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## A-Z of the Communes in the Deux-Sèvres

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

by Sue Burgess

#### CRÉZIÈRES

Crézières, situated 5km from Chef Boutonne, is the smallest commune in South Deux-Sèvres. Its surface area is 4.25km<sup>2</sup> and there are 55 inhabitants.

The commune is made up of Crézières (village in the "creux" hollow) and the hamlet of Ouismes (village on the heights - la "hauteur"). There are four agricultural activities on the commune, two of which are goat breeders. There is also a chimney sweep on the commune and an educational farm with threatened Poitou Charentes races like the Poitevine goat, the Baudet donkey and the Marans hen.

In 1119 the commune was called Sanctus Grégorius de Crazerlis. In 1120 the church belonged to the abbey of Saint Jean d'Angély. Nothing remains of this first church. The present day chapel dates from 1860. Pilgrims on the road to Compostella came through Crézières.

A place named "Le Bourg Sanglant" because of the terrible battle between the armies of **Foulques le Réchin l'Angevin** and **Gui Geoffroy** (counts of Anjou) was, so it was said, a place where the pilgrims were attacked, robbed and killed.

Crézières was a land of vineyards classified as Cognac. The vineyards were spread over 60 hectares. Today only four vineyards exist and provide wine for private consumption. Until 1976 Crézières had its own water network and the quality of the water was tested every day. A disused building where pumps distributed the water still exists today.

#### A VOIR / MUST SEE

- the wash house
- the Chapel (right)



#### DOUX

Doux is a small commune near Thenezay, Craon and Maisonneuve. It is situated along an old Roman road.

The inhabitants of Doux are the Dolais and the Dolaises and there were 245 of them in the 2010 census.

#### A VOIR / MUST SEE

- The church and its statue of saint Martin.
- St Martin's cross - a cross on a hilltop flanked by two columns one of which has a sculpted snake on it
- The cross of Notre Dame of the Fields
- The grape press
- St Martin's wash-house with its well



Above: St Martin's Cross

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