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Bulletin!

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

Thought for the month:

Laughter has no foreign accent

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area $[\pm]$ = stalls expected] '(35)' = area

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Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup>
                La Frenais (35)
                                          v-g, \pm 50
Sun. 4<sup>th</sup>
                Ernée (53)
                                          v-g, \pm 70
                Precey (50)
                                          v-g, \pm 70
  ۷,
                Brée, near Tanis (50) v-g in Terrain de Sports, ±70
                Sainte-Suzanne (53)
                                         Les Puces Suzannaises, ±70
                                          v-g in the Fête de Saint-Front, ±70
                Domfront (61)
                La Ferté-Macé (61)
                                          v-g / foire / brocante in centre ville, ±300
Sun. 11<sup>th</sup>
                Commer (53)
                                          v-g & Fête Foraine, \pm 300 (see page 3)
                Perrou (61)
                                          v-g, \pm 150
                Gathèmo (50)
                                          v-g / brocante, ±70
                La Frenais (35)
                                          v-g in Salle des Sports, ±70
Sat. 17<sup>th</sup>
                                          v-g on Place Louis Derbré, ±70
                Montenay (53)
Sun. 18<sup>th</sup>
                Juvigny-s/Andaine (61) v-g, \pm 150
  ۲,
                Dol de Bretagne (35) v-g in 'Foirail', ±70
                Ger (50)
                                          v-g, \pm 50
Sun. 25<sup>th</sup>
                St Mars s/la Futaie (53) v-g in the Fête du Village, ±300
                Fougères (35)
                                          v-g in Jardin des Fêtes, ±200
  ۲,
                Mayenne (53)
                                          v-g & bourse d'échange auto-motos.
                Gorron (53)
                                          annual braderie (v-g) around the town
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Visit www.brocabrac.fr and www.vide-greniers.org which are constantly updated with brocantes / vide-greniers, including any changes.

Special dates:-

Journées du Patrimoine

All over France on the weekend of 17th & 18th 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

Eating out: La Cachette

[I first featured this little *brocante*/tea room last year and it is still well worth a visit]:

In Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) at 2 rue de la Guesdonnière (behind the church), *La Cachette* is a combined *resto*, *brocante* and *salon de thé*. A bit hidden away (hence its name!), as well as some 'shabby chic' *brocante* items, there is a small dining area where you can enjoy a small choice of meals (beautifully cooked), teas, pastries and Italian ice-cream. There is a small terrace for sitting *au plein air* in summer. Open Mons., Tues., Thurs., (closed Weds) 10h-19h. On Fri., Sat., Sun.: 10h-22h. Tel: 02 43 03 88 29

Les Jardins des Renaudies

In these lovely gardens near Colombiers du Plessis (53) more than 3,000 plants of different species have been planted and landscaped; there is also an *eco-musée* and art exhibition Open from Easter until 1st Nov. Opening times for Sept., & Oct.: Tues to Sun. & fête days: 14h-18h. Entry $5 \in 6-16s$: $2 \in 9$, under 6s: free. *www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr*.

Events in September:

- ® on Sat. 17th & Sun. 18th: *Journées du Patrimoine* (only 2€ entry)
- ⊚ on Sun. 18th: demonstration of Ikebana Japanese flower arranging.

Artists in the village of Fontaine-Daniel (53)

From 9h to 18h on Sunday 11th, artists will set up their easels around the village. Prize giving is at 18h. Free entry. More info from: *mairie.sgb@wanadoo.fr*

La Nuit de Laval (53)

On Fri. 2nd from 19h – families/friends/couples/singles will come to enjoy Laval by Night. An evening with many free activities: sport, arts, culture, humour. www.laval-tourisme.com

Château de Lassay – visite à la chandelle (visit by candle-light)

On Sat. 17th you can discover a magical atmosphere at this 14th century fortress in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53). Lit by 1,001 candles, you will enjoy an incredible sight. More info: *www.lassay-tourisme.fr* or from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)

Walking along the towpaths

Alongside the river Mayenne (53), from north to south there are 85km of *chemins de halage* (tow-paths) – ideal for walkers, fishermen, also riders of horses and bicycles. More details and maps showing walks in the area are available from the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Art et Jardin in Ceaucé (61).

