

# Place de l'Orme



The square in 1900 © Mairie de Gadagne

The square was the democratic centre of the village, because it was

here, in the shade of this tree, that the consuls held their meetings in manorial times. The choice of the assembly's location was probably guided by the fact it was right next to the first medieval wall. The current central fountain is a copy of the one demolished in 1987. On bad weather days, the counsellors would take shelter at the foot of the neighbouring clock tower before moving to what would later be known as Maison Tavan, at 22 Grand'rue.

A communal oven was later built either side of the tower. The villagers would come here to bake their bread, in exchange for handing over one in every 16 loaves. Plane trees have replaced the original elm (*orme* in French, the square's namesake).



## The clock tower

The building of the clock tower began in 1751. It was capped by a wrought iron steeple. The bell which still rings to this day bears the year 1601. A bronze sculpture represents a crucifix to the north and Virgin and Child to the south. For nearly 400 years, this bell has rung in the hours through happy and sad times in the village.

## Maison de Tavan

In 1781, the building where the consul meetings were held (and which later became the communal oven at the foot of the clock tower) was in danger of collapse. The parliament bought a house on Grand'rue to host the meetings. This house was later owned by poet Anfos Tavan from 1848 when the town hall was moved to the house of Piette Goujon, where it can still be found today.

To celebrate the centenary of his birth, the municipality erected the plaque whose inscription translates as:

*In this house writer*

*And one of the seven 'masters', Alphonse Tavan  
sang, cried, wrote books,*

*With his wife and child.*

