

A-Z of the Communes of the Deux-Sèvres.

by Sue Burgess

Boisserolles

Boisserolles is a small commune on the edge of Chizé forest. Its paths, its old farms and its situation mean that it is very quiet. Boisserolles lives from agriculture and its farms. The nearest towns are Beauvoir-Sur-Niort and Saint Martin d'Augé. In 2007 there were 48 inhabitants.

La Boissière-en-Gâtine

La Boissière-en-Gâtine is in the canton of Mazières en Gâtine but in fact geographically speaking it is nearer to Allonne.

St Martin's church, which was restored in the 18th century, is a Romanesque building. The door dates from the 11th century. The bell tower was built in the 17th century. The church has been on the list of historical monuments since 1929.

During the revolution, Louis-Hercule Terrasson, the local priest, swore allegiance to the Constitution. He was attacked by the Vendéens who did not accept his republican opinions. He defended himself and managed to fight them off. Later he abandoned his parish and fled to Champdeniers. However, he regretted having resigned and took up his functions again. He was still priest in La Boissière in 1798.

La Boissière is the home of the Maison Noble (mansion house) of Puy Robin and there was, at one time, a commandery which later belonged to the charitable order of Jerusalem.

Situated between Puymonnier and la Roche-Marot this place was, according to local legends, the meeting place for little elves called "fadets." During an evening party a shepherdess crushed the «Fadet's» big toe with her spindle because he was getting on her nerves.

Borcq sur Airvault

Along with Soulièvres, Borcq sur Airvault has been an associate commune of Airvault since 1973. The church dates from the 19th century.

Bougon

Bougon is a commune in the canton of La Mothe-Saint-Héray. The economic activity of the commune depends on farming and on tourism with the visitors to the museum of Pre-history.

The region of Bougon has been inhabited for a long time. The megaliths which can be found there are a witness to this. The commune of Bougon is the cradle of pre-history, in particular the neolithic period. The dolmen of Pierre Levée, on the road to Exoudun and the tumulus situated on the road to Pamproux are the proof of this. The necropolis of Bougon dates from 4700 BC which makes it the oldest in Europe.



À VOIR / MUST SEE:

- The museum of Pre-history built near the tumulus. The museum is open all year except for January. You can make your own way round or have a guided visit. The entrance fee is free the first Saturday of the month. The museum is accessible for handicapped people. For the sight impaired a guide is available in Braille. Audioguides are available in several languages, including English. The museum proposes the visit of 5 tumuli. There are also different rooms presenting different aspects of pre-historic life, reconstructions of a pre-historic home for example, and a botanical garden.

Bouillé Loretz

Bouillé Loretz is first mentioned in Chambon's maps in 1227 under the name of Bollei Lorez. The spelling Bouillé Loretz first appeared in 1585. The inhabitants of Bouillé Loretz who number about 1000, are known as Bouillavins or Bouillavines.

The commune of Bouillé Loretz is situated in the North-East of the Deux Sèvres, at the border with Maine-et-Loire. It is 15 km from Thouars, Montreuil-Bellay and Doué-La-Fontaine, and about 30 km from Saumur or from Bressuire.

Bouillé Loretz is the wine capital of the Deux-Sèvres, specialising in «Anjou» AOC wines; Anjou white, Anjou rosé, Loire rosé, Cabernets and Anjou red.

The river Argenton flows through the commune. The commune is crossed by the ancient tramway route from Argenton Château to Montreuil-Bellay. The old station house at the edge of the town centre is the last witness to this activity and is different from the simple station houses in Ulcot, Breuil-sous-Argenton and Bouillé Saint-Paul.



À VOIR / MUST SEE:

- Partly destroyed twice during the 14th and 15th century, the parish church was partly rebuilt in the 17th century. It was completely restored between 1894 and 1901. It has however conserved some older parts dating from the end of the Middle Ages.
- The privately owned Benedictine Abbey of Saint Léonard de Ferrières is isolated at the north-west of the town at the edge of the wood. The Abbey was founded in 979, under Louis le Débonnaire as a Priory. The Abbey archives state that the religious establishment was founded by Geoffroy de Doué. Part of the ruined church and a dwelling house still remain today.
- La Chapelle de Puy-Pirault is 2 km west of the town. The commandery of Puy-Pirault depended on the commandery of the Lande de Verché.



- The only thing remaining is the chapel which can hardly be seen from the public road.
- The windmill of Roches appeared on the 1814 land register. It would seem to have been built at the end of the 18th or beginning of the 19th century. The windmill is situated at the lieu-dit of Les Roche about 700m to the west of the town. This type of windmill is typical of the Angevine region. The moulin des Roches is the only example which remains in the Argentonais area.



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