

Monflanquin Council's Newsletter

January 2015 - n°3

Town Hall Opening Times

- Monday - Friday: 9am-12pm / 1.30pm-5.30pm
Saturday: 9.15am-12pm
- Mayor's presence at the town hall:
Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
- Mayor's availability for meetings (by appointment only):
Wednesday 2pm-4pm, Saturday 10am-12pm
- To arrange an appointment with the Mayor or one of her deputies, please contact the Town Hall.

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Editorial

A difficult start to the year - all the usual Happy New Year expressions have sounded peculiar since 7th January 2015. We were all dumbfounded, stunned and deeply distressed. This is why we should endeavour to be even more tolerant, open-minded, supportive, attentive and ready to listen to others. We are lucky to live in a country, a region, a *department*, a *commune*, where it is relatively easy to promote these values, where it is relatively easily not to fall into the traps of tarring everything with the same brush, exclusion and condemnation.

We can oppose obstructionism, ignorance and sectarianism by encouraging education, the understanding of other cultures, secularism and freedom of expression, and by, as best we can, guiding our children who pay a lot of attention to the vibes we send out, particularly at moments like these.

The strong and spontaneous turnout in Monflanquin and everywhere else shows that we can, that we will be able to, proudly, continue to move forward together.

In our *commune* we will always work hard to promote the “vivre ensemble” and care about each other.

Of course, fortunately, “life goes on”. So, last year we managed to methods and processes in place that we are refining to make them as efficient as possible: schools, CCAS (social), services....

The pavement between Avenue Mondesir and the Joseph Kessel secondary school should see the light of day this year. We are also re-opening the ‘Chemin de Baleilles’ discussion. Road maintenance work and the re-opening of paths throughout the Commune is ongoing.

We are also working on improving the roads leading to the *Bastide*. There are a number of recommendations from the association ‘Les Plus Beaux Villages de la France’ dating back to 2009. Since April 2014 we have addressed some of them such as “avoid unsuitable street furniture” (signposts, benches etc.) We have to try to make our village access routes (amongst others) more attractive because we anticipate a check-up visit this year, which will determine whether or not we can continue to use the ‘Plus Beaux Villages’ label.

As a result of numerous meetings with the associations in the *commune*, we predict a year rich with activity. Also, we will host one of the Lot et Garonne council’s ‘summer evenings’ events. Our services team will help the organizers as much as they can and so we thank them in advance for their involvement and hard work.

I am sure you saw the magnificent Christmas tree in the main square of the *Bastide*. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Tatto for giving it to the *commune* and to Jaques Alvez for helping with its installation. (photo shown in French version).

Stay strong, clear-headed and keep in your heart “freedom, equality and fraternity” in mind. I wish you the best year possible. **Nathalie Founaud-Veysset**, Mayor of Monflanquin

Headlines

European days for the art and craft professions in Monflanquin.

For the 9th year running, in partnership with the chambers of trade and the association 'Les plus beaux villages de France', the national institute of art and craft professions is organizing its "Art and craft professions days." For the first time, the *Commune* of Monflanquin has volunteered to be involved in this event, which will take place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March 2015.

At the beginning of January we had our first meeting with Monflanquin's craft artisans and we chose a theme for the event: Two-handed trades - Stone, Paper, Scissors, Leather, Earth, Light.

We also made a start on the programme, which will be refined over the next few days. The weekend will start with the vocal group *Freesongs* (gospel, jazz and soul) on the evening of Friday 27th March in the *Salles des Consuls*. Other aspects of the programme include:

- A tour of the craft artisan workshops in the *Bastide*
- An exhibition and demonstration of 'know-how' in the main square (Place des Arcades)
- Artisans giving talks in the library
- A presentation of works of art

Cinema in Monflanquin

With maximum pleasure for everyone, the monthly cinema sessions are returning. They will be organized by the council and the GEM association along with the company Ecran Livradais. The first film showing is '**La Famille Belier**' at 8.30pm on Friday 6th February in the *Salles des Consuls*.

