

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Life isn't about how to survive the storm,
but how to dance in the rain

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

Sun. 1 st	Neau (53)	v-g, ±50
“	Pontorson (50)	v-g, ±70
“	Romagny (50)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> , rue de la Salle, ±70
“	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>Foire / Vide-Greniers d'Automne</i> , ±300
“	St Jacques de la Lande (35)	v-g in rue du Manoir, ±150
Sat. 7 th	Antrain (35)	v-g / <i>brocante / foire</i> , rue de la Hérisse, ±150
Sun. 8 th	St. Martin des Landelles (50)	v-g in Grand Chemin, ±70
“	Evron (53)	v-g ' <i>Le Forail</i> ', rue de Montaigu, ±150
Sat. 14 th	Gavray (50)	v-g in <i>Foire Saint-Luc</i> , ±300 (see page 2)
Sun. 22 nd	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	(nr Briouze), v-g at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 29 th	Geneslay (61)	<i>V-G du Pays du Cidre</i> , ±70
“	Saint-Malo (35)	v-g in <i>Salle des Sports</i> , rue Lemarié, ±70

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

Remember – the CLOCKS GO BACK on the night of Sat 28th / Sun 29th [well, they should have kept up the payments! ha ha!]. (Sorry, old joke!)

20th 'Plantes en Fête' – plant sale & exchange

On Sun 8th from 10h-18h at the *Manoir de la Guyardière*, La Haute-Chapelle (61, NW of Domfront) is this popular annual Plant Fair where 45 specialist exhibitors invite you to buy or exchange a great selection of plants, herbs and other vegetation. Also garden decor and some great gardening inspiration! Barrows are on hand for visitors to help take their purchases to their cars, and a horse-drawn carriage is also available for a lift if necessary! Refreshments and tea-room on site. Free entry and plenty of field parking nearby. Sorry, no dogs. A great venue – not to be missed! www.plantesenfete-manoirdelaguyardiere.fr

Eating out : ‘The Living Room’

[With thanks to Ian M for this recommendation]: ‘The Living Room’, on Passage du Couvent, next to rue Jeudry, Ernée (53), provides a great *midi* with a good choice of dishes for 15,50€; there are also burgers and bagels – eat in or take-away - and Fish and Chips! Lovely décor (it is in a renovated convent), very attentive service and excellent food. For opening times go to www.thelivingroom53.com, and see them on Facebook.

Les Jardins des Renaudies – Fête des Citrouilles (Pumpkin Fair)

These pretty gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) are open until 1st Nov., and you can find 3,000 plants of different species that have been planted and landscaped in this lovely undulating area. On Sun. 8th from 10h-18h is the 22nd *Fête des Citrouilles* where you can discover the 80 varieties of pumpkin, in all shapes and sizes, grown here by their gardeners. There is a local produce market and sale of plants, also games & entertainment. The Salon *de Thé Anglais* will be open for teas, coffees, milk-shakes, cakes, muffins & scones. Entry: adults 5€; 6-16s 2€; under 6s free. www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr [Advice – try and get there in the morning, if possible, as parking will mean ‘a long walk’ in the afternoon!]

Annual *Franco-Anglo Fête* : FAIRE PLAY

On Sun. 1st at the Vire Hippodrome in St Martin de Tallevende (50) there will be the *vide-greniers*, arts & crafts market and traditional French & British village fête games (including the now famous ‘Wellie Throwing’). Refreshments available at the Tea Corner and there will be food specialities from both Britain and France. www.faireplaynormandie.com

Fund & awareness event for the Orne Alzheimers’ Group for English speakers living in France

On Sat. 21st from 10h to 12h at ‘La Grange’, La Val de Maine, Madré (53) – there will be a raffle, bric-a-brac and “Guess the Weight of the Cake”. Bacon butty with tea/coffee: 4,50€. For further details and directions contact at thewrightskmt@hotmail.co.uk.