On 25th Sept. 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

On the weekend of Sat 17th & Sun 18th in Cigné, near Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) – on Sat eve: fireworks; on Sun: *vide-greniers*, country fête, cycle races, local produce market. Food is available on site from 12h30.

Something for all the family - le Refuge Animalier de l'Arche

By visiting the 'Ark Animal Refuge' near Chateau-Gontier (53) you will be helping to care for the animals that have been rescued by the Ark Refuge team. The Ark truly is a refuge for all animals, be they exotic or local species, injured, ill-treated or just abandoned because they were too much bother. Behind every animal there is a story − the story of an encounter with human beings that turned out badly. It all began in 1968 when a group of young people brought an injured cormorant to Christian Huchedé, who was already well known for his love of animals. Little by little − first just a nest-box, then a cage or two − the site has grown and now occupies 14 hectares . . . and that won't be the end of the story! Whenever possible the animals simply pass through the Ark Refuge, just staying until they have recovered their strength. Every year thousands of visitors, both adults and children, happily stroll through the avenues of this ornamental park to meet these animals that have known such suffering. It is a way of making up to some extent for the barbarous behaviour of certain human beings towards animals. There are three interpretive trails through the 14-hectares of parkland. Open all year [except 1st Jan & 25th Dec] - in July & Aug: 9h30-19h; Sept., 10h-19h. Entry: Adults: 10€, 4-11s: 6.50€; under 4s free. Find out more at www.refuge-arche.org

21st Festival du Dahlia et des Jardins in Coutances (50)

During the month of Sept, daily, 14h-18h, you will find 220 varieties of plants, 6,000 dahlias, music, paintings, a maze. Entry: 4€, under 10s free; www.normandie-tourisme.fr

Jardins du Château de la Bourbansais (35)

These French-style gardens of the *Château de la Bourbansais* (classed a *Monument Historique*) at Pleugueneuc (between Dinan and Combourg) are evidence of artistic creation between the Renaissance and Classical periods. Designed by Le Nôtre, the huge *jardin potager* (kitchen garden) was restored in 2012 using the archived plans from the 17th century.

An event in September at La Bourbansais:

On 24th & 25th Sept., 10h to 18h, will be the *Festival 'Plantes et Saveurs au Potager'*, where there will be 70 stands with exhibition and sale of rare plants, vegetables, fruits and related gastronomy; also products & objects related to the garden. Entry: 6€, 3-12s: 3€, under 3s free. www.labourbansais.com

Festival du Film Britannique (Festival of British Cinema)

This popular festival is from 28th Sept. to 2nd Oct. in Dinard (35). Who will win the Golden Hitchcock award? Every autumn a wave of suspense grips Dinard's version of *La Croisette* in Cannes. Caesar can keep his César −the British Film Festival has Hitchcock as a mascot − and you won't need subtitles! 5 venues, including an open-air screen. Tickets: 6€ per film. More details from *www.festivaldufilm-dinard.com*

Fête foraine and remote controlled models in Commer (53)

Sun. 11th, 8h–18h, as well as the *vide-greniers* in the Salle de Lilas, there will be a gathering of enthusiasts of remote-controlled cars, boats and agricultural vehicles. Also children's games – and candy floss! Free entry.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 4th at 20h30 in Jublains (53): 'Concert au bains' - 2 international artistes, pianist Claire Foison and soprano Cherise Lukow, with an evening of Mozart, Puccini, even Gershwin. Tickets 6,50€, reservation necessary from 02 43 58 13 20 or at the Mayenne Tourist Office

Over the weekend of 10th & 11th at Chatellier (35) in the *Festival d'art de rue* there will be 12 shows (music, street art, etc), and sale of paintings. *www.ot-fougeres.fr*

Thurs. 15th at 20h30 at l'Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (61): Alain Bouvet (organ) and Pierre Dutot (trumpet) with works by Handel, Bach, Puccini, Vivaldi, Dubois, Scronx, Boëllmann, Telemann. Free, with a collection.

