

The Paths of Montfarville

When we meet holiday makers they frequently ask us the way. We advise them to take such and such a path ('chasse') or way near such a hamlet.

Montfarville extends to 550 hectares and seems larger than Barfleur or Reville. Many hamlets (Le Castel, etc ...) are linked by many paths . The 'chasses' are numerous: more than 26 of various lengths. Some inhabitants have tarred the path passing in front of their houses, and that path has disappeared. We may also remember a path which was a short cut to the sea but is now forgotten because of brambles obstructing the way. In the past those paths were called 'caches' in Norman Patois (and not chasses), footpaths edged with hedges or little country tracks.

What is sure is all year long you find new landscapes wandering in those chasses. Here an ancient washing place which gave the 'washer -women' the opportunity to exchange village stories; there a dovecote which provided fertiliser for the fields with the pigeon droppings ; a well (now partly filled in) into which budding explorers used to go in order to discover the underground tunnels to the castle. When Spring arrives, hikers venture into the chasses with their cameras. In the Spring of 2009 , 100 tons of stones were laid onto those chasses partially broken up by the rain.

Do not hesitate to take them, to discover another Montfarville.