Foire Saint-Luc in Gavray (50)

This 3-day fair is on Fri. 13th, Sat. 14th & Sun. 15th. It has been taking place in Gavray since the time of Richard *Coeur de Lion*, and is one of the oldest fairs in the *Manche*. Held on 12 hectares of land, each year it attracts 100,000 visitors and 600 exhibitors. There is a horse fair, farm machinery, dogs, farmyard fowl, parades and entertainment; On the Sat. 15th will be the *vide-greniers* and the *Foire à la Citrouille* (pumpkin fair) where pumpkins are decorated and prizes awarded for the biggest. www.gavray.fr

23rd EuroMayenne Annual Craft Fair

On Sunday 29th from 10h to 18h, in the Exhibition Hall, rue Volney, Mayenne (53): 80 stallholders (amateur & artisan craftspeople) with produce and gift ideas. This year’s theme is Hallowe’en, and there will be a Hallowe’en Fancy Dress Competition and a Pumpkin Carving Competition for adults and children, also entertainment and Make-up Workshop. Refreshments include a Tea Room inside the hall, and outside: Elliotts Boucherie will be providing roast pork, chips and sausage/bacon baguettes. Last year there were over 2,000 visitors. Free entry. For more info go to www.euromayenne.org or contact 06 73 71 96 52.

Emergency Contact Numbers

I am repeating this info for new readers of the Bulletin. It may be good idea to keep them handy by the phone or in the car

<p>EMERGENCY: 18 (from a mobile: 112)</p>	<p>= <i>les sapeurs pompiers</i> (fire brigade) who are also equipped to deal with accidents & medical emergencies. They are the first port of call in rural areas (the equivalent of '999')</p>
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“It’s an emergency” = “*c’est une urgence*” [pron: “sait oon ur-zahns”]

Be prepared to give your name and where you are. DO NOT HANG UP until told to do so - if it is a medical emergency they may connect you to a doctor.

Event in support of Grande-Daze Animal Companion Centre

On Sun. 1st there is a ten-pin bowling afternoon from 15h in support of Grande-Daze. Entry by ticket only: 2 games of bowling, shoe hire and afternoon tea for 15€ per person. Limited number of tickets. Contact Denise (02 43 00 67 27) or Jenny (02 43 02 96 35).

Event in support of Cancer Support France Nord

On Sat. 7th from 19h30 in the *Salle des Fêtes* in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50): the group ‘Home Made Jam’ in concert. Entry: 6€, and there will be a bar and refreshments. For more info contact Verity at verity.steele@wanadoo.fr. It will also be shown on a Facebook group called ‘Places to go, see, eat in 53’.

Also:

Learn about becoming a volunteer for Cancer Support France Nord

On Mon. 30th from 15h to 18h at 5 & 7, rue du Moulin de Vesque in Gratôt (50) will be an Open Day hosted by Penny Parkinson, President of Cancer Support France. Light refreshments will be available. For further details contact: nord.cancersupportfrance.org or nord.president@cancersupportfrance.org, or tel: 02 33 69 01 05

Make your own apple juice at *Pepinières Lecomte* in Le Teilleul (50)

To set off the new season, on Thur. 12th there will be a mobile unit at the nursery at *Pepinières Lecomte* (between Le Teilleul and Buais). Take your fruit and go home with juice (minimum 100kg of apples). Contact www.mouvipress.fr to fix an appointment. It takes only 15 minutes to transform your apples and have them put into 3 litre or 5 litre packs of juice (1.3€/litre and 1.2€ per litre respectively). [The next opportunity will be on 25th November]

This will be followed by their Open Days on Sat. 14th & Sun. 15th Oct., when owners Katherine and Andrew Glen present their new collection [roses, Italian topiary, fruit trees, heathers, etc] and you can benefit from the special promotions over the weekend.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 1st at 17h in the *Centre d'Animation* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): "Jazz et Flamenco", with flamenco guitar, trumpet, violin, double-bass and cello. Tickets: 23€ from the Tourist Office. www.septembre-musical.com