Fri. 16th at 20h30 in the château in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) - free concert '*Baroque Cabaret*'. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office: www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Sat. 17th at 20h in the church of St Roch-sur-Egrenne (61): free concert with 'Les Enchanteresses' - a female trio of jazz singers. More info: Tourist Office 02 33 38 53 97

34th Septembre Musical de l'Orne

There are many concerts - classical, opera and jazz - in the Orne *département* (61) in September, including the following (more info from *www.septembre-musical.com*):

♪ Fri 2nd at 20h30 in *Basilique Notre-Dame* in Alençon – *Orchestre de l' Opera de Rouen*

♪ Sun. 4th at 17h in *l'Eglise St Julien* in Domfront: 'Les Paladins' (orchestra)

♪ Sun. 11th at 17h in *l'Eglise de Briouze*: the choir '*Les Affinités Electives*'

↑ Sat. 24th at 16h30 in the Château de Carrouges: 'Sit Fast' (quartet), '*La Maitrise*' (choir) and '*Ensemble Instrumental des Hauts de Seine*' (orchestra)

Hugh Coltman with "Shadows of Nat King Cole"

On Fri. 30th at 20h30 in *l'Espace Claire de Lune* in Ernée (53) – Hugh Coltman with songs by Nat King Cole (Mona Lisa, Shadows, Annabelle, etc). Tickets: 11€, children: 6€; www.cc-lernee.fr

Organ and trumpet concert in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

 \square on Wed. 7th at 17h in *l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine*: a variety of masterpieces with organ and trumpet. Free, with a collection

English film night in Gorron (53) cinema

This month the long-awaited (in this area anyway!) film 'Lady in the Van' with Dame Maggie Smith will be shown on 2 nights: Fri 2^{nd} & Mon 5^{th} . The film starts at 20h30, tickets $(5,50\mathbb{C})$ are on sale at the cinema that evening from 20h. For those who like a pre-film refresher, we will be meeting in the *Bar de la Mairie* (at the bottom of the hill by the *mairie*) from 19h15 (probably on both nights!).

Fête des Angevins in Fougères (35)

From 3rd to 6th there are many events in the town: Sat. 3rd at 21h – evening procession of dancers, floats and drums; Sun. 4th at 14h30: fashion parade in Place Aristide Briand; Mon. 5th at 22h: fireworks; Tues 6th, 8h-18h: *braderie* of local businesses. *www.ot-fougeres.fr*

Lest we forget

In the *Musée du Vieux Château* in Laval (53) is a painting by Christian Poirier showing the soldiers of the 124th Infantry Regiment leaving Laval on 5th August 1914 – soldiers marching, drums beating, onlookers waving. They were being sent by train to Rheims, and were followed on 10th August by the 324th Regiment, with veteran soldiers, and then the 25th Regiment of Territorial Infantry, which suffered severe losses during the conflict at Cambrai. From these 3,000 soldiers who marched from Laval, almost 1,000 did not return.

Wine-tasting boat trip in Laval (53)

On Fri. 9th from 19h to 20h30, departing from the *Halte Fluviale* in Laval, you can cruise along the river while tasting 3 wines recommended by the *sommelier-caviste* of the Château. Tickets: 9,50€ from the Tourist Office (02 43 49 45 26), in advance of the date.