Social: A car for work

Thanks to a partnership with ERDF/GRDF, the APREVA association salvages 210 vehicles a year. They put 80% of them back into good condition in their 'social integration' workshop in Aiguillon. After repair work, around 40 vehicles are returned to ERDF/RDF which then gives them to various social and humanitarian associations. The vehicles are rented out at a reduced rate (from 2 euros per day). The objective is to provide access to job opportunities, training or interviews.

Christine Gonzato Roques, Vice President of the CCAS, and Bernard Dèche, Director of APREVA, signed a contract to create a rental base in Monflanquin. This opportunity has been created with the backing of organizations such as the *Missions Locales*, the job centre, social workers, etc. The car rental service is managed by CCAS employee Isabelle Soufflet, who you can contact at the Mairie.

If you haven't done so already, please return your 'Mutuelle' questionnaires to the Mairie.

The word from the Minority

Tourism: worrying perspectives

The *Communauté de Communes* has taken on the role of Tourism and local tourism offices have become *inter-cantonal*. During the official meeting to set up the new tourism association, four representatives from each *Canton* were elected to the Committee by more than 120 people involved in local tourism.

The candidates proposed by their Tourist Office to represent Cancon, Castillonnes and Villeréal were unanimously elected. For Monflanquin, nothing so simple took place. Three additional candidates, of which two were the initiative of the council, were added to the four candidates proposed by our former Tourist Office. A sad picture for our village, coupled with a president and personnel manager who are not from Monflanquin. Will they really look after our assets and our uncontested leadership in this domain we ask?

Patrick Weick

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Street Lighting

Reducing running costs.

From the beginning of 2015 your council is going to experiment, within the framework of reducing its running costs, by putting out the street lighting in some of the hamlets of the commune. Those concerned are *Labarthe, Corconat, Lamothe Feyt* and *Roquefère*.

The public lighting will switch off at midnight and switch back on at 6am. We will pay close attention to your feedback before making this a permanent decision. This experiment could be extended to certain zones within the village of Monflanquin itself.

Paths

The maintenance and re-opening of certain paths as been handed over to the association "*Chemins verts de l'emploi*". This association, set up and financed by the 'Lot et Garonne' council's social and agricultural team, helps adults who are out of work. A team from '*Chemins verts de l'emploi*' has been in our *commune* since 6th January to help with the following projects : reopening the fitness trail around the Pierre & Vacances holiday village, paths in Saint Avit, Lacanal and Corconat.

“Local” on our children’s plates

Monflanquin has responded to the ‘Lot et Garonne’ council’s request to use local products in the canteens: beautiful, good and local.....on our plates. Along with four other *communes* in the Lot et Garonne, Monflanquin has been retained to participate in the project. The head cook at the primary school (Nicolas Maman) and the kitchen assistant (Maryse Pages) will be trained accordingly. (Photo in the original version)

Local producers from Monflanquin and the bordering *communes*, as well as any producers involved in the Thursday morning market, will be solicited to help provide local meals for our little *Monflanquinois*. What’s more, with the intention to be fair and to support artisanal bakers, the local Monflanquin bakers will supply the school canteen.

French version pages 4-5

Environment

Sorting: the little gesture with big effects. *Any non-sorted rubbish is buried.*

The non-sorted rubbish (called household rubbish) we put into the bins with a green lid is buried. Furthermore, in 2013, the *Communauté de Communes* buried 4510 tons at the Albie landfill site, 1334 tons of which were from Monflanquin. So, the ‘hectares’ of rubbish are left to be inherited by our children. 30% of this rubbish could however be recycled.

MORE than 200,000 Euros to save.

The collection and burial of household waste costs 180 Euros per ton. Each year, for the *Communauté de Communes*, the bill totals more than 800,000 Euros. By having good sorting reflexes, we can economize by up to 240,000 Euros.

(Drawing in the original showing how the Albie landfill centre operates).

Visit to the landfill centre: an event to reorganize

On Saturday 22nd November 2014, the council invited the inhabitants of Monflanquin to visit the Albie landfill centre. Around 30 people participated - mainly people who live close by. The visit will be reorganized for those who were unable to make it this time round.

3000 tons buried each year.

