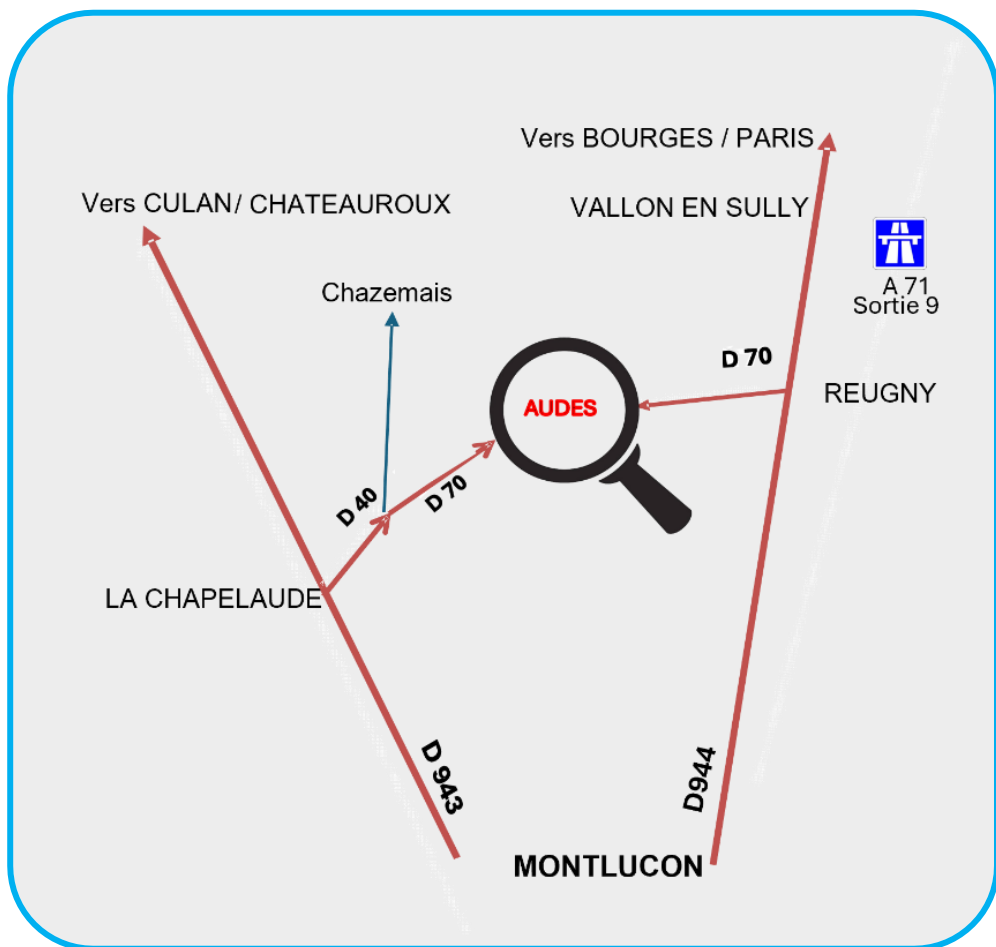
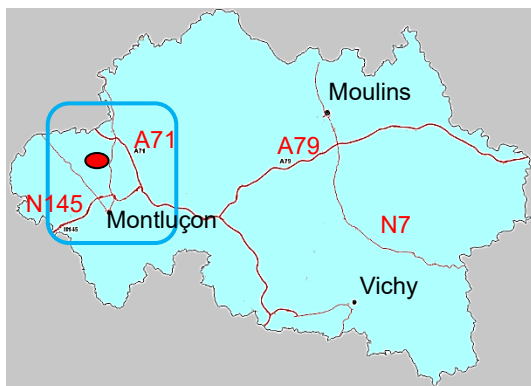


AUDES



**Presented by the association
« Les Amis du Patrimoine »**





Welcome to Audes

The people of the association « Les Amis du Patrimoine » are happy to welcome you to their charming village, with its green landscapes and colorful heritage.

In order to bring it back to life, our interest in research has led us to trace its little history, often intertwined with the larger History. It was necessary to create a document to guide visitors . This visitor's booklet, with a map and commentary, will help you find your way and direct you to the monuments to discover and, for some, to understand their past uses, which are often forgotten today.

You are on the main road - D70 -. We invite you to start your journey from the church, where parking is available. After discovering this interior, rich in works of art, you can continue your way.

A large part of this itinerary can be done on foot by a 3.8 km loop, which is explained below.

