

August 6th and 7th 2022

On Saturday 6th, from 5 pm on.

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am on.

Join us for the festivities

### **A few historic landmarks**

#### **Our Castle**

Let's find out a few historic landmarks about our castle. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Urvoid de Commequiers built a wooden stronghold on a stone base. The castle that you have here was not constructed until the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The owner was Louis de Beaumont, a man of war, a governor, a diplomat and counsellor of kings Charles VII and Louis XI. With its eight towers connected by curtain walls, our castle has an almost unique octagonal shape in France. Constructed with granite, schist and limestone, the fortress is isolated on a small island. The flared bases of its towers make them more resistant to attacks ... except for artillery attacks. It seems that the life in the castle, including military life, was well-organised. However this castle keeps many things secret – we don't know much about the position of the arrow slits, the location of the entrance, the cellar, underground galleries or the real use of the castle. Unfortunately, we have very few archives. Despite its originality and imposing construction, the castle of Commequiers gradually lost its role as a protection for the poitevin territory. In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was dilapidated and therefore abandoned as fashion was changing. Such Structures, said to be medieval, were considered uncomfortable, cold, austere and old-fashioned. The decisive blow came when Louis XIII, who decided to destroy the numerous castles set up by the lords in the region, to assert his power. In 1628, our castle was dismantled and became a stone quarry for the peasants living around. As it was no longer maintained, it was covered with vegetation and it fell in oblivion. It came back to life in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, partly thanks to you all who come to admire it.

#### **ADVC**

The association « Les Amis Du Vieux Château » (ADVC) was born in 1965 thanks to Henri Le Moelle, a doctor in Commequiers. Passionate about history and stones, he was afraid that the castle might be sold or dismantled and gathered goodwill people to come to the rescue of the castle. Since Dr Le Moelle's death in 1996, the association ADVC has kept maintaining the castle with passion. Preservation works, heritage days, garage sales, the medieval festivities and other events are organised all year long to make this exceptional site better known. The medieval festivities have taken place every year, on the first weekend of August since 1991. This event gathers 250 volunteers of the ADVC and of other associations, 20 medieval companies, which represents between 150 and 200 medievalists in camps – with 50 medieval tents. The association aims at preserving and enhancing the castle as well as making it better known, in order to safeguard it for the generations to come.