



# ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 4, 2015

website: [www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk](http://www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk)

JULY

## The Visit to Pithiviers: 17th - 23rd June, 2015

Well, no one could say that our trip to Pithiviers this year was uneventful! For the first time we followed the French



*At the Hotel Belle Etoile*

example and left a day early to break the journey, spending a night near Calais. So



*Chartres Cathedral*

create more of a holiday atmosphere we booked a visit to the Crystal Arques Glassworks en route, which proved most



*Le Petit Train*



*The Stained Glass Museum*

interesting but it did mean we had to leave



*The Mayoral Speeches*

Ashby very early on Wednesday morning, spending the night at a pleasant little hotel, *La Belle Etoile* in Arras. The next morning we rose anticipating a visit to the First World War site, Vimy Ridge with lunch at Albert - but it was not to be! Our coach refused to start and after a long and tiring day in this small town we were about to book another night when the 7th cavalry arrived in the form of a Mercedes Benz engineer with a replacement starter motor. The hotel had proved most accommodating with food and drinks but it was around 5 pm when we left, having missed our visits and we didn't get to Pithiviers until around 9.30 pm.

On Friday, we enjoyed a visit to Chartres' impressive cathedral and the stained-glass museum. A town tour by Petit Train and excellent lunch rounded off the day before heading back to Pithiviers for the usual warm Civic Reception. Saturday was free with host families and we enjoyed a wide variety of friendly entertainment in the true spirit of



*The Twinning Gift*



*The Picnic Lunch*

twinning. On Sunday, for those in Pithiviers who wished, the day began with mass in the parish church. At midday we met at the old railway station to take the train to a nearby

park, where the twinning picnic was held. Chantal and Joan made their speeches and we presented a framed copy of Magna Carta on its 800th anniversary. There was an excellent picnic buffet before the return and a visit to the railway museum.

On Monday we travelled to the charming



*Vaux-le-Vicomte*

chateau of Vaux-le-Vicomte to see the wonderful buildings, furniture and gardens as well as the carriage museum. There was a delicious lunch in the chateau restaurant. Tuesday and the end of our visit came around all too quickly. In the cold light of dawn we took leave of our generous hosts. The journey back to Calais was largely uneventful and not too slow - until within 5 miles of the port we found ourselves at the centre of a major strike, closing the port and blocking all adjacent ones! In desperation we called our previous week's hotel and - the one bit of



*Until next year*

good fortune - they were able to put us all up for the night. The following day, after yet another very early start, we were heading back for Calais, where after a smooth, trouble-free and rapid crossing, we arrived back in Ashby at around midday, after one of the most memorable twinning visits for years! There is a video of the visit on the Association website.

Alan Briggs, having expressed an interest in joining the Executive Committee is now being co-opted under clause 5(c) of the Constitution. We welcome him on-board and look forward to benefitting from his input.

## **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

<b>Chairman</b>	Joan Inchley	Tel: 224494	e-mail: <a href="mailto:joan.inchley@talktalk.net">joan.inchley@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Vice-Chairman</b>	Geoff Cort	Tel: 413770	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ptva@talktalk.net">ptva@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Elaine Shaw	Tel: 564077	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ptva@hotmail.co.uk">ptva@hotmail.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Wilkinson	Tel: 414689	e-mail: <a href="mailto:ptwilk@talktalk.net">ptwilk@talktalk.net</a>
<b>Membership Sec.</b>	Anne Donegan	Tel: 01283 760348	e-mail: <a href="mailto:amdonegan@btinternet.com">amdonegan@btinternet.com</a>

### **Committee Members:**

Sandra Adkins Margaret Barnett Alan Briggs Linda Brown Tony Green David Harris Peter Meadows Winnie Meadows  
Bill Pratt (Honorary President) Cllr. Geraint Jones (Town Council Rep.)

