



# Les Échos de Combiers



French version

[http://combiers.fr/docs/echo\\_2017\\_A4\\_F.pdf](http://combiers.fr/docs/echo_2017_A4_F.pdf)

## Opening hours of the mairie

Tuesdays: 14h00 to 17h00 and Thursdays 8h30 to 12h00 and 14h00 to 17h00

## A word from the mayor

Good wishes to everyone,

We now have a very complicated mandate and we must be increasingly aware of what is going on in the various commissions of the community of communes, in order to participate fully in local decision-making. I am fortunate, unlike other communes where there have been resignations, that our municipal council is well-balanced and working towards the same goals. Thanks to the deputies and councillors working in their areas of interest, it's real team work. The work of the town hall evolves all the time, between what we no longer deal with (identity cards, passports) and what we now deal with (PACS, name changes). Our secretary works officially for a day and a half each week and there is hardly time to breathe or adapt. She has undertaken some very useful training to be up to date with the new regulations imposed on us.

Our communal agent Jordan, always energetic and full of initiative, deals with whatever arises. He quickly adapts his timetable to sort out emerging problems of maintenance, plumbing, electrical issues, woodworking, building, whilst overall maintaining our green spaces and communal roads.

The regrouping of communes, with the creation of new communes, is still not obligatory. We need to think about this as the budgets of communes are decreasing (money from the government, tax income etc). Maybe we are talking of the 13 former cantons of Villebois-Lavalette or the communes of the RPI network or even with Édon and La Rochebeaucourt: discussions are still open.

Digital coverage in our area is a matter close to my heart and I am committed to it, but after having spent much time on it this year, SFR have challenged this project and a decision will be taken by the end of the year. All going well, work will start at the beginning of 2018. Combiers will have a broadband network in 2019-2020, here's hoping that the project will be achieved very soon.

This year we also acquired the last *Licence 4* to sell alcohol in the commune, which will be well-used by local associations, but will also be used if a new business comes here, which would be of benefit.

Creating the riverside path along the Nizonne between Combiers and La Rochebeaucourt is advancing slowly. There have been some administrative problems with rights of way and vacant inheritance, which have held the project up. In June 2017, a steering committee was set up with partners to help us continue our work on development and footbridges. The PLUI (Local Plan of Intercommunal Urban Planning) zoning work has started (habitable areas, natural areas, agricultural and other areas) generating great debate and various opinions. The PLUI involves us participating in all the workshops and making sure that we do the best for Combiers. Finally, the extension of the village hall will begin this winter and should be completed during 2018.

Thanks also to those volunteers who help to keep our commune active. I wish you all good health and a happy festive period in the company of your loved ones. My thoughts and good wishes go to those who have had a difficult time or who have lost someone dear to them this year.



**Patrick ÉPAUD, Mayor of Combiers**

## Rauzet Church



2017 was another busy year for the association at Rauzet (ASEGR). At its AGM, the president announced that the project for the doors was almost completed. The Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles, (DRAC) accepted the project design and quote from Menuiseries Allary and gave a subsidy of 30% towards the cost. This has been a particularly interesting year for events, musical, artistic and theatrical.

- In June, the Marsh Ladies Choir was joined by 'Cant'on Chant' from Ronsenac, giving a wonderful concert. The finale, "All people that on earth do dwell", when both choirs joined together, almost raised the roof.
- 'Fleur d'Isa', whose aim is to improve the quality of life for those undergoing chemotherapy, held its annual exhibition and sale.
- In July, in association with the Fête Médiévale de Dignac, 'Celestiaé' gave a concert, playing some incredible mediaeval musical instruments.
- From mid-July to September, the church hosted a fascinating exhibition of the paintings of Georges Lebreton. He has been interested in the history and architecture of the Order of Grandmont and a series of large paintings hung happily on the walls of the church. This attracted much interest throughout the summer and helped to give an understanding of the spirit of Grandmont, so little known. Continuing links between Rauzet and Tour Saint-Jean (Marthon), Lebreton showed his own personal style.
- August saw the welcome return, for a third time, of Letitia Stevens (soprano) and accompanist Bonnie Donham from Boston. Concert proceeds, along with those of the Marsh Ladies Choir, were generously donated to the door funds.
- Making a return visit - Catherine Ravenne/'Cum Jubilo', whose interpretation of the Martyrdom of the Innocents was much appreciated. It was good to see young singers performing.
- Georges Lebreton returned to give a conference and we had the pleasure of a return visit by Patrick Guichard, with an original and entertaining mixture of tales

- In September there was a magnificent concert of Gregorian chants performed by 'Et avec votre Esprit', directed by Gregoire Dudouit, a celebration for Carole Hutchinson, which she would have loved.

October saw the completion of the doors and representatives of the Ministry of Culture came to verify the the conformity of the work. The works undertaken by the firm of Francis Allary, with Romaric Jean, assisted by Louis Allary, was particularly appreciated and their competence in the restoration of Historic Monuments was recognised. The firm of Allary was particularly appreciated and its competence in the restoration of Historic Monuments was recognised, a competence and craft of which the commune of Combiers can be particularly proud. Visitors to the priory are often agreeably surprised by the acoustics and return with a variety of instruments to test them out. This year has been exceptionally rich and varied, from clarinet and flute to bagpipes and crystal bowls, producing truly amazing sounds.