Sat. 14th at 20h30 in the *Centre de Rencontres* in St Berthevin (53, near Laval): "Sparkling Voices" – a group of 5 enthusiastic singers from Lyon with vocal polyphony and jazz. Tickets: 12€, on sale at the *Mairie* in Laval (for contact details: www.laval.fr)

Thurs. 19th at 20h30 in the Salle Polyvalente in Mayenne (53): "*Ca Fromet!*" – songs and humour with guitar, accordion, double base. Tickets: 15€ from the Mayenne Tourist Office. More info at www.kiosque-mayenne.org and www.fredericfromet.fr

'Cantamus' concerts

The Cantamus Ladies' Choir are pleased to present 2 concerts this month:-

♪ Sun. 22nd at 15h30 in the Basilica in Les Tourailles (61). Entrance free.

♪ Sun. 29th at 15h30 in the church at Champsecret (61). Entrance free with a collection for *Sauvegarde du l'Eglise de Champsecret*.

The Ladies of *Cantamus* sing a wide range of musical pieces, traditional and contemporary, a little bit of gospel, jazz and everything in between. For further info call Lesley Thomson on 02 33 38 09 44, e-mail: les.paul@wanadoo.fr, or see their Facebook page.

Music Workshop in l'Epinay-le-Comte (61)

Norrie Waters is holding a music workshop at 19h on Mons. 9th and 23rd in the *Bar du Pecheur* in L'Epinay-le-Comte. It is an opportunity for anyone wanting to work on music ideas with like-minded people. It may be to try out new material, build up the confidence to sing and play in front of others, find suitable songs, discuss music ideas, or practice with others. Basic sound equipment will be provided. Suggestions as to how you would like to proceed with these evenings can be sent to Norrie at waters.norman@orange.fr

Also: 'Open Mic' Night

Norrie's next 'Open Mic' Night at '*Le Viking*' in Notre-Dame-du-Touchet will be on Sat. 14th at 20h. Please get in touch with Norrie direct if you would like to attend either to play or just come and listen. Contact details as above.

Next English film in Gorrion cinema

On Mon. 2nd: 'Wind River' (released Aug. 2017) – a neo-western murder mystery thriller. A veteran tracker with the Fish & Wildlife Service helps to investigate the murder of a young Native American woman, and uses the case as a means of seeking redemption for an earlier act of irresponsibility which ended in tragedy. Writer and director: Taylor Sheridan; starring Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen, Kelsey Chow. Critics are calling it "The Best Thriller of the Year". The film start at 20h30, tickets (5,50€) are available at the cinema from 20h on the night.

As on each film night, you can enjoy a light 2-course meal at the *brasserie 'Bar de la Mairie'* (at the bottom of the hill from the church), where 15€ includes the meal and the ticket for the film. For reservations phone Melanie, the French owner, on 02 43 08 04 59.

Lest We Forget : Domfront under attack

As the first bombs fell on Domfront railway station in 1944, Vital Desnos became one of the first victims when his house was destroyed by the flames. Vital was working for the electrical company Sodex when Domfront *gare* was targeted one Sunday at the end of May, 1944. He remembers: “The Allies were trying to destroy the Caen to Laval railway line, also the Domfront to Alençon & Domfront to Avranches lines. We heard the planes, then the bombs - mainly incendiaries - and the sky was black with smoke. I ran into the ditch of a nearby field when my house and the next farm were hit by incendiary bombs and completely destroyed”. This strategic area was bombed every 2 or 3 days and the fatalities mounted; his wife, Suzanne, helped at the hospital which had been temporarily moved to the *Château de la Guyardière* in La Haute Chapelle (61). Although Vital remembered the curfews, the rationing and blackouts, he preferred to remember of the support of his neighbours who gave them food and clothing as they had lost everything they owned, but luckily not their lives.

