



Above: The Dovecote in Louzy. Wikimedia, Père Igor

## LOUZY

by Sue Burgess

The commune of Louzy, in the north of the Deux-Sèvres, is situated 4 kilometres north east of Thouars. The commune is made up of the villages of Louzy, Bouchet, Launay, Monceau, Magé and Vitray.

The 2012 census counted 1285 inhabitants in the commune. The inhabitants of Louzy are the Louzéens.

When digs were undertaken in 1990 prior to the construction of a football field near the church, the remains of a castle were found.

There is written evidence that the castle existed in 1584 and was bought in 1703 by the last duke of La Trémoille. The princess of La Trémoille had slept there in 1639 with her court, on her way from Holland to Thouars. The buildings were probably destroyed in the 19th century for financial reasons.

### A VOIR / MUST SEE

- **St Pierre Church.** Built in the 11th and 12th centuries by the village inhabitants, the church of Saint Pierre has belonged since 1122 to the chapter of Saint-Pierre de Thouars. Located on a road linking Fontevraud to Thouars, the church features a fairly large chapel dedicated to the apostle James. The presence of a sarcophagus near the apse has led some people to believe that the church had been built on an older shrine. The modern stained-glass windows dating from 1966 harmonize fully with the medieval construction. They were made by Abbot Joseph Bressollette and installed by Abbot Sachot.

The church outbuildings were restored in 2003-2004. This fine ensemble of buildings comprises a dovecote, a large mansion called the résidence du château, the presbytery porch and a small lake, formerly belonging to the park of Louzy castle.

## LUCHÉ SUR BRIOUX

In the valley of the river Boutonne at the edge of the plains of Niort, you can find the small commune of Luché sur Brioux with its 145 Luchéens. The commune is crossed by three rivers, La Boutonne, La Somptueuse and le Dauphin whose spring is in the communal wash-house. The village is dominated by the church and a pigeon loft.

The commune is made up of the main village and four hamlets. La Grange du Bois on the banks of the Dauphin is the largest.

The name Luché appeared for the first time in 928 (in a circular from the Abbey of Saint-Jean-d'Angély). The name also appears as Villa Lupchiacus and Luchiacum.

### A VOIR / MUST SEE

- **The Church.** The church of Luché-sur-Brioux has six large buttresses and is of romanesque style. It certainly dates from the end of the 10th century. Despite its simplicity, the church has a stone vault and not just a simple wooden carpentry as in the majority of the romanesque churches.

The gothic style entrance dates from the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century. The stone bell tower houses one bell.

- **Le Lavoir.** Situated at the south of the village, in a green setting, the wash-house is the source of the river Dauphin. The wash-house was renovated in 2009.



Image: vallee-boutonne.n2000.fr

- **The Pigeon Loft** which dominates the village is a private property which once depended on a former farm. It is situated near to the old Niort – Ruffec railway.

## LUCHÉ THOUARSAIS

The 421 inhabitants of Luché Thouarsais are the Luchéens and Luchéennes.

The quarry situated at La Ménardièrre extracts gravel and sand. Before 1793 the commune was simply called Luché. It has only changed its name once.

It would seem that the central village of Breuil was used for retired people. Each house had a garden, a hen house and a stable. There was a village wine-press.

There was once a fortified house in Luché however it cannot be seen on the 1828 land registry. There is a path called «des châtelains» and a raised piece of land nearby. This could well have been the area where the fortified house used to stand.

There are no listed historical monuments on the commune.

### A VOIR / MUST SEE

- **Les Adillons Leisure area and campsite** at La Bourelière. Many different activities are available on site - supervised bathing in the summer, a fishing pond, tennis and volleyball courts, table tennis, games and play area for children, paths for rambling, giant games placed along the pathways.

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