

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Good friends are like stars. You don't always see them,
but you know they're there

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area ['53' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Sat. 2 nd	Saint-Malo (35)	v-g in Château Malo, ±200
Sun. 3 rd	Ernée (53)	v-g in <i>Foire de la Saint George</i> , 7h-18h, ±70
“	Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53)	v-g in parking of <i>Complexe Sportif</i> , ±50
“	Domfront (61)	v-g in Quartier St-Front, ±70
“	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g / brocante, ±300
“	Pleurduit (35)	v-g in <i>Intermarché</i> car park; ±150
Sun. 10 th	Commer (53)	v-g in Salle des Lilas, rue de Bretagne; ±300
“	Juvigné (53)	v-g + free visit to Musée
“	St George-Buttavent (53)	v-g in rue de Guinefolle, ±70
“	Villaines-la-Juhel (53)	v-g in parking of <i>Modulable</i> ; ±150
“	Perrou (61)	v-g, ±150
“	Gathémo (50)	v-g / brocante, ±70
“	Virey (50)	v-g, ±100
Sat. 16 th	Montenay (53)	v-g in Place Louis-Derbré, ±70
Sun. 17 th	Montenay (53)	v-g at <i>plan d'eau</i> , rue de la Rabine, ±50
“	Juvigné-sous-Andaine (61)	v-g in the <i>Stade de Foot</i> , ±150
“	St. Brice-en-Coglés (35)	v-g, ± 300
Sun. 24 th	Gorron (53)	v-g / braderie around the town, ±150
“	Mayenne (53)	v-g + <i>bourse d'échanges auto-moto-velo</i> , in Salle Expo, rue Volney; ±50
“	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)	v-g, ±300
“	Fougères (35)	v-g on <i>Allée des Fêtes</i> ; ±150
Sat. 30 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g/ <i>Foire d'Automne</i> (+Sun. 1 st Oct), ±300
“	Pontorson (35)	v-g, ±70

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

Eating out : *l'Ardoise*

'*L'Ardoise* at 28 Place de la Motte in Saint-Hilaire du Harcouët (50) refers to itself as '*bistronomique*' and has an inspired young chef. Found by us by chance (as the restaurant we were aiming for was closed) it looks a bit quiet from the outside, but the food was wonderful! Excellent chef, great menu (*midi formules*: 8,50€ for *plat du jour* alone; 11€ *plat du jour* + dessert; 3 courses: 16€) which for this standard of cooking is excellent value. Tasteful and relaxing décor – and plenty of parking outside as it is opposite the church entrance. www.restaurant-a-lardoise.fr and on Facebook: A l'ardoise.

Journées Européennes du Patrimoine

All over France on the weekend of 16th & 17th the *Journées du Patrimoine* represent an opportunity to take a look behind the doors of 14,000 participating local heritage sites that are not usually open to the public. You could find yourself able to visit a private house or château, and many museums will throw open their doors for free or at a reduced price. Since 1991 the scheme has spread across Europe and the event now takes place in over 50 countries. For more info: www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr or ask at a Tourist Office

Tour Cycliste de l'Orne

The *Tour Cycliste de l'Orne* 're-lights its cinders after 64 years of sleep' (their words, not mine!) and the events will take place in 3 stages over 2 days - the 9th & 10th. On Sat. 9th: Alençon to Bagnoles de l'Orne (126km); on Sun. 10th: in the morning: Bagnoles to Sées (60km) and in the afternoon: Sées to l'Aigle (70km).

