

Dear Friends of Maasin,

by the Pakigangay board

We are very happy with the news received from Chona regarding the 2022/2023 school year. The integration of 19 new young scholars in primary is an important and encouraging sign of the sustainability of the actions of Pakigangay-Maasin.

We wish a lot of success to all the young people of primary school. We hope that the example and experience of your elders will allow you to build and carry out your projects. Good luck also to each of you who continue your course of study started several years ago.

To you who are in college, we hope that you can carry out your projects and that you will encourage the youngest, for whom you are an example. Here in France, we are counting on you to share your life with us through the story of your daily life as a student and citizen.

To you, the parents and guardians and accompanying persons, we also wish a good school year.

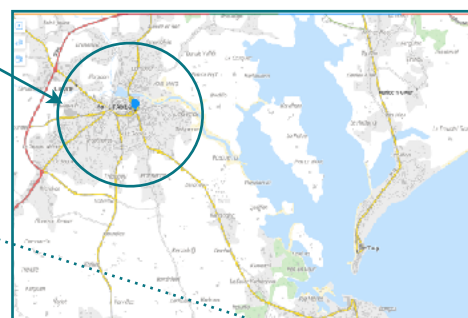
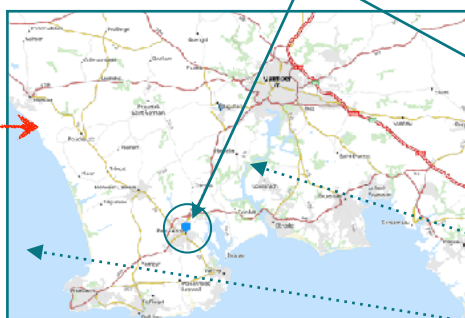
The main theme of the newspaper is Pont l'Abbé and its region, in connection with the new appointment of Armand as parish priest of Our Lady of Joy Parish in Pays Bigouden.

" Ang labing mahinungdanong tema sa Pont L'Abbe' og ang rehiyon mao ang mahitungod sa pag pili ni Armand isip usa ka Parish Priest sa Our Lady of Joy Parish sa Pays Bigouden "

Pont-l'Abbé - Capital of the « Pays Bigouden »



See on « Journal of Brittany Nb 3 November 2021 »



The self-styled capital of the "**Pays Bigouden**", roughly the region between the [Bay of Audierne](#), and [the Odet river](#), Pont-l'Abbé was founded in the 14th century by a monk of Loctudy who built the first bridge across the river estuary, hence the name. The same monk also built the first castle.



*Bigouden, historically known as **Cap Caval**, is, along the Bay of Audierne, the most south-western area of Bro Kernev in Brittany, south-west of Quimper, defined since 1790 in the French department of Finistère. The designation was an informal label taken from the name of the distinctive headdress*

Pont-l'Abbé castle

Pont-l'Abbé castle dates from the 14th to the 18th centuries. The "wedding room" is decorated with Mathurin Méheut pieces of art (Sainte-Marine port), Henri Sollier and Jacques Godin. The castle lost its ramparts during the 19th century. Today only the bridge, the keep, and a very small part of the ramparts, in the garden nearby, can be seen. The structure now serves as the city hall, housing also the Bigouden Museum, offering a fine collection of costumes and Bigouden head-dresses.



See more on ;
<https://ville-pontlabbe.bzh>
<https://www.tourismebretagne.com>
Pont-l'Abbé

In this Journal

Editorial

Pont-L'Abbé

Theater à St Gabriel College

Concert, tales and nursery rhymes from the Philippines

Follow us ...



Pakigangay has been presented - in the "wedding room" decorated with Mathurin Méheut pieces of art - to a donor : PASI « Pont-l'Abbé Solidarité Internationale »

On the right: presentation of Pakigangay's actions

On the left: the mayor of the city, PASI officials and sponsored associations



The Pont-l'Abbé castle was intended to watch over the bridge which gave its name to a powerful feudal lineage, the lords of Pont, who became barons in 1493.

The fortress has experienced a few military episodes. It was besieged during the wars of religion in 1590 and devastated by rebellious peasants during the revolt of the « Bonnets Rouges » in 1675. The ruined dwelling was restored in the 18th century. The castle, confiscated and sold during the Revolution, was acquired by the municipality in 1836. The installation of the town hall, a court, a police station and a school allowed the preservation of the last vestiges of the stronghold.

The museum

At the heart of the Château de Pont-l'Abbé, the Bigouden Museum was originally presented as a museum of art and popular traditions. Fruit of a collection, its collections come exclusively from the bigouden country, territory of about twenty municipalities in the south-west of Brittany. The collections are mainly composed of furniture, ethnographic objects and traditional clothing.



The Embroideress' Festival (Fête des Brodeuses) in July is one of Brittany's major traditional gatherings, and includes a Breton Mass at *Our Lady of the Carmelites's church* (see below).

The inhabited bridge

The Pont-l'Abbé bridge is one of the nine inhabited bridges that can be found in France.



Formerly called Pont Christ, this structure is one of the few inhabited bridges preserved in France. The specificity of this construction lies in its dual function, both residential and circulation.

