

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

by Sue Burgess

Brion-près-Thouet

Brion-près-Thouet is a small village whose inhabitants are known as Brionnais and Brionnaises. In the 2007 census there were 751 inhabitants on the commune.

The commune is surrounded by the communes of Saint-Cyr-la-Lande, Tourtenay and Saint-Martin-de-Sanzay and lies 7 km from Thouars and only 24 km South West of Saumur. The commune is situated only 7 km from the Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional park.



Above: The Town Hall.

Brion is one of the old parishes of the steps of Anjou. Until the sixties and seventies, the commune was inhabited by farmers who grew wheat, oats, barley and rye mainly for cattle fodder. There were also vineyards. There were several shopkeepers and craftsmen (baker, blacksmith, cobbler, butcher, tobacconists and newsagents, a manure merchant, a wine merchant, a petrol station, stone masons, a roofer, a saddler, a tinsmith, a hairdressers, a barbers shop two bars and a district nurse). One of the nurse's sons became a surgeon in Niort. There was a municipal wash-house but as it was some distance from the town centre it was little used. There was a very active local drama society until 1959.

The banks of the river were dug out and reinforced in the sixties and this completely changed the appearance of the local landscapes.

Brioux sur Boutonne

Brioux sur Boutonne is the main town of the canton of South Deux-Sèvres and is situated at the crossroads of two major road axes - Niort-Ruffec-Angoulême and Poitiers-Saintes-Royan. The latter more or less follows the ancient Roman road which linked Aunis to Saintonge.

The market town of Brioux-sur-Boutonne gets its name from the bridge on the Boutonne which the Roman road crossed.

Brioux sur Boutonne, as its name indicates, is crossed by the river Boutonne. This picturesque river with its clear waters and shady banks is heaven for trout fishermen.

In July there is a street festival in Brioux sur Boutonne called Festival au Village.

À VOIR / MUST SEE:

The Porte Saint-Jaques. An old carriage gate situated on the old Roman road. Pilgrims on the route to Compostelle (Santiago) passed through this gate.



Brûlain

Brûlain is a commune situated in the canton of Prahecq. The locals are called les Brulinois or les Brulinoises and numbered 644 in the last census.

Brûlain is at an altitude of 60m above sea level.

Coming up...

- Le Busseau
- Caunay
- Celles Sur Belle
- Cerizay
- Cersay

More 'A-Z of the Communes of the Deux-Sèvres.'
next month...

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Love what you do, do what you love! Today we sat in the sunshine hand painting bay trees onto cupboard doors! Call that work? Painting furniture and selling Annie Sloan Chalk Paint for all sorts of projects - whether to re-vamp a piece of tired furniture or paint a wall is only one part of our business. Attending fetes and Brocantes, helping raise money for cancer support, having fun whilst holding regular painted furniture workshops, both at home and away, are classed as work too.

Painting is contagious! After taking a course one lady has been busy giving her bedroom wardrobes a new "shabby chic" look whilst another has taken on a commission painting her friend's kitchen. We have had some fantastic stenciling and hand painting sessions - producing real works of art!

The most fantastic thing so far has been the support shown to us, monthly meetings with the BGE in Parthenay, to help with paperwork, our furniture on sale at La Joie de Vivre, Moncutant, Ian Parrington's Woodburning Stoves in Vasles and The Mini Market in Luché sur Brioux. We have also been invited along to the monthly craft market in the old part of Parthenay. (3rd Sunday each month). 'The Deux-Sèvres Monthly' has provided us with so many customers, so this is a welcome opportunity to say a huge "thank you" to all.

If you are wondering what you are missing, check our advert (see left), website or FB page, or just drop by for coffee and a chat. Come on a workshop day and you will probably hear the laughter as you approach, we hope our enthusiasm is infectious, certainly up to now that seems to be the case - something that comes from just loving what you do.

Sue and Rik Newell, Vernoux-en-Gatine 79240