You leave the church (A) and head towards the town where most of the heritage sites await you: sundial, well, weighing scale, war memorial (B, etc.). You continue to its exit, and when you reach the Cross at the forest path (J), on the right, it is possible to reach the Vineyard House (K). Then, the forest path to the Crête will take you to La Chapelaude road; you are just a few meters from the Cross at the path to the Crête (L). A very beautiful viewpoint opens up to you: Saint-Denis Church overlooking the village entrance. You complete the loop along the road. Each place is also accessible by car (see the roads on the map).

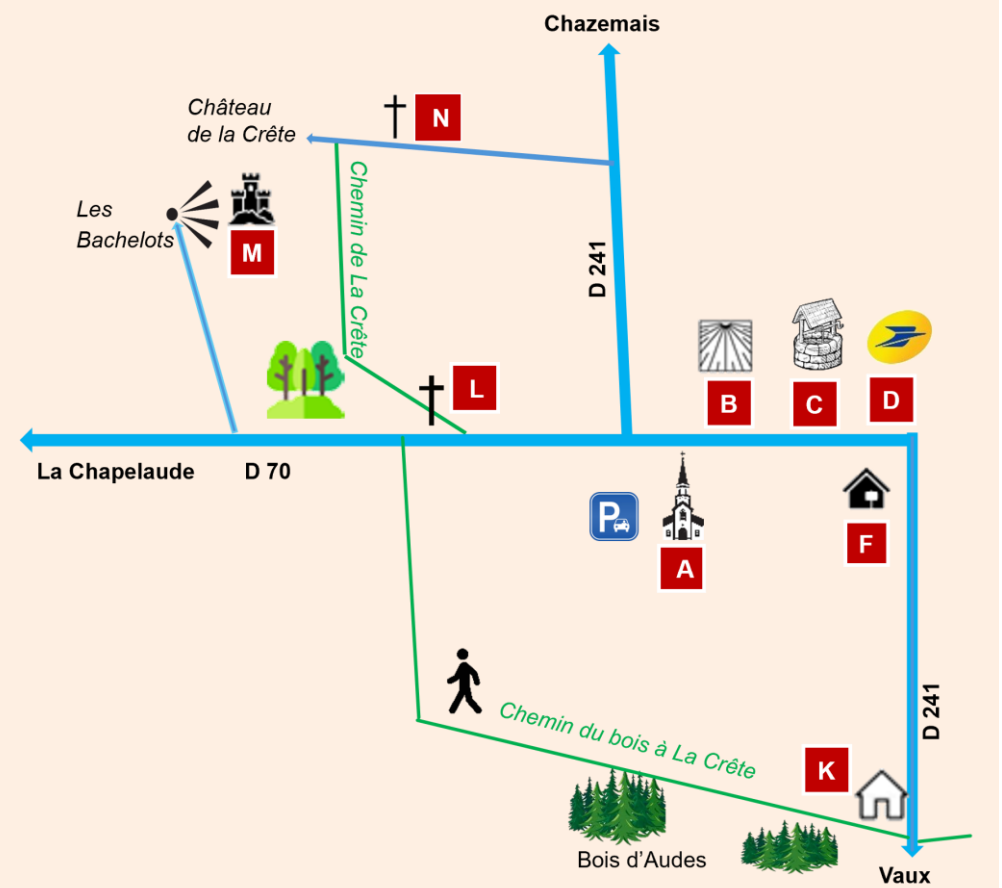
You leave the church (A) and you go towards the center of the village where most of the heritage sites await you: sundial, well, weighing scale, war memorial (B...). You continue until you reach the village exit; at the cross of « chemin du bois » (J) on the right, it is possible to reach the « Maison de vigne » (K). Then the path « Chemin du bois à La Crête » will lead you to the road to La Chapelaude; you are just a few meters from the cross of « chemin de la Crête » (L). A very beautiful viewpoint opens up to you: the Saint-Denis Church overlooking the way into the village. You finish the loop along the road.

Each location is also accessible by car (see the roads on the map).

For the viewpoint of **the ruins of La Crête Castle (M) and the other crosses (N-O-P)**, which are further away, it is recommended to take the car.