Les Dimanches Animés near Antrain (35)

On Sun. 18th from 10h to 19h at the *Base de Loisirs Récré'Nature* in the Forest of Villecartier, Bazouges-la-Pérouse, you can enjoy a day in this lovely setting, with boating lake, *parcours de santé* (fitness trail), children's games area, *acrobranching* through the trees, cycle rides or walks. *www.ot-fougeres.fr* or *www.tourisme-paysdantrain.com*

Grand Festival du Blé Noir in Juvigné (53)

On Sun. 11th from 12h30 to 19h at this traditional festival you can watch threshing of the *sarrasin* (buckwheat) and the making of the flour, with tastings of the *galettes de blé noir*. There will also be a show of horse-riding, artists at work, Breton folk music, and you can visit the Museum (details in last month's Bulletin). *www.mayenne-tourisme.com*

BBQ in aid of Cancer Support France Nord

On Sat. 17th at 12h30, Peter Dickie will be holding a BBQ at his house – 4 La Perrine, 50560 Geffosses (near Coutances, 50). Tickets are 15€, which includes a selection of meats, salad, vegetables; dessert; drinks (wine, beer & non-alcoholic) and coffee. Please book early as space is limited – tel: 02 33 46 50 28, or email: *padickie@gmail.com*.

13th Fête de la Terre in Fontaine-Daniel (53)

On the weekend of 3^{rd} & 4^{th} in this pretty village (near Mayenne), plenty of activities for everyone: Sat. 3^{rd} - at 11h: a historical guide of the village in English by Ursula Benjamin ($2 \in$); from 14h: *marché de produits biologique*; pony rides; at 22h: a concert by '*Tarafikants*'. On Sun. 4^{th} - at 10h: again a historical guide of the village in English by Ursula Benjamin ($2 \in$); 15h: singing in the *Chapelle* by the orthodox Sisters. Refreshments available in *l'Epicerie* by the lake. Free entry. More info from *www.fetedelaterre.fr*

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

During WWI, 1,300 Russian soldiers were garrisoned in Laval (53). These soldiers of the Tsar Nicholas II had been sent to the Western Front in 1916 and then found themselves cut off from Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. They remained here until 1920, by which time an orthodox culture had been created especially for them, and when the base of operations was disbanded, many of them stayed here.

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 and Percussion. Please contact Viv Armitage on 02 33 37 74 13 for further information.

Taking photos of your valuables

A reminder that we are advised to take photos of our valuables and expensive equipment in case of theft, fire or other damage for insurance identification purposes. However, unless you can prove that the item was actually in the insured house it may not be covered in any claim you make on your insurance policy. So, as well as taking the individual photos it might be a good idea to take a film of the items 'in situ', if possible showing yourself beside them, to use as proof of ownership.

Fête Communale d'Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

The weekend of 10th & 11th holds plenty of activities: on Sat. at 16h - annual road race, open to adults and children; at 22h - fireworks. On Sunday there will be entertainment throughout the day.

'Le Coquelicot' restaurant in St Fraimbault (61) re-opening

The restaurant 'Le Coquelicot' closed its doors a while ago, sadly, but the commune has bought the business and it will be rented out to a Belgian restaurateur (restaurant owner) from 1st September. The bakery has also closed and the commune intend to do the same here. I have also heard that the main reason for the previous closures of this restaurant was the lack of customers, so it is down to the usual 'use it or lose it'! Even if it is for meeting up with friends over a café/apéritif!

Parachutisme ascensionnel (paragliding) - discovery day

On Fri. 30th at the *Centre Ecole de Parachutisme de Laval*, at the *Aerodrome de Laval* (53) you can try this out (if a novice) or check out the facilities (if not). Flights for beginners at 10m-40m, up to 350m-450m for experienced flyers, ascending via a long cable and parachuting down. All necessary training and equipment provided; a health certificate is compulsory. For more info go to *www.parachutismelaval.fr*

Guided tour in English to the medieval town of Sainte-Suzanne (53)

On Wed. 14^{th} as part of "Welcome, c'est beau ici" – a guided tour in English to help you discover the history and the streets of this historic town. At the end of the visit free refreshment will be offered in Place du Village. Adults: $5 \in$, children $4 \in$. More info: Mayenne Tourist Office (www.mayenne-tourisme.com)

La Michaudière in Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61)