Petit Dejeuner Anglais Complet (Full English Breakfast) in St Cyr du Bailleul (61)

On Sun. 10th from 10h until 13h, organised by the *Comité des Fêtes* in St Cyr du Bailleul, is a Full English Breakfast [eggs, bacon, *saucisse*, mushrooms, baked beans, tomato, potatoes, black pudding, toast, coffee or tea] in the *Salle des Fêtes* (next to the *Mairie*) in St Cyr du Bailleul. Tickets (by reservation only, please): adults 6€, children under 12: 4€, available via Fientje Vijverman at racerke63@hotmail.com (English spoken)

14th *Fête de la Terre* in Fontaine-Daniel (53)

On Fri 1st, Sat. 2nd & Sun. 3rd this is an eco-festival with stalls, talks, demonstrations and concerts (www.fetedelaterre.fr). Also on Sat. 2nd and Sun. 3rd from 11h to 12h will be a historical guided tour of Fontaine-Daniel by author Ursula Benjamin. These popular tours (in English) take you to parts of this beautiful village not usually open to the public. This includes the cloisters of the Abbey and the *Toile de Mayenne* factory, and you will learn about its beginnings (800 years ago) with the Cistercian monks, also its more recent history with the village founded on principles of social enterprise. (www.fontainedaniel.fr). Meet at the lake; the tours are 5€ each person. To confirm your place or for more details email ursula@ursulabenjamin.com

A new '*voie verte*' opens

At Domfront (61), the southerly disused and cleared railway track has been opened for use by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Stretching 12 kms from the Qtr Notre Dame de Domfront (near Agrial) to the old railway station in Ceaucé, you can walk, run or ride your bike along it.

Balades en calèche (horse and carriage rides) in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sundays 10th & 17th, these trips, in typical transport of *la belle époque* (turn of the century), depart from the *marché couvert* (near the Tourist Office) every 45 minute between 14h and 17h45. Tickets: 6€, 4-12s: 3€, under 4s: free. A family ticket (2 adults & 2 children):16€. More info from the Tourist Office (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

Art Exhibitions:

Until 29th October, at the *Musée du Château de Flers* (61): '*La Lumière*' - 60 paintings showing how artists from the 17th century up to the present time played with light and incorporated it into their art. Opening hours: (low season): Tues - Sun., 14h to 18h. Free.

From 28th Sept, to 1st Oct.: '*Salon de Peinture*' in the *Maison des Associations* in Domfront (61): the Lions Club of Domfront organise a painting contest for any technique or theme, followed by an exhibition open to everyone. Free. See the works of local artists and vote for the one you like the most.

Fête des Angevins in Fougères (35)

This traditional 4-day event takes place from Sat 2nd to Tues. 5th in the car park of the *Jardin des Fêtes* (or *Parking du Nançon*). There will be parades, all-day *braderie*, funfair, fashion show (on Sun. 3rd at 14h30) and fireworks on Mon. 4th at 22h. Free. More info from the Fougères Tourist Office (02 99 94 12 20).

Something for all the family – *La Fosse Arthur* (61)

On Sun. 17th from 10h30 to 12h, there is a guided nature walk to the legendary site where King Arthur and Queen Guinevere are reputed to be buried. A lovely area and a gentle climb with a panoramic view from the top, and a peaceful lake and river at the bottom, where you can also enjoy a picnic. Look for signs to '*La Fosse Arthur*' from the village of St Georges de Rouelley (61). Free.

A visit to the famous 3-masted barque '*Belem*'

On Fri. 22nd (11h-12h) and Sat. 23rd (10h-18h) you can visit the famous ship '*Belem*' which is moored at Porte St-Louis in Saint-Malo (35). 20 panels and a leaflet show its colourful history – owners have included Hugh Grosvenor, 2nd Duke of Westminster (1914) and Sir Arthur Guinness (1922). Tickets: 6€, 6-12s: 3€, under 6s free. www.fondationbelem.com.

'Blue Train' Challenge Car Rally – Deauville to Cannes

From Mon. 18th to Fri. 22nd, 50 pre-1948 vintage cars (including 1924 and 1928 4½ litre Bentleys, 1938 Jaguar SS100, 2 Lagonda M45s, Aston Martins, Cadillacs, Talbots, Buicks, Morgans, also some 1950s & 1960s sports cars) will compete in this endurance car rally. For the Endurance Rally Association programme and route: www.endurorally.com.

