

# Bulletin !

An informal and unofficial look at life in this part of France and a selection of things to see and do.

## Thought for the month:

Happiness is a way to travel, not a destination

(Roy M Goodman)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area [ '35' = area; ± = stalls expected]

3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Le Teilleul (50)	<i>brocante</i> in large warehouse on D976, 9h-18h
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup>	Isigny-le-Buat (50)	v-g, ±30
“	La Ferrière-aux-Etangs (61)	v-g in <i>centre bourg</i> , ±150
“	Genêts (50)	v-g, ±150
“	St Bomer-les-Forges (61)	v-g, ±50
Mon. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Ceaucé (61)	v-g, ±50
“	Ducey (50)	v-g, ±50
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dompierre (61)	v-g, in <i>le bourg</i> , ±50
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Joué-du-Bois (61)	v-g, ±70
«	Domfront (61)	v-g in <i>rue de la Gare</i> , ±50
“	St Mars d'Egrenne (61)	<i>Puces Médardaises</i> in <i>terrain communal</i> , ±70
Sat. 17 <sup>th</sup>	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g in Leclerc car park, ±30
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Le Teilleul (50)	v-g, ±50
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup>	St Hilaire-du-Harcouët (61)	v-g in <i>centre ville</i> , ±30
W/e 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in <i>rue de la Libération</i> , ±150
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Saint-Siméon (61)	v-g, ±50
“	La Lande-Patry (61)	v-g in the <i>Stade</i> , ±150

Visit [www.brocabrac.fr](http://www.brocabrac.fr) which is constantly updated with *brocantes* / *vide-greniers*, including any changes.

Special dates / public holidays:

Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Pentecôte</i>
Mon. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Lundi de Pentecôte</i>
W/e 17 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Journées du Patrimoine</i>

## Eating out : *l'Echauguette* in Domfront (61)

This popular *crêperie/pizzeria* on 12 Grande Rue, Domfront [the sloping road up towards the Old Town] has changed ownership after 12 years. A good selection of pizzas, salads, crêpes, galettes and classic desserts. Take-away is available. There is also a terrace at the back. Open Tues. to Sats. 12h-13h30 & 19h-21h. [TripAdvisor rated at No.2 out of 10 restaurants in Domfront]. 02 33 37 71 71

## 9<sup>th</sup> *Fête des Plantes - 'Entre Ville et Jardin'*

On the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 18h, this popular garden fête, organised by the *Association Entre Ville et Jardin*, is held in the grounds (*le parc-arboretum*) of the château of Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) surrounded by 154 species of magnificent trees. The theme at this festive and convivial event is again "*La couleur au jardin*" - 60 stands with artisans and expo/sale of plants and garden objects. Entry 2,50€, under 12s free. More info: [www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

## *Les Jardins de Renaudies* – events in June

Events at these pretty gardens at Le Mézerais, near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) where you can enjoy the 3,000 species of flowers, plants and trees. There is also the *Ecomusée* and *Salon de Thé Anglais*. For more info: [www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr](http://www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr)

Sun. 4<sup>th</sup>: '*Rendezvous aux Jardins*' with the theme "*Musique et couleurs d'Afrique*". A couscous lunch is possible (on reservation), Adults 14€, children 7€.

Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> & Sun. 18<sup>th</sup>: '*Journées du Patrimoine*' – guided visits (in French) at 15h & 16h30.

Sun. 25<sup>th</sup>: '*Peintres aux Jardins*': artists set up their easels around the gardens and you can watch them as they paint. Judging from 17h.

## *'Les Guinguettes'* in Saint-Fraimbault (61)

On Friday evenings from 23<sup>rd</sup> June until 4<sup>th</sup> Aug., from 18h-23h (with a short break at 20h) you can dance beside the lake on an area of 200m<sup>2</sup> (covered if raining) to the sound of accordions. Entry: 6€ which includes a *crêpe* and bowl of cider. [Note: on 7<sup>th</sup> July it will be free]. No need to book – just turn up and dance the night away in this lovely setting!

