

## Bulletin !

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

### Thought for the month:

Always laugh when you can.

It is cheap medicine

(Lord Byron)

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

Wed. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in Salle Nominoë, Pl. de la Cathédrale, ±150
Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> at Le Chevalerie, ±150
”	Sourdeval (50)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> in Moulin Foulon, ±50
W/e 11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>	La Chapelle d'Andaine (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> in Salle Roland Fléchar, ±250
Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Brécey (50)	<i>vide-ta-chambre</i> in <i>Espace Culturel</i> – “make room for Christmas!”, ±50
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , -±50
W/e 25/26 <sup>th</sup>	Cancale (35)	v-g on rue Pierre de Coubertin, ±70
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> at Le Chevalerie, ±150

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

### Marchés de Noël and Christmas Fayres

Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Notre-Dame du Touchet (50)	CSF-Nord Christmas Fayre (see page 3)
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup>	l'Épinay-le-Comte (61)	Christmas Market (see page 2)
”	Montaudin (53)	In the <i>Salle des Fêtes</i> , 9h-18h

Special dates / public holidays:

- Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> *Toussaint* (All Saints' Day) - a festival honouring the saints of the Roman Catholic church. It precedes the *Fête des Morts* on the 2nd when people honour the dead and bring flowers, usually chrysanthemums and heather, to the graves of relations.
- Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> *l'Armistice* (Remembrance Day): the 99<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I. This is the day when those killed in both WWI and WW2 are remembered. Services take place across France, one of the most well known being the Memorial Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris.

### Eating out : 'La Carotte'

After 2 years of planning and paperwork, this *bistro créative* opened in October in the former *brocante* at 14, Quai Carnot (beside the river Mayenne) in Mayenne town. This will be a great place to meet friends and eat healthy, local, quality, organic food. Open for *midis*: Mon. to Fri. 11h30 - 14h30. Evenings: Mon., Tues & Weds. from 17h30 to 20h there will be tapas served; on Thurs. 18h30 to 22h: traditional food, and on Fridays from 18h30 to midnight: tapas with live music. More details: [www.lacarotte-bistro.com](http://www.lacarotte-bistro.com)

### *Le Jardin des Plantes de Coutances* (50)

*Le Jardin des Plantes de Coutances*, 2 rue Quesnel Morinière in Coutances (50) is in the grounds of the 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion (now a museum) which was owned by the Poupinel family from 1675 until 1855. It was then opened for use by the public and offers a harmonious mix of English landscape and French ornamental garden, and has many attractions: statues, sculptures, a maze, apple press, grotto and many rare species of plants. Open daily (free access): Oct to March: 9h-17h; Apr to Sep: 9h-20h; July & August (with illuminations): 9h-23h30. A flyer with the garden plan is available. More info: [www.coutances.fr](http://www.coutances.fr) or ask at a Tourist Office.

### Christmas Market in l'Épinay-le-Comte (61)

On Sun. 26<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 16h in the *Salle des Fêtes* in L'Épinay-le-Comte, there will be some wonderful artisanal products including ceramics, jewellery, paintings, cakes, sweets, forge work, silk flowers, cards, hand-made crafts and much more. Entry is free, refreshments will be available. Don't miss it! For more info, contact Jane at [janedalecaddick@gmail.com](mailto:janedalecaddick@gmail.com)

### Book Sale in support of Grande-Daze Animal Companion Centre

There is a book sale on Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> at 'Villagonnais', Juvigné (53) [on the D208 Juvigné to Bourgneuf road] from 10h to 15h 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, DVDs & CDs will be on sale starting at 50c each. Also home-made jams and chutneys. For more info contact Jenny on 02 43 02 96 35 or see their Facebook page.