‘Eliotts Boucherie’ in Gorrion (53)

Lorraine and Darren are taking a well-earned break, so they will be closed from Tuesday 3rd, re-opening on Thursday 12th.

Join the choir in Gorrion (53)

The *Chorale de la Lyre Gorrionnaise* have their practice sessions every Tuesday evening at 18h in the *Salle de Musique*, rue Jacques Prévert in Gorrion. Everyone who is interested and who likes to sing in a group are welcome, even if they have no experience. To see if you would like to do it, you can go to a session on a Tuesday evening. The sessions are naturally in French, and I know of at least one English singer there who is made to feel very welcome.

Rock 'n roll in Saint Fraimbault (61)

On Sat. 7th our very own ‘Volcanic Ash’, (Ian Ash), together with the band of a friend of Ian’s, will be playing at the bar/restaurant ‘*Le P’tit Chef*’ in Saint-Fraimbault. Go along for a great night of rock ‘n roll.

Something for all the family – Normandy’s dinosaurs

At ‘*Paléospace*’ in Villers-sur-Mer (14), the remains of Normandy’s biggest carnivores and herbivores (like *Streptospondylus*, *Lexovisaurus* and *Dubreuillosaurus valesdunensis*) are displayed under theatrical lighting with other Jurassic fauna, along with original games like the tunnel of discovery, and a virtual lucky dip. Collected and studied by palaeontologists specialising in dinosaurs, the fossil remains of these great animals discovered in the lands of Normandy represent a first in France. There is also a Planetarium on site, including the Greenwich Meridian room. For opening hours, ticket price and location go to www.paleospace-villers.fr. Good reduced mobility access.

The hunting (*la chasse*) season

The hunting season is upon us and ends at the end of February. Most hunting federations advise their members to wear sensible – even high visibility – clothing, to always respect walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, farmers and property owners, and to never hunt alone but in groups of 2 or more. Any problems or questions, your local *Mairie* will be able to help.

Scenes of yesteryear in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

During all of October, on the railings of the hippodrome and in the gardens around the lake there is an exhibition: '*Scènes de la vie à la Belle Époque*', showing how life was at the turn of the century. More info from the Tourist Office (www.bagnolesdelorne.com or 02 33 37 85 66)

EuroMayenne French Classes

If you would like to be able to speak in French to your neighbours and acquaintances, there remain still a few places for members of EuroMayenne in their French classes held every week in Mayenne (53). Qualified French national teacher, well respected and popular since 2004. For more information: www.euromayenne.org.

Organ recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sun 8th at 17h in *l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine*: Olivier Thuault, head organist at *l'Eglise Notre-Dame* in Villedieu-les-Poëles, will be playing works by Dietrich Buxtehude and JS Bach. Free, with a collection. www.bagnolesdelorne.com.

Fête de la Bière in Meslay-du-Maine (53)

On Sat. 28th, for the first time, there will be a *Fête de la Bière* from 19h in the *Salle Socio-culturelle* in Meslay-du-Maine, with music from two DJs. A meal will be available, on prior reservation – *demi-poulet et frites*, 15€, with tickets available at the *Café du Centre*.

Celebration of maritime traditions in Cancale (35)

From 6th to 8th at the *Port de la Houle* in Cancale, '*Les Bordées*' invite everyone to come and enjoy 3 warm and festive days around maritime songs and music. A rich and original program with music from the Basque region, Béarn, Occitania, Italy, England, the USA, Netherlands, also Georgia and Eastern Europe. More info available at the St. Malo Tourist Office (www.saint-malo-tourisme.com)

Concert of classical music in Fougères (35)

On Sun. 15th at 17h in *l'Eglise Saint-Léonard* in Fougères: the Association "*Musiques originales de la Grande Europe*" organises this concert with Natalia Ermakova (cello) and Eric Blin (classical accordion), including works by Mussorgski, Dvořák, Bach, Vivaldi and Strauss. Duration: 1h 15 min). Free, donations welcome.

