

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you!

(Unknown)

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

Fri. 4 th	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g / braderie, ±250
Fri. 4 th &)	Saint Malo (35)	v-g / brocante 'Les Estivales Servannaises' on
Sat. 5 th)	“	rue Ville Pépin (Fri. from 13h30 to 20h; Sat: 9h to 20h), ±250
Sat 5 th	Ducey (50)	v-g in Grande Rue, ±75
Sun. 6 th	Javron-les-Chapelles (53)	v-g/bourse/expo des voitures, ±150 (+ see p.6)
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g at the Moulin Froulon, route de Ger, & expo of vintage vehicles, ±75
Sun. 13 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	27 th Foire à la Brocante, pl. du Marché, ±70
W/e 12/13 th	St Benoît des Ondes (35)	v-g, ± 250
Sun. 13 th	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in rue Pierre Sépard, ±150
Tues. 15 th	Rânes (61)	v-g in Parc du Château, ± 250
W/e 26 th /27 th	Dinard (35)	Grande braderie, ±300
Sat. 19 th	La Pellerine (53)	v-g, ±50
Sun. 20 th	Villaines-la-Juhel (53)	v-g in rue Fromentin, ±50
Sun 27 th	Lapenty (50)	v-g and Fête Communale, ±70
“	Mayenne (53)	v-g / braderie, ±100
“	Lonlay l'Abbaye (61)	v-g through the town, ±150
“	Passais la Conception (61)	v-g through the village, ± quite a lot

Also, every Tuesday in August in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): *flâneries/brocante*, ±30

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

Special dates / public holidays:

Tues. 15th Assomption - the celebration of the Virgin Mary ascending bodily into Heaven. Traditional parades in France, often with dances and fireworks.

Eating out : ‘*La Rabine*’

Two people have recommended to me this very popular *routier* restaurant near St Pierre des Landes (53, on the RN12 between Ernée and Fougères). Seating 90, plus 35 on the terrace, there is a *midi* menu for 13,50€ including wine/cider and coffee. Open Mon. to Fri. 11h30-15h & 19h15-22h (some themed weekends also). Plenty of parking space alongside.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

Several events this month in these pretty gardens at ‘*Les Mézerais*’, near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) where you will find over 3,000 different species of plants and also an *eco-musée*. Wonderful colours and garden inspiration! Also, you can enjoy a cup of tea and cake at the Tea Rooms daily (not Mon. or Thurs.), 14h to 18h, until the beginning of Sept., and at the *Fête des Citrouilles* in October. More info: www.jardinesdesrenaudies.fr

- ☼ Until 15th Aug.: *Journées des hydrangea*: discover the many different types of hydrangeas (there are 350 in the gardens) on show and for sale.
- ☼ 1st August to mid-October: – *labyrinthe de maïs* (maize maze) where young and old can have fun wandering through this maze.
- ☼ on Sun. 20th, 10h-18h: *Fête du Miel & Marché Gourmand* – discover honey collecting, with tastings, and products on sale at a gourmet market.
- ☼ Art exhibition: there is a selection of water-colour, pastel and acrylic paintings for sale or just to admire.

18th Mediaeval Weekend in Domfront (61)

This takes place every 2 years and this year is on 5th & 6th. After a year of preparation, 80 volunteers will help to ensure an unforgettable experience, with around 25,000 visitors expected. At 10h there will be an artisan market with the trades of the era; all day street entertainment, a show of horsemanship in the grounds of the Château, and 2 mediæval encampments showing daily military life in those times. 60 costumed artistes, in 10 groups, will entertain throughout the weekend. There is also a mediæval banquet on Saturday 5th – tickets are 20€, under 12s: 12€ (more info at the Tourist Office).

