

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

It is never too late to be what you might have been

(George Eliot)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area ['50' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Sat. 1 st	St Hilaire du Harcouët (50)	v-g, <i>centre-ville</i> , ±50
“	Cancale (35)	v-g, rue Pierre Coubertin, ±70
Sun. 2 nd	Flers (61)	<i>braderie, centre-ville</i> , ±70
“	St Céneri-le-Gérei (53)	v-g in <i>terrain communal</i> , ±50
“	St Fraimbault-de-Prières (53)	Grand v-g du Nord Mayenne, Place de l'Eglise, 8h-18h, ±200
“	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in <i>Terrain de Belle Lande</i> , ±70
“	Juvigné-le-Tertre (50)	v-g, ±70
W/e 8 th & 9 th	St Benoit des Ondes (35)	v-g, ±150
“	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g, route de St Maurice du Désert, ±70
Sun. 9 th	Saint-James (50)	v-g, Avenue de Gaulle, ±150
Fri. 14 th	Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)	v-g, <i>centre-ville</i> , ±150
“	St. Germain en Coglés (35)	v-g, ±70
“	Tinchebray (61)	v-g in <i>Champ de Foire</i> , ±50
“	Hirel (35)	v-g on Esplanade du Moulin. ±50
“	Le Teilleul (50)	<i>brocante</i> in large warehouse, low prices!
Sun. 16 th	La Fresnais (35)	v-g at <i>La Renaudière</i> , ±150
W/e 22 & 23	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g in <i>Quartier Château</i> , ±300
Sun. 23 rd	Meslay-du-Maine (53)	v-g in <i>Place de la Poste</i> , ±150
“	Le Loroux (35)	v-g, ±70
Sat. 29 th	Avranches (50)	<i>Grand Braderie d'Avranches, centre-ville</i> , ±250
Sun. 30 th	St Céneri-le-Gérei (61)	v-g in the <i>pré communal de bourg</i> , ±50

Visit www.brocabrac.fr and which is constantly updated with *brocantes / vide-greniers*, including any changes.

Special dates / public holidays:

Fri. 14th *Fête Nationale ('Prise de la Bastille 1789')*

Eating out : *Les Voyageurs* in Chailland (53)

[With thanks to Lynn C. for this recommendation]: The *Hotel Restaurant 'Les Voyageurs'* doesn't look much from the outside, but inside it is beautifully decorated, lovely table settings with linen cloths & napkins and lovely glassware. The *midi* was excellent: 3 courses with wine or cider & coffee, for 13€. Lynn has been there several times and says the food is always excellent.

Les Jardins de Renaudies

On Fri. 14th from 10h to 18h at these pretty gardens near Colombiers du Plessis (53) is the Garden Party, where there will be music, Morris Dancers and games in the gardens. Also, Jenny, who runs the *Salon de Thé*, has been asked to provide an English meal - the menu will be: melon or prawn cocktail, roast beef or pork, trifle or crumble. The cost will be 17€ which includes an *apéritif*, and coffee with a chocolate after. Wine will be available to purchase on the day. Tickets will be available at the *Jardins des Renaudies*, at *l'Accueil*, open daily in July: 11h-18h (but Mondays 14h-18h) and they need to be booked before 12th July. (More info: www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr)

Les peintres dans la rue in Chailland (53)

On Fri. 14th from 9h to 18h - throughout the day you can watch artists painting in the streets of this '*petite cité de caractère*'. Free. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office, 02 43 04 19 37, www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

'*Moules frites*' in Gorron (53)

On Saturdays 8th and 29th, both at lunch time and evenings in the *Bar de la Mairie* (next door to the Gorron *mairie*) you can enjoy '*moules frites*' - possibly sitting outside on the terrace, weather permitting! A starter and dessert are also offered. Reservations required to Melanie - 02 43 08 04 59, or call in. You will be assured of a very warm welcome.

