



## PAS-DE-JEU

Pas-de-Jeu is a commune of the North of Deux-Sèvres situated between Thouars and Loudun, on the border of the Vienne department (86).

The name Pas-de-Jeu goes back to the Roman occupation of the area. Passus Jovis or passage of Jupiter; meaning, passage over the river Dive, a tributary of the Thouet. The name of the inhabitants, les Jovinais and les Jovinaises, would tend to support that story. Others see a relation with a cockerel. Passage (pas) du coq (jau or jeu, jeu in local dialect).

The old church of Pas-de-Jeu was completely destroyed in 1973. It was already in ruins in 1878 when the building that replaced it was consecrated. The original church could have dated back to Roman times and had been altered several times. A bell tower rose from the junction of the rectangular nave and the choir. Today's church is dedicated to Saint Hilaire.

## PERIGNÉ

Perigné is a small commune in Val-de-Boutonne. The village was inhabited in prehistoric and then Gallic-Roman times. There used to be a standing stone at Pierre-Levée and Gallic-Roman remains including a temple, Roman baths and a theatre have been found at Mazerolles. There is a Gallic-Roman cemetery at la Boucharderie.

The village was situated on the boundary line between the Catholic areas to the south-west and Protestant areas to the north-east, and the church was burnt during the wars of religion.

St Martin's church dating from the 10th century, was rebuilt and restored in the 17th century.

Photo: The cemetery at Pers © PamelaJayne Photography 2017

Perigné's wash-house is situated on the right as you leave the village and head for Prahecq. It is fed by the waters of the Belle and inside you'll find two large beams supporting the tile covered roof.

## PERS

The closest communes to Pers are Vanzay, Sainte Soline, Clussais la Pommeraie and Saint Coutant. Pers is part of the Communauté de communes Coeur du Poitou and is in the canton of Melle. It is a small commune of about 100 inhabitants.

The commune has a Romanesque church and there is a *lanterne des morts* (lantern of the dead) – a stone monument, dating from the 12th century, in the cemetery where some medieval tombstones and monuments can also be found.

Notre Dame church is remarkable because of its small size. In the Middle Ages, the church depended on the Augustine abbey of Saint-Séverin-sur-Boutonne. Seen from the outside, the church is simple – a rectangular nave with a wall in stone blocks. The cornice of the facade is decorated with sculptures representing human or animal heads. There is a small bell dating from 1723.

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