## Book signing – latest novel by Ursula Benjamin

Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> at 18h at *l'Épicerie* in Fontaine-Daniel (53) author Ursula Benjamin will be launching her 5<sup>th</sup> book - a Victorian Gothic novel called 'The Soul Wife' - with a talk at 18h, followed by an *apéro* (apéritif) and book signing at 19h. [www.ursulabenjamin.com](http://www.ursulabenjamin.com). Valerie, of SOS Anglo, will also be there with her second 'SOS Anglo Meet & Greet' where English residents in the area can meet others in this lovely setting.

## 'Hog Roast' in support of Grande-Daze Animal Companion Centre

Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> from 19h30 at '*La Grande Gaudinière*', La Bigottière (53): a Hog Roast/*Soirée Cochon Grillé* (a vegetarian alternative is available - please request on booking) with vegetables, bread & dessert included; bar, tombola, music. Entry by ticket only: 15€ (children's menu: 5€), available from Jenny (02 43 02 96 35) or direct from the Grande-Daze website: [www.grandedaze.com/hog-roast-soiree-cochon-grille](http://www.grandedaze.com/hog-roast-soiree-cochon-grille)

### 'Les riches heures' in Fougères (35)

Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> within the walls of the Château de Fougères, as part of the *Fête Médiévale*: On the Fri: at 20h a *soirée spectacle* with Irish dancers at 20h30 and singer Dayan at 21h30. During the weekend from 11h: parades and entertainment; also demos of falconry, a puppet show; and you can visit the medieval military encampment in the *Jardins du Val de Nançon*. Adults 5€, under 10s free.

### Cancer Support France Nord – events in June

Info for new readers: Cancer Support France Nord is a voluntary not for profit association which provides free confidential support for English speaking people affected by cancer, and is part of Cancer Support France (CSF). The day centre in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50) is normally open on Mondays & Thursdays from 10h to 14h and a light lunch is available, no need to book. Contact the day centre at [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org), or by phoning 02 33 69 01 05. Here are the events in June:-

☞ Thurs. 1<sup>st</sup>: monthly brunch at the day centre, served between 10h & 13h

☞ Sun. 11<sup>th</sup>: 'Party in the Parc' – this is in the *Parc Animalier* at St Symphorien des Monts (50). Gates open at 17h, and tickets are 14€ (under 12s: 7€) which includes entry to the Parc and a BBQ with salads and dessert. Live music by the duo 'John & Paul'. There are market stalls, and carriage rides around the Parc. To book your tickets contact CSF Nord at [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org) or phone 02 33 69 01 05.

☞ Fri. 16<sup>th</sup>: monthly lunch, 12,50€ per person. Contact the day centre to reserve your place.

☞ Sat. 24<sup>th</sup>: Quiz Night at the day centre. Tickets are 8,50€ to include a supper of lasagne and tiramisu. Please take your own drink and glasses

### 'Rendez-vous aux Jardins' at the Château de la Ballue

On Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sun. 4<sup>th</sup> at the gardens of the Château de la Ballue in Bazouges-la-Pérouse (35), the theme is '*le partage aux jardins*'. Entry: Adults 9,50€, 10s-18s: 7,50€, under 12s free. More info from the Fougères Tourist Office: 02 99 94 12 20

### Something for all the family in the Parc de Vaux

There are many activities to enjoy at the *Parc de Vaux* near Ambrières-les-Vallées (53): swimming pool, bike rental, tennis courts, horse-riding, canoeing, picnic area, etc. English is spoken at the *Accueil*, where you will also find more information.

### Visit the Forges de Varennes, Champsecret (61).

Between 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> Sept., daily (except Mons & Thurs) at 15h30, you can visit this most complete and best preserved wood forge in Europe. Classed a *Monument Historique* in 1987, it was a major site of iron production from the 16<sup>th</sup> century using coal and hydro energy. You will be shown the blast furnace, refinery, blacksmiths' houses and flour mill. Entry: 5€ (under 12s free). Animals accepted. Nearby picnic area, bar, cafeteria and *Salon de Thé*. More info from the *Assoc Les Forges de Varenne*, 06 15 74 53 68

## Entertainment & Concerts

Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 19h at the *Centre d'Art Contemporain* in Pontmain (53) a free *apéro*-concert by guitarist Raoul Vignal, with 10 songs from his latest album 'The Silver Veil'.

Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 20h in the bar/restaurant '*Le P'tit Chef*' in Saint-Fraimbault (6) 'Volcanic Ash' (Ian Ash) will be playing his popular mix of 60s/70s/80s music. Let's go and support our very own 'rock star'! Ash will also be playing outside the *Bar des Sports* in Gorron (53) on Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> at 21h, during the *Fête de Musique*.

### 'Cantamus' concert in Domfront (61)

The next 'Cantamus' concert is on Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> at 15h30 in l'Eglise Notre-Dame de l'Eau in Domfront (the lower town). 'Cantamus' ladies are pleased to be performing in the *Fête de Musique* concerts in Domfront this year. This well-known local ensemble will present their usual mix of music - traditional and contemporary, folk and gospel songs, some old favourites, new pieces and always a few surprises – something for everyone. Entrance free. For more info contact Lesley Thomson (02 33 38 09 44) or check their facebook page

### *Festival Fougères Musicales*

§ Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 20h30 in l'Eglise St-Sulpice in Fougères (35): a concert with Xavier Philips, Gabriel Richard & Emmanuel Strosser

§ Fri. 9<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in l'Eglise Saint-Sulpice in Fougères: François Dumont and the Quintet 'Thymos'.

§ Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> at 20h30: a concert at the Centre Culturel Juliette Drouet in Fougères with the Sirba Orchestra and *l'Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne*. 55 musicians unite for this *soirée* with '*un voyage toubillonnant entre joie et melancholie, gaieté et nostalgie*'.

§ Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in l'Eglise Saint-Sulpice in Fougères: a piano recital by Bernard Chamayou.

Tickets, and more info, available at the Fougères Tourist Office ([www.ot-fougères.fr](http://www.ot-fougères.fr))

### Organ concert and recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

A concert and recital at 17h in l'Eglise Sainte Madeleine: Free, with a collection. More info: [www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

♪ on Mon 5<sup>th</sup>: 'Organ & Voice – Wind & Fire': Jean-Marie Godard (baritone), Marina Mineau (soprano) Chantal Pruvot (alto) with Jean-Claude Duval (organ): *Hommage à l'Esprit-Saint* – Grégorien, Nivers, Campra, Grigny, Bach;

♪ on Wed. 21<sup>st</sup>: Othar Chedlivili. (head organist of the Cathedral St-Pierre in Montpellier) with works by Lübeck, Bach, Marchand, Mozart.

### Romans in the town of Jublains (53)

On Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun. 4<sup>th</sup>, 14h-18h, organised by the *Musée Archéologique* in Jublains, you can travel through time, back to a Gallo-Roman town in the early centuries B.C., where 100 costumed re-enactors bring the past to life. You can visit a military encampment of that era, and enjoy entertainments of the era. Entry: 6€; 7s-18s: 4,50€. [www.museedejublains.fr](http://www.museedejublains.fr)

## Painting Workshops in Carelles (53)

Artist Ron Machin will be running 2 Painting Workshops at 'Le Fresnay' in Carelles:

14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> (2 afternoons): Introduction to Watercolour Painting – 25€

24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> (2 afternoons): Introduction to Oil and Acrylic Painting – 25€.

Understanding the principles, de-mystifying the techniques and exploring the medium. All levels welcome, individual tuition and customised work. Full artist's studio and *al fresco* painting. All materials and refreshments provided. Limited places, so reserve early at 02 43 05 59 25, or e-mail: [rtpmachin@googlemail.com](mailto:rtpmachin@googlemail.com)

## Mistletoe and thistle

A seasonal reminder that the removal and destruction of mistletoe (*le gui*) from all poplars and fruit trees is compulsory. Also, all landowners, especially those absent for part of the year, must remove or arrange to destroy any thistle (*le chardon*) on their land before it flowers, including any in the areas along the borders.