Located in the area called ‘*l’Albie*’, between Monflanquin and La Sauvetat sur Lede, the site has a 300,000 ton per year capacity and collects rubbish from the northern areas of the Lot et Garonne. Situated at an old quarry, it uses the holes dug by the quarry owner to bury the rubbish. Once the holes are full, they are recovered with earth.

Thanks to the geo-membranes and the drainage systems, the leachates are collected and treated at an on-site purification station. This fermentation process also produces gas. Up until now the gas has been burned

and therefore lost, but since 1st January, the gas has been used as combustible fuel to dry the purification station's silt.

New rubbish collection system: thank you for your efforts

We have received several comments following the removal of some of our rubbish collection points and we are considering them all.

We are going to analyze the present location of the service points and also examine the situation for those people who do not have a car. For those who own a vehicle, it's all about putting a new way of doing things. A sorted rubbish bin without rotting rubbish doesn't smell and so it can be stored somewhere for a few days.... You can buy compost bins from the tip in Monflanquin....

Please don't relax your efforts to sort your rubbish because of these new constraints. Every effort concentrated on reducing the cost of treating rubbish helps create resources for more structural projects: the multi-disciplined health centre, the roads and tourism (three areas under the responsibility of the *Communauté de Commune* along with the collection and treatment of rubbish).

Pollution from the site

Other than the fact that burying rubbish cannot be a solution for the future, the landfill site generates odours which are particularly unpleasant for the people living close by. These are released from the leachates produced during the decomposition process.

To try to limit this pollution a new technique is soon to be tested: resin spreading. However, a better solution is to avoid putting any rotting rubbish in the green rubbish bin (for household waste). For anyone who has a garden, making a compost heap will help resolve this problem. Other solutions need to be found for those living in the *Bastide*.

The landfill site is managed by the 'Valorizon' syndicate. You can find all the relevant information and statistics on their website: www.valorizon.com

Stop Publicity (by Valorizon): *This year, do your environment two favours.*

Use the kitchen and garden waste to make compost = *the equivalent of 40 kg of rubbish per person per year.*

AND

Each year we receive 24kg worth of advertising leaflets

In 2015, I'm going to reduce my household rubbish by 64kg!

'Stop Pub' stickers are available from the Mairie, the tip, the library and the *Communauté de Commune*.

New hours at the Monflanquin Tip: Open two extra half days

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| Monday | 2pm-6pm |
| Tuesday | 8.30am-12pm |
| Wednesday | 2pm-6pm |
| Thursday | 8.30am-12pm |
| Friday | 8.30am-12pm and 2pm-6pm |
| Saturday | 8.30am-12pm and 2pm-6pm |

Waterside Property Owners: check before doing any work

Any activity carried out on stream and river banks is subject to strict regulations enforced by the waterways river police. Other than these regulations, a number of practical measures are going to be prescribed or recommended in order to keep the banks in good condition.

Before doing any work you can call the SMAVLOT river technician, who will advise you and, if necessary, visit the property. David Crabanat: 05 53 88 79 88.

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Education

Extra-curricular activities

Putting the different extra-curricular activities in place at the start of the school year didn't happen without a few hiccups (lack of information for the parents, difficulties for the children to grasp the sense of these activities...).

Listening to the parents, the teachers and the external contributors, the council put in place some 'solutions'. These appear to have been effective: the activities in the second period worked well. The improvement is equally due to efforts by the external contributors, the important work of Jessica Debezis (the coordinator) and the essential support of the teachers. The success of these activities is down to everyone.

For the coming terms, we are focusing on the following objectives:

- To propose varied activities at the primary school, such as judo, hip-hop, chess, art, computer-aided-design...
- To respect the level of tiredness of the children at the nursery school (calm activities, only a few external contributors).

Of course we are still paying close attention to ensure that the extra-curricular activities are well-run. At the end of the school year an assessment will be carried out by the PEDT pilot committee.

Farming

Classification within the 'vulnerable' zone: the council votes against

A brief history

The European directive called 'Nitrate' has existed since 1991. The 'vulnerable' zone classification is revised every four years. In 2011, the European Union started litigation proceedings against France for not having sufficient 'vulnerable' zones. In 2013, in order to avoid a new formal demand, the French authorities announced to the European Union the principles of a new zone system, notably the introduction of a 18mg/l nitrate threshold standard (instead of 40mg/l) and the extension project of the 'vulnerable' zones.

