Issue no. 104 November 2015

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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:

A hug is like a boomerang – you get it back straight away!

[Bill Keane]

Some vide-greniers/brocantes in this area  $[\pm (+ \text{ or -}) = \text{ stalls expected}]$ , '35' = area

Sun. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pleurtuit (35, nr Dinard)	vide-maison at 12 rue Jacqueline Auriol
Sun. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Villiers Charlemagne (53)	v-g in Espace Corail, ±70
Sun. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g / brocante at La Chevallerie, ±150
"	Fleury-sur-Orne (14)	bourse miniatures autos, trains, et jouets
		anciens in the Salle des Fêtes, ±50
Sun. $22^{nd}$	La Chapelle d'Andaine (61)	v-g (Foire d'Automne), Salle Omnisports, ±50
"	Granville (50)	monthly brocante, ±100
"	Lisieux (14)	v-g / brocante in centre ville, ±300
Sat. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Barenton (50)	v-g / brocante / troc, ±50

#### Marchés de Noël (Christmas markets)

W/e 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> Domfront (61) *Bourse de Noël* in Maisons des Assoc. Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> St Sauveur-le-Vicomte (50) in the Salle des Fêtes, ±50

Visit www.brocabrac.fr from time to time for up to date info on brocantes/vide-greniers

#### Late entries for the end of October:

- ❖ a reminder of the Quiz Night in the *Bar du Marché* in Ceaucé (61) on Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. which may well have a Hallowe'en theme!
- ❖ on Sat. 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. at 19h30: a Hallowe'en themed Quiz in support of Cancer Support France Basse-Normandie in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50)

#### Special dates / public holidays

- Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> *Toussaint* (All Saint's Day) a festival honouring the saints of the Roman Catholic church. It precedes the *Fête des Morts* on the 2<sup>nd</sup> when people honour the dead and bring flowers, usually chrysanthemums and heather, to the graves of relations (see also page 2)
- Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> *l'Armistice* (Remembrance Day): the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I. Now 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

Opened in 2010 by David and Victoria Powell, *Le Papillon* on 23 Grande Rue, Landivy (53) is still a popular and busy restaurant. Serving traditional French cuisine, there is a varied menu, excellent service, and the weekday '*midi*' offers a buffet *entrée*, *plat* and dessert, wine/cider included, for 12€. Open: Sun-Thurs. 11h–15h; Fri. 11h-23h, Sat. 7h–12h. For info or reservations: 02 43 05 86 47

#### Toussaint - All Saint's Day

November 1<sup>st</sup>: *Toussaint* (All Saints) is a public holiday in France. It is the eve of *le Jour des Morts* (All Souls) and the time when the dead are remembered. Village church bells used to toll all night while people held a wake and said prayers. They sustained themselves seasonally with freshly picked chestnuts and the first of the harvest's new wines. Customs and superstitions varied from region to region but there was a widely held belief that for each chestnut you roasted and ate on November 1<sup>st</sup> a soul was saved from purgatory

## Euromayenne 21st Annual Craft Fair

On Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 18h in the Hall des Expositions, rue Volney, Mayenne (53): British and French amateur & artisanal craftspeople will display and sell their wares (80 stallholders). Lots of great Christmas gift ideas. This year's theme is 'the Wild West' and vendors & volunteers dress up and join in the spirit of the event, and there will be 5 performances by the "Cante Navajo's Country" dancing group. For refreshments, Michelle runs a lovely tea room inside, and fish & chips are available outside (just in case you haven't eaten enough cake inside!). Free entry & parking. More info: www.euromayenne.org

## Curry Night in support of 'Grande Daze Rescue'

On Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> at 19h30 in the Salle des Fêtes in La Bigottière (53) will be another great Curry Night in support of Grande Daze Rescue, which is a registered charity devoted to the rescue and re-homing of ill-treated, abandoned or unwanted animals. Entry by ticket only (NOT on the door): adults 15€, children 7,50€ − choice of 3 curries (chicken, beef or vegetarian) with naan, samosa, bajees, etc., and dessert. A selection of drinks can be purchased at the bar. Raffle. Tickets will be available until 8<sup>th</sup> Nov., when any remaining will be sold at their stand at the Euromayenne Craft Fair. A very popular event, so don't miss out! Tel: 02 43 02 96 35 or 02 43 00 67 27, or email belson.alan@orange.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, 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.

