



ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 1, 2016

website: www.ashbydelazouchtwinning.co.uk

JANUARY

BILL PRATT

In the early hours of Tuesday 26th January Bill Pratt, our Honorary President, passed away. This is really the end of an era. Although not a founder member of the Association, he joined in the very early days and for a long time worked closely with John Staples, the moving spirit behind it. Bill was, in many ways, the very embodiment of the Twinning. Serving in several rôles, including that of chairman, he represented us on many occasions, like the Annual Parish Meeting and Remembrance Sunday and it is difficult to recall a visit to or from Pithiviers without him there (his distinctive beret even acknowledged by a French mayor!). For many years he recorded the visits, first with his camera, then on video camcorder. Several of them are in our website archive.

But Bill was also well known about town through his pioneering involvement with Ivanhoe College - the first



community college in Leicestershire. He was often approached by ex-pupils, who remembered him fondly.

Bill loved to travel. As a young man he went, alone, to Paris just before the second world war. Thereafter there appeared to be no limit! He and Nita lived for a while in the USA as part of an educational exchange. They travelled widely in the Soviet Union, visited China and were fond of German river cruises, in which he still indulged, well into his nineties. He made friends in many countries and kept in touch with them.

Bill was truly a pillar of the Association in which he inevitably leaves a large gap. We will miss him and our heart-felt sympathy goes out to Nita and William at this sad time of loss.

The funeral is at Holy Trinity Church at 15:00, Thursday 4th February then to Bretby Crematorium.



Christmas Walk and Lunch

This event in our social calendar is normally very popular; some walking, some eating and some doing both and numbers of walkers usually determined by the weather. This year saw a distinct fall in numbers, which was disappointing but perhaps not entirely surprising as some stalwarts were "on the bench" with various degrees of ill-health. However, we had the walk planned by Elaine, the weather was kind and the hospitality was as good as usual at The Mount Pleasant. We are lucky that they are prepared to open at lunchtime just for us and the food was good; ample quantities and piping hot! Thanks to all participants and to Elaine for organizing.

Pat & Geoff's Drop-in

It was a great pleasure to see so many members take up the offer of Pat and Geoff Cort to drop in to their home on the Saturday before Christmas and share a little of the traditional seasonal spirit. Amidst the enjoyment of mulled wine, mince pies and cake the talk of happy moments of the past year and years gone by, shared with fellow members flowed freely as did memories of those no longer with us. The comings and goings proceeded cheerfully from eleven o'clock until four and time seemed to fly by. An excellent start to the holiday season and a modest but welcome addition to the Association's funds!

The January Quiz

Eight teams met to do battle at the annual Quiz Night held at Smisby Village Hall; very cosy this year due to the new heating system. Five varied rounds saw the fortunes of the teams go up and down depending on their choice of round to play the joker. The interval food was delicious soup, tasty sandwich assortment and scrumptious cakes enjoyed by all. Eventually "Nameless" were the outright 2016 winners, their prize being a bottle of Pithiviers wine. Many thanks to Carole and Keith Youles for an excellent quiz. Also to everyone, who supported this fundraising event in any way. Your commitment and generosity is much appreciated in contributing to a successful and enjoyable evening.



THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Joan Inchley	Tel: 224494	e-mail: joan.inchley@talktalk.net
Vice-Chairman	Margaret Barnett	Tel: 01283552636	e-mail: mhbarnett8@yahoo.co.uk
Secretary	Elaine Shaw	Tel: 564077	e-mail: ptva@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer	Peter Wilkinson	Tel: 414689	e-mail: ptwilk@talktalk.net
Membership Sec.	Anne Donegan	Tel: 01283760348	e-mail: adonegan@btinternet.com

Committee Members:

Sandra Adkins Alan Briggs Linda Brown Geoff Cort Wendy Fry David Harris
Bill Pratt (Honorary President) Geraint Jones (Town Council Rep.)

There are still four vacant places on the Executive Committee.

