



ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 2, 2012

website: www.ashbydelazouchtrinning.co.uk

MARCH

THE BEETLE DRIVE

On Saturday evening, 25th February we held our second fund-raiser at Brown Court in the form of a Beetle Drive. There were over 30 of us present with Les as master of ceremonies overseeing the beetle construction.



On the Trail of the Beetle

A busy and exciting time was punctuated with a halt for a glass of wine, a cup of soup with a roll and a fruit salad before the pursuit of the illusive Beetle was resumed as we moved from table to table according

to the throw of the dice and the run of the points regularly turning winners into losers and vice-versa. In the end Sandra Adkin was the top scorer and winner of the traditional bottle of Pithiviers wine. Well done!

Thanks to our Brown Court members for arranging this very comfortable venue once again and to Sandra, Linda and the team for the splendid organisation. As always a good time was enjoyed by one and all!



... and the winner is ...

THE GORDON GILTRAP CONCERT

Packington Memorial Hall was alive to the wonderful sound of Gordon Giltrap on Saturday night and what a wonderful show he performed. You may remember that Gordon came to our rescue two years ago to perform for us free of charge when we found ourselves in financial difficulty for the 50th anniversary celebrations. We said then that we would have him back to play and pay him and he did not disappoint. Not only was his playing superb but



realised that his wife Hilary had just pulled the distress cord

also his lively banter and quick repartee kept all of us in the audience entertained. He got off to an "interesting" start as he was called on to stage just at the point that an alarm started sounding and he

in the loo in mistake for the light switch! However, no harm done and from then it was wall-to-wall entertainment all evening. The unanimous verdict was a brilliant evening of superb playing by a really lovely man. He



was ably assisted by his sound man Mike Stranks who travelled all the way from Oxford and what he charged us would barely cover his fuel cost! It just goes to show that there are really good folk out there who will pull out all the stops to help us. The real bonus for us is that the 150+ folk who attended helped us to raise well over £1000 for our funds so that we can continue to invite and entertain our French friends.

2012 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 15th April:

Saturday, 19th May:

Thurs 21st - Tues 26th June:

Saturday 14th July:

Wednesday, 15th August:

Saturday, 8th September:

Saturday, 13th October:

November:

December:

Walk & Lunch chez Inchley (*Booking form on the back page*)

Proms Night chez Adkin (*Booking form on the back page*)

Visit from Pithiviers (*Booking forms on the back page*)

Bastille Day Event, The Bulls Head, Wilson.

Croquet Taster Evening, Moira Miners Welfare

Fancy Dress Party & BBQ chez Linda Brown

Evening chez Linda with a chocolatier

Annual General Meeting (Details to be announced)

Santa at Sunnyside (Details to be announced)

Christmas Walk and Lunch (Details to be announced)

Walk & Lunch chez Inchley
Sunday 15th April, 12.30 at Osgathorpe

The walk leaves from 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe at 11.00 and lunch, consisting of 3 courses including soup and cottage pie and wine is at 12.30 for 13.00. Members may book for lunch only - but please advise. The cost is £10 each (£4 for children but dining space is limited so the maximum number is 25. Please book by 12th April.

Booking form on back page.

Proms Night with Sandra and David
Saturday 19th May, 17.30 at Swannington

You are invited to share an evening at the home of Sandra and David Adkin to soak up the music of a promenade concert in the garden of their home at The Nook, 14, Main Street, Swannington. Please bring a picnic, rugs and chairs and drinks. Entry is £3 each and there will be a glass of Pimms on arrival. Numbers are limited to the first 40. In the case of inclement weather, please 'phone Sandra on (01530) 814955 and, of course, if this leads to cancellation refunds will be made.

Booking form on back page.

DETAILS OF THE TRIPS AND SOCIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE 2012 VISIT

This year we have aimed to theme the visit around the two major events taking place in our country, namely the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic Games. There is a booking form for English members on the back page. A detailed programme will be sent to all hosting families nearer the visit however the overall plan is, as follows:

Friday 22nd June, 2012

A visit to the Royal residence at Sandringham with lunch in the restaurant.

Saturday 23rd June, 2012

Mostly free with host families.

19.30 the Twinning Dinner at Sunnyside Garden Centre in Ibstock. Menu will be sent out to hosts and others booking.

Sunday 24th June, 2012

10.00 the church service at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church to be followed by lunch with host families.

15.00 the Civic Reception at the Range Road playing fields will be followed by a cricket match between the two towns and other games, which will contribute to the scores for the (now) annual games trophy, won by Ashby last year and Pithiviers the year before. At around 17.00 there will be a break for afternoon cream teas (*à la cricket*) and presentations will take place between 18.30 and 19.00.

