

# 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 sure cure for seasickness is to sit under a tree

(Spike Milligan)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area [ '61' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Carrouges (61)	v-g in Salle Polyvalente, ±50
Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fougères (35)	v-g, under cover, ±150
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g <i>de Noël</i> in Moulin Foulon
W/e 9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup>	Couterne (61)	<i>brocante</i> in <i>Salle Ancienne Minoterie</i> , ±50
Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> in <i>Foire Saint-Nicholas</i> , ±50
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> / <i>antiquités</i> , ±30
“	Bellou en Houlme (61)	large v-g at <i>Le Chevalerie</i>

Visit [www.brocabrac.fr](http://www.brocabrac.fr) as it is constantly updated with *brocantes* / *vide-greniers*.

## Some *Marchés de Noël* and Christmas Fairs

Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Couesmes-Vaucé (53)	Marché de Noël (see also page 4)
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)	Marché de Noël (see page 2)
Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ger (50)	Marché de Noël
“	St Jean-le-Thomas (50)	Marché de Noël
Sat. 9 <sup>th</sup>	St Berthevin-la-Tannière (53)	Evening Christmas market (see page 3)
“	Barenton (50)	Marché de Noël
W/e 9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)	Christmas Fair at 'Cadres' (see page 4)
Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chailland (53)	Marché de Noël in <i>Place de la Mairie</i>
“	Gorron (53)	Marché de Noël around the town
Fri. 15 <sup>th</sup>	La Chapelle d'Andaine (61)	Marché de Noël, salle R. Flécharde, 14h-22h
Sat. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Colombiers-du-Plessis (53)	from 14h in the Zone Artisanale
“	Ceaucé (61)	in <i>Place de l'Eglise</i> , 14h-20h
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Commer (53)	in <i>Salle des Lilas</i> , rue de Bretagne, ±50
“	Tinchebray (61)	Marché de Noël, <i>centre-ville</i> , 10h-18h, ±30
W/e 16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup>	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	Marché Artisanale de Noël, <i>parc du Château</i>
Tues. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ernée (53)	Marché de Noël
Wed. 20 <sup>th</sup>	La Ferté-Macé (61)	Christmas market from 14h to 20h

## Eating out

No restaurant featured this month, as we will all be having enough to eat, methinks!

### *Concours des villes et villages illuminés*

See the fantastic Christmas illuminations lighting up both homes and local towns & villages from 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. to 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. Tens of thousands of people await this occasion, especially at La Sauvagère, St Mars d'Egrenne, Ceaucé, Beauchêne, La Michaudière, Mantilly and Rouellé. This is the largest circuit of its type in France, attracting over 150,000 visitors each year. [www.ot-domfront.com/villages\\_illuminés](http://www.ot-domfront.com/villages_illuminés) or ask at a Tourist Office.

### Event in support of Grande-Daze Animal Companion Centre

On Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> is Curry Night from 19h in the *Salle des Fêtes* in Saint-Germain-le-Guillaume (53). A choice of curry: chicken, lamb or vegetable, and includes onion bhaji, naan bread, poppadoms & dessert. Bar and raffle. Tickets are €16 per person. Entry by ticket only: call Denise on 02 43 00 67 27, email: [belson.alan@orange.fr](mailto:belson.alan@orange.fr), or Jenny on 02 43 02 96 35. For more info: <http://www.grandedaze.com/soiree-curry-decembre-curry-night-decembre-2017/>

### December event 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.

☞ Monthly Brunch on Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup>: Full English breakfast available specially cooked to order from 10h to 13h: (7€) or a bacon sandwich (3€), including tea or coffee.

### Evening Christmas Market in St Berthevin-la-Tannière (53)

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> from 17h to 23h30 there will be stalls around the *Salle des Fêtes*, with a tombola and entertainment. Food & drinks will be available. Free entry.

### Water Colour Painting Exhibition

Jane Bicknell is a registered teacher of water colours, calligraphy and acrylics and will be holding a water colour painting exhibition on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11h until 16h at the '*le Viking*' bar in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Coffees, teas, drinks and food can be purchased from the bar. Free entry. For further info please contact Jane by phone: 02 33 51 03 19 or by email: [jane.bicknell.art@gmail.com](mailto:jane.bicknell.art@gmail.com).

### Mont-Saint-Michel (50) illuminations

From Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. until Tues. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> various activities take place and plenty of special illuminations to see the magical Mont-Saint-Michel lit up from 18h every evening.

### *Marché de Noël* in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

This 2-day Christmas Market is on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the former *Ecole Maternelle*, rue Moroge (signposted in the village) in Fougerolles-du-Plessis. A variety of artisans will be selling their goodies; Father Christmas will be present and Christmas trees will be on sale, as well as *vin chaud* and mince pies. A special appearance of the 'Red Lion Morris Dancers' on Sun. afternoon will add to the festive spirit. Not to be missed! Free entry for all.