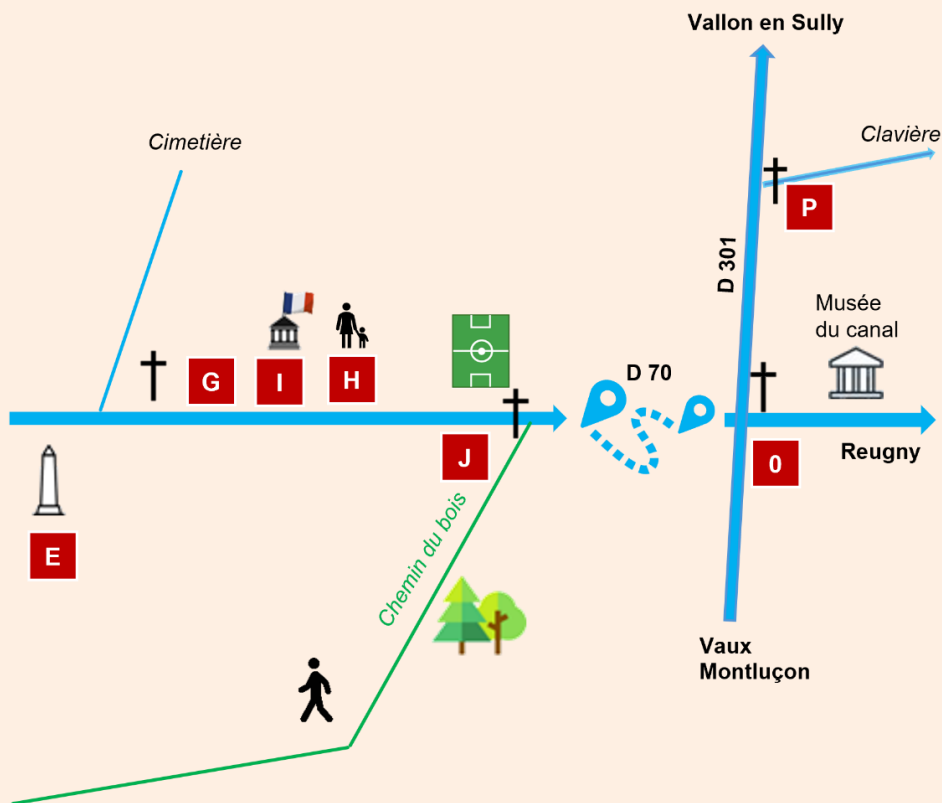
The people of the association « les Amis du Patrimoine » wish you a very enjoyable visit.

Visit plan



A	Church	p 4	START PARKING
B	Sundial	p 8	150 m
C	Well	p 9	200 m
D	Post office	p 10	200 m

E	War Memorial	p 11	250 m
F	Weighbridge	p 12	250 m
G	Jubilee Cross	p 18	400 m
H	Florentin Bonnet school	p 14	550 m



I	Iron collection	p 15	550 m
J	Cross of the chemin du bois	p 19	1 km
K	Vineyard house	p 16	2 km
L	Cross du chemin de La Crête	p 20	3,3 km

M	Ruins of La Crête castle	p 17	2,8 km
N	Cross of La Crête	p 20	3 km
O	Christ of Magnette	p 19	3 km
P	Cross of Clavière	p 19	4 km

Before the current church, there was a Carolingian church

The first church

The early church of Audes mentioned in **812**, was dedicated to Saint Denis.

The church had housed, since immemorial times, the relics of Saint Hubert which were used to bless the cattle bitten by mad dogs.

In 1587, Monseigneur Puyguillon de Beaucaire, Bishop of Metz, lord of La Crête, offered a bell that will later be named after her sponsor. He died in 1591 and was buried in the chapel of St Hubert.

In a report by Gilbert Labre, the priest in Audes from 1842 to 1858, it reads: "length 22.60 m, nave width 4.75 m, width at the transept level 16.68 m.

There is a chapel of the Virgin on the left (**Virgin of the Rosary**) and the **chapel of Saint Hubert** on the right. The bell tower is made of wood. The cemetery is near the church.

The new church

From 1860, under the pressure of the papal policy of Pius IX which was to restore the coat of arms of the Church, Monsignor Pierre Simon de Dreux-Brézé, bishop of Moulins, decided to build a new monument.

In November 1872, the architect Hallouy (Halouis) drew up the plans for the new church of Saint-Denis, in neo-Gothic style, and decided to retain part of the foundations of the old church for economic reasons.

In December 1875, the priest writes : « installed in my church ».

This new and beautiful church didn't have much luck. Lightning in 1877, then a hurricane in 1979 broke its spire and caused major damage.

