

The Visit to Pithiviers: 5th - 11th June, 2019

A group of 20 travellers set off from Robert's depot in Hugglescote at 6.30 am, with five additional members travelling independently to Pithiviers.



Our driver Andy made good time to Dover to board the ferry. After a calm crossing we went on to the *Campanile* Hotel in Beauvais for our overnight stay and a very good evening meal in their conference room.

Thursday dawned fine. After buffet breakfast we made our way to Giverny, a pleasant journey through the countryside. We sought refreshment places just as the first shower began but it didn't spoil the *Tarte Normande* with Calvados. We entered and enjoyed the Water Garden in another way - water, water everywhere thanks to a heavy shower, some of our group taking shelter under water lily umbrellas purchased earlier! However the sun reappeared and we enjoyed the many flowers, the house, a couple of museums, galleries and the Church where Monet is buried. Soon it was time to leave for Pithiviers to meet our friends at the Fraizy depot.

Friday saw an early departure to Chateaux



Guedelon, a castle built using only medieval techniques. We had been taken to this site some years ago, so those on the previous visit could see the progress. Our very knowledgeable Dutch guide gave an excellent lesson in the measuring techniques used. During our tour it got cooler and darker. As we went to lunch the heavens opened but luckily, although outside, we were under cover and lunch was a hot meal. The second

chateaux visit was to St. Fargeau, still a family home. After the guided tour we walked round in the roof space which was a great experience - so much timber! (I don't think Health and Safety would allow it here)

Saturday morning was the Civic Reception with the usual canapés and champagne. The Mayor of Pithiviers and the Ashby Mayor, Cllr. Graham Allman and his wife, Charmaine were in attendance. Good wishes were exchanged, Cllr. Allman gave a heartfelt speech which was well received by all. The press were there to photograph the occasion with a report, as it was sixty years since the



formation of the Pithiviers Twinning Committee. All attendees received a souvenir hardback book on Pithiviers. Our Mayor and Mayoress were kindly invited to lunch by Jean-Claude Bregat.

On Saturday evening the group went to the cabaret venue, *La Diamante Bleu*. As it was an open venue it wasn't possible to make the formal speeches. Following an evening meal, the hosts invited Jean-Claude on stage to tell the audience the reason for the celebration and then he was presented with a large celebration cake which we all shared. And so to the cabaret - the acts, male and female dancers, circus-type acts *à la cirque du soleil*, a very interesting magician! etc. were of a high technical standard, slick presentation and high quality technical wizardry accompanied by an enjoyable soundtrack with lots of costume changes. Not so easy to follow was the dialogue between the two main characters - a gay transvestite couple. I



shall never know if I would have appreciated it more or less had my French been better! Where did the clown fit in? While it may not have been to everyone's taste, it was a case of "when in Rome"

Sunday was family day with lots of different things happening, visits to local rose gardens, historic places such as Troyes, Sunday lunch *en famille*, a trip on the Seine were some of the activities members enjoyed.

Monday we stayed nearer our base to visit a Printing Museum in Malesherbes. This is the work of a local business man with a passion for printing. It only opened in 2018. It follows the development of printing from one of the earliest European presses to printing today in the digital era. Outside caterers provided an excellent buffet lunch. Margaret thanked our hosts for a wonderful visit and said although she hadn't forgotten the present this year she would let them have it on Tuesday as the gift of a bird bath for the garden of the Mairie was too heavy to carry!! Jean-Claude thanked everyone for helping to celebrate 60 years since the formation of the



Twinning Committee in Pithiviers. After lunch we were able to return to the museum to look at anything else or take part in some workshop activities such as paper-making, marbling or calligraphy.

Tuesday came all too quickly. Jean-Claude transferred the gift to his car and after lots of goodbyes we were on our way back to the coast, calling in at *La Belle Etoile* at Arras for lunch and a welcome breather. We made good time to Calais and caught the appointed ferry. Our journey back to Hugglescote was straight forward and Andy had ten minutes left on his allotted time.

Many thanks to all travellers who helped make it a thoroughly enjoyable visit. Also to committee members and those involved in the planning, delivery and support during our time in Pithiviers

Margaret Barnett

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Margaret Barnett	Tel: 01283-552636	e-mail: mhbarnrtt8@yahoo.co.uk
Vice-Chairman	Joan Foster	Tel: 01530-224494	e-mail: joan.inchley@talktalk.net
Secretary	} Elaine Shaw	Tel: 01530-564077	e-mail: ptva@hotmail.co.uk
Membership Sec.}			
Treasurer	Alan Briggs	Tel: 01530-414934	e-mail: willesley@tiscali.co.uk

Committee Members:

Les Aldrich - Linda Brown - Geoff Cort - Wendy Fry - David Harris - Cynthia Hutchinson - (Tom Redfern) - Ann Shilton - Peter Wilkinson

Town Council Representative: Cllr. Dan Harrison

There is still one vacancy on the Executive Committee.

