



ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 3, 2012

MAY

Joan Smith

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the death of Joan Smith. Joan and husband, Ron had been much involved in the activities of the Association and, despite living near Burton-on-Trent, frequently attended events in Ashby as well as visiting Pithiviers and hosting over here. She had suffered poor health for quite some time and her condition deteriorated more recently needing a brief spell in hospital. However, she became more frail and passed away in April. Joan's funeral was on Wednesday 25th April at Bretby Crematorium.

Our sincere condolences to Ron and family.

Tom Perry

We are also very sad to report the death of former long-term member Tom Perry who, too, passed away in April after suffering ill-health for many years. Tom's funeral also took place at Bretby Crematorium on Friday 27th April. Again we offer our sincere condolences to Gwen and family.

Marilyn Baker

Our sad catalogue this month continues with the announcement of the sudden death in May of Marilyn Baker. Marilyn and her husband, Julian have been involved in the annual exchanges of the Association for very many years. She will be fondly remembered for the beautiful singing voice she shared with us all during our visits to Pithiviers and their visits to us, here. Somehow visits in both directions will no longer be quite the same.

Marilyn's funeral is at 10.30 on Thursday 7th June at Bretby Crematorium.

Our sincere condolences go out to Julian and family.

2012 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thurs 21st -Tues 26th June:	Visit from Pithiviers.
Saturday 14th July:	Bastille Day Event, The Bulls Head, Wilson. (<i>Booking form on back page</i>)
Wednesday, 15th August:	Croquet Taster Evening, Moira. (<i>Booking form on back page</i>)
Saturday, 8th September:	Fancy Dress Party & BBQ chez Linda Brown
Saturday, 13th October:	Evening chez Linda with a chocolatier
November:	Annual General Meeting (Details to be announced) Santa at Sunnyside (Details to be announced)
December:	Christmas Walk and Lunch (Details to be announced)

The Walk and Lunch

Around 25 of us went along to Joan and Mike Inchleys for the walk and lunch on Sunday 15th April. We were extremely fortunate with the weather on a changeable day as the rain held off and the sun shone for the hour and a half or so that half of us spent on the morning walk over the fields and lanes around Osgathorpe.



We soon worked up an appetite and were ready to join our non-rambling colleagues for lunch, a splendid repast prepared mainly by Joan and Winnie with help waiting table by other members of the team. The company was as enjoyable as the meal and everyone had a good time. Thanks to Joan and Mike for hosting us and for all who took part.

The Proms Night

We had a wonderful evening at the Proms on Saturday 19th May at the home of Sandra and David Adkin in Swannington. The weather prevented us from having our evening outside, as originally planned, but we all enjoyed our picnics listening to the Proms music and had a good sing - song



around the table - "Last Night" style. There were about 20 of us in total. Many thanks to Sandra and David for their hard work and hospitality and for everyone who attended and contributed to the success.

There will be a video on the website in the near future!

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 school to partner with Twycross House School, a partner in or around Pithiviers for Brown Court and an exchange partner for a young sportsman from Smisby. All these matters will be points for discussion with our friends from Pithiviers during the forthcoming visit. We are pleased to know that one of the penfriendships we helped establish resulted in an exchange visit this Easter (see P.3 of this newsletter)...and we are trying to arrange summer employment in this area for a number of catering students from the Lycée des Métiers Jean de la Taille in Pithiviers.

Social Events

Social events, which not only get us all together but also generate the funding to enable us to host our friends from Pithiviers take up a great deal of our time. Reports on social events (past and future) are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Visit 2012

Inevitably the visit in June is always our major focus at this time of year. Again, details are included elsewhere in this newsletter

Membership

We continue to encourage new members to join and are delighted to welcome Tony and Chris Green, Shân and Phil Dyer and Mary Smith into membership

Finances

Ashby Town Council has confirmed they will pay £300 towards the cost of the "official town reception" which, this year, will be included within the Sunday afternoon cricket/games session and will include a cricket tea for our French friends and hosts. As we go to press we are still awaiting confirmation from NWLDC regarding the outcome of our application to them.

