



ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 1, 2013

website: www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk

JULY

This Year's Visit to Pithiviers

Reflections of a first-timer by Tony Green

Just a few notes from a traveler on the coach to remind those who went, of the time we had, and to inspire those who didn't go, to give it a try next time!

The coach journey - early morning start, with a fine mist and dozing on the way to Dover - coffee stop at the M25 -



Arboretum d'Ingrannes

striding the decks on the ferry - fish and chip lunch to remind ourselves that we're British!! Ah!! the smell of the salt in the spray, the roll of the ship, - the lure of the onboard shops - what it is to be afloat! The landing at Calais - driving on the right at last - tea, coffee and biscuits served by the APA "trolley dollies" - what balance and dexterity shown by the catering staff!! Who can forget the quiz!! - or remember any of



The Civic Reception



the answers!!

Arrival now at Pithiviers and collection by our host families - and of course dinner at 10.00 pm and our individual attempts to speak in French (and they in English!) after a 17 hour journey! The next few days spent with families and in small groups, visiting local (or not so local!) sights and places. The 3 hour lunches, the mangled languages that quickly became to an outside observer, "franglais at its best!!" The formal reception with speeches and of course, "le vin d'honneur!" The forest trip, the walk to the top of the tower and the walk around the natural gardens of a



French/American couple - with a family of dogs!! The trip to Beauvais - the early start (up at 4.30 am) - the car park on the périphérique - the pearl museum - the museum guide who broke the world record for the number of French words delivered in 25 minutes, to make up for

lost time (we were an hour late - the French, being French, curtailed the museum tour, rather than shortening the lunch) -- the lunch!! - the cathedral and the tapestry museum - the long doze home to Pithiviers and then the dinner at 11.00 pm!! The formal lunch - all 5 hours of it - the speeches - the hors d'oeuvres - the wine the food - the franglais - c'est formidable!

The dawn of the return, early morning



farewells to much closer friends, the journey with the re-appearance of the "trolley dollies" - the return quiz - the raffle - the youngsters entertaining us with their happiness and good cheer - the arrival.

Memories?? - wine drunk in moderation - new friendships

made - exquisite food - 3 hour lunches and late dinners - beautiful places to visit - mingled French and English - pleasantly tired - discovered affinities across the channel.....

Would I do it again? yes!



Beauvais Cathedral

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due from 1st September. We would really appreciate you signing up as soon as possible to aid administration. This year's subscription remains unchanged. On the back page is a renewal form, to be sent with appropriate cheque made payable to *Ashby/Pithiviers Association* to Les Aldrich.

Speech delivered at the Civic reception by the Town Council Representative, Cllr. Andrew Badger

"Madame Mayor, Mme Marie Therese Bonneau, Madame la Presidente, Mme Chantal Cottin, Ladies and Gentlemen ... This is my first visit to Pithiviers and I am delighted to be here with my wife...Amanda...and children...Amber and Harriet. I am looking forward to seeing your charming Town which I know shares a character and history as ancient as our own. The twinning of our two towns is now in its 53rd year and in that time there have been many changes to the countryside, the environment and lifestyles in both our countries. I know many of you have made lifelong friendships and have spent time visiting each others homes. What an excellent thing this is for our two countries with such close historical ties to get to know and understand each other, thus cementing the "entente cordiale". Looking forward to the future, I hope the Association will go from strength to strength so our children can be involved

not only as children but also in their adulthood.

I regret to advise that our Chair person, Joan Inchley, is unable to be with us on this visit. She sends her very best wishes to you all and looks forward to seeing you on your next visit to Ashby de la Zouch.

May I thank you for your hospitality shown to my family and all my fellow townsfolk during this years visit to your Town. On a personal note we would like to thank our host Mme Brigitte Morin for making us most welcome.

It is my privilege to convey to you the greetings and good wishes of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council and on their behalf to present to you Mme Mayor this small token of our continuing friendship and goodwill. It is a hamper of local produce from Ashby and surrounding areas. Thank you"

2013 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 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 |

Bastille Day Pétanque

We had a good turnout for this annual event, this year on Saturday 13th July. Five teams took part in the competition, which as usual was fiercely contested.

The weather was superb, if a little too hot but under the shade of the trees all the accumulated skills and endurance of the last few years of



experienced pétanque playing was deployed throughout the afternoon.