Corso choréographique – International Carnival in Carelles (53)

On Sun. 9th from 12h to 18h, the village of Carelles comes alive with this popular annual carnival. After the election of 'Miss Mayenne' (13h-14h15) in the presence of Miss France, the grand musical procession begins at 14h30 with many beautifully decorated floats, over 400 musicians and dancers from around the world, which is enjoyed by around 5,000 people each year. Entry: 8€, under 14s free. [Advice: it is a good idea to take fold-up chairs, as there is limited seating] www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Event in support of Grande-Daze Animal Companion Centre

On Sun. 9th from 10h to 15h, there will be a book sale at Villagonnais (53, on the D208 between Juvigné and Bourgneuf-la-Forêt) to raise funds for Grande-Daze Animal Rescue. Books, CDs and DVDs will be on sale for just 50c each. Home-made jams & chutneys will also be on sale, and tea, coffee & biscuits are offered to everyone who comes along. Donations of books, bedding and bric-a-brac for *vide-greniers* gratefully accepted. More info from Jenny on 02 43 02 96 35.)

Something for all the family – riverboat picnic

Sun. 2nd from 12h to 14h, the *Office de Tourisme* in Mayenne town offers a boat trip where you can take your picnic to eat while floating down the river! Depart from Quai de Warblingen in Mayenne. Tickets: 8€, children 7,50€ - prior reservation is necessary at the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37).

Journée des sports de nature et de plain air

On Sun. 2nd, 10h – 18h at the Parc de la Colmont in Gorrion (53) – a free day where you can discover more than 25 activities available on this site, including volley-ball, badminton, archery, canoe/kayak, foot-golf, *pétanque*, archery, walking (3 circuits), putting, tree-abseiling and cycling, with initiations and demonstrations. Picnic area and food available.

‘*Les Ruralies*’ in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 1st Fougères becomes a giant farm! This is an agricultural fair in the quarter ‘*La Chattière*’. There is a mini-farm, exhibition of photos, competitions with cows and horses, milking of cows, and a mini-walk is possible of 45 minutes to nearby farms. There are buggy rides to and from the parking areas and a hog-roast possible at mid-day (15€ for a *repas complet*). More info: www.ot-fougeres.fr

Emmaüs Special Sale in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 1st at the *Ferme de Paron* in Fougères – open 9h-12h & 14h-17h. Lots of bargains!

Atelier dance orientale (oriental dance workshop)

On Tues. 11th from 18h to 20h in the *salle polyvalente* in Lesbois (53) you can have fun and learn the basics of Turkish style belly-dancing with dancing teacher Jae de Wylde, who speaks both English and French. Free (with thanks to the *Maire* of Lesbois for allowing the use of the *salle polyvalente* free of charge). For more info tel: (00 44) 796 8855970, or e-mail Jae at jaedewylde@hotmail.co.uk.

Medieval banquet at the *Château de Fougères* (35)

Fri. 21st from 18h15, organised by ‘*Les Fous Gèrent*’, you can enjoy a medieval banquet at the Château. Tickets: 16€, 5-10s: 10€, can be bought at the *tabac/presse du Château*. Reservation is needed as 100 places max (02 99 94 58 02). If you miss this one, there will be another one on 10th August. www.ot-fougeres.fr

A river – *un fleuve* or *une rivière*?

In everyday language *un fleuve* refers to a large river and *une rivière* is a smaller one, but there is a more precise definition: a *fleuve* is a river that leads to the ocean or sea, whereas a *rivière* leads into a *fleuve*. There are around 50 *fleuves* – the largest are the Loire, Seine, Garonne, Rhone and Rhin.

Anglican church in the Manche (50)

There is an Anglican church in the Manche and they hold weekly Sunday services, in English, for Christians of all denominations, at each of their two places of worship – one at 11h in Gratot-Hommeel, near Coutances, and the other at 17h Virey, near St Hilaire du Harcouët. Their website for more info is: www.manche-church.net

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 2nd, as part of the *Fête de la Musique*, from 11h-16h in the *Centre de Loisirs* in St Denis de Gastines (53): *l'Orchestre d'Harmonie de St. Denis de Gastines* with the *Ernée Ecole de Musique*. Free.