Virtual Library

This is now launched! It is a library in the sense of people being able to borrow books free of charge. The "virtual" element is that not all the books are in the same place so you can't go and browse through all the books to make your choice. Ashby library holds some of the books – and members hold others. Some are French classics, some are modern French – some are English books translated into French. The list of books will be up-dated on a regular basis. **THE BOOKS ARE THERE FOR YOU** – do please use this service. Simply go to the web-site and access the On-Line Library section and make your choice and we will then make arrangements with you for you to collect the book(s) of your choice. If you have any French books which you want to make available to our members and supporters in a similar way, do please give details to Geoff so they can be added to the list.

THE 2012 TRIP FROM PITHIVIERS

General information about the programme for this year's visit from Pithiviers appeared in the March newsletter and full details of the two trips will be sent very shortly to those who have booked as well as being given to our French visitors. However, the events of **Sunday 24th June** are, of course, open to all members and are, as follows:

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 Challenge Cup, 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**.

Visit Appeals...

With our French friends about to arrive in less than a month we are in process of some last minute preparations:

- (1) **For the Sunday Darts Contest** - Could any members who have sets of darts (or boards) willing to lend them for this event please contact Peter Wilkinson on (01530) 414689 or ptwilk@talktalk.net. He can arrange collection.
- (2) **For the Sunday Games in general** - We will be playing for the Challenge Cup at Cricket, Darts and Skittles. Could all members willing to participate for Team Ashby in any of these events please contact Keith Youles on (01530) 414795 or keith.youles@btinternet.com.

Courrier Report

It's in the news!

We are fortunate that our friends in Pithiviers provide us with a copy of their local weekly paper "Le Courrier du Loiret", which, incidentally, is a much more newsy paper than Ashby Times!

- ◆ **Presidential Election – Mixed Messages** : While France as a whole voted Francois Hollande into the Presidency by a margin of 51.7% to 48.3% on an 81% turnout, the result was different in the Loiret where Sarkozy beat the new President by a 55.5% to 44.5% margin on a 81.5% turnout. In Pithiviers itself, Hollande came top with the narrowest margin of 50.7% against 49.3%
- ◆ **International Games Fair - Place du Martroi becomes playground** – bouncy castles, ball games and all sorts of family games took over the Place du Martroi for a weekend last month as Pithiviers played its part in the International Games Fair
- ◆ **Tourist accommodation shortage in Pithiviers** – in a recent tourism survey, Pithiviers was highlighted as having a notable deficit in tourist accommodation – both "inside" (e.g. hotels) and "outside" (camping). However, Le Relais Saint-George has the honour of having just been awarded a third star and is seeing a sharp increase in its commercial and tourist stays.

EXCHANGE

We were delighted to learn in retrospect that a pen-friendship we arranged in November 2010 when Zoë Mitchell (left) and Marie-Claude Guerton were just 12, resulted in an exchange visit this Easter. During Marie-Claude's visit they visited the National History Museum where this picture was taken.



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) Richard Bebbington (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.

BASTILLE BARBECUE - Saturday 14th July



For this now well-established and popular event we will be returning to the Bulls Head at Wilson, where we started several years ago. We will kick off the contest at 11.30 with the meal starting at 12.30 until 14.00. Then the petanque will continue until 15.30 on the petanque courts. Don't worry if you haven't played before as rules and guidance will be available on the day! So why not form a team and take part? The cost for the whole afternoon is held at £10.50 each. Children under 10 are £5.00 each so this is yet another opportunity for young families to join in. Of course, it will also be an excellent get-together for our older members and very much in the spirit of our twinning aims. Bring friends and family and make it another memorable occasion. Please get your bookings in to Peter as quickly as possible but no later than **Friday 6th July**.

CROQUET TASTER EVENING - Wednesday 15th 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 meal of fish goujons and chip butties served at the nearby Halfway House, Donisthorpe. The cost for the croquet alone is £5.50 and for the meal alone is £6.50 but if you book both the total cost is only £11.00. Those who don't want to play can meet us at the Halfway House for supper at 20.30. To book, please complete the form, below and send to Les as soon as possible but no later than **Friday, 10th August**.



Please book places for the Bastille BBQ at £10.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

E-mail address: Number of Children:

Please return with cheque payable to *Ashby/Pithiviers Association*
to Peter Meadows, 12, Ivy Close, Donisthorpe, Swadlincote, DE12 7HQ by 6th July

Please book places for the Croquet Evening at £11.00 each or places for Croquet only at £5.50 each

or places for Buffet only at £6.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to *Ashby Pithiviers Association*
to Les Aldrich, 6, Willesley Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics., LE65 2QA by 10th August.