## Useful advice about your freezer – electrical current

When returning to the house after a short or long absence (especially after a holiday) we may find that the electrics were cut at some point (perhaps a digital clock is flashing?) so how do we know how long it was off before being reinstated? Did the contents of the freezer defrost and re-freeze (which is not good). To check if that has happened all you need is a cup of water and a coin. Put the cup of water in the freezer. Wait about an hour for the water to freeze, then place a coin on top of the ice and put it all back in the freezer. When you return to the freezer, if the coin is still on top of the ice, all is well. However, if it has sunk it means that the contents of the freezer were defrosted and re-frozen. It is a good idea to do this anyway, and if there was a local cut in the electricity supply you can tell how long it was off and you can be sure if the contents are safe to eat.

## 'Le Papillon' restaurant – now in Gorrion (53)

'Le Papillon' restaurant, pizzeria and bar has moved from Landivy to 1-3 rue Corbeau Paris in Gorrion (53). There is a daily *midi* (3 courses, wine/cider included, for 12€), *à la carte* menu, pizzas (+ take-away). For reservations: 02 43 05 86 47; [lepapillon53@orange.fr](mailto:lepapillon53@orange.fr).

## Le Jardin du Ridrel in La Ferté-Macé (61)

Serge and Maryvonne Fleury again welcome visitors to their lovely gardens at 26, rue des Ridrels on selected weekends each year. In June, this is on Sundays 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. You can meander down paths and discover areas with roses, Japanese maples, clematis, etc. Entry is 2€, which goes to the Hospital of Valognes and also helps towards the care of the people there suffering from Alzheimers. 02 33 37 15 73

## Fête: 'La Belle Epoque' in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

This takes place on Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> from 11h to 18h at the *Jardins du Lac* (by the lake). There will be a fashion parade, 19<sup>th</sup> century-themed procession, buggy rides, artists in the streets and music (jazz, swing, chorales, Barbary organ, etc.) Free. More info from the Tourist Office ([www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com))

## Events in Saint-Cyr du Bailleul (50)

☞ Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 19h30 in the bar ‘*Chez Jannick*’ (opposite the church): ‘*Moules Frites Night*’, with *apéritif* & dessert for 20€ (more than one portion if you wish). Bar open at 19h

☞ Fri. 16<sup>th</sup> from 19h30 also in the bar ‘*Chez Jannick*’: ‘*Paella Night*’. Bar open at 19h. Reservations (needed for both of these events): phone 02 33 49 70 07 or 0785 86 30 110.

☞ Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> the *Comité des Fêtes* organises a Summer Feast, with a meal & dance in the *Salle des Fêtes* at the *Mairie*. Tickets: 14€: *apéritif*, big couscous, cheese, dessert and coffee. There is a DJ for the dance.

☞ Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> from 13h30 there is a *concours de pétanque (boules)* behind the *Mairie*, in teams of 2 people. Inscription: 5€ per person, prize money of 200€, 160€ & 120€. There is a bar & snacks, and a bouncy castle. For more info contact Fien: [racerke63@hotmail.com](mailto:racerke63@hotmail.com)

## Exhibition *Aquarelles Botaniques*’ by Catherine Delhorn

From 1<sup>st</sup> June to 16<sup>th</sup> July, 14h30 to 18h30, in *Les Jardins de la Mansonnrière* in St Céneri-le-Gérei (61). Entry 5€, under 12s free. [www.ornetourisme.com](http://www.ornetourisme.com)

## Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . .

Recycling – each person in France has recycled the equivalent of 10kg of electrical and electronic goods in the past year as the country hit a recycling record. Recycling group *Eco-systèmes* said it took in 517,000 tonnes of electrical waste in 2016, up 12.3% on 2015 – and 2017 is already at 4.2 million items.

## Festival *l’Art en liberté* in St-Fraimbault (61)

On 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> you can watch artists of all ages & abilities, and all disciplines, creating their works around the town, beside the *plan d’eau* and in the garden of the *Mairie*.

## *Les Grottes de Saulges* – prehistoric caves

The *grottes* (caves) at *Le Roche Brault*, Thorigné-en-Charnie (53) have been closed from Nov. 2016 to March this year to avoid disturbing the bats which spend the winter there. Unique in NW France, these are natural caves, situated in the valley de l’Erve. There are 20 caves, 2 of which can be visited:- *la Grotte de Margot* and also *la Grotte de Rochefort* which offers the most interesting archaeological discoveries.