Located at the bottom of the ria and at the crossroads of several roads, Pont-l'Abbé was a

place of passage and favorable to the emergence of a city. Around the 12th century, the lords of the castle and, it is said, the abbots of Locudy decided to build a first bridge, on the site of the current bridge. This construction had such an impact that it gave its name to the city.

Both a dam and a bridge, it was used by merchants, travelers and pilgrims. It also ensured the connection between the Lambour district and the city center.

The bridge exploited hydraulic energy thanks to the installation of two tide mills (which belonged one to the lord, the other to the Carmelites), replaced in 1850 by one of the largest flour mills in France. This is where the family embroidery business Le Minor has been developed from 1936. The other buildings have been restored and converted into housing and shops.

The Bigoudens monument

The « *Bigoudens monument* » is a masterpiece in granite (1931) and shows a group of four « Bigoudènes » women and a child in traditional costume from the beginning of the 20th century, all of them thinking of a son, a father, a husband or a grandson battling the elements on the high seas.



Four women and a little girl, five ages in life, think of their fishing men, lost in the heart of the storm.

Dressed in the traditional Bigouden dress of the 1910s, these women are in prayer and support each other in this ordeal. Their anguish and sadness are manifested through their attitudes: one is seated, the other is kneeling. Their suffering is mute, suffered with dignity and contemplation.

Inaugurated in 1931, this monument is the work of sculptor François Bazin. It pays homage to the world of the sea and to sailors' wives. This sculpted group is framed on either side by bronze bas-reliefs, illustrating episodes of the legendary Breton

« Notre-Dame des Carmes » church

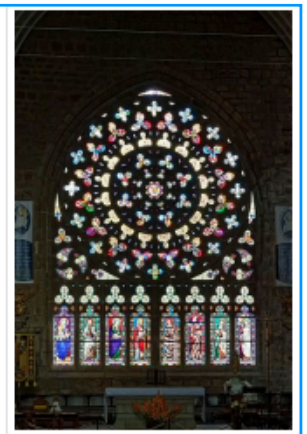
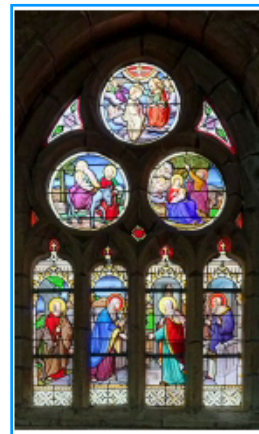
The « *Notre-Dame des Carmes* » church (Church of Our Lady of the Carmelites) dates from 1383-1420 in the Gothic style, with many old statues and a very fine rose window over the high altar that is considered the loveliest in Brittany.

The bell tower, located behind the church, has a very particular shape. Built in 1604, it is crowned with a two-storey slate dome, remarkable for the importance of its sound-reflector.

Currently, Father Armand is the pastor of Our Lady of Joy in Bigouden country.

This parish is the result of the merger of 17 parishes of Pays Bigouden Sud. It brings together the former parishes of the deanery of Pont-l'abbé.

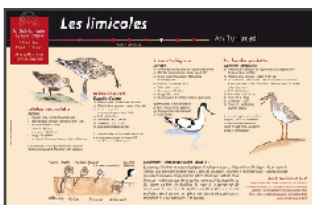
The presbytery where Father Armand lives is located next to the "Notre-Dame des Carmes" church.



The river and the towpath

At the end of the port, a pleasant towpath begins, the "Customs officers' trail".

The estuary of the Pont-l'Abbé river, a site of major ecological interest, covers an area of 600 hectares. Thanks to its preservation, the estuary is home to a population of waterbirds of international importance. This walk allows you to discover the estuary as a natural environment but especially birds such as spoonbills, curlews and other waders, sandpipers, ducks...



Some panels allow you to discover the interpretation circuit, along the Pont-l'Abbé river.

Saint-Laurent wood

On the right bank of the river, at the end of the port, take a break in the shade of the charming little Saint-Laurent wood. It is the ideal place to enjoy a moment of relaxation or a good picnic. The open-air theater welcomes the dancers and ringers of the "Fête des Embroiderers" every year.



The craftsmen's market

Every Thursday in summer, creators and craftsmen, selected for the quality and originality of their work, set up shop in the courtyard of the château in order to promote local creation and craftsmanship.

After strolling around Place Gambetta and Place de la République, visitors can access the craftsmen's market via the moat gardens.



The weekly market

Every Thursday, the largest market in Pays Bigouden is set up on Place Gambetta and Place de la République.



The flower market

The City of Pont-l'Abbé, labeled Towns and Villages in Bloom - « *Villes et Villages Fleuris* » - organizes every year, the day before Mother's Day, its flower market. Horticulturists and nurserymen take place in the courtyard and the moat garden of the castle to welcome and advise all gardening lovers. Annuals, perennials, shrubs, rare plants or collector roses delight amateur gardeners, garden enthusiasts and collectors. Visitors can also discover the remains of the castle's small moat.