Club Culture et Loisirs in Ceaucé (61)

The *Club Culture et Loisirs* of Ceaucé is hoping to offer the following courses from September: Tai Chi, Pottery, Guitar, Percussion and Watercolour Creation (afternoon session – date to be fixed). Please contact Viv Armitage on 02 33 37 74 13 for further information.

Entertainment & Concerts

♪ On Sat. 23rd at 16h in Place de l'Isthme in Granville (50) as part of the *Festival Via Aeterna* – Sylvia Blassel plays the harp, with works by Ropartz, Roussel and Cras. Tickets, 11€, from the Granville Tourist Office (02 33 91 30 03)

Music Festival: *Via Aeterna*

On Sun 24th between 7h and 18h, there will be 25 concerts in many towns near Mont-Saint-Michel (including Granville, Avranches, Mortain, Pontorson, Genêts) with music from Russia, Serbia, France, etc. More info from www.ot-fougeres.fr

Free musical event and walk in Ernée (53)

On Sat. 9th is 'Au Foin de la Lune' – a free family event in Ernée. Meet at the *Espace Culturel Louis Derbré* at 16h30 for the following program: At 17h – departure of the guided walk of 5km around the town with musical surprises throughout the day; after the walk, return to the Louis Derbré area for a relaxed break with small snacks, music and wooden games. At 21h – a concert by *Mémé Les Watts* in the Louis Derbré amphitheatre and at the end of the concert the evening continues in music! The day is completely free. A small snack is available on site with galettes (bio), Gorrion sausages, local beers and soft drinks. For more info: www.association.aufoindelarue.com/aufoindelalune

Last Night of the Proms

On Sat. 9th at 19h at 'The Red Lion' in Désertines (53): a Bubbly reception followed by a delicious 5-course meal (choice from the menu) – with the Proms showing live. Tickets are 35€, on sale at the bar - a deposit is required. For more info: 02 43 32 14 74

Fête communale & fête foraine in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

On the weekend of 9th & 10th: on Sat. 9th, 8h-13h, is a market in Place Billard de Veaux; 15h-16h an art exhibition on the 1st floor of the *médiathèque*; from 15h30-18h are races and other sporting events; 18h to midnight: a night market; at 21h30 a candle-lit procession followed by fireworks at 22h. On Sun. 10th: band and majorettes during the day; 8h-18h *vide-greniers* in rue Guillaume le Conquérant and many other activities.

Fête de la Saint-Maurice in Loré (61)

On Sun. 3rd: a full day begins from 8h with *vide-greniers*, also pétanque, ping-pong and special performances by Bernard Desgrippes and his amazing climbing show, also *accrovoile* - with masts and riggings to climb. www.lorevillage.org

Art et Jardins in Ceaucé (61)

On Sun. 24th from 10h to 18h, around the lake, there will be more than 100 stalls (craftsmen, garden items, farm produce), also children's activities; food & drink available on site. www.ot-domfront.com

Fête communale de la Saint-Matthieu in Ger (50)

This is a 2-day *fête foraine* (fair) on the weekend of 16th/17th, with fireworks on the Sat. night. On Sunday: cycle races, music, exhibitions and *vide-greniers/brocante* all day.

Lest we forget

Each year at the cemetery in St Michel des Andaines (61) is a ceremony in remembrance of Texan pilot Lieutenant Conrad Netting, who lost his life on 10th June 1944 while fighting for our freedom. A *stèle* (monument) was erected in 2000 to commemorate this sad event - the P51 Mustang plane piloted by Lt. Netting was shot down above the property '*Le Pont Hardy*' after having machine-gunned several German trucks. Also at the ceremony was Michel Grandin, the son of Louis Grandin, the local carpenter at the time, who had quickly built a coffin for the American pilot to prevent his remains being found by the Germans.

Exhibitions:

Until 17th Sept.: at the '*Petit Musée*' at 118 rue de la Pinterie in Fougères (35, at the foot of the Château) you can learn about the industrial life of the town – textiles, shoes, metal-work, sabots, granite and glass. Free.

