

WHO WE ARE

AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY PROJECT: LES AMIS DE PONTIGNY-CERISY

The Association des Amis de Pontigny-Cerisy (AAPC) was founded in 1952 and granted a public charter in 1972. Today it has approximately 1200 members. There are 20 members of the board, which has been chaired by Jean-Baptiste de Foucauld since 2011, with the support of many distinguished intellectual figures (for a full list please go to: cerisy-colloques.fr).

*"Once again, Cerisy has fulfilled its role as a trailblazer.
I'll lay a bet that one day, people will say that business theory
was founded anew on a fine June morning right here in Cerisy."*

Antoine Frérot

CERISY AND ITS PARTNERS

Cerisy's Circle of Partners was created in 2005. Now led jointly by Antoine Frérot (Veolia) and Armand Hatchuel (MinesParistech), it brings together businesses, local authorities, non-profit organizations and public entities. Its remit is to help Cerisy financially and to suggest topics for conferences on societal issues.

CERISY AND THE REGION

Since 1993, the Regional Coordination Committee (COCOR) brings together various cultural, scientific and educational entities committed to setting up joint projects within the Normandy region. This committee meets twice a year at the CCIC.



COCOR meeting in the autumn of 2019, castle dining room.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

"Cerisy is situated at the very heart of Normandy. Cerisy engages in a permanent dialogue with the world at large. Cerisy has made it its mission to address complex issues in their most universal dimension."

Kléber Arhoull

HOW TO GET TO CERISY

The estate is located in the village of Cerisy-la-Salle, in the département of the Manche, which is part of Normandy. It is 325km from Paris, 130 km from Rennes and 90 km from Caen. The Cerisy team organises regular pick-ups from the rail stations in Coutances (15 km) and Saint-Lô (20 km).

Besides lovely beaches within easy reach (20 km), the area boasts many cultural landmarks such as Hambye Abbey (13 km), Lessay Abbey (35 km), Coutances Cathedral (16 km), the Bayeux Tapestry (56 km) and Mont Saint-Michel (72 km).

HOW TO BE A CERISY MEMBER

Those who wish to support the CCIC and/or to attend one or more of its conferences must join the Association des Amis de Pontigny-Cerisy and pay annual dues. **Membership costs 50 euros per person (10 euros for students under the age of 28).**

For the rates of individual conferences, including room and board and conference events themselves, please go to our web site: cerisy-colloques.fr/inscription/

Special rates apply to students under the age of 28 and people with low incomes.

Events at the CCIC are also open to non-residents.

The Association des Amis de Pontigny-Cerisy is a registered professional and continuing education organization, registration number 25 50 00326 60.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

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LES COLLOQUES
CERISY



THE ESTATE



A FAMILY-OWNED PROPERTY

The manor was built between 1613 and 1625 by a Protestant family belonging to the landed gentry, the Richier. It was bought in 1819 by Joseph Savary, whose descendants still own it today. The property is made available to the Association des Amis de Pontigny-Cerisy free of charge by its current owners, the Heurgon-Peyrou family.

"For me personally, Cerisy is above all a family. Throughout this well-built, grey manor house, be it in the living areas or the individual bedrooms, the stamp of the family is everywhere."

Michel Crozier

A LISTED BUILDING

Built to serve both as a fortress and a country retreat, the manor follows a style, common towards the end of the fifteenth century. Listed as a building of historical significance as early as 1946, the manor and its contents, as well as the ruins of a previous structure and the adjacent farm buildings became a Historic Monument in 1995 *"on account of its architectural quality and homogeneity, as well as its historical and cultural significance, notably as a crucible of modern thought"* Charles de Gaulle's first Minister of Culture, André Malraux, worked tirelessly to secure the label of Historic Monument for Cerisy.

DAILY LIFE AT THE CCIC

Guided tours of the estate are offered throughout July and August. For further information, go to: cerisy-colloques.fr.

Registered participants have access to all common areas of the manor house and its satellite buildings (Escures, Orangerie, Ferme) as well to the extensive grounds and the vegetable garden featuring a delightful nineteenth-century greenhouse.

A CULTURAL ADVENTURE

THE DÉCADES DE PONTIGNY

For generations Cerisy has been the anchor of one family's cultural adventure. The conferences that take place in Cerisy today follow in the footsteps of the Décades de Pontigny founded by Paul Desjardins at Pontigny Abbey in Burgundy.

From 1910 until 1939, leading figures of the period met in Pontigny to discuss literature, philosophy and politics.

FROM PONTIGNY TO CERISY



Conference "Nouveau Roman : hier, aujourd'hui" in Cerisy, 1971:
Claude Simon, Réa Axelos, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Claude Ollier, Jean Ricardou

After WWII, Paul's daughter Anne Heurgon-Desjardins resumed the tradition. In 1952 she founded the Association des Amis de Pontigny-Cerisy. The core mission of the AAPC is to further advances in the social sciences and liberal arts through an annual program of conferences in the fields of literature, philosophy, history and anthropology. The proceedings of these international conferences are subsequently published with the help of the CCIC.

In 1977, Anne's daughters Catherine Peyrou and Edith Heurgon took over and modernized the concept by becoming ever more inclusive in terms of conference topics and participants.

CONFERENCES

Today, Catherine's son Dominique Peyrou has joined his aunt Edith at the helm of the Centre culturel international de Cerisy, which they run with the help of family members and a dedicated staff.

"The challenge Cerisy meets every day is to combine the qualities of a home with those of a lively arena for public debate."

Isaac Joseph

THE CONFERENCES

WHAT CERISY CONFERENCES HAVE TO OFFER

- a unique experience in collective thinking
- a chance to take part in high level cultural and scientific exchanges
- a chance to access a varied programme covering a wide array of topics
- a chance to experiment with different seminar formats
- a chance to spend time in a warm and friendly environment

WHO IS CERISY FOR?

- anybody and everybody
- scholars, artists, writers, teachers, students and public employees
- local people and people from all over the world
- people whose intellectual affinities transcend the narrow confines of their own discipline
- friends who end up treating Cerisy as their own private retreat

HOW CERISY WORKS

- 40 to 80 participants per conference
- about 20 conferences a year
- about 1200 participants per season
- over 800 conferences since 1952
- over 600 publications, and counting

"At the end of the day, everybody leaves feeling they have learnt something they couldn't possibly have learnt anywhere else."

Henri Atlan



The library is one of two rooms hosting the conferences of Cerisy