

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

by Sue Burgess

Bretignolles

Bretignolles is a commune of Deux-Sèvres which belongs to the canton of Cerizay and for general elections to the constituency of Bressuire. The inhabitants of Bretignolles are known as Bretignollais and there were 602 of them in the last census. Bretignolles is about 218 metres above sea level.

Le Breuil Bernard

Situated at the heart of the bocage district, le Breuil Bernard is above all an agricultural commune. It has a growing population of young people who take a full part in the life of the commune and its associations. The population of le Breuil Bernard was 454 in 2007.



Above: The Sèvre Nantaise river at le Breuil Bernard.



Above: Breuil Chaussée square

Breuil Chaussée

Since 1973 Breuil Chaussée has been an associate commune of Bressuire and part of the «Greater Bressuire».

This type of organisation which is rather unusual creates a single commune called Greater Bressuire with one town council, one mayor and one budget.

The former independent communes have however kept a town hall annex, an assistant mayor and make up an independent electoral district.

A large brocante and vide grenier is held in Breuil Chaussée at the beginning of July.

Le Breuil-sous-Argenton

Le Breuil-sous-Argenton consists of the Bas Bourg, the village centre, close to Argenton-les-Vallées, and over thirty small hamlets spread over the 1900 hectares of the commune. "Les Mitaudières", "La Butte aux Cailles" and "Les Oeufs Durs" are the main ones.

The inhabitants are called Breuilletais and Breuilletaises and number 422. The commune is situated at 118 metres above sea level and the main rivers which cross the commune are the river Argenton and the river Ouère. The commune is close to the Loire-Anjou-Touraine regional national park.

The international Val d'Argenton karting circuit is to be found at Le Breuil-sous-Argenton. The population of the commune grows during the summer months with the arrival of seasonal workers for melon and apple picking.

À VOIR / MUST SEE:

- The tumulus which can be found on the commune. The tumulus of Bois de Salette offers the best panoramic view of the area. A prehistoric site containing a large quantity of arms and stone tools was found here.
- The Château of Ebaupinay which was burned during the Vendée wars and classified as a historic monument in 1898.

Brie

Brie is a small village with 200 inhabitants. It is surrounded by the communes of Saint-Jouin-de-Marnes, Oiron and Moncontour. The inhabitants of Brie are called Briolais and



Above: Château of Ebaupina

again in 1983.

À VOIR / MUST SEE:

- The church. The stained glass windows of the church have been redone in a modern style and this gives a special quality of light inside the nave.
- The old chapel of Sazais. (see photo right)



Briolais. The Vieille Dive (a branch of the river Dive) crosses the commune.

On Cassini's map which represents France between 1756 and 1789, the village is shown with the name of Brye. In 1972 the commune of Brie fused with that of Oiron. Brie became independent

Brieuil-sur-Chizé

Brieuil-sur-Chizé with its 122 inhabitants, is one of the smallest communes of the canton of Brioux-sur-Boutonne. It is situated about 30km from Niort close to Chizé forest. Brieuil-sur-Chizé is made up of 7 hamlets – Le Petit Genouillé, Le Grand Genouillé, Prinçais, Brieuil, part of the village of La Garde, Conzais and Parsay.

Brieuil-sur-Chizé is crossed by the Boutonne river and a lot of fishermen are very familiar with the small footbridge named La Grande Planche which is the symbol of the commune. A legend says that a poplar tree fell down at that spot and that the inhabitants of the hamlet of Champeau on the neighbouring commune of Villefollet, used the trunk to cross the river to carry their milk to the milkman who stopped at Le Petit Genouillé. The footbridge was then built. It was destroyed by the gale in 1999 and rebuilt in 2001.

The 6th century St Radegonde's church which was situated opposite the cemetery, was destroyed after the revolution.

À VOIR / MUST SEE:

- Le Château de Prinçais. The present Château de Prinçais dates from the 18th century. It is composed of a lodging house with a square pavillion at each end. (see photo below).



- Le Château de Parsay. The château was rebuilt after 1765. It is also composed of a lodging house with a square pavillion at each end. The roof is quite pointed. Since 1967 the château has been home to a 59 bed convalescent home.

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