

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

You can't use up creativity –
the more you use, the more you have

(Maya Angelou)

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

Sun. 1 st	Avranches (50)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Calhubert, ±50
“	Laval (53)	<i>braderie de Laval</i> , ±250
“	Neuilly-le-Vendin (53)	v-g in <i>Fête Champêtre</i> (see page 3)
“	Fougères (35)	v-g in <i>Jardin des Fêtes</i> , ±70
“	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in Terrain de Belle Lande, ±70
“	Pleurtuit (35)	v-g in Salle Omnisports, ±70
Thurs. 5 th	Domfront (61)	v-g <i>Flaneries Domfrontaise</i> , ±70
Sat. 7 th	St. Benoit-des-Ondes (35)	v-g, ±250
Sun. 8 th	N-Dame-du-Touchet (50)	v-g, ±30
“	Evron (53)	v-g in Place des Expos <i>le Foirail</i> , ±250
Sat. 14 th	Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)	v-g, ±150
“	Domfront (61)	v-g / <i>braderie</i> , Place de la Roirie, ±30
W/e 14/15 th	La Chapelle d'Andaine (61)	v-g in the <i>Stade de Foot</i> , ±150
Sun. 15 th	Saint-James (50)	v-g around the town, ±30
Sat. 21 st	Saint-Malo (35)	v-g de Paramé, ±250
W/e 21 st /22 nd	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g near the Château, ±30
Sun. 22 nd	Le Loroux (35)	v-g, ±50
Thurs. 26 th	Lonlay l'Abbaye (61)	v-g in the town & fields, ±100
Sun. 29 th	Mézangers (53)	v-g, <i>centre ville</i> , ±150
Sun. 29 th	St Céneri-le-Gérei (61)	v-g, ±30

Also, every Tuesday in July & August in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) are the *Flaneries d'été* in Place du Marché, Bagnoles château area. A lovely setting for bargain hunting! ±30

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

Special dates / public holidays:

Sat. 14th *Fête Nationale ('Prise de la Bastille 1789')*

Eating out – for a Special Occasion

With a modern bistro-type decor, *O Gayot*, near the Tourist Office in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) offers creative menus (from 14,50€ to 29€) which are changed regularly. Open every day, mid-day and evenings, except Thursdays. There is also a cosy terrace for warmer days and evenings. Good access for the disabled. English spoken. www.ogayot.net

Les Jardins des Renaudies

Several events this month in these pretty gardens at 'Les Mézerais', near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) where you will find wonderful colours and garden inspiration! More info: www.jardinesdesrenaudies.fr

- ☼ Sun. 15th from 10h to 18h: the popular annual 'Garden Party', with live music and many traditional games in the gardens.
- ☼ Wed. 25th: *Promenades en calèche* (horse & buggy rides)
- ☼ on Fri. 27th: the *labyrinthe de maïs* (maize maze) opens - young and old can have fun finding their way through this maze.
- ☼ Art exhibition: there is a selection of watercolour, pastel and acrylic paintings for sale or just to admire.

Corso choréographique – International Carnival in Carelles (53)

On Sun. 1st from 12h to 18h, the village of Carelles comes alive with this popular annual carnival. After the election of 'Miss Mayenne' (13h-14h15) in the presence of Miss France, the grand musical procession begins at 14h30 with many beautifully decorated floats and over 450 musicians and dancers from around the world. This event is enjoyed by around 5,000 people each year. Entry: 8€, under 14s free. [Advice: it is a good idea to take fold-up chairs, as there is limited seating along the route] www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Re-live the Middle Ages in Fougères (35)

On Sun. 22nd from 11h to 12h30 & 14h to 17h30 at the Château in Fougères, costumed men, women and horsemen will welcome you to the château and describe life in the Middle Ages. In the courtyard will be many *ateliers* (workshops), arms & an armoury, also medieval games, dances and cooking. Entry: 8,50€, children 5€. www.ot-fougeres.fr

Le Jardin de la Pellerine

For over 16 years the owners of *La Pellerine* (at La Pellerine, 53, off the RN12 between Fougères and Ernée) have nurtured the 2.5ha garden of their 17th century home. There is a succession of small intimate gardens, rich in rare plants and surprises: old-fashioned roses, unusual bushes, a 'white garden', a 'yellow garden', the '*allée des 4 saisons*', greenhouses, ponds & benches. Open for visitors again this year from May to 30th October - on Thursdays & Fridays: 10h-18h30; Sats., Suns. & fête days: 14h-18h30. Entry 7€, under 15s free.

English guided tour of Coutances Cathedral

On Mon. 23rd at 13h30 you can have a guided tour of the high parts of the *Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Coutances* (50). Built from 1210 to 1274, this Gothic Roman Catholic cathedral stands 80 metres (295 ft) tall and dominates the town. It can be seen from as far away as Jersey. For reservations and info: www.normandie-tourisme.fr

Route of the 105th *Tour de France*

The 7th stage of the *Tour de France* (Fougères to Chartres – 231 kms, the longest stage of the Tour) passes through the Mayenne *département* this year on Friday 13th July, including Larchamp at 12h22, St Denis de Gastines at 12h38, Chatillon-sur-Colmont at 12h51, Mayenne at 13h04, La Chapelle au Riboul at 13h30, Villaines-la-Juhel at 13h46. [See full route on www.letour.fr/en/overall-route].