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

2016 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 26th February:	Skittles Evening, Odd House Inn (<i>Booking Form on the back page</i>).
Saturday, 19th March:	Panel Games at Smisby Village Hall.
Friday, 15th April:	National Forest Talk (<i>To be confirmed</i>).
Sunday, 15th May:	Walk in the National Forest followed by lunch (<i>To be confirmed</i>).
Thurs 9th-Tues 14th June:	Visit from Pithiviers. (<i>Hosting Form on the page back page</i>).
Saturday, 9th July:	Bastille Day Pétanque.
Wednesday, 3rd August:	Croquet Taster Evening.
Saturday, 3rd September:	“An Evening with ...”. <i>To be arranged</i> .
Saturday, 22nd October:	Main Event at Packington Memorial Hall. <i>To be arranged</i> .
Monday, 14th November:	Annual General Meeting.
Wednesday, 7th December:	Christmas Walk and Lunch.

THE 2016 VISIT FROM PITHIVIERS - (Thursday 9th to Tuesday 14th June)

We are busy making preparations for the visit in June. Our friends will arrive, as usual on Thursday evening. Our two visits this year are themed on our industrial history: one to Ironbridge and the Blists Hill Victorian museum and the other up into Derbyshire based around Chesterfield with its crooked spire and Denby Pottery. Details for the Civic Reception have yet to be finalised. The Twinning Lunch on Sunday 12th will be held around midday at the Lyric Rooms. There will be more information in the March newsletter.

Of course many of you already have a standing arrangement with your friends in Pithiviers but would you **please** contact Joan Inchley to confirm such arrangement or to advise that you are available to host or offer hospitality to other visitors using the form, on the back page. Many thanks.

The Skittles Evening

Friday 26th February - 19.00 for 19.30 at The Odd House Inn, Bosworth Road, Snarestone

Something a bit different! We are holding a Skittles Evening at the attractive Odd House Inn at Snarestone. A bit of healthy competition at this old pub sport with an attractive range of different meals to choose from. Just fill in the form below, noting how many of each meal is required and send it off to Sandra together with the £10.00 per head charge to arrive by Friday 19th February, latest. Hope to see you there!

Panel Games Evening

Saturday 19th March - 19.00 for 19.30 at Smisby Village Hall

A totally new event – but just another excuse to enjoy a fun evening with good food and good company - and raise funds for the Association! Whether you're an extrovert who loves the lime-light, an introvert who hates it, or somewhere in between, you can contribute to your team's success! It'll be the battle of “reds v blues” with all attendees joining one team or the other. Inspired by the variety of panel games on TV and radio, each round is based on a different show to provide an evening of light-hearted quizzing and laughter! Just bring your sense of humour and your own drinks – we'll provide the chilli supper and the motive for merriment! Price £10 per person.

Skittles Evening

Please book ☐ places for the Skittles Evening at £10.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

E-mail address: *Please note how many of each meal required, below:*

- ☐ Steak & Ale Pie topped with puff pastry lid
☐ Cajun Chicken breast with minted crème fraiche
☐ Garlic mushroom pasta served with garlic bread*
☐ Breaded Scampi with lemon and tartar sauce
☐ Braised Faggots with onion gravy

*All main courses are served with hand cut chips or new potatoes, salad or peas (*except Garlic mushroom pasta).*

Please return with cheque for "Ashby Pithiviers Association" to Sandra Adkin, The Nook, 14, Main Street, Swannington, LE67 8QJ.

Panel Games Evening

Please book ☐ places for the Panel Games Evening at £10.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

E-mail address:

Please return with cheque for "Ashby Pithiviers Association" to Elaine Shaw, 187 Nottingham Road, Ashby LE65 1DP

HOSTING FOR OUR PITHIVIERS VISITORS

Name: Address:

Telephone: e-mail address:

- (a) I/We have already made arrangements to host (visitors' name):
(b) I/We would like to host YES/NO* I/We would prefer a Single/Couple/Neither*
How would you rate your French? Good/Adequate/Basic/None*
(c) I/We are not able to host but would like to offer a meal to visitors on:

Friday Evening/Saturday Lunch/Sunday Lunch/Sunday Evening/Monday Evening*

NB Availability of guests will depend on any programme their hosts may have arranged. * delete as applicable

Please return by end February, to: Joan Inchley, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe, Loughborough, Leics., LE12 9SR.