Much of the morning was spent in



practice and re-tuning those skills before enjoying a convivial lunch with friends and then launching into the main event.

The battle swung in all directions before the final score revealed the winners to be "The Courtiers", a team consisting of Joyce and Barry Clarke and Pat and Geoff Cort, who were awarded the tradition prize of

a bottle of Pithiviers gift wine.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the event and thank everyone who took part - particularly Keith Youles for his skilful refereeing and Ann Shilton, who took on the chief responsibility for booking and organising the event.



short video may be seen on YouTube and accessed via our website.



“Our Flossie” - Saturday 19th October

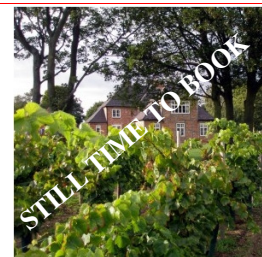
An evening with “Our Flossie” is our major fund-raiser ready for our French Visitors next June. We really do need every member of the Association to pull out all the stops and make every effort to attend if we are to raise a healthy amount for our hospitality to the visitors. The event is at Packington Memorial Hall on Saturday October 19th at 7 pm. Flossie is a musical entertainer and has been highly recommended by Barry Clarke. The cost is £12.50 and includes a **generous** Ploughman’s Supper. A bar will be available. Visitors are also welcome. There is a Booking Form overleaf and tickets are available now from Joan Inchley or any Committee member. If you want to sit with a particular group of friends then early booking is advisable.

SEALWOOD VINEYARD VISIT **(Saturday, 31 August)**

Visit a 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 overleaf. Please get your bookings in to Ann as quickly as possible but no later than Friday 23rd August.



Pithivierian Rouault takes his place in sporting history

Pithivierien, Jean-Marie Rouault, who has kept in touch with us since competing in (and winning) the Ashby 20 running race in 2002 when Ivanhoe Running Club and Pithiviers Omnisport did several exchanges, hit the French national news, and the world sporting news, by becoming the first Frenchman to win the Paris-Colmar walking race since 1993. At 49 years of age, he is also the oldest ever to do so. Jean-Marie completed the 436.4 km ON FOOT in 54 hours, 10 minutes and 59 seconds, beating his nearest competitor, Russian three time winner Dimitry Osipov by over 48 minutes so ending a 20 year domination of the event by Eastern Europeans. This was the 65th edition of the race which started as the Strasbourg-Paris walk in 1926 and changed to the

Paris-Colmar race in 1981.

Jean-Marie has an impressive record in ultra-distance sporting events, including twice winning the gruelling Defis du Chott Marathon, a full marathon in the searing heat of the southern Tunisian dessert! He



qualified for the Paris-Colmar by winning the French national 24-hour walking

championship in 2012 by covering over 200 km within the 24 hour period. Whilst not training or competing Jean-Marie is Global Account Manager at Siemens in Paris.

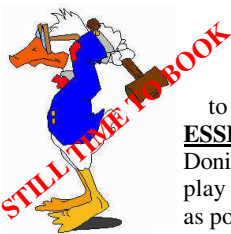
For the size of the town, Pithiviers has an extraordinary record in producing international sportsmen in the 21st century. Pithiviers born and raised, Steve Marlet, scored 6 goals while winning his 23 caps in the French national football team between 2000 and 2004 and broke Fulham’s transfer record fee when he joined them in 2001 for £11.5m. Professional cyclist, Geoffroy LeQuatre, also born in Pithiviers and raised in Estouy just 4 miles away made British cycling headlines by winning the Tour of Britain in 2008.

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)



CROQUET TASTER EVENING - Wednesday 14th August

At the Ashby Croquet Club. We 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 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**.

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.*

Please book ☐ places for "Our Flossie" at £12.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

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 **Monday 14th October**, latest.*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

I/We enclose membership subscription for the year 1st September, 2011 to 31st August, 2012.

Please indicate which subscription category applies to you. (See Constitution clause 3).

☐ Individual: £10.00 ☐ Family: £15.00 ☐ Group: £15.00 ☐ Junior: £1.00

Name: Telephone Number:

Address: Post Code:

E-mail address:

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to Ashby Pithiviers Association to Les Aldrich, 6, Willesley Road, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leics.