



# ASHBY-PITHIVIERS TWINNING ASSOCIATION



Newsletter No. 4, 2016

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

JULY

## The Visit from Pithiviers: 9th - 14th June, 2016

This year our friends arrived in good time having spent Wednesday night



*Group on the Ironbridge*

crossing from Caen to Portsmouth and paying a visit to Blenheim Palace on the way to Ashby. The Friday trip we had arranged was to Ironbridge and then on to Blists Hill Museum to show them something of our industrial history. Ancient though it now is, the Ironbridge remains an impressive monument of industrial archaeology and after inspecting it we offered complimentary tea or coffee at a nearby café before continuing to the Victorian Museum and lunch. We were then free to roam the fascinating streets of this re-constructed



*Blists Hill Museum*

historic town with its collection of typical trades and professions of the era. All of this proved most intriguing to both us and our visitors, despite the very heavy rain. Indeed it was such weather which presented a minor disaster on our return to Ashby that evening to find the roof of the Royal Hotel, where the Civic Reception was to be held, brought down by the storm. We were grateful to the Ivanhoe Social Club for offering their



premises at such short notice and the Pithiviers civic party of five was duly received there by our Mayor and Town Clerk. As usual gifts were exchanged and speeches made.

Saturday was left entirely free for host families to entertain and again the rain had its effect on a number of plans!



*Santa*

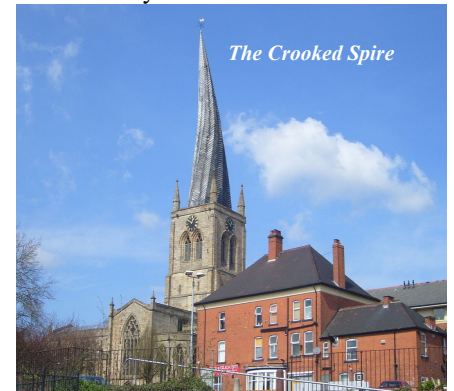
Sunday began with a service at St. Helen's church. The heavens opened once more and we were able to see the waterlogged street-party on the way to the Twinning Lunch at the Lyric Rooms. All this, of course, only served to create the winter ambience needed to support the planned theme of an English Christmas Lunch with turkey, Christmas pud and "all the trimmings". There was music, singing



*"Christmas" Sing-song*

and dancing, presents and even a special visit from Santa Claus and his little helper.

The Monday visit was to Chesterfield



*The Crooked Spire*

and its famous church with the crooked spire, where the vicar himself conducted the tour. Lunch was a typical fish and chips affair with local beer and in the afternoon we visited Denby Pottery to see actual production in progress and even get some hands-on experience ourselves.

Of course, all too soon the time was over and, at the crack of dawn on Tuesday morning our goodbyes were said, again in the Royal Hotel car park, as our guests began the long journey home (via a planned strike in Paris!) wishing each other well until we meet again next year in Pithiviers.



*"Have-a-Go" Pottery!*

There is a video of the visit on the Association website.

**CLAUDE HANNEQUIN**  
*An obituary by Elaine Shaw*



Claude Hannequin, a true supporter of the Pithiviers/Ashby Association since the 1980s, has died. The “quiet man” was always present, always supportive, always helpful – but almost always in the background. As husband of “Président du Jumelage”, Aimée Hannequin, Claude’s support was invaluable although he shunned the lime-light himself. One of my earliest memories of him was watching him and Aimée floating around the dance-floor when twinning exchange visits always included a formal dance on the Saturday night – poetry in motion!

Claude represented an unusual aspect of twinning. He didn’t speak any English and had no interest in learning – his English “brother” Derrick Edwards didn’t speak French and had no interest in doing so – but through laughter, gestures and by talking to each other in their own language, the two spent many happy times in the garden, shed or workshop while their wives were out shopping or otherwise engaged.

A man with a wonderful sense of humour, Claude died after a very long illness and leaves Aimée and sons, Didier and Stéphane.



## **Bastille Day Pétanque**

On Saturday 9th of July we enjoyed our annual pétanque fest at the, now, well-established venue of the King’s Arms in Coleorton. Fifteen of us got together this year and started off with an enjoyable lunch and drinks before braving the elements to pit our rusting skills against each other. Four teams were set up to vie for the honour of winning this annual event and the competition was fierce but at last the victors emerged in the form of Sandra Adkin, Karen Underwood and Alan Foster. Joan then presented them with the customary prize of a bottle of



wine from Pithiviers and we took the opportunity of a few minutes more of congenial company before heading home to avoid the rain. As usual, a great afternoon to celebrate our twin town’s *fête nationale*. There is a short video on the website.

## **2016 FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<b>Wednesday, 3rd August:</b>	Croquet Taster Evening.
<b>Saturday, 3rd September:</b>	“An Evening with ...”. ( <i>Booking form back page</i> ).
<b>Saturday, 22nd October:</b>	60s Night with “The Singing Postman” ( <i>Booking form back page</i> ).
<b>Monday, 14th November:</b>	Annual General Meeting.
<b>Wednesday, 7th December:</b>	Christmas Walk and Lunch.

## **An Evening with Peter Good**

**Saturday, 3rd September at the Congregational Church, Kilwardby Street, Ashby**

An Evening With Peter Good, well-known local gardener and--what else !? Starts at 19.30. Price £8.50 to include supper of cottage pie or lasagne or vegetarian option, followed by dessert.

There is a booking form on the back page to be returned to Joan by 26th August.

## **A Sixties Night with Jim, the Singing Postman**

**Saturday 22nd 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 supper. There will be a licensed bar at the hall. Doors open at 19.00 and the concert starts at 19.30.

There is a booking form on the back page to be returned to Joan by 14th October.



### Are you missing a dark green *Regatta* mac?

We have just received back from France a far-travelled dark green *Regatta* brand mac. It journeyed back on the coach with our French visitors but doesn't belong to any of them so they have now returned it. Presumably it was left by a member of the English party after one of the trips over here. If it belongs to you please contact Joan.

**Please note to save postage when returning Membership Renewal and Booking Form(s) all may be sent to Joan Inchley.**

Please book ☐ places for "An Evening with Peter Good" at £8.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please indicate choice of meal(s): ☐ Cottage Pie ☐ Lasagne ☐ Vegetarian Option

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 **by 26th August.**

Please book ☐ places for the 60s Evening 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 **by 22nd October.**

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Membership renewal is due from 1st September. We would much appreciate you signing up as soon as possible to aid administration. There is a renewal form below to be sent with appropriate cheque payable to *Ashby/Pithiviers Twinning Association* to Anne Donegan. Thank you.

#### **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.