The legend of Saint Hubert

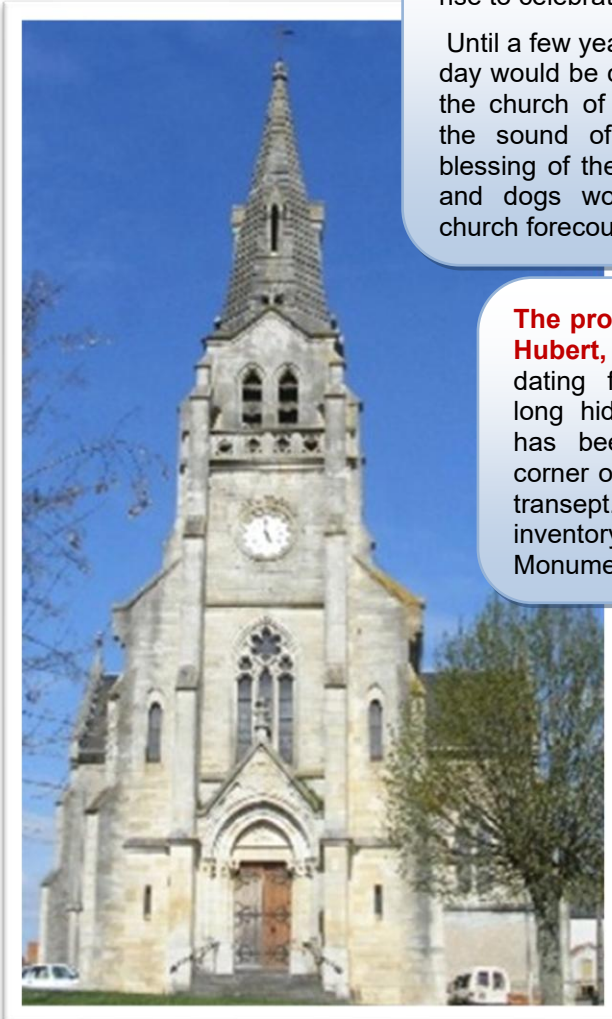
A small chapel was built on this spot. It was dedicated to Saint Hubert. It served for a long time as a meeting place for hunting.

Invited by the chief huntsman, all the hunters from the surrounding area gathered to hear Mass in this small chapel before setting out on the great hunts.

Saint Hubert is patron of hunters, gave rise to celebration.

Until a few years ago, the 'Saint Hubert' day would be celebrated with a mass in the church of Audes, accompanied by the sound of hunting horns, and a blessing of the hunting parties, horses, and dogs would take place on the church forecourt.

The procession statue of Saint Hubert, in gilded polychrome, dating from the 18th century, long hidden and now restored, has been repositioned at the corner of the choir and the south transept. It has been listed in the inventory of Historical Monuments.

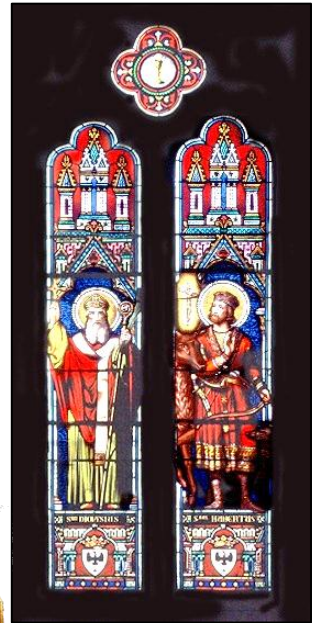


The interior decor

Upon entering, one is immediately struck by the decoration that covers the walls and ceilings. This is the work of the painter Mazzia.

He signed and dated it in a quatrefoil medallion near the pulpit.

The transept and choir are illuminated by stained-glass windows donated by various families from the Audes region, often represented by their coat of arms. A detailed brochure is dedicated to them.



Two remarkable paintings are listed as Historical Monuments:

.The Adoration of the Shepherds, a 17th-century painting,

.The Virgin and Child Giving the Rosary to Saint Dominic and Saint Catherine of Siena, from the 18th century

The tombstone of François de Beaucaire where he was almost certainly buried.



The historic bell named François de Beaucaire bell

This is the bell of Mgr François de Beaucaire, dated 1587



It is located in the bell tower above the main bell.

Its dimensions are 66 centimeter in height and 83 centimeters in diameter

It is adorned with many bands, a border of fleur-de-lis, gothic characters, and medallions.

It has a beautiful sonority and a good resonance

In 2003, two people, Amis du Patrimoine d'Audes, rediscovered it. Intrigued by its superb Gothic characters, they sent reproductions of the inscriptions to the SFC (French Bell Study Society). Régis Singer, an expert for the Ministry of Culture, conducted a study about this bell in 2012. Following his report, submitted to the curator of antiquities, the bell was classified in the list of historic monuments, due to its great age, the richness of its decorations, its musicality, and the personality of its sponsor François de Beaucaire.

François de Beaucaire

Monseigneur François de Beaucaire de Puyguillon was born in 1514 in the castle of Puyguillon in Vernusse, a village in this department (Allier).

He was a contemporary of the kings of France : François the first and Henry the second.

He was a good diplomat, and he took part in the negotiations between Henry II and Charles Quint in Augsburg in 1550.

The Pope rewarded him for his good services. He was appointed protonotary and then the commendatory of several abbeys. Later he became bishop of Metz in Lorraine.

It was a time of violence: Catholics and Protestants were killing each other. François de Beaucaire resigned in 1568.