Advance notice for December: Curry Night in support of Grande-Daze on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> December (see page 7)

### Christmas and Greetings Card Making Workshops

Join them for a fun day at their Christmas and greetings card making workshops at 'Cadres' in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53) on Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 16h. You will be using a variety of techniques, including heat embossing, watercolour techniques and, of course, a gentle sprinkling of glitter! The price is 20€ which includes all materials, a hot lunch, afternoon cream tea and refreshments. Places are limited to just 10 people per workshop, so a deposit is required to secure your place. Please contact Tina on 02 43 05 33 82 or at [tinatom53@orange.fr](mailto:tinatom53@orange.fr)

## Remarkable churches in this part of France: *L'Eglise Saint-Julien* in Domfront (61)

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Saint-Julien church was just a small, primitive chapel under the patronage of Saint-Julien, the first bishop of Le Mans. It was in 1924, after a bad storm, that the parish priest organised its replacement, at a cost of 80,000 francs (12,196€). The architect, Albert Guilbert, chose the square plan of Byzantine basilicas and used reinforced concrete, a new technique [which, however, became badly corroded, requiring expensive repairs between 2011 and 2013] as this saved the need for so many pillars, with just 4 grand arches supporting the 'candle-snuffer' design bell-tower. Inside, the decoration is neo-Byzantine with mosaics by Gaudin. Of particular note – an immense Christ 'Pantocrator' in the chancel whose eyes, like the Mona Lisa, seem to follow you . . . ! Classed a *Monument Historique* in 1933.

## Cancer Support France Nord Christmas Fayre

On Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 17h in the *Salle des Fêtes* in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50) there will be a variety of stands, a Christmas Raffle and Christmas carols. Food and drink are available all day. For future info: [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org); tel: 02 33 69 01 05

## Exhibition in the *Musée du Château de Mayenne* (53)

Until 19<sup>th</sup> Nov., this exhibition in the Château (at place Juhel in Mayenne) is entitled "*Curiosités d'ici et d'ailleurs*" and there are more than 350 items of interest, including archaeological and natural history, ethnology and local history. Entry: 5€ (free for under 18s). Opening hours for November: daily (not Mondays) 10h-12h30 & 14h-17h. Wheelchair accessible. ([www.museeduchateaudemayenne.fr](http://www.museeduchateaudemayenne.fr))

## Lions Club of Domfront – *les roses de la solidarité*

Traditionally in mid-November you will see members of *le Lion's Club* selling roses outside many supermarkets, commercial centres and church forecourts. They support local area events (local associations, handicapped people, families in distress, the Alzheimers welcome centre) as well as regional, national and international causes (including *Handi-chiens*, which trains and provides assistance dogs for handicapped people). They also organise various events – social evenings, tourist outings, flea markets, collections, exhibitions, etc.

## *Vente spéciale Emmaüs* in Fougères (35)

Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> at 9h-12h & 14h-17/h in the *Emmaüs* depot at the *Ferme de Paron* in Fougères. This will be the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of this Emmaüs special autumn sale. Plenty of bargains!

## Feedback from October's events

The ever-popular *Plantes en Fêtes*, held on Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> Oct., at the 16<sup>th</sup> century *Manoir de la Guyardière* in La Haute Chapelle (61) welcomed around 10,000 plant enthusiasts – a record number. However, the owners of the *Manoir* have regrettably announced that, after 20 years of holding this event at this lovely setting, this would be the last time it will be taking place there, and the organisers are seeking another venue for next year. For more info: [www.plantesenfete-manoirdelaguyardiere.fr](http://www.plantesenfete-manoirdelaguyardiere.fr).

## Entertainment & Concerts

Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> at 18h & 20h30 in the Esplanade François Mitterrand in Mayenne (53): *La Grande Cirque de Saint-Petersbourg*. In 2 hours you can discover the stars of the Circus of Russia in their new show. Tickets: 9€, 13€, 17€. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37, [www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com](http://www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com))

Fri. 17<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in the Salle Polyvalente, rue Volvey in Mayenne (53) – a concert with Emma Mory and *humoriste* Jules Champaloux, in aid of Telethon. More info and tickets available at Leclerc (02 43 30 17 40) or ‘*Le Kiosque*’ (02 43 00 92 04).

Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> at 21h in the *Centre d’Animation* in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): ‘The Maurizio Geri Swingtet’ with *manouche*, Tuscan folk and Italian songs. Tickets: 15€ (students & unemployed: 10€) available from the Tourist Office ([www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com))

Thurs. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 20h30 in Espace Colmont in Gorrion (53): ‘Unisson’ – a concert of music by ‘Transmissions’, with the celebrated orchestra class of College Francis Lallart. Proceeds will go towards support for the wounded and the families of servicemen who died on active service. Tickets (10€, under 10s: 5€) and more info from the MSAP in Gorrion (or ask me):

### Something for all the family – *Chasse au trésor*

On Sun. 5<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 17h at the *Musée Archéologique Départemental*, 13 rue de la Liberation in Jublains (53) this annual family Treasure Hunt takes place during the day in and around the Fortress. You can walk around this great building to search for clues that will allow you to open the treasure chest! Will you find *gauloises* money? More info available at *l’Accueil* of the Museum. Remember to take footwear adapted to the weather conditions for that day. [www.museedejublains.fr](http://www.museedejublains.fr)

On the same day there will also be a *Marché au Musée*, with items on sale including art, textile creations, ceramics, culinary delicacies and object of decor – something for everyone, also a stand for the products of the *Forum Métiers d’Art*. Free.

### November events for Cancer Support France Nord

If you would like further info on these events at the Cancer Support France Day Centre in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50) please contact CSF by email: [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org) or phone: 02 33 69 01 05. Remember also – November is Men’s Cancer Awareness Month.

☞ Monthly Brunch on Thurs. 2<sup>nd</sup>, served from 10h (last orders taken at 13h).

☞ Monthly Lunch on Fri. 17<sup>th</sup>: this is a 3-course meal, including wine or fruit juice plus coffee, for 12,50€ (a 5€ deposit is required when booking). Vegetarian options are available but this needs to be ordered at the time of booking. Please book early as this is a very popular event and places are limited. Please wear something Blue.

### Carrying ID on you at all times

A reminder that it is the law in France that you must be able to prove your identity at all times – for example, if asked to do so by a *gendarme*. Valid documents include a driving licence or passport, *carte vitale* (showing your photo) or elector’s card. Note: a spokesman for the *Préfecture de Police de Paris* has said they recommend that, if you are not French, you carry a photocopy of your passport and leave your passport in a safe place at home

## Lest we forget

In September, Lois Millet, one of 3 daughters of an American pilot of WW2, visited *l'Expo Aéro-Mémoire* at *l'Ancienne Minoterie* in Couterne (61). Roland Peterson was a pilot in the US Air Force, 405<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 511<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron. On 31<sup>st</sup> July 1944, his and 3 other planes took off around noon on an armed reconnaissance mission. South of the Channel they flew low and came across a large number of Focke Wulfs. Two of the planes disengaged, but he and the other two were hit. His plane on fire, Roland Peterson had to eject from his plane over the commune of Sainte-Anne de Buais. Both himself and his parachute were badly burnt and he fell into a chestnut tree, breaking his ankle. His burns were treated by a farmer's wife, and he was hidden for 3 days under bean stakes, until the arrival of the US troops. Roland visited Landivy before his death in 2006. His daughter was able to see the story of her father in the exhibition.

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

In Domfront (61) in the *lotissement* (housing estate) on rue du Pressoir there is a road called "rue de Jean-Sans-Terre". The French details about our King 'Lackland' John state: "Jean-Sans-Terre (1167-1216) was the 5<sup>th</sup> son of Eleanor de Guyenne and Henri 11 Plantagenêt. He was king of England from 1199 to 1216. Foreseeing a confrontation with the King of France, 'Jean-Sans-Terre' came to Domfront in 1202 to reinforce the fortifications of the *donjon* (keep). A part of this edifice dating from this period can still be seen."

