



## Restoration of the church fountain

Hello everyone.

### The village of Nébias



Portel plateau , Nébias is located 12 km from Quillan at an altitude of 561 m. The village has adapted for the well-being of its inhabitants: creation of a lake for running water, mains drainage and its station, a village hall also serving as a shelter for street traders appreciated by all, a factory for local employment, a grocery store, restaurant, café, a 3-star campsite, a microlight field, and finally the nature trail with its green labyrinth, which generates a dynamic in the village.

## Presentation of the Heritage Defense Association

In 2023, the association for the defense of tangible and intangible heritage was created (*non-profit*).

This association will be either a direct actor or a partner during the restoration of character buildings located in the municipality.



Our first project was the creation and installation of the Nébias coat of arms at the entrance to the village.

## Presentation of the members of the office

President	: Mr Pech Michel
Vice-president	: Mr Delmas Jean Pascal
Secretary	: Mrs. Salavy Marcelle
Vice-Secretary	: Mrs. Claras Sandrine
Treasurer	: Mrs Sylvie Pech
Vice-treasurer	: Mr Pardo Jean Pierre

## The Project

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The restoration of the church fountain corresponds to a strong request from the villagers, to bring back to life this fountain which was a meeting place, of moments of conviviality, of rest while waiting for the filling of the jugs before resuming the thread of life. It also served as a watering trough for the animals which returned to the stable before the evening milking.

Then without maintenance and without much use, no more cow, running water... the fountain fell asleep!!! We went from utilitarian monuments to monuments of memories.

We could not let a monument that bears witness to life at the beginning of the 19th century disappear.

For this we want to make this rehabilitation an example of a project taking into account all environmental measures. Once this project is completed, it can be shown by the association as an example to other municipalities.

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## Special feature of the church fountain



### Analysis of the engraving

Octagonal in shape, at the bottom of the basin there is an engraving, facing the entrance to the castle, including a date: 1820 (which can be attributed to its construction), two Basque crosses in the middle of which is a lily.

A little history is in order:

- The cross is of course found in the Basque Country, but not only! in Alsace, in the Spanish regions of Aragon, Galicia, Asturias and Cantabria, as well as along the Pyrenees mountain range. Thus Nébias can be part of a group observed all along the Pyrenees mountain range.
- In our case, the 2 crosses are attributed to the Mauléon family whose origins are Basque, as well as the lily which is a mark of devotion to the crown of France. ( Marc Antoine V de Mauléon Narbonne, received the title of cavalry camp master, i.e. colonel commanding a cavalry regiment, a rank generally reserved for gentlemen and his genealogy indicates that he had the honors of the court in 1786. He therefore met Louis XVI, proof of the official recognition of his family, his father himself had received the honors of the court in 1782).

The two Basque crosses can be linked to the births in Nébias, of Savary (1762) and Mathieu (1788) of Mauléon Narbonne baron of Nébias.

The date 1820, in addition to its construction, corresponds to within two years of the marriage of Mathieu de Mauléon Narbonne de Nébias with Mathilde Bruyère Chalabre in 1817.

Details of the work

## Specifications

The fountain will be refilled with water in a “responsible” manner  
The water will be used in a closed circuit and will be treated to be clear, but will not be drinkable.

The water supply system will be carried out through a receiver attached to the technical room with a privacy screen around the receiver (approximately 1000l) to compensate for evaporation from the basin. Itself supplied by rainwater from the church.

Use of solar energy for the operation of the hydraulic circuit and water treatment. This, from a solar panel installed on the roof of the church.

Reducing the volume of water by raising the lower threshold of the fountain. This will also have a “positive” environmental impact and also on the risk of drowning. During periods of drought , the fountain will be automatically shut down by the low level threshold of the basin.

Other points:

- Arrangement of the fountain forecourt to facilitate access for people with reduced mobility.
- Placing information around the fountain:
  - Non-potable water.
  - Risk of drowning “depth indication”.
  - Access for people with reduced mobility.
  - History of the fountain: Its construction, its usefulness, its hibernation and its restoration.

For calls for tender: Include a more favorable component for Aude companies that work in the field of reintegration assistance and respect for the environment, end-of-school diploma projects, etc. Without neglecting the cost.

Besides the historical value of this monument, the inhabitants want to keep a memory of the harsh life of past generations.  
Once the fountain has been renovated, it will be the “lighthouse” of the discovery circuit of our basins and wash houses in Nébias and Lafage. (*which was inaugurated during the 2024 Heritage Days*) .

Now it is up to you to help us with your votes so that our project can be realized and pass on to future generations a legacy of our past.  
The villagers of Nébias thank you in advance.

Sincerely