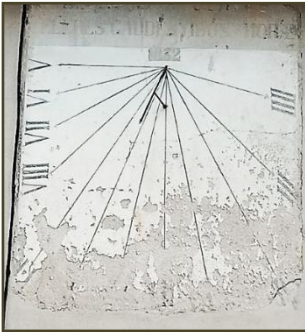
The Beaucaire family had owned the Château de la Crête in Audes. François de Beaucaire retired there and devoted himself to writing.

In 1585, as Baron of La Crête, Saint-Désiré, and Chauvières, he made a significant donation to Moulins for the maintenance of the college. Four years before his death, he donated a bell to the church in Audes.

He died there in 1591. The tombstone bearing his name is still in the church today, where he was certainly buried

The sundial

"The sun is the great clock of the world" – Voltaire



The story of passing time is part of human story. In first time, he measures it using the shadow of a tree, and then with a stick planted vertically in the ground.

The sundial of this house has one latin quote : « Afflictis lentae celeres gaudientibus horae » which can be translate as :

« hours are slow for the afflicted and too fast for those in joy,

It consists of a plane or face on which the hours are marked by lines, and a gnomon or stylus, a rigid rod exposed to the sun's rays, placed vertically on the surface. The shadow, projected on the plane, tells the solar time.



The gnomonist performs the calculations, and the sundial maker, the artisan, creates it on the walls using a stylus.

Despite the appearance of the first clocks in the 16th century, sundials remained in use in the countryside until the 19th century and sometimes until the 20th century.

The sundial is the emblem of notaries. "Just as the stick lit by the sun marks the time on the sundial with its shadow, the notary enlightened by the Law marks the will of the parties in his act with the same exactness."

Located on private property, the dial is visible from the street.

The water well

"When the well is dry, we know the value of water." Benjamin Franklin

The dowser, locates an underground water table with hazel rods, and the well-digger then carries out vertical excavation to create a circular cavity, narrow and deep, with masonry walls. The first water wells are very old : in Mesopotamia, a well dating back to 6,000 BC was discovered. In 1126 in Artois, which gave rise to the term "Artesian wells," a natural phenomenon was discovered: after digging, the water spontaneously gushes up, rising from the groundwater table by its own power.



On farms, you sometimes find two wells: one, often located in front of the house, is reserved for domestic use, and the other is mainly used for the animals. Public wells are built in towns and villages. In Audes, they can be found near the church, the post office, the schoolyard, and the hamlets.

Wells with a brink:

These are the most common, as here in Audes. They can be protected by a partially open wall or by a roof, or they can be closed with a door. The water is brought up by a winch, also called a drum, to which a chain with a bucket is attached, or by a hand pump system.



The balance wells:

Lever and counterweight mechanism allows water to be lifted. They are mainly found in the region called « Les Landes ».



Step wells:

a spiral staircase allows access to shallow water.

The water drawn was rarely drinkable and often caused diseases. In the 19th century, driven by scientists, the first water purification techniques appeared. Large water distribution networks were established around 1960.

The story begins in 1897, when the municipality of Audes and its mayor, Pierre Périat, knew the mail distribution problems in the commune of Audes, which relied on the Vallon post office. They obtained permission from the Post Office administration to install a permanent postal agent in Audes.

The opportunity arose in 1899 with the house located next to the communal well.

The sale takes place on May 7, 1899



At this moment, a series of problems begins! The place is damp and unsanitary. Despite costly repairs, the situation remains critical.

In 1901, the municipality sold the smaller of the houses to Mr. Guillaumin and set up the post office in the other one.

The postal management regularly sends letters of complaint. They deal with the most urgent matters first ! In 1919, the management considered that the building was not compliant and declare wanting to close the office !

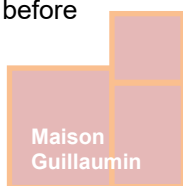
A committee was been established for a reconstruction project

The estimates were too expensive for the town, which was also financing the war memorial. On February 1, 1920, the estimate from architect Sappin des Raynaud is reviewed. After negotiations, a compromise is reached in June 1922.

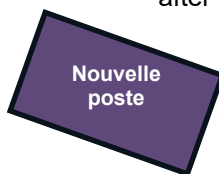
On August 31, 1924, Mr Charvat (mayor) and Anet de La Celle inspected the completed works!

