arms*, where the time before lunch was spent pleasantly, chatting and playing Table



Let Battle Commence !

Quoits, which Joan Inchley had thoughtfully provided. This proved to be a testing game of

skill, which provided much



amusement. Meanwhile Sylvie Gough, the organiser, and her team braved the rain to put up a gazebo, which provided some shelter.

Thanks are due to staff at the *Belper Arms* for changing their arrangements and serving lunch in the restaurant. So after an excellent meal we were able to venture out to start playing

Petanque as the weather had improved considerably. Four teams took part and a lively and enjoyable competition ensued, which was won by "The Bandits", Ann Shilton's team of ladies with Margaret Barnett and Tina Braithwaite. All in all a successful day with a French



Victory!

flavour in spite of the very English weather!

Peter Wilkinson

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Committee Members:

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due from 1st September. We would really appreciate you signing up as soon as possible to aid administration. This year's subscription remains unchanged. Overleaf is a renewal form, to be sent with appropriate cheque made payable to *Ashby/Pithiviers Association* to Nita Pratt. If you return more than one form they may be sent with one cheque (and details) to Joan Inchley.

Croquet Taster Evening - Wednesday 17th August



Again, as guests of the Ashby Croquet Club, we will meet on their lawns at Moira Miners Welfare Sports Ground, Bath Lane, Moira at 18.00 to start at 18.30. Even beginners will be taught enough to enjoy some 2 hours on the lawn but **FLAT SHOES ARE ESSENTIAL**. No high heels to be worn. There will then be a cold buffet served at the Miners Welfare Centre. The cost for the croquet alone is £5.00 and for the meal alone is £6.00 but if you book both the total cost is only £10.00. There is a bar available at the Centre. Those who don't want to play can meet us at the Miners Welfare Centre for supper at 20.00. To book, please complete the form, below and send to Geoff Cort **by 12th August**.

Cycle or Walk to Picnic! - Sunday 4th September



Another new venture! The plan is to take a circular walk or bicycle ride on a route from Joan and Mike Inchley's home at Osgathorpe returning for a picnic at the conclusion. The route will be undemanding and last for about an hour. We aim to set off at around 15:00 and then spend a pleasant summer evening enjoying each others company after a stimulating outing. Of course non-walkers or cyclists will also be welcome.

Price: £5.00 each (children under 10: £2) Please complete form, below and send to Joan **by Thursday 1st September**.

Please book ☐ places for the Croquet Evening at £10.00 each or ☐ places for Croquet only at £5.00 each or ☐ places for Buffet only at £6.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to "Ashby Pithiviers Association" to Geoff Cort, 27, Burton Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics., LE65 2LF by 12th August, latest.

Please book ☐ places for the Picnic at £5.00 each & ☐ children at £2.00 each.

I/We shall be Walking/Cycling/Only attending the picnic. (Please delete as appropriate.)

Name: Tel. Number:

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 1st September, latest.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

I/We enclose membership subscription for the year 1st September, 2011 to 31st August, 2012. Please indicate which subscription category applies to you. (See Constitution clause 3).

☐ Individual: £10.00 ☐ Family: £15.00 ☐ Group: £15.00 ☐ Junior: £1.00

Name: Address:

Post Code: Telephone Number:

E-mail address:

Please cut out, fill in and return this form, soonest, together with appropriate cheque payable to Ashby/Pithiviers Association to Nita Pratt, 6, Rotherwood Drive, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics., LE65 2JD.