

The Biennial Dinner

Saturday April 6th saw around 40 members attending the dinner at the **Royal Hotel in Ashby**. In her report Chairman, Joan Inchley spoke of the importance of fund-raising, recent activities and plans for the rest of the year. She also thanked all Executive Committee members and others who had contributed so much to making the Association such a success and emphasised the importance of twinning in promoting better international



understanding and harmony.

In an outrageous turn of events a lottery was run on the length of her speech (7 minutes 30 seconds) and the prize of a bottle of wine was won by Betty Vos who came within 5 seconds! A second bottle was awarded in the prize draw to Joyce Weir. It was a great evening of conviviality and much enjoyed by all.

A Walk in the Bluebell Woods



On May 11th we enjoyed a bluebell walk with tea and scones at **Gill and Carl Read's**. In between the showers nine of us enjoyed the walk in the Holly Hayes Wood, Whitwick to see the bluebells and afterwards we had Gill's special cream scones and a cup of tea. A most enjoyable afternoon. Many thanks to Gill and Carl.



A Spring Barbecue



After all that rain, the sun comes out for Tony's barbecue-Saturday May 25th. It was a lovely evening weather-wise, the garden was super, the food delicious - and the company good! What more can you ask for!? 12 people came and relaxed in Tony's lovely garden, partook of delicious sausages and chicken



fillets and salmon too! Along with assorted salads contributed by other members. There was also a selection of puddings - Trifle from Linda, Tony's special crumble and a carrot cake as well. Delicious! It was a treat! Thanks to the Greens and all who took part.

2013 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Thurs 13th-Tues 18th June: | Visit to Pithiviers. |
| Saturday 13th July: | Bastille Day Pétanque, the Bulls Head, Wilson. (<i>Booking form on back page</i>) |
| Wednesday 14th August: | Croquet Taster Evening. (<i>Booking form on back page</i>) |
| Saturday 31st August: | Visit to Sealwood Vineyard at Linton. (<i>Booking form on back page</i>) |
| Saturday 19th October: | An evening of nostalgic musical entertainment with "Our Flossie". |
| November: | Annual General Meeting |
| Wednesday 4th December: | Christmas Walk and Lunch |

Derrick Edwards

We are sad to announce the death on 1st June of Derrick Edwards who was a member of the Ashby/Pithiviers Association since the very early '70's. Derrick was awarded life membership earlier this year in recognition of his long and supportive service to the Association. Although never a committee member, Derrick was always supportive of his wife, Greta, who served on the committee for many years. Over many years, they never missed a social event or an exchange visit, having developed a very special bond with Aimée and Claude Hannequin which extended beyond the "official" visits into many family events. Our sincere condolences go out to the family.

The funeral is to take place at 3.45 pm on Friday 14th June at Bretby Crematorium.

Karen Jones

We also regret to announce the death, in May, of Karen, wife of Cllr. Geraint Jones. Although quite recent members of the Association, Geraint had previously acted as the Town Council's representative on our executive committee and, most memorably was our civic representative, accompanied by Karen, on the 50th anniversary visit to Pithiviers in 2011. They also hosted the Civic Reception for our Pithiviers friends on the visit to Ashby, last year. We are grateful for the splendid job that they did on both occasions and extend our sincere condolences to Geraint and family on this sad and sudden loss.

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 Tony Green David Harris
Peter Meadows Carl Read Ann Shilton Bill Pratt (Honorary President)
Richard Bebbington (Town Council Representative)

THE 2013 TRIP TO PITHIVIERS

We are all set for the visit to Pithiviers on 13th June. Those taking part should by now have received full details and the final cost figure for immediate payment. Below is the full programme. Regrettably we will be fewer in number than in recent years but we still look forward to an exciting and stimulating trip which will be reported back to all members in the July newsletter.

Thursday 13 June: **Arrival** and welcome by the families

Friday 14 June: **A day in the Orleans Forest**, 55 sq. kilometres of glorious woodland. *Wear sensible shoes and clothes and bring your binoculars.*
09:00 Depart Fraizy bus depot for Arboretum d'Ingrannes: guided tour then free time to walk in the grounds.
12:30 Lunch at the Auberge de Courcy-aux-Loges
15:30 Discover the forest from the top of the terrace des Caillettes
17:00 Return to Pithiviers
18:00 Vin d'Honneur with Pithiviers town council

Saturday 15 June: All day with host families.

Sunday 16 June: 10:30 Mass at St. Salomon church (optional).
12:30 Lunch at "Le Lancelot", Chilleurs-aux-Bois with "This Was" band.

Monday 17 June: 06:30 Depart Fraizy bus depot for Beauvais
10:00 Guided tour of the Pearl Museum with coffee/tea and croissant
12:30 Lunch at "La Ferme du Roi" at Ancerville
15:15 Guided tour of the national gallery of tapestry
16:15 Guided tour of St Pierre cathedral
17:15 Return to Pithiviers.

Tuesday 18 June: **Departure** for Ashby.



BASTILLE DAY PETANQUE (Saturday 13th July)

The now well-established and popular event will take place this year on 13th July. Once more it will be held at the Bulls Head, Wilson, Derbyshire.

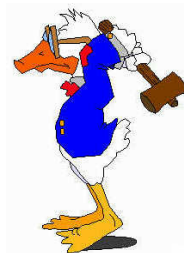
The cost for the whole afternoon is £8.00 each including lunch. Please indicate your selection on the booking form, on the back page.