Public adward procedure had started on August 27, 1922.

before



after



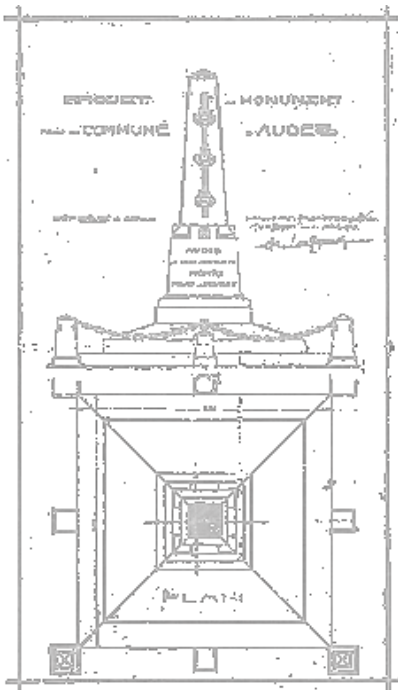
After the French defeat in 1870, some people began to think about building monuments in memory of the soldiers who gave their lives for France.

Following the very deadly First World War, the need for mourning and remembrance led to the decision to erect these monuments starting in 1920.



The state regulated their development and reviewed each project (**circular of May 20, 1920**). It offers subsidies and subscription among the population to cover the expenses.

On November 28, 1920, the municipal council of Aude decided to launch this project. Financing was obtained through a supplementary subscription with an extraordinary tax.



The following year, the architect from Montluçon, Sappin des Raynaud, was appointed to design the monument and the company from Aude, Cassier, to carry out the work.

The list of soldiers from Aude who died for France is completed.

Problems delayed the construction.

On February 25, 1923, the architect presented a new plan.

On december 2, 1923, the monument is inaugurated

"The soul of the entire homeland rises up to you. Children of Aude, sleep in peace... however high you may be in the sky, we will keep in our thoughts your unalterable and immortal memory."
Excerpt from the inauguration speech by Arthur de Lamaugarny

On November 11, 2023, the municipality celebrated the centenary with the participation of « les Amis du Patrimoine ».

You are in the main square of our village: near the post office, the old shops, and the war memorial, once called the 'Foirail Square'.

Do you know the use of this small structure?

You have probably seen those little houses with a glass window and a small platform made of wooden planks or other materials.

You guessed it! It's a weighbridge found in almost every village.

Once a nerve center on fair days, the municipal weighbridges have since fallen into disuse. Yet, they are a part of local history, of memories.



Our department has kept a certain number of them. Some worked, like Audes', until the 1980s-90s.

They were mostly installed at the end of the 19th century.

They were subject to octroi tax

The octroi: a tax in our country collected by municipalities on the importation of goods into their territory, which was officially abolished in 1948.

A central location: the weighing scale is generally located in the center of the village or near the church or post office, mainly at the market square, because it was used to weigh any vehicle, animals (pigs, cows, sheep) or crops such as hay, straw, cereals, grapes... in order to set a price based on their weight.

Weighing: to carry out weighing, two elements are necessary: a platform and a box used by the weigher, a sworn officer. He provides a correct weigh. Weighing the products contained in a trailer required an initial tare (weight of the empty vehicle)

The office

- shelters the first part of the weighing mechanism: beam and slider (1)
- has a window that served as a counter (2) to give the weighing ticket

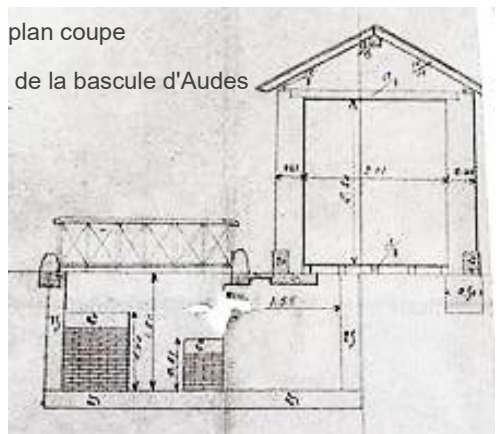


The platform :

is a surface at ground level on which vehicles, animals, or goods were placed.

It is enclosed to directly weigh live animals and has 4 stone wheel guides that helped guide the carts at the entrance and exit.

Under the metal platform, in a pit, is the second part of the weighing mechanism, a complex system of levers connected to the beam.



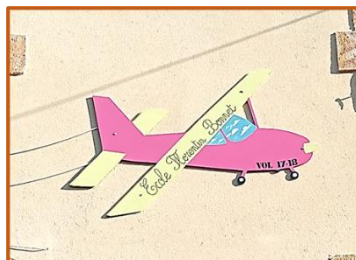
Restoration

The house and platform were cleaned and repainted by a team of volunteers from the Association « les Amis du patrimoine d'Audes.

On December 11, 1924, Florentin Bonnet shattered the world speed record at 448.170 km/h in the Bernard V2 aircraft with a Hispano-Suiza engine (300 hp)

But who was this pilot ?