Flories d’Antan in Saint-Fraimbault (61): ‘the town of 100,000 flowers’

On Tues. 15th from 9h-19h30, this annual floral fête celebrates life in the early 1900s. 40 market stalls with local produce and crafts, demos of milking cows by hand, butter-making and wheat-threshing. Watch the washer-women at work and the blacksmith in the forge. A parade of classic cars, ‘forgotten’ games for both children and adults, and music. Entry 6€, under 12s free. www.saint-fraimbault.com

Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro [1830-1903]

North of Niort-la-Fontaine (53, near Lassay-les-Châteaux) is the hamlet of Montfoucault, where Camille Pissarro stayed with his friend and painter Ludovic Piette-Montfoucault. His first exhibition was subject to harsh criticism and he went to Montfoucault for peace and reflection – and later painted “*Paysage de neige avec des vaches, Montfoucault*” (Snowscape with cows, Montfoucault), oil on canvas, 48 x 51cm, which is now in the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. You can walk a 8km trail from Niort-la-Fontaine to Montfoucault to discover the impressionist masterpieces, and there are posters of some of their paintings from the actual position they were painted.

Corso fleuri in Sourdeval (50)

On Tues. 15th in the Place du Champ de Foire and rue de la Liberation, there will be a procession of florally decorated floats, with *La Reine de Sourdeval* and her princesses; also musicians and majorettes. In the evening, *son et lumière* and fireworks. More info from the Mortain Tourist Office (02 33 57 19 74; www.mortainais-tourisme.org)

Exhibitions:

☞ From 12th to 27th Aug.: the *Salon du Pastel de Fougères* (35) is at the *Centre Culturel Juliette Drouet*, rue du Gué Maheu. There will be 240 pastels from 170 international artists. Free. Open daily: 14h-19h (Sundays: 10h-19h)

☞ Until 30th August at Crédit Mutuel, 43 Blvd Volney in Laval (53): ‘Aquarelle & Pastel Sec’ by Roland Beunaiche. Open: Mon.–Fri.: 8h30-12h45 & 13h30-17h; Sats.: 8h30-12h.

☞ Until 26th August at the *mediathèque* in Changé (53): an exhibition of works by artists Colette Dugué & Chantal Moiteux. Free entry during the *mediathèque* opening hours: Mon.–Fri.: 10h-12h & 15h-18h30; Sats.: 10h-12h30. www.change53.fr

Apéro-terrasse in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

Every Saturday evening in August, from 18h to 20h30 you can sit on the terrace of the Casino, beside the lake, with an *apéritif* and *tapas*, enjoying the lovely view and music

English guided visits of *l’Eglise St-Julien* in Domfront (61)

You can learn all about this newly renovated church, up in the Old Town, with a visit to the inside and outside, every Wednesday in August at 17h; also to the bell tower (where flat heels are needed as there are about 200 steps). Tickets 3€, available from the Tourist Office (02 33 38 53 97 – English spoken). Maximum of 10 people; minimum age: 10.

Boat trip and dancing in Laval (50)

On Fri. 25th from 21h to 22h, departing from the *Halte Fluviale* on the river in Laval, you can dance to music with a DJ on the boat ‘*Vallis Guidonis*’. Tickets are 12€, reservation is necessary before the 18th at the Laval Tourist Office (02 43 49 45 26)

Expo Rail Miniature de la Baie in Ducey (50)

On Mon. 7th this miniature rail exhibition, with 45 metres of rail, on Avenue Emile Dehousse (beside the Renault garage) will be open from 14h30 to 18h30.

Crossing of the Bay of Mont Saint Michel with a picnic

On Sun. 6th is the ‘*Echappée pique-nique à Tombelaine*’ – where you can take a picnic for the guided (English spoken) crossing of the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel to Tombelaine, a bird sanctuary. Meet at the entry to Mont-Saint-Michel. Animals accepted. Tickets are 6,20€ (cash or cheque only), reservation is obligatory at 02 33 70 83 49 (or at your Tourist Office).

‘*Tricot Graffiti*’ in Carrouges (61)

On Sat. 19th from 14h30 to 18h – this is a great knitting event. See the trees in the Parc of the Château of Carrouges ‘clothed’ in knitting. Maybe take part? More at 02 33 81 13 33.

Entertainment & Concerts

Tues. 1st at 19h in the *Musée de Poiré* in Barenton (50): the trio 'Les Jardiniers' with banjo, fiddle and trumpet, entertain while you can enjoy a picnic!