### *Soirée Franco-Anglaise* in Gorrion (53)

On Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> from 18h in *centre ville* of Gorrion, under cover, will be a *Soirée Franco-Anglaise*, with the switching-on of the Christmas lights, English music and songs, a stand for donations to Telethon 2017, you can buy *vin chaud* (mulled wine) and *crêpes*, and Elliotts Boucherie will be providing their delectable pork rolls.

### *Bar de la Mairie* in Gorrion (53) – *Repas de Noël*

On Thurs. 14<sup>th</sup> & Fri. 15<sup>th</sup>, at 12h–14h30, Melanie at the *Bar de la Mairie* (by the *Mairie* in Gorrion) will be serving her *Repas de Noël* again this year - ‘French cooking with an English slant’. 3 courses, and not expensive. I have been for the last 2 years and it is very good. (Numbers are limited as the bar is not very big!). For reservations phone: 02 43 08 04 59 (French spoken).

### Christmas Service in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

On Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> at 15h in the church in Fougerolles-du-Plessis there will be a Festival Service of Readings and Carols, in both English and French, and there will be a Nativity. Everyone is welcome. After the service *Père Noël* is expected to arrive in the village. For more info you can contact John Young at [jandmy@orange.fr](mailto:jandmy@orange.fr).

### *Fête des Coquilles Saint Jacques* (scallops)

On the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, take a drive north to Grandcamp Maisy (14) as it is ‘*coquille* crazy’ time again with this annual festival celebrating the scallops fresh from the boats. Visit the stalls and taste the freshly-grilled scallops soused in a bewildering variety of spices and marinades – or just on their own.

### *Le Café Gourmand* in Gorrion – Christmas lunches

Amanda will be serving her popular Christmas lunches in *le Café Gourmand*, 27 rue Magenta, Gorrion (53) from Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> to Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup>. An *apéritif* and 4 festive courses for 20€. Reservation required - tel: 02 43 00 75 06.

### Something for all the family – *le Roc des Harmonies*

In Granville (50) the *Pointe du Roc* is a unique experience, both educational and entertaining. The Aquarium (an aquatic world tour with sea-lions, seahorses, piranhas, angel fish, and more), Butterfly Garden (a magical, exotic world), Mineral Palace (the crystals’ bright colours and varied shapes are turned into works of art) and Shell Fairyland (magnificent rooms with 3 tons of shells and coral from around the world). Snacks are available on site at the *Roc des Gourmandises*, with a wonderful view of the port and bay.

Open all year – from 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. to 31<sup>st</sup> Mar.: 10h-12h30 & 14h-18h30; from 1<sup>st</sup> Apr. to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept.: all day 10h-19h. Guided tours in English are available on request. Tickets: adults: 9€, students & disabled: 7€; 4-14s: 6€; under 4s free. [www.aquarium-du-roc.com](http://www.aquarium-du-roc.com)

### Ice skating rink in St Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50)

Again this year in the *Salle des Fêtes*, adults and children can enjoy skating on ice from 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. to 6<sup>th</sup> Jan (not 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.). Remember to wear gloves and covering for your arms. 2€ for ½ an hour (includes skate hire). More info from the Tourist Office (02 33 79 38 88)

## Entertainment & Concerts

♪ Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> from 20h at *Le P'tit Chef* in St Faimbault (61), a selection of musicians will be playing, including 'Volcanic Ash'.

♪ Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 14h at *le Jardin de Froulay* in Couesmes-Vaucé (53) is the *Marché de Noël*, with gift stalls from local artisans, mince pies & mulled wine, and a tombola. Ian 'Volcanic Ash' will be "rockin' to the rafters" at 15h.

♪ Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> at 16h30 and 20h30 in the *Basilique Notre-Dame* in Mayenne (53): a *Concert de Noël* with *l'Orchestre Symphonique de la Haute Mayenne* – with works by Bizet, Corelli, Ketelbey, Cohen. [www.symphonique-haute-mayenne.fr](http://www.symphonique-haute-mayenne.fr)

### English films in Gorrion cinema

The Gorrion cinema committee is very pleased to announce that in 2018 they will be starting 'British Monday', when an English film will be shown regularly on the second Monday of each month. They will also welcome our input as to the type of films we would like and any particular requests – you can email Laura Boutilly at [cinema@gorrion.fr](mailto:cinema@gorrion.fr).