Florentin Bonnet was born on June 7, 1894, in Audes, at a place called Les Franchises. As a child, he attended the school in Audes. Very athletic, he became a cyclist and won regional competitions. In 1917, he married Marie-Antoinette Marchand, the daughter of a carpenter from La Chapelaude."



During the First World War, his bravery earned him the Croix de Guerre and led to his incorporation into the aeronautics corps. He received his military pilot's license on March 16, 1918, and finished the war with the rank of sergeant. His competitive spirit pushed him towards speed records, and he won several trophies.

He set the French record at 389.890 km/h on November 8, 1924, and the world record a month later. This achievement earned him the rank of second lieutenant, then lieutenant, and the Legion of Honour.

The Bernard-Ferbois aviation company hired him for testing their aircraft.

On August 6, 1929, he was training in Hourtin (Gironde), and a low-altitude loop turned out to be fatal. The cause was believed to be the collapse of his seat back, causing him to fall into the fuselage and preventing him from regaining control of the plane.



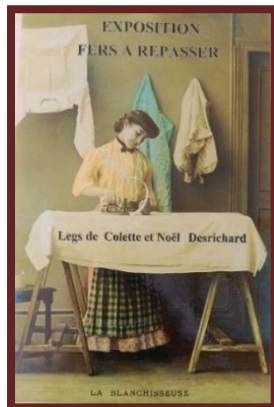
He is buried in the Athis-Mons cemetery.

The two municipalities, La Chapelaude and Audes, honored this pilot by naming the street of his father-in-law's carpentry shop after him in the first, and his school in the second..

Sources : bulletin culturel du pays d'Huriel n° 35 et la brochure « Mémoire aéronautique-groupe Saint-Exupéry »

Noël and Colette Desrichard have built, over thirty years of research in flea markets, a collection of irons and laundry equipment. Different models from around the world have come to enrich it.

In October, 2016, Colette Desrichard donated it to the municipality of Audes.



The concept of the iron has been present in all civilizations since Antiquity

These objects are witnesses to human history and the advancement of technology, allowing them to appear well-maintained in the eyes of others.



How can one talk about irons without mentioning washhouses?

In the mid-19th century, hygienic awareness led to the construction of a large number of public washhouses. Laundry cleaning was a physically demanding activity carried out by washerwomen.

They had a reputation for spreading village gossip! Good and bad news circulated around the washhouse. They used wood ashes to whiten the laundry, indigo powder to give it brightness, soapwort roots to soften it, and iris rhizomes to scent it.

Audes had several washhouses, including one along the wood stream. Their use fell into disuse, and they gradually deteriorated and disappeared under the vegetation.

To visit this collection, please contact the Association

The vineyard house

It is the symbol of a great winemaking past of our country.



It's built solidly from stone and tiles over 9 m², this small house, sometimes called "the lodge," served as a shelter for the winemaker during rain or severe cold, but also as storage for small equipment: for treating or sulfuring, the small vineyard plough, or other tools to work the land..

The vineyard was cultivated over several hundred hectares. In fact, the path behind the Post Office is called "Chemin des Vignes" . It's served numerous small fields. Following the vine disease, phylloxera, in the 1860s/70s, some winemakers replanted, while others did not. The main grape varieties grown were « gouget noir », specific to the Montluçon region, « gamay », and « direct », producing a low-quality red wine. Local production remained significant until the post-war years.

Before the arrival of bottled wine, the winemarkers sold the wine in barrel directly to the inns.



From 1950/1960, some financial aid to uproot the vineyard caused the their disappearance

A resident of Audes passed down as a legacy this little house to the municipality, which entrusted it to our association.

The ruins of La Crête Castle



"Crista," this land belonged to the priory of La Chapelaude, which was under Saint-

"Nestled at the bottom of a valley and built on an island rising in the middle of a pool, and protected on the shore by fortification works" (A. Lesmaris)

From the 13th to the 15th century: it was the property of the lords of Culant. The construction of the first castle, a fortress, dates back to 1275. A wall surrounded the lower courtyard located higher up. The last lady of the Culant family sold it to the Blanchefort family.

In 1554: the property of La Creste was transferred to the Beaucaire family, whose most illustrious member was François de Beaucaire de Puyguillon. He died at the castle in 1591. A bell and a tombstone bearing his name are still present in the current church.

In the 18th century, different owners succeeded one another, among whom we will note:

- . in 1741: the Douët de Vichy family, whose last heiress sold the property at the time of the Revolution

- . in 1792: Antoine Lepescheux, a cousin by marriage of the previous owners.

Without a doubt set on fire in 1793, the castle gradually fell into ruins..

