

Why not discover the hamlet of ALLAIN

Departure : *Aqua Tournai*

a) The Wild Rose Strand (*plage des Eglantiers*)

The principal biological resources of the site are to be discovered from the former oven ramp and terrace. These ones were called The Wild Rose Strand.

The local section of the Belgian Naturalistic Club has always been sensible to the interest of this natural green setting and in collaboration with the City of Tournai, owner of the site, the members have become involved in preserving and letting this hidden side of the Orient quarry known through the organisation of both management days and guided tours (on Sundays in July and August at 10.00 a.m.) Apart from organised activities, the Wild Rose Strand is closed to the public but in the coming twenty years it should benefit a scientific support to make this worthy local richness known and protected.

Curator: P. Verleye : 069/21.25.01.

b) The Orient Oven (*four de l'Orient*) (pointed-shaped arcades)

c) The Cockerill engine (*locomotive*)

The origin of this type of engine dates from 1867 (built until 1949).

The use of a vertical placed boiler (bottle-shaped) allowed the manufacturing of a vehicle taking a very small surface area. This locomotive was quick to get pressured and it could easily be adapted to any gauge as well as to any radius of curvature. It was offered by the Belgian Cement Company to the museum of industrial archaeology of Tournai and in 1988 it was put up before the recreation centre.

The Fountain of the Orient Roundabout (*rond-point*) (2000) symbolises the new allocation of this site into a recreation ground.

- o half arcades looking like the ones of the lime ovens of the mineral stone basin
- o polyester-made figures covered with a sheen, hymn to the youth

Former railway track Tournai-Orchies (*ancienne voie de chemin de fer*) (to become a cycling path called RAVEL starting from the Orient)

It allows accesses to the right bank (Allain) of the Scheldt and to the left one (Chereq or to the City Centre) as well as to both towpaths.

The grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes

(*grotte de Lourdes*)

A former quarry was converted into a grotto and dedicated to worship and meditation. Between 1915 and 1960 it was flooded several times because of the stopping of pumping water out of the nearby quarries. Then it was raised. Services are held every Sunday at 17.00 from May 1st to August 31st and the site is open to the public all the year round. The grotto **Tunnel** was formerly used for carrying the stones to the Scheldt and during the Second World War bombings the inhabitants of the hamlet used it as a shelter. Nowadays it is a hibernation place for bats.

Saint-Amand's Church (*église Saint Amand*)

In 1860 this church in neoromanesque style was built with the local stone on a small hill overlooking the Scheldt. Services are held every Sunday at 17.00.

Herman Planque Monument

The mausoleum is a tribute to the prisoners brought to Germany during World Wars One and Two. It was erected on the square called after Herman Planque, an oven worker, who was deported and died, aged 27 after cruel treatment inflicted on him by the occupying army during World War One.

Shortly before he was sent to a camp he would shout:

"**They will not make a stone worker shake**".

H. Planque: that man used to draw lime from the oven and shovel it into a metal wheelbarrow.

Cemetery of Allain (*cimetière*) (the smallest of Tournai) with the crypt of the Lefebvre family (one of the most important in Belgium with regard to the number of buried people in it)

www.chez.com/allaintournai

T.T.C. Allain (*Tennis de Table Club*)

Local table tennis club with a good one hundred affiliated members. They have participated both to the federation and the local championships for more than 40 years. Practice days: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 18.00; beginners' courses on Wednesdays afternoon. (Secretary: Daniel Février : 069/22.84.17)

The site of Shooting Club 45 (*grange aux dimes*)

This industrial complex was exploited until about 1945. It included lime ovens, a barn where goods were tithed and a tile factory. In 1980 the "Shooting Club 45" association redeveloped the site. One of the tunnels, which was formerly a passage for the rail link between the Orient quarry and the Scheldt, shelters large-bore shooting.

The oven ramp used for loading (*rampe*) leading to the terrace of

The Madelon's Oven (*four Madelon*) : last oven in good condition that has been listed a historic building. It is now a sight and a meeting place for artists.

Saint John the Baptist's Oven (*four Saint Jean-Baptiste*) (1722)
Built below the main road, in the middle of the quarry it belonged to.

Marousse's Oven (*four Marousse*), also called Landas, with workers' houses built against its walls or even on its terrace (listed in the Belgian historic heritage), Herman Planque used to work there as an oven worker. *Le Logis Tournaisien* should renovate these houses shortly.

The silos at 'Les Bastions' (1922) one of the first Belgian realisations of prestressed concrete. (strengthened concrete by having stretched cables inside it to avoid distortion)

Paraboloid (1960)

Concrete umbrella (500 m_ big) sheltering trucks while they were being loaded with cement. The pillar is only 1 m_ big at its lowest part.

Quarry workers' houses of the White Country

(*maisons des rochiers*) (along the Scheldt - *Escant*)

Houses built of whitewashed rubble stones. Young people are now renovating these houses to give them a new life and protect their original character.