A reminder that this amazing spectacle can still be enjoyed throughout most of September at *la Ferme du Cheval de Trait* (farm of the draft horse). 30 farm horses, including the mighty Percherons, present a breathtaking hour-long show 'de la Terre à la Scene', which has been enjoyed by over 450,000 visitors (see also Bulletin no. 112). For more info go to the website: www.lamichaudiere.fr

'Grande-Daze Rescue' Bowling Evening

On Tues. 20th at 19h is a bowling evening in support of Grande-Daze Rescue - a charity devoted to the rescue and re-homing of ill-treated, abandoned or unwanted animals - at the 'Strike' Bowling Club in Fougères (35). Tickets are 15€ per person, which includes 2 games, shoes, buffet and tombola. Entry by ticket only. Contact: Denise on 02 43 00 67 27

Foire St Grégoire in Ernée (53)

At this annual *Foire* on Sat 3rd & Sun 4th there will be street entertainment, hand-made craft & local artisan market, exhibitions and music. Free entry. *www.ville-ernee.fr*

Dog Agility / Obedience / Fly Ball sessions

Qualified instructor Kathryn Sanderson is holding these sessions this September. They will be taking place on Saturday afternoon: first session 13h to 14h; second session 14h30 to 15h30. Price: 10€ per dog per session. All dogs need up-to-date vaccination certificates. For more information call Kathryn on 02 43 11 29 86 or e-mail muddypaws53@hotmail.co.uk.

Guided tour in English of *l'Eglise St Julien* in Domfront (61)

On Wed. 14th at 17h, this guided tour, lasting about an hour, includes both the insude of the church and the spire. Please – no heels to be worn, and no children under 10. You can book tickets at the Domfront Tourist Office: $3 \in$, of which $1 \in$ is offered to the *Amis de St Julien*. For more details: www.ot-domfront.com, tel: 02 33 38 53 97

Salon de Peinture in Domfront (61)

From 28th Sept to 2nd Oct, the Lions Club of Domfront is organising a painting contest for any technique or theme, followed by an exhibition of works by local artists. Open to everyone. More info: www.ot-domfront.com or email lcd-prix@hotmail.fr

Art classes and workshops

If you have promised yourself some quality time this winter, art sessions in Joe Morgan's studio in Fougerolles-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

CSF Nord –Monthly Lunch and Sponsored Knit

 $\[\bigcirc \]$ On Fri. 23rd at 12h30 is the Monthly Lunch at the Cancer Support France Nord Day Centre in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Tickets are 12,50 $\[\bigcirc \]$. To book please contact the Day Centre on 02 33 69 01 15 or email: csfbassenormandie@gmail.com

On Sat. 24th from 10h to 18h – a Sponsored Knit at *La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux* at 8 Place de la Mairie in Gorron (53) in aid of CSF Nord. Donations of knitting wool – any type or quantity – gratefully received. For further info, to donate wool, take part or obtain a sponsorship form, please contact the CSF Nord Day Centre (as above) or Stephanie on 06 72 34 38 11. Facebook page: La maison des beaux cadeaux.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Basketball match in Laval (53):

On Wed. 14th at 20h in the Salle Polyvalente, Place de Hercé in Laval, organised by US Laval: Gravelines vs. Dunkerque. Tickets: 11€, under 18s: 6,50€; www.laval-tourisme.com

Line dancing – open day:

On Wed. 14th between 19h & 22h at the Salle de Country in Saint-James (50) you can find out more about these classes and you can have 2 free lessons on 14th & 21st. More info from the Saint-James Tourist Office, *www.saintjamestourisme.fr* or 02 33 89 62 38

Championnat de France de rallycross:

On Sat. 24th & Sun. 25th: this annual event takes place at the '*Maurice Forget*' track near Chatillon-sur-Colmont (53, off the N12) Look out for nearby posters.