Until November: *l'Espace Aéro-Mémoire 39-45*, 4 rue de la Petite Vitesse, *Ancienne Minoterie* in Couterne (61) has stories of the pilots and the remains of aerial crashes. It can be visited each day, 14h to 17h. Entry: 4€, under 10s free; veterans and the handicapped: 2€.

Events in support of Grande-Daze Animal Rescue

On Sun. 10th from 10h to 15h, there will be a book sale at La Courtinière, St Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53) to raise funds for Grande-Daze Animal Rescue – the charity devoted to the rescue and re-housing of ill-treated, abandoned or unwanted animals. Books, CDs and DVDs will be on sale starting at 50c each and you can also buy greetings cards and home-made jams & chutneys. Tea, coffee & biscuits are offered to everyone who comes along. For more info or directions, please contact Denise on 02 43 00 67 27.

Also – [advance notice](#): on Sun. 1st Oct. they are having a ten-pin bowling afternoon from 15h. Entry by ticket only: 2 games of bowling, shoe hire and afternoon tea for 15€ per person. Limited number of tickets. Contact Denise (as above) or Jenny (02 43 02 96 35).

Art classes and workshops

If you have promised yourself some quality time this winter, art sessions in Joe Morgan's studio in Fougères-du-Plessis (53) will offer you techniques, encouragement and creativity. Watercolours and Acrylics are available on Thursdays and Fridays. Sessions are two hours in duration and cost 12€. All abilities welcome. Call Joe on 02 43 13 06 72 for availability

Obstacle Course "*l'Incendiaire*"

On Sat. 17th this fun event takes place at the *plan d'eau* in La Ferté-Macé (61) and is in support of the Orphans of Firemen. Organised by *les pompiers*, the *plan d'eau* is transformed into a vast obstacle course – last year 3,400 people took part in either a 6km course with 30 obstacles, or a 12km course with 60 obstacles. 40 departments joined in, from western Brittany to Paris. Great fun to take part in – or just to watch and cheer them on. For more info: www.lincendiaire.info

‘Move for Life’ with Afternoon Tea hosted by the *Salon de Thé*

On Thurs. 21st at *Les Jardins des Renaudies*, ‘Les Mézerais’ near Colombiers du Plessis (53), Alison Benn at the *Salon de Thé* with Cancer Support France Nord are serving Afternoon Tea from 15h to 18h for the price of 8€, which will include tea and coffee & cakes plus the entrance to the gardens. The gardens are still beautiful and the ‘Maize Maze’ will be open until 21st Oct. There will also be a tombola so if anyone has anything they would like to contribute, please bring it to the *Salon de Thé*, or contact nord@cancersupportfrance.com. If you would like to give some jam or chutneys they will also be having a stall. For tickets, contact Alison Benn (02 43 05 34 71) or CSF as below.

More Cancer Support France Nord events in September:

7th : Monthly Brunch at the day centre, served between 10h and last orders 13h

15th: Monthly lunch at the day centre; Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50)

21st: ‘Move for Life’ event at *Les Jardins des Renaudies*, (see above)

To book the monthly lunch and your tickets for the Move for Life event you can contact the day centre on 02 33 69 01 05 or email nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Laval Air Show

On Sun. 17th at the Laval-Entrammes aerodrome (53) from 10h to 18h: around 60 planes and helicopters, old and modern, will be appearing. Military aircraft, including Albatross L39s with the Baltic Bees Jet Team, a Spitfire from WW2 and Warbirds. Entertainment also on site. Entry 10€, under 12s free. www.lavalaeroshow.com

Marché d’Art, Foire aux Vins et du Terroir

On Sat. 2nd, 9h to 17h, in Place Leclerc in La Ferté-Macé (61) at this market you will find artisan-made items, local produce and wines, also a gathering of cars and motorbikes, an exhibition of Meccano and *Rail Miniature du Pays Fertois* (under *marché couvert*).

Warning : River Loire’s toxic algae

Taken from ‘The Connexion’: Dog owners are being warned to be vigilant after 8 pet dogs died after swimming in toxic bacteria in the river Loire.

