



ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 6, 2012

NOVEMBER

Santa battles through the storm to get to Sunnyside!



Deck the Halls...!

night for atrocious weather conditions but Santa stood firm by his promise to visit us and landed safely after strong headwinds caused a slight delay in his arrival. However, while we waited patiently for his arrival the 38 Big Kids and the 8 real kids were well fed by Sue Crouch and her team

Santa and his reindeer had to battle through the most dreadful storms and high winds in order to get to Sunnyside Garden Centre on November 22nd. We could not have picked a worse

with Sausages in onion gravy and Chicken pie and all the usual array of desserts and we had plenty of time to buy our tickets for the ever-popular raffle.

Jayne and Alan Ginn once again allowed us to do a spot of out-of-hours shopping and everyone enjoyed a really good evening. Thanks to all of the team who helped to make the evening a great success and special

thanks to Santa and his team for not letting us down.



... and Santa!



To all our Members

The Annual General Meeting

This year the Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Monday 19th November again in the residents' lounge at Brown Court. As usual, around 20 members attended.

At the end of her first year, Chairman, Joan Inchley, reported the year's

activities and there were also reports from Treasurer, Peter Wilkinson and Membership Secretary, Les Aldrich, confirming the current generally healthy state of funds and membership. It was proposed that the annual subscription rate next year

would again remain unaltered and this was agreed unanimously.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee moved a technical constitutional amendment altering the clause containing the prescribed date for the Annual

General Meeting from the end of November to simply November. This was to provide more flexibility and was passed unanimously. The election of officers and committee members for the next 12 months was uncontested

and details appear on page 2 of this newsletter. All officers are in place and 9 of the 10 committee members, leaving only one vacancy.

The Future

The coming year should provide us with plenty of challenges and interest and we all look forward to the biennial visit to Pithiviers in June, 2013.

A brief video of the AGM may be seen on the Association's website at:

www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk



The Chairman's Report



A Social Chat

Courrier Report

The following are snippets of information which have been reported in recent weeks in the *Courier du Loiret*....

Pithiviers in National Press – Pithiviers featured in the national press when 43 students traveling on the school bus were apprehended for not wearing seat-belts. It appears that, without warning, a police officer boarded the bus and all students not wearing seat belts were charged, resulting in a combined fine of £135 – and lots of very unhappy parents!

Gazelles seek sponsorship – two young women from Pithiviers, Imane Bouchama and Mabel Sierra Medina are currently looking for sponsorship to help fund their intended participation in the 23rd edition of the prestigious Rallye Aïcha des Gazelles. This entirely off-road Rally in Southern Morocco consists of one prologue and six legs, two of which are two-day marathon legs. A total of 2,500 kilometers through dried-out river beds, shock absorber-busting stony plains and the sandy dunes of the western Sahara desert have to be covered by the teams with only a compass and a 1:100,000 scale map to plot their route between checkpoints. GPS, binoculars and cell phones are forbidden. Taking place from 16th – 30th March 2013, it differs in two fundamental ways from most car rallies. Firstly, the winner is not the fastest team but the one which travels the least distance between checkpoints within a given time frame and secondly, all teams are 100% female!

Building headache for businesses – public buildings and others which permit access to the public are currently planning how to make the necessary alterations to satisfy new access laws which come into force in 2015. By that date, all buildings, including shops, which are open to the public, must be accessible equally to all people, including those in wheelchairs.....but don't hold your breath as the date has already been pushed back from 2011 due to the enormity of the task and expense of satisfying the new requirements.

If anyone would like access to recent copies, please let me know and I shall happily pass them on after reading.

Elaine Shaw, Secretary

THE NEW 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 Tony Green Peter Meadows
Carl Read Ann Shilton Bill Pratt (Honorary President) Richard Bebbington (Town Council Rep.)

There is still one vacant place on the Executive Committee.

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

FUNDRAISING

Whilst your Social subcommittee is always working hard to come up with new fundraising ideas we would welcome any suggestions you might have for events that would be fun and add to our coffers.

Please contact Sandra Adkin at: sandraadkin@msn.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 19th January, 2013: Quiz Evening at Brown Court (*Booking form on the back page*)
February: Possible chocolatière evening (*To be advised*)
13th-18th June, 2013 Visit to Pithiviers

A full annual programme will be announced in the January newsletter.

Committee Report

Since the last report in the newsletter, your Committee have mainly been working on areas of activity which are reported in other areas of the newsletter including.....

Social Events

As ever, this is the most time-consuming part of our activities for the joint reasons that it keeps everyone together during the long periods of time between visits to Pithiviers and our hosting visits – and because our social events are the fund-raisers which enable us to host our French visitors every other year. Sandra Adkins has had a very successful first year as Chair of the Social Sub-Committee.

Membership

Les Aldrich has been very active in promoting membership with a number of potential new members currently considering involvement. It is good to see some of the new members becoming so active in the Association

Finances

As Peter Wilkinson, our Treasurer, reported to the AGM, we have enjoyed a very good year from a financial point of view, particularly in the light of finishing a “hosting” year with strong reserves in the bank. This is due to strong fund-raising, support from Ashby Town Council and NWLDC towards the cost of the June visit, some of our costs being covered by commercial sponsors, and very careful management of our funds.

AGM

As would be expected, the meeting before the AGM involved preparation for this important event in our calendar. Existing officers and committee were re-elected at the AGM and look forward to planning for 2013 activities from our first meeting of the “new committee” on 10th December. *Elaine Shaw, Secretary*

Don't Forget to Visit the Website!

... with lots of memorabilia such as old newsletters, photos and videos of past visits - including a movie made of the actual 1960 Charter-signing ceremony. Just go to: www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk

QUIZ EVENING - Saturday 19th January, 2013

Yes, it's time for the return of the ever popular quiz evening, this time to be held at Brown Court at 19.00 for a 19.30 start. There will be a buffet supper and a glass of wine with the usual bottle of Pithiviers wine as the valued prize. The cost is £7.50. To book, please complete the form, below and send it to Ann Shilton as soon as possible but no later than **Monday, 14th January.**



Please book ☐ places for the Quiz Evening at £7.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

E-mail address:

Please return with cheque payable to *Ashby/Pithiviers Association*
to Ann Shilton, 16a, Lincoln Way, Midway, Swadlincote, DE11 7LB by 14th January.