Wed. 2nd in the Cour Marie du Rocher in Domfront (61) - at 19h30: 'Pape', music from around the world; 21h: Cecile Corbet (celtic folk, madrigals, Turkish medieval music). Free

Wed. 9th: at 19h30 in 'Le Barius' in Domfront (61): trumpet reggae with 'Alaska'; at 21h30: in Place de la Liberté: 'Natali Rize – reggae. Free. www.ot-domfront.com

Free concerts in *l'Eglise Saint-Méen* in Cancale (35)

♪ Sun. 13th at 21h – the Franco-Allemand Youth Symphony Orchestra: 50 musicians of ages between 16 and 21 years old.

♪ Mon. 14th at 21h: 'Concert for 3 Trumpets & Organ' – baroque music from Manfredini, Vivaldi, Stölzel. Free.

"A Sentimental Journey" – music of the 40's in Désertines (53)

After the success of their show "Spotlight on Broadway" last year, this new production is on Sat. 12th and Sun. 13th in the Salle Polyvalente in Désertines. "A Sentimental Journey" takes a nostalgic look at some of the music and dance of the 1940s. The show is in support of 2 charities: Cancer Support France and When You Wish Upon A Star. The doors open at 18h and the show starts at 19h15. There is a licenced bar from 18h and hot & cold snacks and ices are available. CFS are kindly supplying complementary tea/coffee and cake at the interval. There will be songs in English and French. Tickets are 10€, available by phoning 02 33 59 20 11, by e-mail to normandymusic@yahoo.com, or directly from Norrie Waters. Last year they raised over 1,000€ for charity and hope to double that this year. Please tell your friends and neighbours.

Festival *Jazz en Baie (de Mont-Saint-Michel, 50)*

A festival for jazz lovers – from 2nd to 13th Aug., at many venues (Carolles Plage; Musée de Christian Dior in Granville and on the beach of the Bay near the *Rocher de Tombelaine*): More info at www.jazzenbaie.com or your Tourist Office

Organ recitals in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

At 17h in *l'Eglise Sainte Madeleine*: free, with a collection. www.bagnolesdelorne.com

☞ Wed. 2nd: Gabrielle Tessier, head organist of l'Eglise St-Lambert in Montreal, Canada: *la dance baroque*.

☞ Wed. 16th: François Moreau, organist in Granville and Mont-St-Michel: *l'Europe baroque célèbre la Vierge Marie*.

'Tain-Tam Arts' concerts in Mortain (50)

These are free concerts on Thursdays from 18h30 in the *jardin de la piscine* (centre-ville, Mortain, but in the Salle if wet): ☼ Thurs. 3rd: 'Ramza' (music from around the world, with oriental influences); ☼ Thurs. 10th: 'Blue Vibe' (*jazz éclectique*). Possibility of food and drink on site; outside games for children. www.mortainais-tourisme.org:

Visit to the American Military Cemetery near Saint James (50)

The USA chose Montjoie Saint-Martin, near Saint-James, for the site of their Military Cemetery because of its view over the Mont Saint-Michel, as well as its position within the area of the German Counter Attack which followed the 31st July 1944 breakthrough of Avranches by the Allied forces. Throughout the summer, until 29th August, there are guided tours every Wednesday afternoon, from 14h, starting from the cemetery entrance. The tours are free and open to all. More info at the website: www.abmc.gov

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

Fri. 11th from 18h15, organised by 'Les Fous Gèrent', another chance to enjoy a mediæval banquet at the Château. Tickets: 16€, 5-10s: 10€, can be bought at the *tabac/presse du Château*. Reservation is needed as there are 100 places maximum (02 99 94 58 02). www.ot-fougeres.fr

Demonstration of *hydromodélisme* (model boats)

On Sundays 6th and 27th at the *base de loisirs* in La Ferté-Macé (61), members of the *Club Hydromodélisme Fertois* will be giving demonstrations with their model boats.