The Prefecture of the Maine-et-Loire received test results showing that the river contains algae cyanobacteria – toxic bacteria that can kill dogs or other animals swimming in, or drinking from it. The bacteria – specifically the *oscillatoria* and *formidium* types – is said to come from algae that forms on rocks and gravel in the river. It often comes to the surface following periods of high rainfall, forming black-coloured clusters in the water, which are especially prevalent at the moment in the river Loire.

The Prefecture has warned people not to allow pets to walk near to, bathe in, or drink from the river, and has advised people not to drink the water themselves, eat any fish caught from the river or pick up objects – such as wood or stones – that have been submerged. As well as the river Loire, the advice holds for any deep water that appears to have ‘high levels of algae or any (surface) mousse’.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Walking:

There are many guided walks crossing the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel to help you discover this exceptional area at low tide. Full list and times available at www.decouvertebaie.com

Line dancing lessons:

With 3 free lessons, Guy and Elysabeth invite you to the following sessions:-

☼ in La Ferté-Macé (61): every Monday (from 4th Sept.) at 17h45 at the *Gymnase*

Paul Souvray

☼ at Domfront (61): every Thursday (from 7th Sept.) at 18h in the Salle du CAL (near the old Intermarché)

Guided walk: ‘*la Vallée de la Cour*’, Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

On Tues. 26th from 15h to 18h30, is a guided 9.7km walk. Tickets: 4€, under 12s free, from the Tourist Office (reservation need before 11h30 on the day). Sorry, no dogs, for security reasons. Remember to take stout shoes, waterproofs and water.

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

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That’s all for this month. Still plenty going on to keep us all entertained and busy! Have fun!

Judy Skinner

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

September 2017

Date	Event	Place	Page
1 st to 3 rd	<i>Fête de la Terre</i>	Fontaine-Daniel	2
Sat. 2 nd	<i>Marche d'Art, Foire aux Vins et du Terroir</i>	La Ferté-Macé	6
2 nd to 5 th	<i>Fête des Angevins</i>	Fougères	3
Sun. 3 rd	<i>Fête de la Saint-Maurice</i>	Loré	4
Sat. 9 th	<i>Au Foin de la Lune</i> – music and walk	Ernée	4
“	Last Night of the Proms	Désertines	4
9 th & 10 th	<i>Tour Cycliste de l'Orne</i>	Alençon to l'Aigle	2
“	<i>Fête communale & fête foraine</i>	Ambrières-les-Vallées	4
Sun. 10 th	Full English Breakfast	St Cyr du Bailleul	2
“	Book Sale in support of Grande-Daze	St Aubin-fosse-Louvain	5
“	<i>Balades en caleche</i> (carriage rides)	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
W/e 16 / 17 th	<i>Journées de Patrimoine</i>	All over Europe	2
“	<i>Fête de la Saint-Matthieu</i>	Ger	4
Sun. 17 th	<i>Balades en calèche</i> (carriage rides)	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
“	Walk at <i>La Fosse Arthour</i>	St Georges de Rouelley	3
“	Obstacle Course <i>l'Incendiaire IV</i>	La Ferté-Macé	5
«	Laval Air Show	Entrammes-Laval	6
18 th – 22 nd	'Blue Train' Challenge Car Rally	Deauville to Cannes	3
Thurs. 21 st	Move for Life – CSF & Afternoon Tea	Colombiers du Plessis	6
22 nd & 23 rd	Visit to the ship ' <i>Belem</i> '	Saint-Malo	3
Sat. 23 rd	Sylvia Blassel plays the harp	Granville	4
Sun. 24 th	<i>Art et Jardins</i>	Ceaucé	4
“	Music Festival with <i>Via Aeterna</i>	Near Mont-Saint-Michel	4
Tues. 26 th	Guided walk ' <i>La Vallée de la Cour</i> '	Bagnoles de l'Orne	6
28 th to 1 Oct	<i>Salon de Peinture</i>	Domfront	3
Advance Notice for October:			
Sun. 1 st	Ten-pin Bowling afternoon	Fougères	5