Something you didn't know you didn't know . . .

In the 9th century the town of Angers, on the river Loire, was repeatedly attacked by the Normans. In 867 they seized the town and occupied it for 6 years. To drive them out, Charles the Bald and the Duke of Brittany revived the stratagem by which Cyrus took Babylon 1,500 years before: they dug a canal north of Angers into which they intended to divert the waters of the Maine. Appalled by the prospect of seeing their boats left high and dry, the Normans hastened to negotiate and finally abandoned the town.

Christmas market in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

This will be on Sat. 2nd & Sun. 3rd December - but please note: the deadline for booking is Friday 27th October. If any local craft workers / artisans would like to book a table / space (10€) please contact by e-mail: joseph.morgan@sfr.fr or donnaatkinson71@outlook.com. The more, the merrier. The venue is indoors.

Dance lessons

Dance classes for Ballroom, Latin American and Sequence dancing start again on Tuesday 3rd at 19h15 in the *Salle Polyvalente* in Désertines, and every Tuesday throughout the year. For more info contact Norrie Waters on: waters.norman@orange.fr

Advance Notice for November : Calling all artisans!

A number of residents in l'Épinay-le-Comte are organising a *Marché de Noël* in the *Salle des Fêtes* on Sun. 26th November, with a set-up day of Sat. 25th. It will be from 10h to 16h, so if you can't set up on the Saturday you will have 2 hours on the Sunday morning. They have a few places left if anyone would like a stall. The cost is 10€ per stall-holder and that's it! For more info please contact Jane Caddick at janedalecaddick@gmail.com

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That's all for this month – plenty going on!

Just a reminder - if in future months you find your Bulletins stop arriving, it could be because I have not heard from you for over a year. People have been known to return to England, or change their email address, without letting me know and I need to be sure the issues are not getting 'lost in the ether' but are still wanted! So do keep in touch!

Judy Skinner

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

October 2017

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“	‘Jazz and Flamenco’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Mon. 2 nd	English film: ‘Wind River’	Gorron	4
6 th to 8 th	Music with maritime traditions	Cancale	6
Sat. 7 th	CSF event: the group ‘Home Made Jam’	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
“	‘Volcanic Ash’ – rock ‘n roll	Saint-Fraimbault	5
Sun. 8 th	<i>Fête des Citrouilles</i> (Pumpkin Fair)	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	20 th edition of ‘ <i>Plantes en Fête</i> ’	La Haute-Chapelle	1
“	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l’Orne	6
Mon. 9 th	Music Workshop	l’Epinay-le-Comte	4
Thurs. 12 th	Make your own apple juice	Le Teilleul	3
13/14/15 th	<i>Foire Saint Luc</i>	Gavray	2
Sat. 14 th	‘Sparkling Voices’ concert	Saint Berthevin	4
“	‘Open Mic’ Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	4
W/e 14 th / 15 th	Open Days at <i>Pepinières Lecomte</i>	Le Teilleul	3
Sun. 15 th	Concert in <i>l’Eglise Saint-Léonard</i>	Fougères	6
Thurs. 19 th	‘ <i>Ca Fromet!</i> ’: guitar & accordion	Mayenne	4
Sat. 21 st	Alzheimers’ Group Awareness Event	Madré	2
Sun. 22 nd	<i>Cantamus</i> concert	Les Tourailles	4
Mon. 23 rd	Music Workshop	l’Epinay-le-Comte	4
Sat. 28 th	<i>Fête de la Bière</i>	Meslay-du-Maine	6
Sun. 29 th	<i>Cantamus</i> concert	Champsecret	4
“	EuroMayenne Craft Fair	Mayenne	2
Mon. 30 th	Become a volunteer for CSF-N	Gratôt	3
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Advance notice for November:			
Sun. 26 th	<i>Marché de Noël</i>	l’Epinay-le-Comte	7