Horse and buggy rides in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

During August, every Sunday you can discover the town of Bagnoles de l'Orne by horse and buggy. Organised by the Tourist Office and Equi'Nature. Departures are from the Tourist Office between 14h and 17h45. Adults: 6€; 4-12s: 3€; 16€ for a family (2 adults & 2 children). Reservation needed before 13h30 on the day, or tickets can be purchased at the start of the ride, subject to available spaces. Tel: 02 33 37 85 66

Journée de la Liberation ceremony

On Tues. 22nd, 11h-12h, in Blonville-sur-Mer (14). This village was liberated by the Piron Brigade on 22nd August 1945 and the annual ceremony with the placing of the wreath is at 11h. There will be an expo of military vehicles with *l'Assoc. des Amis du Mont-Canisy*. Free. Animals accepted.

Something for all the family – Grand Aquarium in Saint-Malo

This Grand Aquarium, on Avenue General Patton in Saint-Malo (35), will let you discover life under the waves in the '*Anneau des mers*' underwater viewing tunnel. More than 6,000 underwater species are waiting to be discovered – giant Japanese crabs, sea-horses, piranhas, etc. English spoken. Access for the disabled. Open for most of the year - in August: 9h30 to 20h. www.aquarium-st-malo.com

Marché des Créateurs (crafters' market) in Rothéneuf (35)

On Sun. 13th at the old camping site (*l'Aire du Nicet*), Avenue de la Varde in Rothéneuf (a suburb of Saint-Malo), original creations on sale by crafters, artists and artisans of art-deco, photography, paintings, sculptures, ceramics, jewellery and fashion. Free entry. More info at www.saint-malo-rotheneuf.com

Summer Fête in Passais-la-Conception (61)

On Sat. 26th at the *Château Jasmine*, owner Gary Roberts - who has organised many music festivals in the UK - is organising a day of fun and entertainment. There will be craft workshops, music (hay bale acoustic stage introducing new local artists), choirs, bar, cocktails, Prosecco Bar, popcorn, kids' discotheque. Family fun for the community. For more info: www.chateaujasmine.com

Musée des Tisserands (Weavers' Museum)

In the midst of genuine 18th century weavers' houses in Place Billard-de-Veaux in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) you will hear the history of the weavers: their origin, know-how and daily lives which contributed to the prosperity of Bas-Maine (before this region became Mayenne in 1790). Grown in the 17th & 18th centuries, hemp was used to make clothes, ropes and sails, and today is still used in various industries, including paper and food processing. The loom, which was installed in the cellar of these dark and damp houses, was the most valuable asset of the weavers. Open 1st July until 31st Aug., daily (not Mondays) 14h30-18h30. Entry: adults 3€, ages 6-14: 1,50€, under 6s free.

Next English film in Gorrion

The cinema is closed for holidays from 2nd to 15th August, but on Mon. 21st – for all the 'youngsters' amongst us! - will be showing 'Spiderman – Homecoming'. [Sadly, the *Bar de la Mairie* will be closed for their annual holidays, so no pre-film refreshments will be available there this time!]

Vintage cars and *vide-greniers* in Javron-les-Chapelles (53)

On Sun. 6th *l'Assoc. des Vieux Pistons Javronnaises* hold the annual expo of pre-1975 vehicles (on RD218, route de Madré). More than 200 vehicles will be on show, including bikes, tractors, miniatures, etc. Each year over 4,000 people enjoy this gathering. A *bourse d'échange* (sale of parts) & *vide-greniers* also on site. Entry: 1,50€. Free parking

The first postcard appeared in *Sillé-le-Guillaume* (72) in 1870

Born in 1829, Léon Besnardeau was a school-teacher but when the village *librairie* was put up for sale he decided on a change of career. A stationers & printer, he also sold books about the region, folklore and gardening. In 1870, war was raging in Europe and a military camp was set up in Conlie (SE of Sillé); injured Breton soldiers found themselves disheartened and far from home but paper was unavailable for writing letters. Léon had the idea to cut 66mm x 96mm rectangles from the covers of books, and the address could go on one side, the words on the other and it didn't need an envelope. So the postcard was born! 36 years after the war ended, Léon certified his rights as the inventor with 4 witnesses. He left Sillé at the age of 80 and died in Château-Gontier on 9th September 1914 aged 85.

