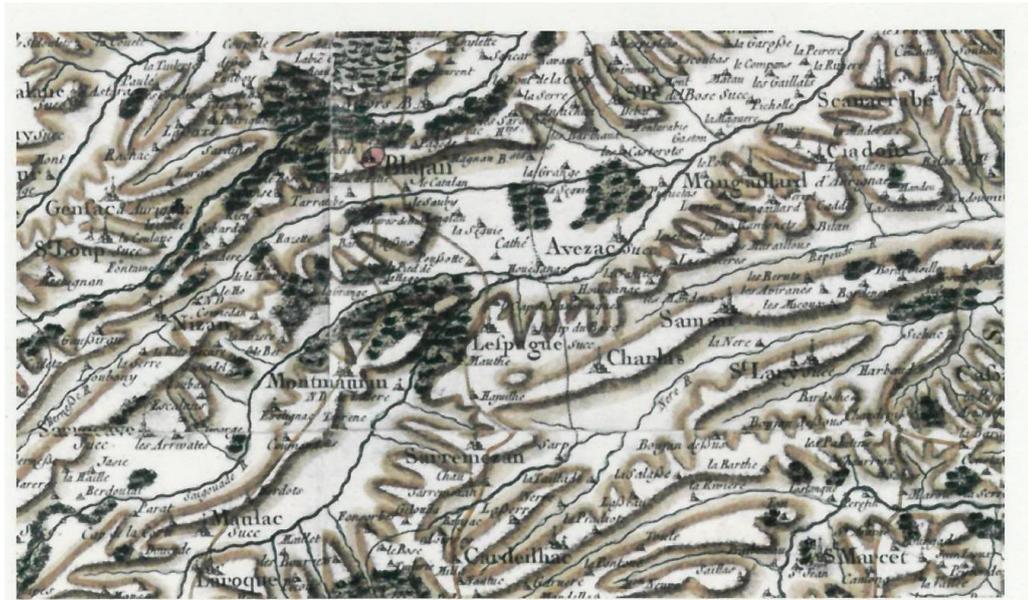
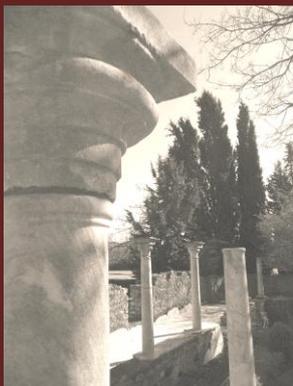


# VILLAGE NEWSLETTER MONTMAURIN COMMUNE

N°22  
MARCH  
2018



BNF - 31 2 06 295 - Carte Cassini, XVIIIè siècle

## EDITORIAL

Dear People, of Montmaurin

The Haute Garonne Departmental Council has just issued an order that the tourist road through the Save Gorge should be closed to the public.

It is a unilateral decision taken in the name of safety because of the department's responsibility given the instability of the cliffs (on the Lespugue side) which could lead to falls of rock onto the road.

Works are recommended and must be undertaken by the administrative bodies (regional and Departmental councils, Communautés de Communes, etc.) who themselves must work together on details of implementation and the extent of the works to be carried out so that access to the site can be reopened.

Please believe that I will take all necessary steps to work together with the administrative bodies so that this exceptional Comminges site may be open to all. This closure impacts on the life of inhabitants and on the regular users, both in their everyday life and their free time activities. It impacts on the site itself so far as the study of its fauna and flora are concerned and our knowledge of it as the home of man since prehistoric times.

Our territory has already suffered and been reduced by the impact of planned quarrying which adds to the impact of closing the Gorge. Yet the richness of our heritage is a complementary attraction to all desired moves to promote tourism.

We have to incite the higher State authorities and local administrative bodies to take measures to give a perpetual public right of access to the road as it had at its inauguration in September 1957.

Sincerely

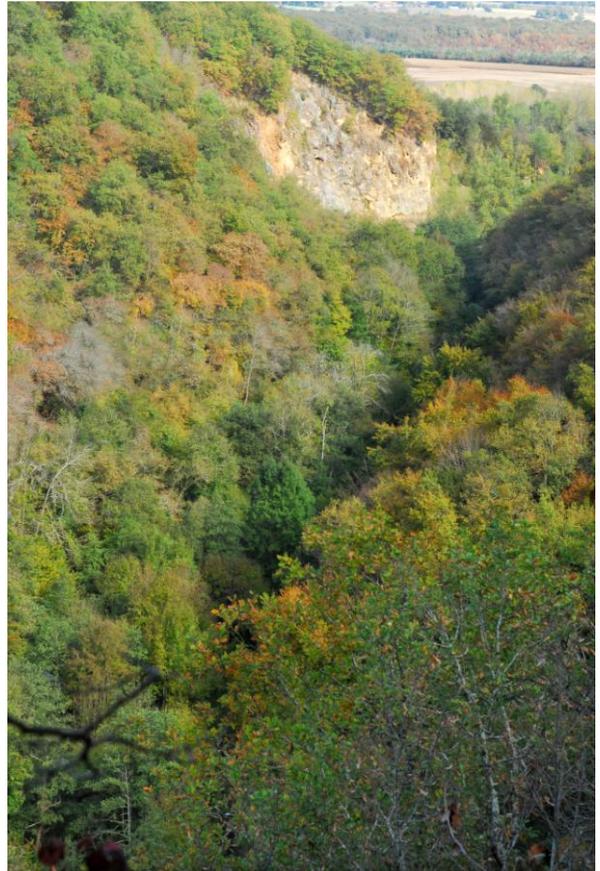
Silvia Belair, Le Maire

## OUR PLANS CONCERNING THE SAVE GORGE



Various institutions, scientists and local associations are working alongside us in different studies to develop the preservation and enhancement of our territory, including, obviously, the Save Gorge with its listed site (5/11/1945) and all of the prehistoric caves along the Save: the steps being taken are:

- The Centre des Monuments Nationaux's overall cultural and touristic plan which revolves around the two Gallo-Roman sites of Lassalles and La Hilliere, and a new Interpretation Centre in the middle of the village but passes by way of the Save Gorge in order to see the flora and fauna;
- The creation of an Atlas of biodiversity which is being developed now so that more is known about the biodiversity of the ZNIEFF (~ SSSI) grade 1- financed by the French Agency for Biodiversity and by the Communauté de Communes Coeur et Côteaux du Comminges;
- Archaeological research centres keen to carry out more excavations in Montmaurin-Lespugue....



All these concerted actions will allow us to enhance and protect our heritage overall.

The tourist road winds for three kilometres along the foot of the Gorge bordered by limestone and makes possible a walk in a natural setting which includes the major archaeological sites of Lespugue and Montmaurin.

The general public makes use of this site for various activities: rock climbing (on the Montmaurin side), fishing, cycling, walking and horse riding, bathing, looking at flora and fauna or archaeology for amateurs with these interests - and it is used the whole year through.

The Save Gorge stands out as a place of public interest because of its history and environment which we must - all of us - preserve.

---

**OPENING TIMES AT THE MAIRIE** : Tuesdays 14-17.00 – Wednesdays and Fridays 14-17.30

You may also see Mme le Mairie by appointment :

Tél. 05 61 88 10 84 – email : [mairie.montmaurin@orange.fr](mailto:mairie.montmaurin@orange.fr)

In an emergency : Silvia BELAIR – Tél. 06 07 23 16 07 – Mairie mobile : 07 85 68 00 91

*This newsletter is distributed in both French and English, is available at the Mairie and can be consulted on the internet site [www.montmaurin.fr](http://www.montmaurin.fr)*

**Photography : Jacques Sabloux**