



# Les Échos de Combiers



French version

[http://combiers.fr/docs/echo\\_2016.pdf](http://combiers.fr/docs/echo_2016.pdf)

## Bulletin

### Opening hours of the mairie

Tuesdays: 14h 00 to 17h 00 and Thursdays 8h 30 to 12h 00 and 14h 00 to 17h 00

### A word from the mayor

Ladies and gentlemen,  
First of all, a thought for victims of attacks this year. I will now put pen to paper to give you a summary of the year's events.

### Concerning Combiers:

Our project to manage the path along the Nizonne (between Combiers and La Rochebeaucourt) will move forward in 2017. After purchasing pieces of land, there is some paperwork to be signed, then we will get the assistance of several organisations to help us both financially and technically. Planning permission for the small extension to the village hall has been agreed and work will start very soon.



Our new communal employee, Jordan Magnanon, took up his duties in March 2016 and quickly familiarised himself with the role. He is no stranger to the roads and footpaths. He is self-motivating, shows initiative and helped during our voluntary workdays organised several times each year to maintain the commune at low cost. You will all see him at the start of the year, from the 19th January until the 18th February, as he will be undertaking the census which, as you know, is completed every five years.

### Concerning the wider community:

On 1st January 2017, we will become part of a community of communes named <<Tude and Dronne>> (see map).

### De 20 à 8 intercommunalités en Charente



After enlarging cantons and regions, it is the turn of the communities of communes. We will move from having 5400 inhabitants to more than 18000. There are many preparatory meetings concerning this merger. The base will be at Montmoreau, a little further than Villebois, but we must play our part so that no-one forgets our little commune of Combiers. The PLUI (local plan for intercommunal urbanism) is taking shape. We are now moving into a zoning phase to define different zones: farming, natural resources and other areas. We need to be involved so that no-one imposes things which we later regret. Dates of public meetings will be communicated to you with adequate notice. Please come along for the future of your commune.

I conclude with some good news. Broadband, very high speed internet, will come to Combiers between 2018 and 2020 - great changes for present and future inhabitants. In fact, it has been shown by estate agents that without high speed internet access, houses don't sell. I can't wait for the work to start. It only remains for me to wish you a happy Christmas and New Year.

*Patrick ÉPAUD, Mayor of Combiers*  
**Rauzet Church**

## 11 September

A conference was held on stained glass with Philippe Riffaud, creator/manufacturer of the Rauzet windows, with Françoise Theallier-Riffaud, best craftsmen in France. The official inauguration of the windows was initiated by the President of ASEGR, General Jean-Pierre Faure, followed by a celebratory drink. There was an opportunity to visit Rauzet and nearby sites of interest. A concert with the DEBUSSY-POULENC ensemble followed. Donations for windows and doors welcome.

Carole Hutchison, a permanent resident of Combiers since 2002, died suddenly on 27 September 2016. A shy person, Carole was an authority in the world of archaeology and architecture of the Cistercian order, a lifelong passion. For more than 10 years she worked in Rome and notably at Pompei. She was invited to participate in the excavations preceding the building of the Aswan Dam in the Valley of the Kings, in Egypt.

Following the discovery of the ruins of the grandmontine Priory of Craswall in Herefordshire, she began a particular interest in the grandmontine Order and its architecture. With Kate Douglas, she created an association whose aim was the consolidation of Craswall Priory.

Her research into grandmontine monasteries led her to Rauzet and to the remains of its priory. She bought it by means of an SCI of which she was a major shareholder and took on the restoration with Kate Douglas, one that the services of the Patrimoine considered to be exemplary. Little by little the inhabitants of Combiers have seen this pile of stones take shape and become a grandmontine church with its groundplan visible. In 2016 the gaping holes of the windows were glazed and a project for doors is underway. The international reputation of Carole Hutchison meant collaboration with several British, American and French universities to carry out excavations at Rauzet. She is an internationally recognised authority and author of "The Hermit Monks of Grandmont".

Carole was always willing to participate in local events, helping out with meals and functions. She was happy to receive local visitors, sharing information about the site. Her passing is a great loss to Combiers, but her memory will live on in the walls of Rauzet.



### ***Donations for the flag and the church war memorial***

We are accepting donations to replace the flag we use on Remembrance days and will include the Algerian war, as we have some veterans from that time. The memorial on the church wall is broken and we want to replace that. Please give donations to the mairie.