## 'Movember' launch for Cancer Support France-BN

On Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> at 10h30 at the CSF Day Centre in Notre-Dame du Touchet will be the 'Movember' launch, followed by lunch for those who want to stay. There will be a talk on male cancers by Jenny Luck. For more info, phone 02 33 69 01 05 or visit their website www.csfbassenormandie@gmail.com

## Something for all the family

Refuge de l'Arche (the Sanctuary of the Ark), route du Menil Saint-fort, Chateau Gontier (53) is always worth a visit. They receive injured or sick wildlife which, after medical treatment, are released into their natural habitat (only animals too dependent upon humans are kept), also unwanted animals or exotic pets. 14 hectares accommodate around 1,500 animals (including lions, tigers, bears, wolves, monkeys and leopards) in parks, aviaries and shelters, with good observation areas for undisturbed views for photographers; there is also a reptile house. Refreshments are available on site. Entry: adults 10€; 4-11s: 6,50€, under 4s free; disabled: 5,50€. Open all year: see their website for opening hours: www.refuge-arche.org

#### A new knitting shop has opened in Ernée (53)

In October 'La Maison du Tricot' opened on rue Nationale in Ernée. Nadine Delaval sells French wool (Phildar, Cheval Blanc) as well as economy lines from 1€ for creative projects. She also sells knitting accessories and hopes to begin knitting workshops soon. Open non-stop Mon. to Fri. 9h30-18h30, tel: 02 44 29 52 08 (I'm not sure if any English is spoken)

#### Cheese of the Month: Bons Mayennais

The *fromagerie* in Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53) celebrates 103 years of trading. Due to its proximity to running water, the Château de Bois-Belleray became a dairy in 1912. In 1933 it was bought by a M. Vaubernier and the *fromagerie* took on the name of the owner. Today with a turnover of over €40million, it employs a workforce of 110. Using milk from 286 farms within a radius of 50km, they produce 2,000 tons of butter and 6,000 tons of cheese a year, including a *camembert* (with low-salt and bio versions) a *brie* and a soft cheese.

#### Marché au Musée in Jublains (53)

On Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> from 9h30 to 17h30 in the *Musée Archéologique départemental* at 13 rue de la Liberation in Jublains, you will find original contemporary creations by professionals from the art world but also reproductions of, and items inspired by, antique objects – in particular, marble in the temporary exhibition '*corps et âmes*'. 12 artists, creators and artisans, with textiles, paintings, jewellery, etc., are present to show you their techniques. Some great Christmas ideas. Free entry.

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

Where does the English word 'farce' come from? When it came into use in the 1500s it meant 'forcemeat' or stuffing, the meaning still being used in France today (*farci*) and comes from the Roman verb "*facire*: to stuff". But the French word also meant the words of explanation interspersed between long Latin chants in church. The idea was that these interludes were 'stuffed in' and this use of "farce" soon extended to the impromptu buffoonery inserted by actors into religious plays: they became so popular that 'farce' took on a life of its own!

#### A church bell in Parné-sur-Roc (53) to be refurbished

In October, one of the 3 church bells, known as 'Marie-France' and weighing 880kg, was lowered from the belfry to be taken away to the workshops in Trémentines (49). This had become urgent due to degradation of certain parts of the bell. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 'Marie France' will be re-instated alongside her 2 sister bells, which have already been repaired, and where they will continue to ring the hours daily as the bells have done since 1760.

#### Entertainment

Fri.  $6^{th}$  at 20h30 in the *Centre de Rencontres*, Saint-Berthevin, Laval (53): 'Bayou Brothers Gospel' - 4 musicians with a mix of gospel, blues and Cajun rhythm. Tickets  $12 \in (students 6 \in)$ ; more info from *www.laval-tourisme.com* 

Thurs. 12<sup>th</sup>: café concert at 'La Coquelicot', 18 rue de Vitré, Fougères (35): free *apéro* at 'Le Rencontre' from 18h to 19h, then at 20h30 at 'Le Coquelicot': 'Hawaiian Pistoleros' – jazz/blues/rock. Adults 10€, children, 5€. *www.ot-fougeres.fr* 

Fri.13<sup>th</sup> at 19h30 in the Salle Polyalente in Mayenne (53): *Une Grande Soirée Bavaroise* − '*Schwäbisches Bierfest*': German cuisine and a concert by 'Humpa Bumpa Revolution'. Tickets: 28€, under 12s: 20€, from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)

Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> from 20h30 at the Salle des Fêtes in St Laurent de Terregatte (50, between St James and Ducey): 'Bal country' (country dance) organised by 'OK Country Music'. Entry 6€, snacks available by reservation (02 33 50 34 05) www.ok-country-music.com

#### Concerts

- § Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> at 20h30 in the Théâtre de Mayenne, place Juhel (53, by Mayenne Château) as part of the Mayenne '*Festival du Piano*': "Trio de Cleveland" with Angelin Chang (piano), Peter Otto (violin) and Brian Thornton (cello). A programme of Brahms. Open to all. Tickets: 15€. More info: Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)
- § Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 at Les Ondines, place d'Elva, Changé (53): 'Quadri Blues Experience' a quadraphonic concert of blues with a duo in each corner of the salle: voices, guitars, harmonica, piano, percussion. Tickets 20€/10€; www.mayenne-tourisme.com
- § Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in the Château of Sainte-Suzanne (53) at 1 rue Fouquet de la Varenne: '*Concert Romantique*' by Pauline Hass, a very talented harpist, in this lovely setting. Tickets: 2€, more details from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)
- § Sat. 14<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in the Salle Polyvalente, rue de Volnay, Mayenne (53): the choir 'Chantemayne' with a varied repertoire medieval songs, classical and music from around the world. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)
- § Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> at 20h30 in the Théâtre Municipal in Mayenne (53), place Juhel, by the château, as part of the '*Festival du Piano*': a recital by celebrated pianist Yung-Yang Lee, playing works by Bach, Liszt and Mozart. Tickets 15€ from the Mayenne Tourist Office
- § Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> at 14h30 in the Basilique Notre-Dame in Mayenne (53): *Choeurs 'Etoile Rouge'* de l'Armée Russe ('Red Star' Choirs of the Russian Army). Lt Col. Oleg Neklyudov presents a concert of the most beautiful Christmas and traditional songs. Tickets from the Tourist Office in Mayenne (02 43 04 19 37) and Laval (02 43 49 46 46).

#### English films in cinemas in this area

I don't always get the information on films before the Bulletin are sent out, but you can find out English films at the following cinemas:- Fougères (35): www.cinemafougeres.com; Tinchebray (61): email Claude Maze at maze.claude@orange.fr (English spoken); Mayenne (53): www.atmospherescinema.org. For English films in Gorron cinema: if you are not on my 'cinema list' and would like to be, let me know as I will pass on info on the English films there as soon as I know the details.

#### Lest We Forget

In September, Thérèse Pellerin (age 81) and Louis Pasdeloup (89) met American Bruce Brittain, who was visiting the site where his uncle, Gerald Gillies, died at his post as gunner in the tail of his B-17 bomber, along with 8 other members of the crew. On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1944 they had witnessed the B-17 "Chow Hound" take a direct hit from a German DCA and the plane crashed near the property "L'Errerie" near Lonlay l'Abbaye (61). 6 bodies were retrieved and buried nearby temporarily before being moved to the US military cemeteries of St-Laurent-sur-Mer (Calvados) and Saint-James (Manche), where they remain today. The other 3 bodies were not found in the wreckage, but 50 years later a specialist team with a metal detector found their bones and parts of the plane, notably the remains of the tail, and these were repatriated to the USA. DNA tests identified Gerald Gillies as one of them and they are now buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington. Parts of their equipment and some ammunition had also been found and were given to Bruce Brittain in a moving ceremony attended by the president of *l'Association du Souvenir Aérien*.

#### Christmas Fayre in support of Cancer Support France Basse-Normandie

On Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> in the Salle des Fêtes in Notre Dame du Touchet (50) there will be craft stalls for great Christmas presents, plus the judging and award for the best 'Movember' facial topiary. More info: 02 33 69 01 05 or *csfbassenormandie@gmail.com*.

#### Exhibition on the life of Josephine Baker

Until 21<sup>st</sup> Nov., at the *mediathèque* in Pontmain (53) this exhibition traces the career of Josephine Baker (1906-1975), famous and controversial African-American music hall jazz singer, dancer and Civil Rights activist, and who also worked with the Resistance during WW2, from New York to her life in Paris. Open Tues., Wed & Fri. 16h30–18h30.