Classification of the Monflanquin *Commune* contested

Although it is not in one of the contentious zones and the samples taken don't exceed the 18mg/l of nitrate, the *commune* of Monflanquin is listed in the 'vulnerable' zones category. This classification means new constraints for the farmers and large investment for breeders obliged to stock waste materials for several months.

Extract from the deliberation

Considering that stock breeding is a crucial activity in our hilly region where farming is made difficult if not impossible because of the landscape.... Considering that the financial investments necessary to be able to stock waste materials could put the stock breeding exploitations into jeopardy and, as a result, a large part of the *commune's* economy....Noting that the samples taken from the *commune* don't exceed the 18mg/l nitrate threshold,.... The council opposes the classification of Monflanquin in the vulnerable zone project as proposed by the Préfet of the basin Adour Garonne.

Welcome to 'Morgan the Créole'

Morgan, a young resident of the *canton*, is drawing on his two origins (La Reunion and Martinique) to develop his professional activity. He sells his home-made Créole food every Friday evening between 6pm and 10pm in the village hall car park (Place du 8 Mai 1945). This includes an assortment of fritters and samosas plus a different main dish every week (chicken with coconut, sausage casserole, etc)

The 'welcome' is pleasant. The caravan, renovated by the chef himself, is nicely spruced up; decorated with multi-coloured garlands giving it a little air of celebration all year round.

Villages in Bloom

Monflanquin obtains 'the first flower' at regional level

In 2014, as well as winning first prize in the Lot et Garonne's Village in Bloom competition, the *commune* obtained its first 'flower' at regional level. Well done to our gardeners, who, all year long, put in a lot of effort to make our village more pleasant to look at!

Having a "Village in Bloom" is everyone's business! By taking part in the local or *department* "House in Bloom" competitions, you help to improve the image of the *commune*. Thank you to all the participants - restaurant owners and individuals in the *Bastide* or the countryside - for making our *commune* more beautiful.

The local "houses in bloom" competition is going to have a new meaning from this year. Anyone interested in being involved can register and also share their ideas with Cecile Corbel at the Town Hall.

'Share with the Council' sector meetings

We are inviting the inhabitants of Corconat, Labarthe and Lamothe Feyt to share their views with the Monflanquin council over a friendly drink. Date and time: 7pm on Friday 30th January 2015. Venue: Lemothe-Feyt church.

Department Elections

The *department* elections will take place between 22nd and 29th March 2015 and will, as a result, completely renew the existing *department* councils.

In accordance with the law of 17th May 2013, the '*department* elections' and their '*department* councils' will replace the former '*canton* elections' and their subsequent councilors. The voting method has also been modified, moving to a complete renewal of each council every six years instead of renewing half the council every 3 years.

The new *canton* 'Haut Agenais Périgord' regroups the former *cantons* of Canon, Monflanquin and Villeréal. It brings together 33 communes and totals 13,753 inhabitants. There are two seats reserved on the 'Lot et Garonne' council for the two people elected to represent the new *canton*.

At the moment, only French citizens are able to vote in this election.

Cats and Dogs

Leonard takes an unplanned trip

A *Monflanquinoise* found a stray dog and thinking she was doing the right thing, took it to the animal refuge in Brax. That's how this dog (renamed Leonard) found itself by error in a refuge. This is the perfect opportunity to remind you of the law. The refuge takes onboard and provides healthcare for animals that come from an animal pound or are abandoned by their owner, and proposes them for adoption. The owner (or the pound) brings the dogs and cats to the refuge.

What do you do if you find a stray dog or cat?

Take it to the Town Hall. We will take responsibility for identifying the animal. If the animal is identified we will contact the owner. If the animal cannot be identified, we will contact the department's animal refuge. Once placed in the refuge (in Caubeyre), the animal will be proposed for adoption.

French version page 8/back page

The *Communauté de Communes* informs you

My mobile library: A mobile book service throughout the *commune* of Monflanquin

The library and media centre in Monflanquin is setting up a book, CD, DVD and magazine home delivery service for people who are temporarily or permanently unable to get to the *Bastide* easily themselves (age, handicap, illness, accident, convalescence...). This service is guaranteed in the countryside as well as the village. If you are interested, please contact Veronique at the Monflanquin library/media centre on 05 53 36 54 31.