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### ***Calitom***

A reminder of pick-up procedure for bins

### **At present:**

Black bags, every week.  
Yellow bags, every fortnight.

### **From April 2017:**

Black and yellow bags will be picked up each fortnight, meaning a reduction in taxes foncières in 2018. Some inhabitants fill yellow communal bins just after they have been emptied. It would seem more sensible to put bags in the night before bins are emptied.

## Road report 2016

Thanks to volunteers we spent one day levelling the low sides at Maine au Loup (see photos) before the enterprise EIFFAGE laid tar.

This year, only five communal roads have been tarred with two coats:

- The VC 207 and the junction of the 107 with the RD 444 - Chapelie Haute
- The VC 114 going to the village of Maine au Loup at the part which joins the RD 87. For this section we laid white gravel in financial partnership with the commune of Édon.
- The VC 212, 339m between La Vue and the RD 41 beside Chez Cholet
- All of the VC 101, as far as Les Bernouilles.
- The VC 117, at 403m, two coats were laid and will be finished at the top part in the village of Les Roudiers.

This cost a total of 30 458 € (tax included).

It was noted at the final meeting of the roads financial committee of the CDC that the commune of Combiers would accept a lower budget in favour of the municipality of Magnac to help them out. The VC 117 and the 114 have been affected by this.

We have also had voluntary workers helping us to lay 5 tonnes of cold tar on one of the days we worked together on communal roads.



We needed a third day to repair the rural road which goes from the side of the lake at Cluzeau. We laid 30 tonnes of rubble and we finished by repairing the drain crossing the VC 112 at Chapelie Basse. Pruning along all communal roads is planned during the winter, in partnership with the commune of Édon.

*Alain JOSEPH, Deputy in charge of roads*

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## Festivities

### Christmas 20 December 2015

As in previous years, we were lucky to get Father Christmas to come to Combiers.



### Tartiflette evening 30 January 2016

For this popular night out we welcomed 143 guests who loved tartiflette. The home-made tartiflettes were delicious, thanks to the ever-ready team of helpers. It was a real success with a great atmosphere. We had a discotheque and danced all night long.



### Hunters' meal 21 February 2016

Hunting president Mr BATY Michel welcomed many guests to this longed-for famous meal.

### Roast chicken 13 March 2016

A wonderful roast chicken meal, with tables decorated with eggs, chickens and daffodils.

### Hunters' lamb meal 22 May 2016

### VE Day 8 May 2016

## St Fiacre 3-4 September 2016

The festival committee in Combiers organised the festival of **St Fiacre in September**. On Saturday 3 September we had a ramble. We had the new path to walk along beside the Nizonne. We were a small group, with two routes to choose, 8km and 12km. We were given breakfast at Rauzet at 4km, giving us the chance to see the new windows at the Grandmontaine church.

We were provided with chocolate toffee apples at 9km along the 12km circuit.

A stand for meals and drinks was available all day at the finish point.



In the evening we hosted a market of local produce.

On **Sunday 4 September** we had a classic meal at lunchtime - this time it was calf's head - perfect.

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## Remembrance Day 11 November 2016

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## Senior meal 4 December 2016

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### *Forthcoming events*

**Sunday 18 December 2016** - the arrival of Father Christmas

## Births, marriages and deaths

### Births

Trznadel Théo (Château de Lasfonds) 11 June 2016

Joseph Charlotte (Les Monneries) 8 October 2016

### Marriages

Douglas Kate and Hutchison Carole (Rauzet) July 2016

### Deaths

Mr Faure Hubert (Chalards Haut) 5 January 2016

Mr Gillet-Coldeboeuf David (Chez Parracoud) 24 May 2016

Mrs Hutchison Carole (Rauzet) 27 September 2016

Mr Gibert André (La Peyre) 21 October 2016

Mr Martin Michel (the village) 1 November 2016

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### All good wishes for the future

Mr and Mrs Duval (La Peyre) have moved to live near Marseille

Mrs Hocquet Josette (La Peyre) has moved to Soyaux

Mrs Bajule Alice (in the village) has moved to a retirement home in Villebois-Lavalette

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### Welcome to our new residents

Mrs Long Belinda (La Peyre)

Mr et Mme Herbreteau (La Peyre)

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Many thanks to all the volunteers who contribute to the life of our village