Sun. 2nd at 16h on the esplanade outside the *Salle Culturel de Goglais* in Montours (35, south of Saint-James): music from the '80s, and rock – 5 musicians and a singer. Free. Drinks and snacks available on site. More info: www.ot-fougeres.fr

Thurs. 13th at 21h30 at the *plan d'eau des Cardamines* in Ernée (53): a free concert by *l'Harmonie Municipale* followed by fireworks. More info: www.ville-ernee.fr

Thurs. 20th from 18h30 in Mortain (50) in the gardens near the swimming pool: *Soirée festive et conviviale*. Open air concert, art expo, sale of artisan & local products; outdoor games for children. More info from www.mortainais-tourisme.org

Fri. 21st, from 21h to 22h at the Square de Contades in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): '*Orange Diatronique*' - accordion music and humour. Free. www.bagnolesdelorne.com

The choir of King's College, Cambridge, in Saint Malo (35)

On Fri. 21st at 21h in the Cathedral Saint-Vincent, Intra-Muros, Saint Malo, as part of the *Festival de Musique Sacrées*: a selection from Brahms, Bruckner, Purcell, Faure, Messiaen, Poulenc. Tickets: 26€. More info: www.festivaldemusiquesacree-stmalo.com

'Festival autour d'un piano' at the Château de Carrouges (61)

♪ Sat. 22nd at 20h45: Sophie Arsenian & Philippe Alaire – duets: Rachmaninov and Khatchaturian

♪ Sun. 23rd at 18h30: Trio Zadiq with piano, violin, cello - Tchaikovsky, Shostokovitch

♪ Fri. 28th at 20h45: David Bismuth - Beethoven and his masterpieces

♪ Sat. 29th at 20h45: Thomas Enhco & Vassilena Serafimova - '*Les Funambules*'

♪ Sun. 30th at 18h30: Dana Ciocarlie - Schumann, Bartok, Brahms, Saint-Saëns, Prokofiev

More info on these and other concerts, and tickets, from www.orne.com

L'Eglise Saint-Méen in Cancale (35) – two concerts

☪ Tues. 18th at 21h: the *Chambre Philharmonique de Cologne*. Tickets: 20€ if pre-booked; 25€ at the door.

☪ Fri. 21st at 21h: a concert by 'The Gregorian Voices' – 8 singers with Gregorian chants. Tickets: 19€, on sale at the church from 20h15 on the night.

More info from the Saint-Malo Tourist Office: www.saint-malo-tourisme.com

Folklores du monde in Saint-Malo (35)

From 11th to 16th, this is a celebration of world folklore around the town, with many different types of music, costumes, dances & processions. Free. www.folkloresdumonde.bzh

Festival 'Les Entrelaces' - 'Les Arts de la rue'

From 11th to 14th in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) and surrounding villages, free entertainment (music, comedy). For the complete programme go to www.lesentrelaces.com

Le velo-rail in Saint-Loup-du-Gast (53)

The *velo-rail* is open from April to October. Travelling on part of the disused Laval to Caen railway line, you can enjoy this 6km return journey (approx. 1 hour) on a ‘*cyclo draisine*’ (cyclo hand-car) with 2 people cycling, 2 sitting, on a picturesque route. Opening hours in July & August: daily, 11h-18h. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Re-cycling made easy

Many towns have just 2 containers now for recycling – a yellow and a green. The green is for glass – pots and bottles (not perfume bottles) without corks or lids. The yellow takes plastic bottles and flasks, juice cartons, cardboard packaging, tin cans, newspapers, magazines & brochures. Non-recycling (i.e. put into the dustbin in a closed plastic sack): plastic bags & cling film, plastic pots (e.g. yoghurt); polystyrene containers, flowerpots, perfume bottles, broken crockery.

‘*Les Cascades*’ - walk the path of Ribwold, the goblin of Mortain

On Tuesdays 18th and 25th, accompanied by a guide, you can discover Ribwold’s naturally rocky environment, near the *Cascades* in Mortain (50). Use binoculars to penetrate nature’s secrets and meet some of the insect life. Wear suitable footwear. More info available from the Mortain Tourist Office: www.mortainais-tourisme.org or 02 33 59 19 74

Spectacle Pyrotechnic in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

You can also celebrate the *Fête Nationale* on Fri. 14th: around the lake in Bagnoles de l’Orne at nightfall enjoying this popular free fireworks extravaganza.