## *Cartes grises* and *permis de conduire* by internet

From 6<sup>th</sup> November, the *Préfecture* in Laval (53) is closing its offices, and *les permis de conduire* and *cartes grises* will only be available via the internet. To get your *permis de conduire*, or to renew it in the event of its loss, for an change of address on your *carte grise*, or even the *cessation* of a vehicle, all will now be done at <https://immatriculation.ants.gouv.fr> or via [www.permisdeconduire.ants.gouv.fr](http://www.permisdeconduire.ants.gouv.fr). However, if you do not have access to a computer, you can still go to the *Préfecture*, where an information point will be available with someone available to advise you.

## Speed limit in towns and villages

A reminder that visitors do not always realise that EVERY town/village in France has a 50kph speed limit - unless a different speed is indicated - from the moment the town sign is passed until passing the town name with a line through it, when the speed can be increased. This is, naturally, to safeguard the odd animal or elderly person making a break for freedom across the road!

Also, when passing a sign with an 'X' on it (as opposed to an arrow pointing upwards) – this does not signify a crossroads ahead, but it means 'priority from the right' and is usually just before a (hidden) right-hand bend. The upward pointing arrow signifies that you have priority.

## Tour de France 2018

The official route for the 2018 Tour de France has been revealed. The famous cycle race - which will be in its 105<sup>th</sup> year and cover 3,300 kms in total - will take place from July 7<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, pushed a week later than usual in a bid to not conflict with the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

## Sport & Leisure Activities

### *Tournoi de Judo* (Judo Tournament)

Sat. 18<sup>th</sup> & Sun. 19<sup>th</sup> at the *Complexe Allée Alois Monnet* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). On the Sat.: from 16h30 to 21h – mixed teams. On the Sun.: at 10h-12h & 13h-16h - juniors. Free. Organised by the *Judo Club Fertois*. Tickets are available from the Bagnoles Tourist Office.

### Golf courses in this part of France:

For keen golfers, there are 2 courses north of Laval: Laval Golf / La Mayenne: 'La Chabossiere' (18 holes) and *Le Jariel* (9 holes and 'Pitch & Putt') both at Changé-les-Laval (53, near St Jean-sur-Mayenne). [www.laval53-golf.com](http://www.laval53-golf.com)



**Advance notice for December: (see page 2)** - Curry Night, in aid of Grande-Daze Animal Rescue, on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 19h at the *Salle des Fêtes* in Saint-Germain-le-Guillaume (53) Tickets are now available and the website post for it is: <http://www.grandedaze.com/soiree-curry-decembre-curry-night-december-2017/>



That's all for this month – a shorter issue than usual, as I only returned from a short holiday yesterday and so I have 'run out of month'! I hope you enjoy all of the events or places of interest that you visit.

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

November 2017

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Thurs. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	CSF Nord Monthly Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	4
Fri. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas and Greetings Card workshop	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	3
Sat. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Emmaüs special sale	Fougères	3
Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Chasse au trésor</i> and <i>Marché au Musée</i>	Jublains	4
Tues. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas and Greetings Card workshop	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	3
Sat. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Armistice (Remembrance Day)	All over Europe	1
Mon. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<i>La Grande Cirque de St Petersburg</i>	Mayenne	4
Fri. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Mory and Jules Champaloux	Mayenne	4
“	CSF Nord Monthly Lunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	4
Sat. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Concert by ‘The Maurizio Geri Swingtet’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Judo Tournament	Bagnoles de l’Orne	6
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Book sale in support of Grande-Daze	Juvigné	2
Thurs. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	‘Unisson’ with ‘ <i>Transmissions</i> ’	Gorron	4
Sat. 25 <sup>th</sup>	CSF Nord Christmas Fayre	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas market	l’Epinay-le-Comte	2
“	<i>Marché de Noël</i>	Montaudin	1

## Advance Notice for December:

Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Curry Night in support of Grande-Daze	St-Germain-le-Guillaume	6
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