### *Les Chouans* – local involvement

There was great unrest throughout France after the Revolution, and it was in the Laval countryside that the name *Chouan* was first applied to the royalist troops. They were led by Jean Cottereau, called Jean Chouan, who gave his name to the movement: their rallying cry was the hoot of the tawny owl (*chat-huant*). In 1793 the Whites (Royalists) occupied Laval and beneath its very walls on the low ground at *la Croix-Bataille* defeated the Republican army of General Lechelle (whose sole military precept was to march majestically and in large numbers). The Vendéen cavalry was commanded by La Trémoille, Prince of Talmont.

Some time later, La Rochejaquelein had to evacuate Laval and the Blues captured the Prince of Talmont who they guillotined at the gate of his own castle. You can find out more about this important period of French history on-line

### *Feu d'artifice* (fireworks) in Domfront (61)

Sun. 31<sup>st</sup> - start off your New Year celebrations with a bang! There are fireworks at the château from 19h.

### Christmas Fair in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

On Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> and Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> from 10h until 18h at 'Cadres' at 8 rue de Normandie in Fougerolles-du-Plessis – there will be mince pies and gingerbread, Christmas cards and handmade gifts, wrapping paper; puppets, toys, DVDs and children's books. Hot drinks and mulled wine to warm you up; tombola and kids' corner with Christmas card colouring competition . . . and . . . a visit from Santa! Everybody is welcome – free entry. For more info contact Tina on 02 43 05 33 82.

There will also be a collection of food and blankets organised for the *SPA de Fougères*.

## Lest We Forget : *Musée de la Résistance*

The Châteaubriant region (SW of Laval) also played an important part in the *Résistance* and during the liberation of France in WWII. There is a permanent exhibition in the town of Châteaubriant dedicated to the hostages and members of the *Résistance* of the area from 1940 to 1944, also photos detailing the daily life of the 600 prisoners of the Choisel internment camp. Open on Wednesdays and Saturdays 14h – 17h, free (1hr visit) with a commentary available for 3€. More info: [www.musee-resistance-chateaubriant.fr](http://www.musee-resistance-chateaubriant.fr)

Nearby is the *Le Carrière des Fusillés*, the quarry at La Sablière (route de Laval, 44100 Châteaubriant) where on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1941, 27 hostages were shot by the Nazis as reprisal for assassinating the German Lt-Col Holtz in Nantes.

### Added alcohol immobiliser penalty for drink drivers

[With thanks to 'the Connexion', 18.11.17, for this info]: A trial that allows authorities to force drivers convicted of drink-driving to install specialised immobilisers on their vehicles is extended to a fourth *département*.

Motorists in Finistère who have been convicted of drink-driving could only be allowed back behind the wheel after serving any ban if their car is fitted with an alcohol-activated immobiliser. This is part of a trial that has already been introduced in Drôme, Marne and Nord, and will come into effect in Finistère from 1st December. If successful, it could be rolled out nationwide from 2019.

### *Advance Notice for January:*

Bi-lingual workshop / atelier – detox your kitchen pantry and heal your body.

In 2018 Maria Martel will be holding her workshops from 10h - 12h on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. of each month at 10 rue Alain Gerbault in Gorron (53). Learn how to detox your kitchen cupboards naturally with simple DIY recipes for household cleaning and helpful tips to avoid indoor toxins in household products, air and water – and get healthy! Each person will take home their own home-made samples and recipes. You can book for Sat. 6<sup>th</sup> January by contacting Maria on 02 44 29 51 80, email [mariahappyfrance@gmail.com](mailto:mariahappyfrance@gmail.com). A great Christmas present idea!

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That's all for this month, but there is much more in Tourist Offices. Wishing you a very

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

December 2017

Date	Event	Place	Page
Fri. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Musicians at 'Le P'tit Chef'	Saint-Fraimbault	4
Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Grande-Daze Curry Night	St Germain-le-Guillaume	2
“	<i>Marché de Noël</i> at Le Jardin de Froulay	Couesmes-Vaucé	4
“	Water Colour Painting Exhibition	N-D du Touchet	2
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas Market	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	2
“	<i>Fête des Coquilles St-Jacques</i>	Grandcamp Maisy	3
Thurs. 7 <sup>th</sup>	CSF Nord Monthly Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Soirée Franco-Anglaise</i>	Gorron	3
Sat. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Evening Christmas Market	St Berthevin-la-Tannière	2
“	<i>Concert de Noël</i>	Mayenne	4
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fair at 'Cadres'	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	4
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Repas de Noël, Bar de la Mairie</i>	Gorron	3
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Festival Service of Readings and Carols	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	3
26 <sup>th</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan.	Ice Skating	St Hilaire du Harcouët	3
Sun. 31 <sup>st</sup>	New Year Fireworks	Domfront	4
 <b>Advance Notice for January:</b>			
	Bi-lingual workshop / atelier (bookings taken now)	Gorron	5