## **Bastille Day Pétanque**

Saturday 11th of July dawned bright and sunny and remained so, a perfect day to play pétanque. A lively group met at the Kings Arms, Coleorton. The early arrivals had a short practise. The later group enjoyed a relaxed drink on the lawn before lunch. A hearty meal of sausages, mash and vegetables was served, some people also chose a scrumptious dessert.

On to the game in hand, four teams played with varying levels of skill but perhaps it was the lay of the land, divets and troughs that really influenced the result! A group decision was made to finish. A bottle of the finest Pithiviers wine was awarded to the winners of each game collected by Betty and Jane. Cheery "Goodbyes" were exchanged with "see you in August for Croquet" called by the departing crowd.

## **2015 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Wednesday, 5th August:</b>	Croquet Taster Evening
<b>Saturday, 12th September:</b>	Walk to Swannington Mill followed by hot dog lunch. ( <i>Booking Form page 3</i> )
<b>Saturday, 24th October:</b>	The Grand Dads Barbers Shop Quartet. ( <i>Booking Form page 3</i> )
<b>Monday, 16th November:</b>	Annual General Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 9th December:</b>	Christmas Walk and Lunch



### **Still time to sign up for the Croquet Taster Evening on 5th August!**

Please note that all bookings and cheques should now be sent to:- Linda Brown, The Old Vicarage, 40, Main Street, Linton, DE12 6PZ (Tel: 01283 763506)



## **Swannington Lunch and Mill (by Sandra Adkin) - Saturday, 12th September**

Walk to the Mill in Swannington and then enjoy a hot dog lunch and dessert at Sandra's home. The walk starts at 10:30 with lunch at 1pm. You are welcome to join us just for lunch if you prefer. The cost is a modest £5.00. Please complete the booking form on page 3 and send to Sandra by Wednesday 9th September.

## **The Grand Dads Barbers Shop Quartet** **Saturday 24th October at Packington Memorial Hall**

This is our major fundraising event of the year and tickets are now available from Joan and committee members at £12.50 each to include a ploughman's supper and dessert. There will be a bar at the hall. Doors open at 7pm and the concert starts at 7-30 pm.



**The Grand Dads Barbershop Quartet** formed in the Spring of 2011. They are all experienced singers from the five-times British Championship-winning Barbershop chorus **The Grand Central Chorus**, and have featured in many of their shows.

**The Grand Dads Barbershop quartet were the 2014 BABS British Seniors Quartet Champions at the Birmingham Conservatoire on Sunday 16th November 2014.**

As this is our main fundraising event for the French visit next year we do need everyone's support. So make sure all your friends and family know about it to ensure we can fill the hall! A booking form is overleaf.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Membership renewal is due from 1st September. We would much appreciate you signing up as soon as possible to aid administration. At last year's AGM a modest increase was agreed to the annual subscription, as shown. There is a renewal form on page 3 to be sent with appropriate cheque payable to *Ashby/Pithiviers Association* to Anne Donegan. Thank you.

**Please note to save postage when returning more than one of the forms below they may all be sent to Joan Inchley.**



Please book ☐ places for the Swannington Walk at £5.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: ..... Tel. Number: .....

Address: .....

E-mail: .....

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.



Please book ☐ places for the Barber Shop Quartet at £12.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: ..... Tel. Number: .....

Address: .....

E-mail: .....

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to "Ashby/Pithiviers Association" to Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9SR. (Tickets may also be obtained from any Executive Committee member.)



### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

I/We enclose membership subscription for the year 1st September, 2015 to 31st August, 2016.  
Please indicate which subscription category applies to you. (See Constitution clause 3).

☐ Individual: £12.00\* ☐ Family: £18.00\* ☐ Group: £18.00\* ☐ Junior: £1.00

Name: ..... Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Telephone Number: .....

E-mail address: .....

Please cut out and return with cheque made payable to Ashby Pithiviers Association to Anne Donegan, 41, Park Road, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbys., DE12 6BJ.

*\*Please note a small increase in subscription following a resolution of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.*