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



Bastille Day Pétanque

Saturday 13th of July saw us at a new location for our annual pétanque competition with over 20 participants. After an enjoyable lunch at the Birch Tree in Coalville four teams began the competition in overcast conditions. This year the winning team was Pat and Geoff Cort, Jane and Alan Briggs and Wendy. Joan presented the customary prize of Pithiviers wine. Another pleasant afternoon to celebrate the French *fête nationale* and encouraging to see so many new members



taking part. *There is a short video on the website.*

The Community Roadshow

During the Pithiviers visit Leicestershire County Council (with both Town and District Councils) held its first Community Roadshow at Ashby's Leisure Centre. As neither Elaine nor Geoff were able to go to France this year they represented the Association at this event, aimed at encouraging networking amongst a variety of local voluntary organisations. Some useful contacts were made, although attendance by the public was somewhat disappointing but more may be hoped for such occasions in the future.

One contact, which may prove particularly interesting to individual members was with the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, who are anxious to publicise their service to elderly members of the community to visit their property and make a free assessment of fire risks. Anyone keen to take advantage of this offer should contact Pete Sherwin by e-mail on Pete.Sherwin@LFRS.org or mobile: 07594 193388.



2020 Calendars.

The 2020 Twinning calendars are now available at £7.00 each from Ann Shilton. These are really excellent and ideal Christmas presents, which are also being made available through some shops in town and are produced with the participation and support of Ashby de la Zouch Town Council. Ann has put a great deal of effort into their production, which will be a valuable aid to boost our funds for next year for the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Association. To place your order, now, cheques (*made payable to Ashby/Pithiviers Twinning Association*) should be sent to her address: 16a Lincoln Way, Midway, Swadlincote DE11 7LB. They will be available at the remaining events of this year, as well. If you have any questions Ann may also be contacted at annshilton16a@gmail.com and by telephone on 01283 225067.



2019 FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 18th August:	Afternoon Tea @ Osgathorpe. (<i>Booking form: next page</i>)
Saturday 21st September:	"Pudding Club" evening @ St Helen's Heritage Centre. (<i>Booking form: next page</i>)
Saturday 26th October:	Quiz with cider and sausage supper @ St Helen's Heritage Centre. (<i>Booking form: next page</i>)
Monday 25th November:	Annual General Meeting @ Ivanhoe Social Club, Ashby.
December:	Christmas Walk and Lunch @ Mount Pleasant, Repton.

Social Lunch Programme

For the future programme Ann Shilton has arranged the following venues:

Friday, 30 August 2019 - 12.30 Halfway House, 65 Church Street, Donisthorpe, DE12 7PX
Wednesday, 11 Sept 2019 - 12.30 Bull's Head, 84 High Street, Repton, DE65 6GF
Wednesday, 9 October 2019 - 12.30 The Greyhound, 149 Ashby Road, Woodville
Friday, 15 November 2019 - 12.30 The Queens Head, 2 Long Street, Belton LE12 9TP



If you would like to come, **please let Ann know** so she can give them the numbers: annshilton16a@gmail.com or telephone: 01283 225067 (leave a message if she is not around).

Still time to book with Joan and Alan for Afternoon Tea at Osgathorpe on Sunday 18th August at 3 pm.



Please book ☐ places for Afternoon Tea at Osgathorpe at £10.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

E-mail address:

Please return with cheque made payable to *Ashby Pithiviers Association*
to Joan Foster, 2, Ashby Road, Osgathorpe LE12 9SR.

“Pudding Club” Evening

Saturday, 21st September 7 for 7.30 at St. Helen’s Heritage Centre, Ashby

An evening for pudding lovers to enjoy - those who enjoy creating and those who enjoy tasting or both! Please feel free to enter your prized pudding in this contest to be delivered to Cynthia at the Heritage Centre Kitchen on the night of the event from 7pm. All attendees will taste the puddings and fill in their score card. There will be a prize for the overall winner.

If you are entering the competition please put your name on the base of the plate/dish. Price for the evening is £10.00 each. Do bring your own drinks and glasses.



Please book ☐ places for the “Pudding Club” Evening at £10.00 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

E-mail:

I will bring a ----- pudding (*this is to ensure we have a variety*)

Please return with cheque made payable to “*Ashby/Pithiviers Association*”
to Margaret Barnett, 8, Grange Road, Newhall, Swadlincote, DE11 0SZ **by 16th September.**

“Landmine” Quiz with Sausage and Cider Supper

Saturday, 26th October 7.30 prompt at St. Helen’s Heritage Centre, Ashby

We are looking forward to another evening of Alan and Jane Brigg's unique Quiz with a Sausage and Cider Supper. It is bound to be a popular event so get your tickets early: £12.50 per person. We are hoping for teams of 4-6 members.

Please bring own drinks and glasses.



Please book ☐ places for the Quiz Evening at £12.50 each. I enclose cheque for £ _____.

Name: Tel. Number:

Address:

E-mail:

Please return with cheque made payable to “*Ashby/Pithiviers Association*”
to Margaret Barnett, 8, Grange Road, Newhall, Swadlincote, DE11 0SZ **by 21st 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 Elaine Shaw. (Please note new subscription rates) Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

I/We enclose membership subscription for the year 1st September, 2019 to 31st August, 2020.

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

☐

Individual: £12.50*

☐

Family: £19.00*

☐

Group: £19.00*

☐

Junior: £1.00

Name: **Address:**

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Post Code: **Telephone Number:**

E-mail address:

Please return with cheque payable to *Ashby Pithiviers Association*
to Elaine Shaw, 187 Nottingham Road, Ashby, LE65 1DP .