More than 1400 visitors, either as individuals or in groups, as well as spectators at different events, have visited the church and grounds throughout the year.

The association is already planning the programme for next year. Your support and ideas are welcome.

**Kate DOUGLAS**

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### Donations

Many thanks to all who contributed to the fund for replacing the flag to remember all of our combatants and the plaque to honour the war dead - a worthy cause.



## Road report 2017

Our budget was 19 033 € this year thanks to an agreement established between the communes of the former CDC.

- The budget estimate is currently: 1050 € per km or (11,503 km of municipal roads @ 1050 € = 12 078 € for 2018.) I hope we will still be able to negotiate agreement between communes !!!!

This year, three municipal roads have been completed:

- VC 207 Chapelie Haute
- VC 114 to the Maine au Loup in its entirety of 1476 m
- VC 117 on the upper part of Les Roudiers.
- VC 212, 200 m between the high part of La Vue and the private road that goes to La Mouline. There is still 600 m to redo.

With the help of volunteers we laid 7 tons of cold mix on all other roads in 1 day (cost 79.80 € TTC per ton), that is 558.60 €, supported by the new CDC. Thank you to everyone who participated with great humour during this long day of work. Thanks to this annual work by volunteers, all of our communal roads remain in good condition.

For 2018, we expect to:

- re-lay the VC 121 in 2 layers (up to the crossroads of La Peyre) and the VC 122 up to Chalards Hauts (single layer)
- tackle the 600 m (single layer) that remains on the VC 212 at La Vue
- work on the right hand side of the VC 202 at the Moulin Neuf which will be finished in asphalt by volunteers from the commune of COMBIERS.

By 2018, the majority of our communal roads will have been redone with only a single layer!!!! Over five years this represents a budget of 109 689 € invested by the CDC, without forgetting the 2000 € spent on asphalt laid by volunteers from the commune of COMBIERS. The new CDC will now be in charge of asphalt bills.

We are still planning another day of laying asphalt, to carry out urgent repairs following winter 2017/2018, that will offset this announced budget decrease.

**Alain JOSEPH - Deputy in charge of roads**



## Festivities

### Christmas 18 December 2016

As in previous years, we were lucky to get Father Christmas to come to Combiers. There were presents for the children and food and drink for all, courtesy of the commune.



### Tartiflette evening 28 January 2017

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 volunteers. It was a real success with a great atmosphere. We danced all night long.



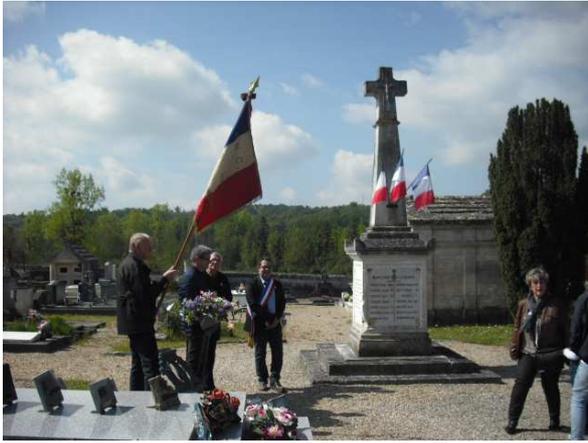
### Hunters' meal 19 February 2017

#### Chicken meal 19 March 2017

A wonderful chicken meal, with tables decorated with eggs, chickens and daffodils. Below is the worthy winner of the chicken!



**VE Day 8 May 2017**



**Hunters' association lamb meal 14 May 2017**

**St Fiacre 2 September 2017**

The festival committee in Combiers organised the celebrations for St Fiacre in September. On Saturday 2 September we had a ramble, with fifty or so keen walkers taking part. They were given breakfast at Les Roudiers, then followed a path through the forest to the east of the commune, discovering "The forest barn". The committee des fetes provided apples and chocolate at a stop at Les Bernouillies. At the end of the walk, the ramblers came to Le Moulin Neuf. More than 75 people came to the lunch. In the evening we hosted a market of local produce.



**Calf's head meal 22 October 2017**

108 people attended this meal. A stylish starter of cucumber, salmon and goat's cheese, a classic dish of calf's head and a pear tart to follow.

**Remembrance Day 11 November 2017**

The 99th anniversary of the end of the War was marked by the inauguration of Combiers' new flag and new plaque honouring combatants and war dead. Supported by Souvenir France, we had the presence of an American soldier and a French soldier dressed in World War uniforms. The council produced a booklet about the lives of the war dead of Combiers.

## ***Forthcoming events***

**Senior meal 3 December 2017**

**Sunday 17 December 2017** - the arrival of Father Christmas. There will be presents for the children and food and drink for all, courtesy of the commune.

## ***Family news***

### **Marriage**

CHOLLET Patricia and ALLARY Francis (Moulin Neuf) 10 December 2016

### **Deaths**

KESTERSON Mary (Chez Bernard) 14 December 2016

ALLARY Lucien (Moulin Neuf) 24 December 2016

GUILLEMET Pascal 20 February 2017

DESRIVES Huguette 5 March 2017

BORDERON Colette (Rozet) 3 July 2017

DESNOUAILLES Madeleine 21 September 2017

FRICONNET René (the town) 7 October 2017

JOSEPH Richard, former mayor (La Chapelle) 28 October 2017



***Ceremony on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2017***