Through inheritance and marriage, the property passed to the La Preugne family in 1836, and then in 1871 to Blanche de La Preugne, wife of Hildebert de La Celle, who bequeathed it to her son Léonce. Starting in 1895, the latter began converting the outbuildings located in the lower courtyard into a new residence. Her son Anet de La Celle would periodically live there with his family and keep the pool around the ruins filled with water.

From 1960 onwards, the ruins were sold along with the new castle and its outbuildings, and this happened many times...

Let us remind you that the site is private property and can be viewed from the path at the place called les Bachelots.

The crosses at crossroads and squares

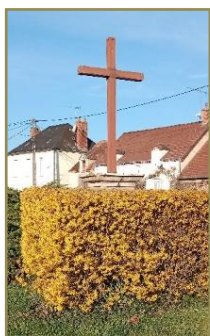
"From the top of the cross, show us the way" Père Aubergé

The crosses are witnesses to the faith of our ancestors, guiding travelers, their figures with multiple decorations adorning the edges of roads and paths, decorating village squares. Today, they are part of our everyday environment.

Of the 14 crosses mentioned in the 19th century, only ten are still standing. We have selected six, worthy of attention.

G

The Jubilee Cross and its eventful history



The previous crosses were successively degraded and replaced several times.

During the French Revolution, a man from Audes cut down the large cross and hid it. The wood, returned by his son, would be used to build the new cross in 1850. That year was the year of the great Jubilee (*) and Father Gilbert Labre wanted to plant a commemorative cross in the middle of the square.

Upon his arrival in Audes in February 1890, Father Alphonse Pierre Gorce noticed that this cross was in poor condition and had it replaced. The solemn blessing ceremony took place in July 1890.

On the night of March 13 to 14, 1921, some drunken young boys attacked the cross with knives and axes, which it withstood.

On April 1, 1921, the cross was broken during a hurricane. It was replaced again.

In May 1941, it is once again struck by a storm, and the current cross is erected..

() jubilee: celebrates the 50th anniversary of an event (for example, a coronation) and, in the Catholic religion, a year of pardon and indulgence*



The Cross of « chemin du bois »

This cross represents the Virgin Mary holding the Child Jesus in her arms. It symbolizes the nativity of Christ and the motherhood of the Virgin Mary. It is an iconographic theme meant to evoke the dual nature of Christ, both human and divine.



The Cross of « Christ de Magnette »



This private cross, located at the intersection of the Montluçon-Vallon and Audes-Reugny roads, was placed by the owner in 1900. The Christ figure was bought in Lorraine.

Because of its location, it is very well known locally and has given its name to the junction known as the 'carrefour du Christ'.

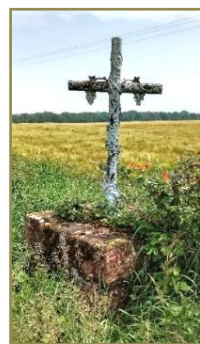


The Cross of « Clavière »

The plant-themed decoration of this cross symbolizes eternity or immortality, with life triumphing over death.

It was erected at the end of the 19th century in memory of the accidental and sudden death of the mayor's wife at the time.

This type of cross is called a "memorial or commemorative cross."





The Cross of «chemin de La Crête »



On the road between Audes and La Chapelaude, there used to be a large wooden cross, erected in 1901 to commemorate a mission on the occasion of the Jubilee (*). It was solemnly blessed after the Christmas High Mass.

It disappeared in the 1980s.

Recently, it was replaced by a Celtic cross with arms extending outside a hollow ring, a synthesis of Christianity and Celtic tradition.

The current owners of the presbytery found it on their property and donated it to our association.

On a 1877 plan, it was placed on the roof of this house. The stones of the base were given by two residents of Audes, which probably came from the church.



The Cross of «La Crête »

It is a 19th-century stone cross.

It stands by the roadside near the entrance of the new La Crête castle.

We do not know the reasons for its placement; is it related to the the property's reputation ?

It is decorated in the center with a medallion bearing the monogram of Christ.

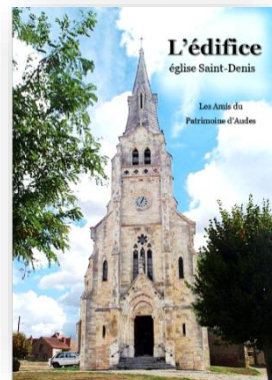




Our village in the middle of the 20th century

The association « Les Amis du Patrimoine d'Audes »

It was created in 1998, is dedicated to the protection, restoration, and preservation of the small heritage of our village, respecting its original purpose. It was essential to the lives of the inhabitants, and it reflects our past to be passed on to future generations. Our role is also to present it to as many people as possible through visits. Its members have already written several books.



They are available by contacting the association:

Adresse postale : Mairie d'Audes

route du Musée - 03190 AUDES

Email : patrimoine.audes@orange.fr

