



# ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 1, 2012

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

JANUARY

## QUIZ NIGHT

Nearly 40 of us turned out for this year's quiz on Saturday 21st January at Brown Court. Carole and Keith Youles devised the quiz and a superb buffet was provided by Sandra Adkin and her excellent team. There was also a raffle organised, as usual, by the highly efficient Winnie Meadows.



*Deep in thought!*

In addition to the main contest there were quiz sheets covering sweets and desserts and recognition of well-known national logos and this time, as we had a good attendance of children, there was also a section within the main quiz for them.

A close-fought contest was finally won by the Maltby's and Robinson's team from Griffydam, who received the Pithiviers wine and the children, too, participated in the prizes. Another outright winner was the Association as we raised over £200 to boost our funds!

It was a great evening and thanks are due to everyone involved in the organisation as well as all of those who took part. Special thanks also to James Weir and our other new members from Brown Court, who provided one of the most congenial venues we have yet had the pleasure of experiencing.

*(see the video on our website)*



*To the victors the spoils!*



## *Ashby – Pithiviers Twinning Association Proudly Presents*

Another evening with the legendary acoustic guitarist **Gordon Giltrap**  
**Saturday 24th March - 19.30 at Packington Memorial Hall**

The magic of Gordon Giltrap and his acoustic guitar is as vibrant and exciting today as ever. His inimitable style crosses all musical genres. He will charm with his unbelievable talent. He is a legend in his own lifetime.

Gordon, you will remember, generously provided us with a free concert in 2010 to help us fund our 50th Anniversary visit - itself enough to justify our wholehearted support for this return concert. 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 £12.50. Bar available. Look forward to seeing you there! **Booking form on back page.**

## Beetle Drive

**Saturday, 25th February, 19.30 at Brown Court, Atkinson Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch**

Ever popular for an evenings entertainment the Beetle Drive will include supper of soup and a filled roll 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 below. Please let Joan know by Wednesday, 22nd February so we can prepare for the numbers taking part. Look forward to seeing you there! **Booking form on back page.**

## Rosemary and James Tyldesley

Due to family illness it was not possible to make a formal presentation of the Life Membership award but the Certificate has now been sent by post. Rosemary was deeply touched and honoured by the award and will maintain her interest in all that the Association does in the future. She was delighted by the Christmas card and said that not only was it a lovely card showing what the Association is up to but also it was nice to be remembered by the Association at Christmas time.

## A TWINNING SUCCESS STORY

from Elaine Shaw

**Last Spring Aimée Hannequin contacted us to ask if we could find an English girl interested in living “en famille” with her son and daughter-in-law, Stéphane and Cristèle, in order to talk English with Emma and César, their children. After many phone calls and e-mails, the arrangement was set up – with fantastic success as recounted below by Hannah and her mother Pauline, who have just come back from an additional pre-Christmas visit.**

*“I am studying French in the sixth form at Repton School and am hoping to pursue this at University. As I was looking for an opportunity to immerse myself in France I began trawling the internet for any opportunity to go to France to experience the language first hand. I was willing to do almost anything from au pairing to unpaid work but everywhere required a minimum age of 18. After months of searching I finally had some luck! Elaine Shaw knew a French family looking for an English girl to help improve the English of their two children.*

*After numerous e-mail exchanges, I arrived “chez Hannequin” for five weeks last summer. It was a fantastic experience and I was welcomed into their home in Pithiviers so warmly as part of their family. Whilst in France, I also had the opportunity to go to the south on holiday with them, and to experience real French cuisine: I tried frogs’ legs and snails, and an unbelievable amount of cheese!*

*This experience greatly improved my fluency*

*and confidence and I developed a very close relationship with the family and have since been back with my mother to visit. Now we are in the process of organising for the children to come to England next summer! I am very grateful to Elaine Shaw for making the first introduction and I am now looking forward to many more visits and hosting in the future!*

Hannah Sharratt



**Hannah with Emma, Cesar and grandparents, Aimee and Claude**

It was exciting when first hearing that Hannah could spend some time in France with a family to improve her French but I must confess very daunting when taking her to the airport and saying our emotional farewells.