Free open-air lessons: ‘*Gym Suédoise*’

On most days in July, at the *Parc de la Briantais*, rue Maurice Nogues, Saint-Servan (Saint-Malo, 35) from 11h, these exercise sessions are a cocktail of stretching and heart & muscle strengthening. Open to all to discover the benefits of movement – men or women, sportive or not. All you need to take are good trainers, a towel and bottle of water. Cancelled if raining. More info at www.gymsuedoise.com or www.saint-malo-tourisme.com

Mégaudais en fête pour son église

On Sun. 2nd is a fête at Mégaudais (53, on the N12, west of Ernée) . This is being organised by *les Amis de l’Eglise de Mégaudais* (the Friends of Mégaudais Church) with the aim of raising funds for the further restoration of the church, which has been on-going for several years. Free entry. Hog and lamb roast available to purchase; bar for soft drinks, beer and wine. Attractions include carriage rides, face painting, pony show-jumping, mini-diggers, bric-a-brac, tombola, etc. Turn up on the day and pay at the gate for the food, if required.

‘Wine and Buy’ clearance sale

Sun. 9th from 11h to 16h at ‘*Le Village Courteille*’, Passais-la-Conception (61) there is a house, garden and barn clearance. Everything must go, so prices will be good. [Directions: on the road from Passais towards Mantilly - after the chapel on the right, turn right. Go past the farm and shop on the left, past the chickens on the right, and turn first left]. For more info please contact Pat on 02 33 64 47 37

Join the longest picnic table in the world!

After the great success last year - when 20,000 people helped to beat the world record - on Fri. 14th is this year's *Grand Pique-Nique de la Fraternité*. From 12h to 15h you can take your picnic and join in the fun on the towpath along the river Mayenne (30 kms between Mayenne and Laval). You pay 5€ for a metre of tablecloth and enjoy your picnic. More info from the Laval Tourist Office (www.laval-tourisme.com)

Mechoui & Fête Champêtre in St Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53)

Sun. 30th from 12h at the *terrain de loisirs*: the annual *mechoui* (spit-roast), followed by free activities during the afternoon.

'Pages' bookshop in Passais-la-Conception (61)

Suzanne McGregor would like to let her customers know that 'Pages' will be closed from Sat. 8th until Tues. 25th due to her summer holidays.

Weekly *brocante/vidé greniers* near Saint-Malo (35)

On Tuesdays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th (and also in August) from 8h30 to 18h, on *Quai Solidor*, Saint-Servan, Saint-Malo, you can browse for bargains.

Emma Mory, international singer

On Tues. 18th from 20h30 to 22h30 at the Parc de Vaux, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53): a free concert by Emma Mory, bringing you a mix of French, international and gospel music. Food is available on site (burgers, *frites*, pizzas, ice creams, drinks).

Garage Sale in Ceaucé (61)

On Sat. 8th from 11h until 16h, Janet Boomsma is holding a Garage Sale at her house - 10 rue de Cigné, in Ceaucé - with bric-a-brac and other household items. For more info: 02 33 65 61 43.

Weekly *flâneries/brocante* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Tuesdays in July and August, this is held in *Place du Marché, Quartier Château*; around 50 stalls expected.

La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux in Gorron (53)

La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux at 8 Place de La Mairie in Gorron, is now under new ownership. The principle of the shop - where the items for sale are handmade crafts - continues, with regular new arrivals of stock. A sale is now on with reductions of between 10% and 40% on a wide range of gifts and cards. On a Wednesday afternoon regular 'Knit (or Craft) and Natter' sessions are held from 14pm, and are for those who would like a couple of hours to themselves to get on with that craft work which has sat in the bag for weeks or simply a chat with like-minded people. The regular craft sessions are also starting again, with the next one, 'Crochet for Beginners', on 18 July at 14h. If you would like to go along please contact Anne on 06 49 07 82 55. Further sessions are advertised on the shop facebook page or in the shop.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Surviv'Orne – les Triathlons du Lac