Walking:

On Sun. 25th in La Haie-Traversaine (53) – *Rando-Patrimoine*: from 14h30 to 16h30 this 4.5km walk takes you along the banks of the river Colmont and a discovery of the village. Entry: 5€, children: 3,50€. For more info contact: *coevrons-mayenne@lamayenne.fr*

Local swimming pool – Lassay-les-Châteaux (61):

This will be open until 25^{th} Sept. Opening hours: Mon. to Sat. (but closed Wednesdays): 10h15-12h15 & 15h-19h30 (Thurs eves. until 21h); Sun. 15h-19h30. Tickets: 3,60€, 6-18s: 1,60€, under 6s free.

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That's all for this month. Just a reminder that this is only a random selection of events / places of interest, so do visit your nearest Tourist Office, or their website, for more info.

Last month, half a dozen people didn't receive their Bulletin at the beginning of the month, even though I sent it to them in the usual way. If you don't receive one, do let me know, as sometimes we seem to have 'gremlins'!

Judy Skinner

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e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

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

September 2016

<u>Date</u>	Event	<u>Town</u> <u>I</u>	Page
Fri. 2 nd	Film 'Lady in the Van'.	Gorron	4
"	Orchestre de l'Opéra de Rouen	Alençon	4
"	Laval by Night	Laval	2
$W/e 3^{rd} / 4^{th}$	Foire St. Gregoire	Ernée	7
44	13th Fête de la Terre	Fontaine-Daniel	5
3 rd to 6 th	Fête des Angevins	Fougères	4
Sun. 4 th	<i>'Les Paladins'</i> – 12 musicians	Domfront	4
cc	Concert au bains – piano & soprano	Jublains	4
Mon. 5 th	Film: 'Lady in the Van'	Gorron	4
Wed. 7 th	Concert with organ and trumpet	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Fri. 9 th	Wine tasting boat trip	Laval	5
$W/e 10^{th} / 11^{th}$	Festival d'art de la rue	Chatellier	4
cc	Fête Communale	Ambrières-les-Vallées	6
Sun. 11 th	Artists in the village	Fontaine-Daniel	2
66	Fête foraine & remote controlled models	Commer	3
"	Choir 'Les Affinités Electives'	Briouze	4
66	Grand Festival du Blé Noir	Juvigné	5
Wed. 14 th	Basketball: Gravelines v. Dunkerque	Laval	8
66	Guided tour in English	Sainte-Suzanne	6
44	Line Dancing 'Open Day'	Saint-James	8
Thurs. 15 th	Concert with organ and trumpet	Domfront	4
Fri. 16 th	Concert 'Baroque Cabaret'	Lassay-les-Châteaux	4
Sat. 17 th	Château by candlelight	Lassay-les-Châteaux	2
66	BBQ in aid of Cancer Support France Nord	Geffosses (near Coutances) 5
66	Les Enchanteresses' – jazz singers	St-Roch-sur-Egrenne	4
$W/e 17^{th}/18^{th}$	Fête Communale de la St Matthieu	Cigné	2
Sun. 18 th	Demo & lessons in 'Ikebana'	Colombiers du Plessis	2
66	Activities at Récré'Nature	Bazouges-la-Pérouse	5
Tues. 20th	Grande-Daze Rescue Bowling Evening	Fougères	7
Fri. 23 rd	Monthly lunch at the CSF Nord Day Centre	Notre-Dame du Touchet	7
Sat. 24 th	Choirs and instrumentalists in the Château	Carrouges	4
66	Sponsored Knit in support of CSF Nord	Gorron	7
W/e 24/25 th	Festival Plantes et Saveurs au Potager	Pleugueneuc	3
66	Rallycross – French championships	Chatillon-sur-Colmont	8
Sun. 25 th	Art et Jardins	Ceaucé	2
دد	Walk along the river Mayenne	La Haie-Traversaine	8
28 th to 2 Oct.	Festival of British Film	Dinard	3
Fri. 30 th	Hugh Coltman sings Nat King Cole	Ernée	4
cc	Paragliding Discovery Day	Laval	6