Whilst nervous about letting her embark on this journey alone where she would be living with a family unknown to us I was certainly reassured by the relationship that Elaine and the Twinning Association had with the

family. This gave me the confidence to allow Hannah to take advantage of this amazing opportunity.

Hannah kept in regular contact with us and the welcome from the Hannequins was amazing.

She returned home 5 weeks later almost a different person. She had grown into a sophisticated young lady; entertaining, cooking and interpersonal skills were an added bonus to her very much improved French!

Early December 2011 Hannah returned to Pithiviers for a short visit to take some Christmas gifts. I went as well as I was keen to extend my sincere thanks. The welcome was unbelievable. The weekend with them has definitely had a positive impact on my life too. I could see how Hannah had developed so much by her visit. It was warming also to see the connections in Pithiviers to Ashby such as the road distance signs and telephone box!

I very much hope to host Emma and Cesar this summer to reciprocate their hospitality and I would like to extend a special thank you to Elaine and the Twinning Association for making the whole experience possible. I had no idea of the strength of connection between Pithiviers and Ashby - that has certainly been educational to me too and is something I would like to stay involved with. It is now my aim to learn French!

Best wishes to all.

Pauline Sharratt

## Committee Report

This is a new column in the newsletter aimed at bringing members up to speed with the issues being discussed and/or actioned by your Executive Committee.

Current issues taking up our time are:-

### **Visits and partnerships**

We are responding to a request from Twycross House School to link them with a French partner.

We are responding to a request from Brown Court to link them with a French partner.

We have requests to find Easter work for two students from Pithiviers, one in the agricultural sector – we await further information about the other

We have put a request to Pithiviers for pen-friends for two English girls seeking correspondents with the view to possible exchanges in future

### **Social Events**

We are working (through the Social Sub-Committee) on an annual programme of social events with the objective of funding the June 2012 visit. Our finances are sound but we are aware that the hosting year is always expensive and thus need membership support of our social activities.

### **Visit 2012**

We are applying to Ashby Town Council for funding for the hospitality costs of the Civic Reception (vin d’honneur) during the June 2012 visit as that is a “town” and not an “association” event. We agreed that all other costs should be funded by the association.

The theme for the visit 2012 will be “Britain’s Big Year” and will try to celebrate, with our French friends, the diamond jubilee which will take place just before their visit, and the London Olympics and Paralympics, which will follow the visit. A sub-committee has been set up and already had its first meeting to put together the visit schedule and activities.

### **Miscellaneous**

We were delighted to receive a card from Lady Lanesborough, widow of our former President, wishing us well for 2012.

## **2012 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Saturday, 25th February:</b>	Beetle Drive, The Cottage ( <i>Booking Form on back page</i> )
<b>Saturday, 24th March:</b>	Gordon Giltrap Concert, Packington Memorial Hall ( <i>Booking Form on back page</i> )
<b>Sunday, 15th April:</b>	Walk & Lunch chez Inchley
<b>Saturday, 19th May:</b>	Prom Night chez Adkin.
<b>Thurs 21st -Tues 26th June:</b>	Visit from Pithiviers (Details to be announced)
<b>Saturday 14th July:</b>	Bastille Day Event, The Belper Arms, Newton Burgoland
<b>Wednesday, 15th August:</b>	Croquet Taster Evening, Moira Miners Welfare
<b>Saturday, 8th September:</b>	Fancy Dress Party & BBQ chez Linda Brown
<b>Saturday, 13th October:</b>	Evening chez Linda with a chocolatier
<b>November:</b>	Annual General Meeting (Details to be announced)
	Santa at Sunnyside (Details to be announced)
<b>December:</b>	Christmas Walk and Lunch (Details to be announced)

**We are also planning to produce a Twinning Association Calendar for 2013.**

Thanks to Sylvie Gough for this article:

### **Everything about crêpes for "La Chandeleur"**

Every year, forty days after Christmas, on 2nd February, French people celebrate 'la Chandeleur', the best moment to enjoy and cook these delicious sort of thin pancakes. People usually eat them on Mardi Gras as well even if it's not officially the day of crêpes.