Please get your bookings in to Ann as quickly as possible but no later than Monday 1st July.

CROQUET TASTER EVENING - Wednesday 14th 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 a fish, chip and pea supper served at the nearby Halfway House, Donisthorpe. The total cost is £10 each or £5.00 for the croquet alone and £5.00 for the meal alone. 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, overleaf, and send to Les as soon as possible but no later than

Wednesday, 7th August.



The following is a letter from Diddier Lamarque to *Courrier du Loiret* on an article in that newspaper detailing local problems not entirely unknown on this side of the Channel:

A *Courrier du Loiret* report on the current situation of trade in Pithiviers: 2 full pages telling us that commerce is in trouble, on the High Street as well as the shopping centre. 2 pages telling us what everyone knows.

As to the conclusion of this impressive investigative work: "no solution other than to press residents to continue to do their shopping in Pithiviers". Instead of saying that "some are looking for answers", why not learn a bit more about these 'some who are looking for answers' and why not invite them to offer solutions? Why didn't the reporter see the town's Mayor, the opposition, our MP, representative of the chamber of trade, Chamber of Commerce, the group of local communities, the traders and the residents to ask them: "What are your solutions"?

When they try to avoid making waves; as seems to be the fashion with the local press, they fail to inform Pithiveriens properly. However, the article by Laurence Dupin seen from one perspective would leave one to think the contrary: 'so does it take a war to get our politicians to react and to try for once listening to each other to get [Pithiviers] France out of this depression in which we are wallowing? You are absolutely right, Laurence Dupin. Once again both we and the press must ask clear questions and demand clear answers.

To all my *Facebook* friends I say: who can give me the name of a person or organization making concrete proposals to get out of this slump while stating these proposals? Just read my various posts to see that there are solutions! And for those who want a summary, here are my proposals:

1 ° create a Permanent Council of Commerce composed of all local participants and with a project leader who can go on the ground to meet traders and seek out modern projects.

2 ° Make public the percentage of local purchases by bodies and organizations in Pithiviers and by associations receiving a subsidy from the Town Hall. This in order to encourage them to first think local.

3 ° Support traders who want to sell, a job for the Project Leader of the Council of Commerce, to avoid Pithiviers' future, like now, resting in the hands of the '*right sort*'.

4 ° Give our squares, Martroi and les Halles, their proper roles: meeting places, activities, trading, by installing benches, tables and greenery.

5 ° Give preference to leisure trading in the town centre: bars, theme restaurants, pubs, billiard rooms, with terraces to avoid the drift to Orleans and liven up squares that can be disturbing at night because they are deserted.

6 ° Modernise and harmonise opening hours for municipal facilities but also businesses. In the 21st century and in times of crisis, one should be able to do sports, listen to music, read a magazine, do some shopping... when one isn't working.

7 ° Put back on the agenda local democracy allowing everyone to make proposals and to get a response from elected representatives, something that the internet can easily facilitate. This would also enable Pithiveriens to get to know and understand each other better.

8 ° To allow Pithiveriens easily to find out what there actually is in Pithiviers, to curb the drift towards Orleans or Mammouth (hypermarkets). The Internet deploys the power of a nuclear strike in terms of communication, thanks to Google, Facebook and YouTube. A portal like *pithiviers.info* is an idea.

9 ° Do an education job on the public: buy local - local employment - local services - what's on. But they must be informed

10 ° Enhance our city by means of powerful communication.

SEALWOOD VINEYARD VISIT (Saturday, 31 August)

Visit to local vineyard at Sealwood Lane, Linton, Derbyshire, DE12 6PA at 2 pm and afterwards for a picnic in Linda Brown's garden at The Old Vicarage, 40 Main Street, Linton, DE12 6PZ.

The cost is £10.00 including picnic. Bring your own chair/blanket.

Directions to Vineyard. Get onto A444 and at the crossroads between Overseal and Castle Gresley, take the turn towards Linton (sometimes called Linton Heath), at the sharp bend turn off the road onto the track and continue past the last house near the track, and there is the gateway to the Vineyard.

Booking form below. Please get your bookings in to Ann as quickly as possible but no later than Friday 23rd August.



Please book ☐ places for the Bastille Day Petanque at £8.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Please indicate your choice for lunch:-

Roast Chicken in a basket with chips ☐ OR Cheese & Onion Toastie with chips ☐

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

E-mail address:

*Please return with cheque payable to the Ashby/Pithiviers Association **by Monday 1st July**
to Ann Shilton, 16a, Lincoln Way, Midway, Nr. Swadlincote, Derbys., DE11 7LB.*



Please book ☐ places for the Croquet Evening at £10.00 each or ☐ places for Croquet only at £5.00 each or

☐ places for Supper only at £5.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

E-mail address:

*Please return with cheque payable to the Ashby/Pithiviers Association **by Wednesday 7th August**
to Les Aldrich, 6, Willesley Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics., LE65 2QA.*



Please book ☐ places for the Sealwood Vineyard at £10.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

E-mail address:

*Please return with cheque payable to the Ashby/Pithiviers Association **by Friday 23rd August**
to Ann Shilton, 16a, Lincoln Way, Midway, Nr. Swadlincote, Derbys., DE11 7LB.*