Monday 25th June, 2012

Pursuing the Olympic theme we will visit Loughborough University where the British and Japanese athletics teams are training. We will then go up to Nottingham to board a river boat for a cruise and lunch on board. We hope the vessel may be able to go as far as the Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre, which is also an Olympic training camp.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Joan Inchley	Tel: 224494	e-mail: joan.inchley@talktalk.net
Vice-Chairman	Bruce Mitchell	Tel: 413600	e-mail: beastfife@aol.com
Secretary	Elaine Shaw	Tel: 564077	e-mail: ptva@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer	Peter Wilkinson	Tel: 414689	e-mail: ptwilk@talktalk.net
Membership Sec.	Les Aldrich	Tel: 414448	e-mail: ashbyplumbing@yahoo.co.uk

Committee Members:

Sandra Adkins Linda Brown Barry Clarke Geoff Cort Anne Donegan Peter Meadows Ann Shilton
Bill Pratt (Honorary President) Geraint Jones (Town Council Representative)

There are still three vacant places on the Executive Committee.

If you would like to become a member, please contact Joan or Elaine, above.

Courrier Report

Our friends in Pithiviers kindly send us a copy of their local weekly newspaper, "Le Courrier du Loiret" to keep us informed about what is going on in our twin town. It is considerably more newsy than the Ashby Times so we shall aim to give you a taste of a few stories which have been reported in Le Courrier and may be of interest to you.

The following have been reported on in the last few weeks....

Tourist Office – with 80% subsidy (€70 000 pa) from the town, questions were asked about the viability of the tourist office at its AGM this month. As it gears up for the new tourism season the 2011 figures of 5994 visitors to the office (4395 local, 1358 non-local French and 237 foreigners) and 35 000 hits on the office's web-site were reported. In difficult times, belts are going to have to be tightened.

Cycling – the area around Pithiviers was on the cycling map last month as the Paris-Nice classic, one of the most important events in world cycling road racing after the major "multi-stage tours", staged its intermediate sprint on 5th March in Neuville-aux-Bois. (NB not reported in the Courrier but of potential interest to us is that the race was won by a Brit, Bradley Wiggins, for the first time since Tommy Simpson won it in 1967. Watch for Bradley in the Tour de France – he may become the first ever British winner this year!).

Truffaut takes over André Eve rose business – French national horticultural company, Truffaut, have taken a controlling stake in André Eve's Rose business. Some members may remember us visiting his garden many years ago when it was based in Boulevard Pasteur in Pithiviers before he relocated to a much bigger, commercial site in Pithiviers-le-Vieil. The world-renowned nursery, specialising in roses of which they have created 32 named varieties themselves, has gone from strength to strength in recent years – the business employs nine full-time staff, produces 80 000 roses and 12 000 perennial plants per annum and has a turn-over of €1.5 million.

If anyone would like access to recent copies, please let Elaine Shaw know and she will be happily pass them on after reading.

Committee Report

Your Committee are currently, or have been, involved in the following areas of activity since the last newsletter.

Visits and partnerships

We are still trying to secure a French school to partner with Twycross House School.

We are still trying to secure a French partner for Brown Court.

We are trying to secure a partner for a boy in Smisby who wants to find an exchange partner.

At the time of going to press we are hopeful of having secured placements for work over the Easter break for two students from Pithiviers – we do not have accommodation secured so any offer of accommodation, or inviting either for an occasional meal, would no doubt be appreciated

We have linked two English girls with two French girls with similar interests who have been seeking "pen pals" with the view to possible exchanges in future

Social Events

Details of social events (past and future) are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Visit 2012

Inevitably the visit in June has been taking up a fair amount of our time. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter

Membership

We continue to encourage new members to join

Virtual Library

We have a fairly large number of French books which are available to our members. We are in the process of cataloguing them all. Details will then be put on our web-site to enable any of our members to know what is available and so make arrangements to borrow them – more details in next newsletter

2012 Visit Booking Form

Details of timings will be included in the May newsletter but because space for Ashby members may be limited hosts, as usual, will have priority and a concessionary price for all events. These prices are shown, below, in black, non-hosting members prices in **red**. Please return the completed form by **Monday 14th May**. Places will be allocated on a strictly first-come-first-served basis.



2012 Visit Booking Form

Please book _____ places for the Friday visit to Sandringham @ £29.00/**£32.00** each = £ : .

Please book _____ places for the Saturday Twinning Dinner @ £18.00/**£20.00** each = £ : .

Please book _____ places for Monday Loughborough/Boat Trip@ £18.00/**£20.00** each = £ : .

** As space is very limited for the Loughborough University visit, please indicate, below, if you wish to participate in this part of the trip.*

** I **will** / **will not** take part in the Loughborough University visit.*

I enclose a cheque made out to Ashby/Pithiviers Association for a total of £____:____.

Name: **Address:**

Telephone: **e-mail address:**

*Please return with cheque **by Monday 14th May** to Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9SR.*



Walk & Lunch - Sunday 15th April

Please book ☐ adult places for The Walk & Lunch at £10.00 each. ☐ child places at £4.00 each.

I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: **Address:**

Tel: **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 **Thursday 12th April**.



Proms Night - Saturday 19th May

Please book ☐ tickets for the Proms Night at £3.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: **Address:**

Tel: **E-mail address:**

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to "Ashby Pithiviers Association" to Sandra Adkin, The Nook, 14, Main Street, Swannington, Leics. LE67 8QJ. by **Wednesday 16th May**.