A few historical and religious trivia : originally, 'La Chandeleur' is a religious celebration of Christ's presentation at the Temple, 40 days after his birth on Christmas. 'La Chandeleur', or "Festa candelarum", is, as its Latin name suggests, the day of candles. Traditionally, lots of candles were lighted and brought from the church to home with care, keeping the flame alive. They were then lighted again to keep the evil spirits away. And, most important : as the last celebration of the Christmas cycle, 'La Chandeleur' is the date on which you have to remove the crib. But nowadays, 'La Chandeleur' is mostly a chance to get together with your family and friends, and eat the delicious crêpes !

#### **Les Crêpes**

Have you ever wondered why we eat crêpes at la Chandeleur? It turns out that this type of pancake is said to embody the energy of the sun, as well as being a way of exorcising misery and starvation... The first crêpe you make is suppose to presage good harvest. This is why, according to tradition, you have to keep it till next year's Chandeleur in your wardrobe ! And if you want to be a perfect 'Chandeleurer', you can even put a Louis d'or (or any old coin) on the crêpe: It will apparently bring you prosperity.

#### **Where to eat "crêpes" around Ashby**

If you don't want to spend your time in the kitchen, try one of the local Crêperies : Pear Tree Crêperie at The Heart of the Country Shopping Village in Lichfield, or Yumi Yumi Crepes in Loughborough.

#### **Recipe:**

However, you may prefer cooking your own crêpes, which is admittedly quite an exciting activity : avoid your dough going lumpy; slowly blending eggs, plain flour, and milk... The secret : add a tad of vanilla, orange essence or beer.

Ingredients (Serves 4) :

250g (8oz ) plain flour	Pinch of salt
2 eggs	2 egg yolks
A pint of milk	2 tablespoon of oil or melted butter

#### **Optional:**

1/3 pint of ale	Juice of one freshly pressed orange
Vanilla	50g sugar

Put the flour and sugar in a bowl. Add the eggs and the yolks. Mix well. Gradually beat in the milk, ale, fresh orange juice and the oil or melted butter. Add the salt and vanilla. Leave for 1 hour, covered with a kitchen towel. Lightly grease a crepe frying pan, and place over medium heat. Cook the first crêpe. Check the mix and add milk to make a thinner batter or add sieved flour if the batter is too liquid. Cook the crêpes one at a time and increase the heat under the frying pan. Turn over the crêpe when light brown on one side.

Tip : nicer to eat warm, you can cook all your crêpes ahead of your meal, and warm them up slightly in the microwave just before eating.

#### **How to fill your crêpes**

Crêpes can be filled with sugar, jam, lemon juice and sugar, maple syrup, melted chocolate, ice cream, bananas, cooked apples... Quite simply, sweet or savoury: fill it with whatever takes your fancy! And drink with some dry or sweet cider.

**Enjoy !**

## THE 2012 VISIT FROM PITHIVIERS - (Thursday 21st to Tuesday 26th June)

### Hosting Families Required!

Of course many of you already have a standing arrangement with your friends in Pithiviers but would you please contact Joan Inchley to confirm such arrangement or to advise that you are available to host or offer hospitality to other visitors using the form, below. Thank you.

### HOSTING FOR OUR PITHIVIERS VISITORS

**Name:** ..... **Address:** .....

**Telephone:** ..... **e-mail address:** .....

(a) I/We have already made arrangements to host (visitors' name): .....

(b) I/We would like to host **YES/NO\*** I/We would prefer a **Single/Couple/Either\***  
How would you rate your French? **Good/Adequate/Basic/None\***

(c) I/We are not able to host but would like to offer a meal to visitors on:  
**Friday Evening/Saturday Lunch/Saturday Evening/Sunday Evening/Monday Evening\***

NB Availability of guests will depend on any programme their hosts may have arranged. \* delete as applicable

Please return by end February, latest, to: Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9SR.

### Beetle Drive - Saturday, 25th 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 22nd February.

### Gordon Giltrap Evening- Saturday 24th March

Please book ☐ tickets at £12.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ .....

**Name:** ..... **Address:** .....

.....

**Tel. Number:** ..... **E-mail address:** .....

Please cut out and return this slip with cheque made payable to "Ashby Pithiviers Association"  
to **Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9SR** as soon as  
possible as only a limited number of tickets are available.