The port

In the 18th and 19th century, the port of Pont-l'Abbé was an important place of commerce. Grain, fish, potatoes and wood were exploited there. We import wine, salt and spices.

The port today welcomes a few boats and offers a pleasant stroll and a magnificent view of the bridge and the keep of the castle.



At the end of June, *a theater evening was organized by the students in the amphitheater of the Saint Gabriel establishment in Pont-l'Abbé* for the benefit of Pakigangay.

After a presentation of the association, the theater evening began with a play written and directed by Marie José El Iman, *on the theme of Laudato Si* – taking care of our common home.

Entitled « *Where is our land going?* », this creation allowed the College students to dynamically illustrate, through choreography and spoken choirs, *the current planetary degradation and the possible ways to remedy it.*

The scene of the infernal machine, evoking the spiral of overconsumption and waste, touched me a lot; likewise, the poetic scene with soap bubbles to breathe new life into the planet.



The second piece, adapted from Cyril Jarousseau, « *Is there a citizen in the room?* » is *a parody of the French Revolution.*



The staging - again by Marie-José - included the game of "The Wheel of Fortune" to decide between the women influencing the King.

The convocation of the General States gave rise to a real race for power. Finally, Marat in his bathtub presided over the tribunal to judge and condemn the King to death.

*Marie-José El Iman
is a director and screenwriter.*

She leads several theater troupes at the Saint Gabriel Middle and High School in Pont-l'Abbé and directs young people by leaving them a large part of improvisation, especially in the creation of choreographies or scenic games.

I particularly enjoyed the escape of the royal family to Varennes, with the young "crazy" actress who played Marie-Antoinette, the phlegm of Louis XVI, the scenes with the knitters commenting on the events of the time.

The varied choreographies of the young people accentuated the anachronisms of this very fast-paced piece.

The last part of the evening changed completely in tone with « *The noise of cracking bones* », adapted from a play by Suzanne Lebeau. *It is inspired by true stories of child soldiers in Africa.*



Five young high school students played with extraordinary sobriety and restraint. This is what gave all the intensity to the evocation of the scenes of violence or loneliness in the flight of two child soldiers.

The staging, once again justly magnificent, offered a back and forth between the different scenes: either the reading of testimonies of child soldiers by the nurse from the reintegration commission, or the scenes evoking this harsh reality.

Faced with such involvement of the actors, we do not come out unscathed from such an evening! Thanks to the generosity of the families, approximately 250 euros were collected for the Association.

I really want to thank Marie-José and all the young people for their incredible talent. *What a wonderful lesson of hope and dynamism you have given us!* Congratulations again and thank you!



On Saturday September 10, Pakigangay was welcomed at the Sainte Cécile Chapel in Brieac for *a new baroque concert with tales and nursery rhymes from the Philippines* by Jérôme Brodin, harpsichordist and Guillemette Hougron, storyteller.

Jérôme Brodin presented us works by Bach, Couperin and Rameau, highlighting the influences on each other in this Baroque period and evoking the particularities of each of them in the year 1722, just 300 years ago. In a few words, Bach's prose was revealed in his fugues; Couperin expressed his poetry in his musical ornaments and evocative titles "The Muse of Monaco", "Love in the Cradle"; Rameau at this same period became a theoretician of harmony.

Jérôme also accompanied on the harpsichord the nursery rhymes of the Philippines translated and sung by Guillemette Hougron. Alternately, the tales joined in the local way those of our childhood: The beggars of San Roque, Why the sea is salty, The white squash, and a tale of origins...

Among the nursery rhymes that Guillemette sang *"Beau Papillon" compares Filipino women to butterflies* because of the dresses with very loose sleeves they wore during the time of Spanish

colonization. Chona, social worker for young people in Maasin, confided to Guillemette that she liked to sing it when she was a teenager.

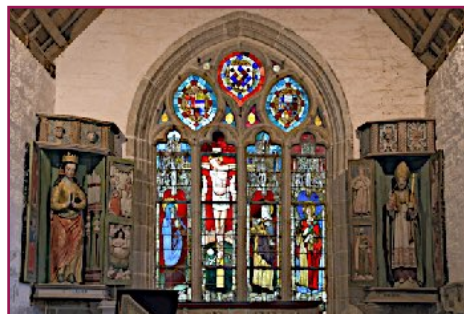
The meeting of baroque music and tales and nursery rhymes from the Philippines won over the public once again. The exchanges shared around a friendship drink then organized by the chapel committee, as well as the smiles and the joy of everyone confirmed this.

The public was very pleased by the concert, by the welcome from the members of the Committee of Friends of the Chapel, by the beauty of the place and by this remarkably restored chapel, with magnificent statuary and a polychrome wooden altarpiece, as well as the work on the stained glass windows that Madame Hortense Damiron, painter and sculptor, who was present, could evoke.

We thank everyone for this particularly beautiful and convivial moment.

Our thoughts go out to you in Maasin during these shows that allow people to talk about you around us.

To see: a photographic report and videos on the Facebook page and the pakigangay.fr website



Follow us

by the Pakigangay board

Follow the news and the reports of Pakigangay on our Facebook page and our site pakigangay.fr (in French)

