



# Les Échos de Combiers

December 2021



  
[Version Française](#)



## Opening hours of mairie

Tuesdays 14 h 00 to 17 h 00 and Thursdays  
9 h 00 to 12 h 00 and 14 h 00 to 17 h 00  
[mairie@combiers.fr](mailto:mairie@combiers.fr) 05 45 23 04 08

## A word from the mayor

Greetings to everyone

With 2021 coming to an end, we are learning to live with this virus, even if Combiers has scarcely been affected. Unfortunately we have had some deaths this year, mostly due to old age. Some people died at home: I know that the majority of our older residents prefer to stay at home for as long as they can. However, when support at home is no longer possible, we have the Gamby retirement home in Villebois-Lavalette, which has a good reputation. Let us now turn to the present.

The empty houses in Combiers have almost all been sold, inhabited by young people who have come to settle here. The presbytery has been sold to a family with 2 children: they want to renovate it while maintaining the original features and using old materials when they can.

We are always working on projects to make Combiers more attractive. We hope to finish the Nizonne walkway: there is just one parcel of land that still has to be acquired, with negotiations underway with the owner.

The latest project is restoring the park of the chateau of La Rochebeaucourt. I would like to thank Mr Trevor Leggett for donating this 7.5 hectares to Combiers. This park offers a great deal of potential in terms of tourism and history. Since the site is listed as a Historic Monument, the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs requires us to carry out a survey so that we can plan renovation work. I would like to thank the Keepers of Heritage, an association located in La Rochebeaucourt, who committed themselves from the very beginning to help us undertake maintenance work in the park.

I invite you to get to know the president of the association, Mr Hervé Jonquiere ([herve.jonquiere@orange.fr](mailto:herve.jonquiere@orange.fr)) if you would also like to get more involved in this project. I would also like to thank staff from the Syndicate of Rivers and Regional Parks who were also very impressed with the site and keen to help us.

I would like to mention our two communal employees :

Angéline, the mayor's secretary, has had to adapt to new national directives on changing the way most administrative procedures are undertaken (urban planning has changed greatly, along with other processes) and must ensure that everything is up-to-date just as if we were a large commune: all this while working only 12 hours each week.

Jordan, meanwhile, works for 16 hours each week: we have added maintenance of the castle grounds to his duties, with no increase in hours.

We do everything we can to keep Combiers well maintained, as well as looking after the cemetery throughout the year. One important point concerning the cemetery: I have received more and more complaints about the theft of objects and plants. Unfortunately such behaviour is not limited to our area, so please be vigilant.

I would also remind you that we have a website (<https://www.combiers.fr/>), updated regularly on a voluntary basis by François GOURIVEAU: I invite you to consult it to find out a host of information (history, activities, events, photographs, local registers, minutes etc.).

We have been talking about fibre optic for a long time: it is now starting to come into our area, although not with all suppliers (Orange and SFR at present). However, the very last hamlets should be connected by the end of the year.

On behalf of myself and the municipal council, I wish you and your loved ones a Happy New Year for 2022, in spite of the ongoing health issues.

**Patrick Épaud, Mayor**

## Welcome to new Cumbarios

- Mrs Clarisse LANAU and Mr Guillaume DEMEUNIER, 2 Impasse Chez Liziot
- Mrs Laëtitia ÉTIENNE and Mr Jamie CURTIS, 4 Impasse du Presbytère
- Mrs Adeline MARTINEAU, 7 rue de la Nizonne
- Mr Jérémy MARTIN, 13 rue des Vieilles Forges
- Mr Mohamad MOHTY, 6 Chemin Chez Joubert aux Bernouillies
- Mrs Céline GRIES and Mr Thierry SAVARY, 2 Impasse des Sables
- Mr John BURROW's house, 9 rue de la Nizonne, is in the process of being sold to Mrs Clara PAULIAC.

## Deaths

- Mr Hervé PHELIPPEAU, la Chapelle, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Saint-Michel
- Mr Raymond BORDERON, le Maine au Loup, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 in Combiers, former mayor of Combiers between 2001-2008, 2008-2014
- Mrs Germaine JOSEPH (nee AMBLARD), La Chapelle, on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021 in Villebois-Lavalette
- Mrs Jacqueline ALLARY (nee TAILHADE), le Moulin Neuf, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in Soyaux.

## Electoral lists 2022 :

You can register for voting:

Online at [Service-Public.fr](http://Service-Public.fr) (need digital proof of address, ID and Cerfa form 12669\*02)

Make an appointment at the town hall (need proof of address, ID and Cerfa form 12669\*02)

You can register until Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022 for presidential elections and until Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022 for legislative elections. Remember the town hall is closed on Fridays.

## France Services

This new service can help you with various administrative issues:

- Tax returns
- Driving licences and ID cards
- Allowances
- Finding work
- Healthcare refunds
- Retirement preparation
- Dealing with litigation or disputes
- Expecting a child

The service is based at 4 rue André Bouyer, 16320 Villebois-Lavalette

Open between 9.30am and 12.30pm and between 1.15pm and 4.30pm on Mondays and Fridays.

Contact: Lucie Nadon [l.nadon@ccltd.fr](mailto:l.nadon@ccltd.fr)

Telephone: 05 45 64 91 96

[www.lavalette-tude-dronne.fr](http://www.lavalette-tude-dronne.fr)

## RAUZET

In spite of covid restrictions, more and more visitors have come to Rauzet. Between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021, we had more than 650 visitors – double what we had last year!

Once again this year, we were delighted to welcome the Fleur d'Isa association's annual sale and exhibition to benefit cancer patients. Many thanks to all who came to support this event.

