

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

by Sue Burgess

Bouillé St Paul

Bouillé Saint Paul is an ancient parish of Anjou and Poitou. It depended on the jurisdiction of the Senechal of Saumur until the revolution. Between the 14th and 18th centuries, there was a seigneurie of Bouillé St Paul. The village was attached to the Deux Sèvres in 1790.

Bouillé St Paul is a rural commune and the 450 inhabitants live in different hamlets on the 2045 hectares of the commune.

À VOIR / MUST SEE:

The castle which now houses the town hall, was built in the 12th century. There were ditches and three surrounding walls. The lordship of Bouillé St Paul depended on the Viscount of Thouars. The first known Lord of the manor was Ardouin Grésille in 1320.

- Le pont de Preuil
- The 11th or 12th century bridge crossed the Argenton and linked Thouars to Vihiers.
- The present parish church dates from 1883 although there has been a church here since the 13th century.
- The manor of Terra is first mentioned in 1485. The manor, which now houses a school (maison familiale rurale), is situated about 4 km north east of the village centre.
- Other historical buildings include the wash-house, the Lavoir de Fronteau, at the bottom of the village. The cross, la Croix de Fronteau, is situated at the entrance to the village at the crossroads of the old Roman road from Thouars to Vihiers. La Cabane à Vigne, about 1km north-east of the village is a witness to the wine growing activity of the village which dated from the Middle Ages.

Bouin

Bouin is a little village located in the township of Chef-Boutonne part of the district of Niort. The altitude of Bouin townhall is approximately 110 metres. The surface of Bouin is 8.33 km². Nearby towns are: Hanc, Ardilleux, Pioussay, Chef-Boutonne, Melleran, Loubigné and Theil Rabier.

In 1999 there were 102 inhabitants in Bouin, 148 in 2006 and 147 in 2007. The population density of Bouin is 17.65 inhabitants per km². The inhabitants of Bouin are the Bouinais or Bouinaises. In 2007 there were 86 houses in Bouin. These consisted of 63 main residences, 12 second or holiday homes and 12 vacant homes.

The river Aume flows through the commune.

Le Bourdet

In 1419, Jean de Rochechouart, the chamberlain of Duke Jean de Berry, received part of the fief of Le Bourdet. The larger part was sold at the time of the revolution, except for the chateau. The property was divided into small parts and then bought again after the death of Louis-Philippe de Cugnac in 1809. In the XIXth century, seven mills worked full time. The village which is built along both sides of its

main street and crossed by two mill races and the river Courance, perpetuates country traditions.



The neighbouring hamlets still keep up agricultural work and the Sentier de la Maraichine (Marsh Pathway) reminds us of the importance of animal rearing in this commune of the Marais Poitevin.

À VOIR / MUST SEE:

The marsh pathway has three different features:

- The breeding and rearing of a specific breed of Marsh cattle, the Maraichine.
- A botanical pathway where you can see most of the different species of plants found in the Marais Poitevin marshes.
- A geological trail which allows you to discover the geological history of the area in a fun way.



Please return to this section next month to see the continuation of 'A-Z of the Communes of the Deux-Sèvres.'

La Grande Galerie

For fine art, crafts and gifts.

'Unique Chic Week'

14th to 18th May ~ Come and see us!

7 rue du Temple, 86400, Civray

Tel: 05 49 87 75 84

Email: enquiry@grandegaleriefrance.com

Website: www.grandegaleriefrance.com



POITIERS / LONDON-STANSTED

- Until June 30th and from September 1st to October 26th
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday
- From July 1st to August 31st
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday

POITIERS / EDINBURGH

- From July 1st to August 28th
Tuesday, Sunday

Also available :
POITIERS
BARCELONA-GIRONA
2 flights per week
Friday and Monday
Until 26th October

Booking on www.ryanair.com – Information on www.poitiers.aeroport.fr