#### Foire de la Sainte-Catherine in Briouze (61)

From Sat 21<sup>st</sup> to Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> this large agricultural fair has an auction of cattle for the local farmers, also around 50 market gardeners selling trees and shrubs to the many visitors. www.cc-paysdebriouze.fr

#### Christmas Gifts Evening

On Thurs. 12<sup>th</sup> at 19h (7pm) at "Time for Tea", on rue Halle l'Avoine, La Ferté-Macé (61) there will be a selection of handmade gifts and greetings cards for Christmas, also scones, cakes, etc., will be available at the Tea Rooms. All in all, a nice sociable event. For more info contact *beaubellecreations@aol.co.uk* 

#### A local church organ celebrates 150 years

Thanks to extensive research, it has been confirmed that the organ in Ernée (53) church was installed in 1865. An exhibition showing the work of the historian Monique Lebreton - and details of the workings of the organ - will be held in the church until 18<sup>th</sup> December, the date of the Christmas concert.

#### Fête de la Coquille Saint-Jacques in Ouistreham (14)

For those who missed the annual event in October in Villers-sur-Mer: on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> & Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> this is a weekend-long celebration of the scallop and other goodies from the sea! www.tourisme.ouistreham-rivabella.fr

## Foire Saint-Martin in St-Hilaire du Harcouët (50)

From Sat 7<sup>th</sup> to Tues. 10<sup>th</sup> – for 4 days this annual *foire* takes over the streets of this town and fills them with market stalls (not on Sunday), a funfair, and an agricultural show where farmers can buy anything from tools and tractors to donkeys and cows. *www.st-hilaire.fr* 

#### English run charity shop in La Ferté-Macé (61)

There is a charity shop called 'Coup de Pouce Solidaire' at 21 Bvd de Contades, Local No. 6, La Ferté-Macé. It is not in the town but on the outskirts [past Lidl, up the hill, turn extreme right at the roundabout, and along that road. It is a long building and the charity shop is at the end]. Open: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Friday afternoons, 13h30-16h30. Tel: 06 72 68 19 97. Well worth a browse, and donations are very welcome.

#### Bar du Marché in Ceaucé (61) - change of opening hours

Anthony and Hannah have asked me to let you know that the *Bar du Marché* will now be closed on Mondays <u>and</u> Tuesdays, but will be open all day on Sundays (it used to be until 14h). This means they will, of course, be showing Sunday Premiership matches live on Sunday afternoon / evening (as well as Saturday as normal). Also, a reminder of their Quiz Nights which are held on the last Friday of the month. For more info: 02 33 30 04 28

## Exhibition on the theme of 'le movement hip-hop'

Until 21<sup>st</sup> November at the mediathèque in Landivy (53) – this exhibition traces the popularity of the hip-hop culture, born in Brooklyn in the 1970s. Free entry.

## Have your chimney swept to avoid soot and killer gas

A reminder as winter approaches that it is necessary for your woodstoves, open fires and heating boilers to be made ready for winter. Getting your chimney cleaned is not just a good way to get your fire to burn more efficiently and safely, it is also a legal requirement. Not getting the chimney swept is a Category 3 offence that could lead to a 450€ fine - but the consequences could be much more severe in the case of a house fire, which can be caused by a build-up of soot and tar or a birds nest, but also by not maintaining the chimney or incorrectly installed flue liners. To be covered for insurance purposes you must have a chimney safety certificate (certificate de ramonage) from a registered and insured chimney sweep. Recommended to me is Iain Davison of PCP Sweeping and Chimney Services, who is a local registered chimney sweep and woodstove installer: 02 33 14 09 55 or email at property.care@orange.fr. More info from www.propertycarepeople.com

## Change of ownership of the bar in Couesmes-Vaucé (53)

'Le Chat Noir' has been taken over by Karen Manuel and it is re-named "Le Jardin de Froulay". There is a restaurant (daily lunch menu, Sat. breakfasts [9h-11h30] and Sunday lunches [13h-14h30]), épicerie (with delicatessen counter, some specialist foods and salad bar – also space to rent for local crafts and giftware), bar and *tabac*. There is also a range of speciality teas & coffees to enjoy with a slice of cake in the afternoons. For more info, or for booking a table, contact Karen on 02 43 00 93 79, e-mail *lejardindefroulay@hotmail.com* and on facebook: www.facebook.com/LeJardinDeFroulay

#### Recognising the cattle breeds in France

[This section will continue in January 2016, as there are too many other things to write about in November and December!]