Tourism : The new 'Coeur de Bastides' tourist office

Since its creation on 1st January 2013, the 'Bastides en Haut-Agenais Perigord' *Communauté des Communes*, which regrouped the four cantons Monflanquin and Cancon, Villeréal and Castillonnes, has had the responsibility for tourism across all four cantons. The former *Communauté de Communes* of Castillonnes and of Villeréal already managed tourism and so it seemed natural for the new *Communauté de Communes* to take this area onboard. The choice was made to keep the associative structure to manage the future *Communauté de Communes* tourist office, which had to be created by 1st January 2015.

The two vice-presidents in charge of tourism on behalf of the *Communauté de Communes* are Nathalie Founaud-Veysset and Isabelle Labonne, Mayor of Lougratte.

After numerous months of work and with the help of a cabinet of experts (structure, objectives...), the first general meeting of this new association took place in Saint Vivien on Tuesday 18th November. More than 150 people were present and more than 100 have committed to being members of the new association.

The statutes were re-discussed and four volunteers from each *canton* were elected to the 'board'. Two *Communauté de Communes* councillors from each canton had already been reserved seats on the board.

The four elected representatives for the Monflanquin canton are Karen Kommer, Françoise Paul, Max Rouquié and Ludovic Vienot. The two *Communauté de Communes* councilors representing Monflanquin are Eric Congé (Gavaudun) and Nathalie Founaud Veysset.

The board immediately went on to elect their executive committee. The unanimously elected president is Alexis Bru from Villeréal and he is supported by three vice-presidents (one from each of the other three cantons); Michele Duclerque from Cancon, André Haidant from Castillonnes and Max Rouquié from Monflanquin.

The name chosen for the new Tourist Office is 'Coeur de Bastides'. The employees are preparing the 2015 season together. Their salaries have been taken onboard by the new association (since January 2015) and a lot of work awaits them: membership, publications, publicity.... A team manager was internally recruited (there were two applications for the post). Julia Touya, the former manager from the tourist office in Villeréal, was successfully appointed. A logo and slogan have been agreed by the board.

The headquarters of the new 'Tourist office' is in Monflanquin. Two sub-committees have already been established; a "Musée des Bastides" committee under the responsibility of Françoise Paul from Monflanquin and an 'Events' commission under the responsibility of Vincent Glaunez from Cancon.

Tourism generates more than nine million Euros worth of economic 'kickbacks' for this area - a third of all the tourist beds in the Lot et Garonne are located here. This new tourist office is a touristic development tool at the service of everyone. Everything has been put in place so that the "Coeur de Bastides" makes us even more attractive and, as well as possible, animates all of our *communes*, all year round.

Update on the multi-disciplinary Health Centre

Due to the judicial liquidation of 'Trabat' and 'France Charpente', the two companies who were chosen to manage the work on the new Health Centre in Monflanquin, all building activity was stopped in August 2014.

After a lot of new developments in the story and particularly proceedings against the legal liquidator, the call to tender for the two types of building work (no 1 demolition and main building work and no 3 woodwork, tiles, gutters) was re-launched on 15th January 2015. Due to the fact that there have been numerous delays, the new completion deadline is now the end of 2015.

Civil List 15th September 2014 - 14th January 2015

Births

21st October: ESTEVE Cloé

21st October: ESTEVE Julia

19th November: DE VRIENDT Liam

Deaths

4th November: CABIANCA Rinaldo Carlo

12th November: MEULIEN Maurice

16th November: CAZES Hugette, widow BOURDY

28th November: LE CREURER François, Auguste

28th November: MARTINEZ Maria, married DE SALVADOR

2nd December: FACCHINI Antonio

26th December: OSBORNE Donald, Kendrick

2nd January: BAYLET Marie

3rd January: CANTAYRE Jean, Roger

Deaths of people born in Monflanquin (died elsewhere)

27th November: BONIS Françoise, married TREIBER

5th December: LELIEVRE Joseph, Marie

26th December: CANCE André