



## PAIZAY-LE-CHAPT

Paizay-le-Chapt is a small commune which is part of the Val de Boutonne area. There are 265 inhabitants. The nearest towns are Asnières-en-Poitou, Chérigné, Crézières, Aubigné, and Juillé. Niort is 35 kilometres away. Paizay-le-Chapt used to be known as Peray-le-Chapt.

## PAIZAY-LE-TORT

Paizay-le-Tort is a small village surrounded by the communes of Lusseray, Saint-Romans-les-Melle and Saint Génard. The 489 inhabitants are known as Paizéens and Paizéennes. The commune stands at 96 metres above sea-level and the river Berlande and the Ruisseau des Coudrières stream cross the commune.

The Roman road from Poitiers to Saintes crossed the commune of Paizay-le-Tort. The name Paizay is probably of Gallic-Roman origins. The lands around the area belonged to a certain Pacius. **Le-Tort** was probably added to distinguish Paizay-le-Tort from Paizay-le-Chapt. It seems to refer to the *tortueux* (tortuous or winding) access to the village.

### A VOIR / MUST SEE

- A church was first mentioned in a charter dated 955. The small low level Romanesque church could date from the 12th century but it has often been altered, including twice in the 19th century. The church is dedicated to St Pierre.

## PAMPLIE

Pamplie is part of the Val d'Egray communauté de communes. There are 270 inhabitants in the village. The neighbouring villages are Le Retail, Les Groseillers, Cours, Fenioux and Xaintray. The name of Pamplie - Pampelia – appeared in 1097 in the title deeds of the Abbey of Saint Cyprien of Poitiers.

The cooperative dairy at Pamplie was founded in 1905 and is well known for the quality of its butter, and local farmers are responsible for this. The milk is collected within a 30 km radius of the dairy. This closeness of the farms means that the collection can be done quickly and the extreme freshness of the dairy products are thus guaranteed.

### A VOIR / MUST SEE

- The church of Romanesque origins was greatly modified during the 15th century and then in the mid 19th and 20th centuries. The arches and the bell tower were renovated in 1950 and the 22 metre high tower was lowered to today's height. Just walking round the church will give you a good idea of the complexity of it's architecture.
- La Croix Hosannière can be seen in the cemetery. A croix hosannière was a funeral memorial usually a cross mounted on a block and marking the position of a common grave or an ossary. This type of monument is typical in the Poitou Charentes and the Vendée area.
- The Terrier Piscault . From the top of the Terrier Piscault, at a height of 180 metres above sea level, there are panoramic views of the plains of Niort and Mervent forest.
- La Croix de la Huche stone cross is to be found on a hillock, 124 metres above sea level. The cross dates from the 12th century and *hucher* is an old French word meaning to call using your hands cupped together as a sort of loud-speaker to make the sound carry.

*For those of you who like rambling and walking, try Googling 'Pamplie, la vallée de la Miochette Rando' and you will find a PDF document that you can download, showing you a signposted walk around the Pamplie area.*

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



Pamplie Church. © Susan Burgess