In July, ASEGR volunteers renewed the roof of the lodge with the advice of Yannick Glangetas, one of the last cercliers in France, who generously provided the materials and know-how.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August we had the first concert de of the year, with a choir of eight Dutch ladies called the <<Netherlands Ensemble>>, a performance of great quality much appreciated by the audience. Then Pascal Marion's comedy (Alexandrine's Alexandra) took place in the Rauzet cloister. (Many thanks to the town hall of Villebois-Lavalette for lending us the set). A play presented by Parisian company « JEUX2seine » really made us laugh. Thanks to Laurence Macaire, who played the role of Alexandra at the Clavel Theatre in Paris, for organising holidays for the company in Combiers and Rougnac.

In September, on the eve of Heritage Open Days, we welcomed 25 visitors, while on the days themselves, only a dozen. But it was raining cats and dogs!

On the first Sunday in October a vintage car rally on its way to Angoulême made a stop to look for treasure and to visit the church (53 visitors).

All year long, groups of hikers, families and individuals have passed by and enjoyed the tranquillity offered at Rauzet.

Kate DOUGLAS



## Events 8<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021



This year we were able to commemorate Armistice Day 1918 with fellow citizens, the first time in two years. Although there were few attenders, there was representation from the Fire Service at Villebois-Lavalette. Afterwards we had a drink in the village hall, fully respecting the health pass system in place.

## Road update for 2021

The road budget allocated to us by the CDC has fallen over the past few years, linked to changes in costs of EIFFAGE services. Repairs on four main roads this year cost 8 331,50 € excluding tax, thus 450 m of our 11 km of roads.

To make up for this, as we do every year, volunteers laid 7 tons of cold tarmac on the remaining 10.5 km. However, this year, because of the heat, 2 days were needed to do the work. The team members always do their best to work on our roads. I would like to sincerely thank Michel, Steve, Roland, Xavier, François, Jean-Michel, Jordan and Alain, and especially Yvette and Martine for the delicious hot meals.

*Deputy in charge of hiking paths  
Alain JOSEPH*



## 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021, St Fiacre celebrations

This year the St Fiacre ramble organised by the Festivities Committee introduced ever-increasing numbers of hikers to our discovery walkway on the banks of the Nizonne and to the park of the castle at La Rochebeaucourt, donated to Combiers by Mr Trevor Leggett.

The circuit allowed hikers to discover new signs on the route, past the banks of the Nizonne and following the walkway leading to the Arch of Virtue, with the new path cleared by the Keepers of Heritage, returning via La Vue and small footbridges over COMBIERS wetlands.

Alain JOSEPH



## Spring floods 2021

We had spring floods in various parts of the commune, especially near bridges. However luckily no houses were affected.



## A fallen tree

On the morning of the election on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30am, a tree fell down over the main bridge at Combiers and blocked the road. The emergency road service team quickly arrived to open the bridge to traffic.



## CALITOM

News from the Calitom shop!

**Recycling** at Calitom is evolving. Sales to the public are proving to be very successful. The shop will now be open on Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 1.30pm and 5pm, and on Saturdays between 10.30am and 12.30pm and between 1.30pm and 5pm (holidays excepted). People buying bulky furniture can collect it on Thursdays (all day) and Friday mornings, by appointment only. People can now drop items off directly at the recycling centre, by appointment on Tuesdays (all day) and on Friday mornings. Please note that the online shop closed on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

You can ring the Calitom shop at Poullignac on 05 45 97 90 78 from Tuesdays to Saturdays, between 8.30am and 12.30pm and between 1.30pm and 4.30pm.

### Reducing waste

- Make 4 piles: to keep, to give away, to sell and to throw away
- Gather your objects according to function: leisure, winter, gardening, DIY....
- Use your walls to hang up your bikes, DIY and gardening tools
- Put things you use often near the door
- Gather your waste together by category before going to recycling centres: metal, boxes, wood, toxic products, plastic film. This will save time.

### DIY tools:

- Clear the space out and gather your tools together
- Sell or give away items that are still in good condition
- Used acid, solvents, paint, varnish and glue should be taken to recycling centres.

### Gardening tools:

- Get rid of polluting products and make your own natural products (using vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, salt....)
- Prefer natural fertiliser to chemical fertiliser
- Empty non-toxic products and packaging can be put in yellow bin bags. Toxic items should be taken to recycling centres.

### Next time, consider before you buy:

- Will I need this item occasionally or regularly?
- Can I borrow or hire this item, or buy it second hand?



## 2020 figures from the Combiers budget

Item	Expenditure	Revenue
<b>Cumulated total</b>	161 677,53	223 931,96

Taxes		57 630,00
Grants		40 520,00

<b>Revenue/grants for equipment</b>		20 578,00
Income and endowments - previous year's surplus		42 032,66

<b>Equipment expenses</b> land, building management, furniture, machinery, large tools, computer equipment, subsidies, costs of studies/surveys, equipment grants, roads	70 583,07
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Function expenditure	
Water and sanitation	900
Energy/electricity	3 200,00
Building maintenance and repair	16 200,00
Road maintenance and repair	2 000,00
Road materials	500
Rolling stock maintenance	3 000,00
Insurance	1 850,00
Events	3 000,00
Telecommunications	1 000,00
Land tax	1 500,00
Rents	2 000,00
Various supplies	3 000,00
Fuel	2 500,00
Fees	500
Personnel costs	28 154,00
Payments to mayor and deputies	18 000,00
Retirement costs	1 000,00
Fire department costs	4 029,00

Capital expenditure	
Costs of studies/surveys	5 000,00
Concessions	1 400,00
Grants	9 166,13
Land purchases and improvements	15 100,00
Other improvements	18 894,94
Public buildings	6 365,00
Construction	6166
Road investment	5000
Various investments	1591
Office and IT equipment	1500
Loans and debts	3 015,70