Guided tours of Pontmain (53)

Until 26th August, daily at 14h30 (but not on Sundays) a guide will be available (some English spoken) to help you discover the old parish church, the *grange* (barn) where the vision of the Virgin Mary appeared to the children in 1871, the neo-gothic Basilica with its wonderful stained-glass windows, and the presbytery. The guided tours depart from the front of the *Basilique*.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Yoga on the beach in Cancale (35)

On Wednesdays in August from 16h to 17h15 (and Sats. 11h to 12h15) on the beach of Port-Mer (near the *Club Nautique*) in Cancale – yoga lessons (duration 1h 15min.) by a qualified teacher of Hatha Yoga and Shakty Mooni Yoga. More info: www.shaktymooniyoga.com

'Soirée découverte' (discovery evening) of table tennis

Fri. 11th at 20h30 in the Salle Jules-Linain in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53) – a chance to try your hand at table tennis. Free. Registration & more info: 06 25 19 66 86 (French spoken).

Open air heated swimming pool in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

This pool re-opened in May and will be open until 10th Sept. on Mon. to Sun. 10h30-13h30 & 14h30–19h30 (closed Mon. mornings). Entry - adults: 3,70€, 6-12s: 2,50€.

Line Dancing in Désertines (53)

On Thursdays from 19h to 21h in the Salle above the Mairie in Désertines., Sue Avery and Sue Walters are holding line dancing sessions at the salle above the *Mairie* in Désertines.

[Remember, for all sporting activities, you need a current health certificate from your doctor]

Poursuite sur terre (stock car racing)

This popular event at the *circuit de la Rogerais* in Couesmes-Vaucé (53) will be on Sun. 6th, 9h-19h. It will be the last one as the land has been sold. Entry: 8€. Entry + a meal (*melon, grill [saucisse/mouton], frites, fromage, dessert, café*): 16€. Snacks available on site.

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That's all for this month. I hope you find many things in here to help you enjoy the region this summer.

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

August 2017

Date	Event	Place	Page
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"	'Pape' and Cecile Corbet (celtic music)	Domfront	4
Thurs. 3 rd	Music from 'Ramza' (<i>Tain-Tam Arts</i>)	Mortain	4
W/e 5 th & 6 th	Mediæval Weekend	Domfront	2
Sun. 6 th	Crossing the Bay with a picnic	Mont-Saint-Michel	3
"	Gathering of vintage vehicles	Javron-les-Chapelles	6
"	Stock car racing	Couesmes-Vaucé	7
"	<i>Hydromodélisme</i>	La Ferté-Macé	5
Mon. 7 th	Miniature railway	Ducey	3
Wed. 9 th	Alaska' (trumpet); Natali Rize (reggae)	Domfront	4
Thurs. 10 th	'Blue Vibe' (<i>Tain-Tam Arts</i>)	Mortain	4
Fri. 11 th	Mediæval banquet	Fougères	5
"	Table tennis discovery evening	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	7
W/e 12/13 th	'A Sentimental Journey' show	Désertines	4
Sun. 13 th	<i>Marché des Créateurs</i> (craft market)	Rotheneuf (St Malo)	5
"	Franco-Allemand Youth Orchestra	Cancale	4
Mon. 14 th	Concert for trumpet and organ	Cancale	4
Tues. 15 th	<i>Corso fleuri</i>	Sourdeval	3
"	<i>Flories d'Antan</i>	St Fraimbault	2
Wed. 16 th	Organ recital by François Moreau	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Sat. 19 th	<i>Tricot graffiti</i>	Carrouges	3
Sun. 20 th	<i>Fête du Miel</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
Mon. 21 st	Film: 'Spiderman – Homecoming'	Gorron	6
Tues. 22 nd	<i>Journée de la Liberation</i> ceremony	Blonville-sur-Mer	5
Fri. 25 th	Riverboat picnic	Laval	3
Sat. 26 th	Summer Fête in the <i>Château Jasmine</i>	Passais-la-Conception	6
Sun. 27 th	<i>Hydromodélisme</i>	La Ferté-Macé	6