On 1st & 2nd in La Ferté-Macé (61) at the *base de loisirs*: you can cheer them on (as registration is now closed for entries): swimming, cycling and running. More info at www.lesurvivorne.fr

Evening walks:

☞ Wed. 5th: a *randonnée fraîcheur* near Montenay (53) from 20h-22h. This is a 8km circuit between Monthéreau and Gué Guérin. Depart from the car park on *route de l'Ente* in Montenay. 1,50€

☞ On Thursdays 13th, 20th & 27th, 17h to 20h: night walks near Ambrières-les-Vallées (53). Depart from the camping area in the Parc de Vaux, rue des Colverts. Free, open to all.

Parc de Vaux– activity day

On Fri. 14th at the Parc de Vaux, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) from 12h-18h, you can hire kayaks (8€/1hr; 13€/2hr); pedalos (3 places: 7€/hr; 5 places: 10€/hr); play crazy-golf (2,10€/person); pony rides (2€), or swim in the pool (10h30-12h & 14h-19h - adults 3,35€, children: 2,25€, under 6s free. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Championnats de France de vitesse de canoë-kayak

From Wed. 12th to Sun. 16th at the *base de loisirs de Haute Vilaine* in Saint M'Hervé (35, SW of Juvigné) - championships for 3 distances: 1,000m, 500m and 200m. There will be over 1,200 athletes representing 100 clubs. More info at www.ot-vitre.fr

Fun Dog Agility

Starting on Sat. 8th from 10h to 11h, there are weekly Fun Dog Agility classes. For more info call Muddy Paws, 02 43 11 29 86, or e-mail muddypaws53@hotmail.co.uk

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That's all for this month. Last month, several readers didn't receive their Bulletins as they were 'undelivered' for reasons unknown!! If you don't get your copy on or around the 1st of each month, do get in touch, as possibly yours may have met the same fate?!!

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

July 2017

Date	Event	Place	Page
Sat. 1 st	<i>Les Ruralies</i>	Fougères	3
“	Emmaüs Special Sale	Fougères	3
W/e 1 st & 2 nd	<i>Surviv'Orne - Les Triatlons du Lac</i>	La Ferté-Macé	7
Sun. 2 nd	<i>l'Orchestre d'Harmonie</i>	St Denis de Gastines	4
“	Riverboat picnic trip	Mayenne	3
“	Sports discovery & initiation day	Gorron	3
“	Fête in aid of church restoration	Mégaudais	5
“	'80s music and rock	Montours	4
Wed. 5 th	Evening walk	Montenay	7
Sat. 8 th	<i>Moules frites at Bar de la Mairie</i>	Gorron	2
“	Garage Sale	Ceaucé	6
Sun. 9 th	Grande-Daze Rescue Book Sale	Near Juvigné	2
“	International Carnival	Careilles	2
“	'Wine & Buy' clearance sale	Passais-la-Conception	5
Tues. 11 th	Oriental Dance Workshop	Lesbois	3
Thurs. 13 th	Concert and fireworks	Ernée	4
Fri. 14 th	Garden Party	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	<i>Peintres dans la rue</i>	Chailland	2
“	<i>Spectacle Pyrotechnic</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
“	The longest picnic table in the world!	Mayenne – Laval	6
“	<i>Parc de Vaux</i> Activity Day	Ambrières-les-Vallées	7
Tues. 18 th	'Cascades' walk	Mortain	5
“	<i>Chambre Philharmonique de Cologne</i>	Cancale	4
“	'Crochet for Beginners' session	Gorron	6
Thurs. 20 th	<i>Soirée festive et convivial</i>	Mortain	4
Fri. 21 st	<i>Orange Diatronic: accordion & humour</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	Choir of King's College, Cambridge	Saint-Malo	4
“	Medieval banquet	Fougères	3
“	Concert: 'The Gregorian Voices'	Cancale	4
Tues. 25 th	'Cascades' walk	Mortain	5
Sat. 29 th	<i>Moules frites at the Bar de la Mairie</i>	Gorron	2
Sun. 30 th	<i>Mechoui & Fête Champêtre</i>	St Aubin-fosse-Louvain	6