There is a *Musée de Préhistoire* on site, open between March & November. For more details, and opening times, go to [www.grottes-de-saulges.com](http://www.grottes-de-saulges.com)

## 2016: a great year for Bordeaux wine

Thousands of wine professionals descended on Bordeaux in May to taste last year’s wine before it is bottled in what is known as the *primeur* – and called 2016 an exceptional year with wines showing density and complexity.

## Emmaüs Special Sale in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Emmaüs *brocante* at the *Ferme de Paron* in Fougères, you can find a bargain and help towards providing homes for those in need. Open 9h-12h & 14h-17h.

## Sport & Leisure Activities

### Walk: ‘*Le Chemin des Templiers*’

Tues. 6<sup>th</sup> from 15h to 18h30, this 10km walk in the area of Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) explores the route of the Knights Templar. Reservation needed before 11h30 on the day. 4€ (under 12s free). Sorry, no dogs. More info from the Tourist Office ([www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com))

### Learn to dance the *cha-cha-cha*

Thurs. 29<sup>th</sup> from 21h to 22h at the Lounge Café in the Casino of Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): a free lesson is offered by *La Compagnie des Arts de Bagnoles*. More info from the Tourist Office.

### ‘Bollywood’ dancing

On Mondays 6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, from 20h15 to 21h45, in the Salle Maurice-Tencé in Domfront (61) you can discover this dancing that combines grace, dynamism and good humour. Inscriptions: 02 33 38 28 45 or email [alexandra.aluk@gmail.com](mailto:alexandra.aluk@gmail.com)



That’s all for this month. Something here for everyone, hopefully - especially gardeners, music lovers, artists and dancers! Have fun!

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La Croix des 4 Epines

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Events by the day (not including *vide-greniers*):

June 2017

Date	Event	Place	Page
Thurs. 1 <sup>st</sup>	CSF Nord monthly brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
Fri. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Moules Frites</i> Night	St Cyr du Bailleul	6
“	<i>Apéro-concert</i> by Raoul Vignal	Pontmain	4
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Rendez-vous aux Jardins</i>	Bazouges-la-Pérouse	3
Sat. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	‘Volcanic Ash’ at ‘ <i>Le P’tit Chef</i> ’	Saint-Fraimbault	4
“	Concert in <i>l’Eglise St-Sulpice</i>	Fougères	4
“	Emmaüs Special Sale	Fougères	6
W/e 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup>	‘Romans in the town’	Jublains	4
“	9 <sup>th</sup> <i>Plants en fete</i>	Bagnoles de l’Orne	2
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Rendez-vous aux Jardins</i>	Colombiers du Plessis	2
“	Visit <i>Le Jardin du Riduel</i>	La Ferté-Macé	6
Mon. 5 <sup>th</sup>	‘Organ & Voice – Wind & Fire’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Tues. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Walk ‘ <i>le chemin des Templiers</i> ’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	7
Thurs. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Book signing – Ursula Benjamin	Fontaine-Daniel	2
Fri. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Quintet ‘Thymos’	Fougères	4
Sat. 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Orchestre Symphonique de Bretagne</i>	Fougères	4
10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Festival <i>l’Art en liberté</i>	St-Fraimbault	6
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Party in the Parc – [CSF Nord]	St Symphorien des Monts	3
“	Visit to <i>Le Jardin du Riduel</i>	La Ferté-Macé	6
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	Painting Workshop – Watercolours	Carellles	5
Fri. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Couscous Night	St Cyr du Bailleul	6
“	CSF Nord monthly lunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
Sat. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Hog Roast [in support of Grande-Daze]	La Bigottière	2
“	Piano recital	Fougères	4
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Journées du Patrimoine</i>	All over France	1, 2
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup>	‘ <i>Cantamus</i> ’ concert	Domfront	4
Wed. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Les Riches Heures</i>	Fougères	3
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Feast	St Cyr du Bailleul	6
“	CSF Nord Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Painting Workshops: Oil & Acrylics	Carellles	5
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Peintres aux jardins</i>	Colombiers du Plessis	2
“	<i>Fête ‘La Belle Epoque’</i>	Bagnoles de l’Orne	5
“	<i>Concours de pétanque</i>	St Cyr du Bailleul	6