## Sport & Leisure Activities

#### Randonnées pédestre (walking)

- Wed. 4<sup>th</sup>: the annual 8 km. walk in the commune of Bais (53). Free. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office
- © Sun. 15<sup>th</sup>: a walk around St Maurice de Désert (61). Depart at 15h from the *terrain de foot*. More info from La Ferté-Macé Tourist Office: 02 33 37 10 97

Two walks organised by *St James Randonne*. Depart at 14h from the Place du Champ de Foire in Saint James (50), 1,50€ for non-members. More info: www.saintjamestourisme.fr:

- Sun. 8<sup>th</sup> walk from Saint James to Rimou (35)
- Tues. 24<sup>th</sup> walk from Saint James to St-Senier/Avranches (50)

#### Feedback

- © The 'Motocross des Nations' in Ernée on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September was enjoyed by over 60,000 people! A terrific weekend and now one of the major sporting events of the area.
- © The Fête des Citrouilles in les Jardins des Renaudies, Colombiers du Plessis (53) on Sun. 18th Oct., welcomed over 2,600 visitors! There was a great atmosphere and plenty to see and do. Definitely one to catch next year!

## Wanted: Lego, large or small!

Yes, you heard right – I have been given a good suggestion to help Barry with his coordination after his stroke – Lego! If anyone has unwanted Lego, or can let us borrow some for a short while - or can let me know where I can get some – that would be much appreciated. The activity of building something can only do him good. Many thanks, Judy.



That's all for this month. There is, of course, much more going on than I can fit in here, so a visit to your local Tourist Office will give you lots more information.

Also, a reminder that this is only a rough guide, and details can change without notice.

Someone asked me why I abbreviate the days of the week. Well, it is to save ink for the people who print out their copies – and also for myself, for the few hand-delivered copies I give to people not on-line. Well, anything to help save the polar bears!

Judy Skinner

La Croix des 4 Epines 53120 Gorron tel: 02 43 30 29 06

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

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

Date	Event	Place	Page		
October – late entry/reminder:					
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	Hallowe'en themed Quiz Night	Ceaucé	1		
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	Hallowe'en themed Quiz (CSF-BN)	Notre-Dame du Touchet	1		
November 2015					
Sun. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Toussaint	All over France	2		
"	Marché au Musée	Jublains	3		
"	'Trio de Cleveland' concert	Mayenne	4		
Wed. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Walk in Bais	Bais	7		
Fri. 6 <sup>th</sup>	'Bayou Brothers' – gospel/jazz/blues	Laval (St. Berthevin)	4		
"	Quadri Blues Experience	Changé	4		
"	'Movember' launch (CSF-BN)	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2		
$7^{th}-10^{th}$	Foire Saint-Martin	St-Hilaire du Harcouët	6		
Sun. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Euromayenne Craft Fair	Mayenne	2		
"	Concert Romantique	Sainte-Suzanne	4		
"	Walk to Rimou	Saint James	7		
Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Armistice Day	All over France	1		
Thurs. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas gifts evening	La Ferté-Macé	5		
"	'Hawaiian Pistoleros' - jazz/blues/rock	Fougères	4		
Fri. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Grande Soirée Bavaroise	Mayenne	4		
Sat. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Grande Daze Rescue Curry Night	La Bigottière	2		
"	Choir: Chantemayne	Mayenne	4		
Sun. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Walk around St Maurice du Désert	St Maurice du Désert	7		
Thurs. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Beaujolais Nouveau Day! (hic!)	Everywhere!	-		
Sat. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Country Dance	St Laurent de Terregatte	4		
"	Piano recital by Yung-Yang Lee	Mayenne	4		
W/e 21 <sup>st</sup> /22 <sup>nd</sup>	Bourse de Noël	Domfront	1		
"	Fête de la Coquille St-Jacques	Ouistreham	5		
$21^{st}-23^{rd}$	Foire de la Sainte-Catherine	Briouze	5		
Sun. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Marché de Noël	St Sauveur-le-Vicomte	1		
Tues, 24 <sup>th</sup>	Walk to St Senier/Avranches	St James	7		
Wed. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Choirs of the Russian Army	Mayenne	4		
Sat, 28 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fayre in support of CSF-BN	N-D du Touchet	5		