The first *Tour de France* was organised in 1903 by Henri Desgrange and Géo Lefèvre to help the sales of their magazine *l'Auto*. The 2018 race starts on 7th July at Noirmoutier-en-Ile (85)

Exhibition: *Ière Guerre Mondiale* (First World War)

From mid-July to the end of August in the *mediathèque* in Gorron (53) this exhibition shows many objects and documents from this period. Free. For opening hours: www.gorron.fr

Emmaüs Special Sale in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 7th, 9h - 12h & 13h - 17h at the *Ferme de Paron*, you will find many bargains!

Marchés nocturne du jeudi (Thursday evening markets)

At the *Parc de Vaux*, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53), these are held on Thursdays in July and August from 17h to 20h.

Visit the *Musée Charles Léandre* in the *Mairie* in Domfront (61)

On Thurs. 12th at 16h and 17h you can have a tour of a room full of interesting items - some dating from medieval times - that have been donated through the years, including paintings (Impressionist and medieval) in all mediums, and also sculptures. Free.

Join the longest picnic table in the world!

Following on from the great success last year - when 20,000 people helped to beat the world record - on Sat. 14th is this year's *Grand Pique-Nique de la Fraternité*. From 12h to 15h you can take your picnic and join in the fun on the towpath somewhere along the 30km stretch of river between Mayenne and Laval. You pay 5€ for a metre of tablecloth and enjoy your picnic in this lovely riverside setting. Reservation info available at the Laval Tourist Office (for contact details see page 6).

Discover the megalith '*la Table du Diable*'

On Mon. 2nd (and all Mondays in summer) you can discover this 'long-barrow' megalith near Passais-la-Conception (61). With traces of occupation of the territory by an ancient people, these megaliths are numerous in the *bocage* and the covered *allée* of the *Table du Diable* is one of the finest. At 15h30 there is a presentation of the site by a guide from the Domfront Tourist Office. Reservation required in advance (contact details page 6)..

Fête champêtre in Neuilly-le-Vendin (53)

On Sun. 1st from 8h to 18h at 36 rue Normandie, at this country fair will be a *vide-greniers*, an exhibition of vintage tractors, chainsaw sculptures, inter-village games, and a bouncy castle for children.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 1st at 17h in *l'Eglise de la Ferrière* in La Ferrière-aux-Etangs (61): a concert by 'La Lyre' de Flers. Free, with donations gratefully accepted.

Sun. 1st at 17h in *l'Eglise du Sacre-Coeur* in Bagnoles-de-l'Orne (61): a classical concert by Natalie Ermacova (cello) and Eric Blin (accordion). Free, donations gratefully accepted.

Fri. 6th & Sat. 7th in St Denis de Gastines (53) is the festival 'Au Foin de la Rue' – start your summer with music at the 19th edition of this music event. www.aufoindelarue.com

Mon. 9th from 20h30 at the camping area in the *Parc de Vaux* in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) – a concert of popular music.

Fri. 13th by the *plan d'eau des Cardamines* in Ernée (53): a concert by *l'Harmonie Municipale* and fireworks from 21h30. Free.

Fri. 13th & Sat. 14th at the Parc de la Colmont in Gorron (53): from 20h to 04h: music from several groups. On Fri. 13th at 23h will be fireworks.

Fri. 13th & Sat. 14th at Lassay-les-Châteaux (53): 'Les Entrelacés' – a street art festival in the heart of this small town. Juggling, clowns - great for all the family, as about 20 companies help to make this a festive day rich in surprises and marvels. Free. www.lesentrelaces.com

'Tain-Tam Arts' concerts in Mortain (50)

These free concerts are on Thursdays in July and August from 18h30 in the *jardin de la piscine* (but in the Salle if raining). In a lovely setting with a view over the valley:

☼ Thurs. 12th: 'Montekiva' (music from around the world); ☼ Thurs. 19th: 'Butternut' (blues); ☼ Thurs. 26th: 'Constellation des Carpates' (Ukrainian music). Possibility of food and drink on site, also outside games for children. More info at the Mortain Tourist Office.

Entertainment on market day in Sourdeval (50)

On some Tuesdays in July, from 10h30 to 12h30 in Place Charles de Gaulle (*centre-ville*) there is free musical entertainment while you shop! 📅 Tues. 24th: *l'Eléfanfare* (percussion); 📅 Tues. 31st: *Le Choeur des marins de Cotentin*.

Sunday open air concerts in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

As part of the festival 'les Clefs de Bagnoles' there are open air concerts on Sundays in July and August at 17h. On Sun. 8th in the Square de Contades: Dom Ferrer (vintage folk songs). Free. For details of other Sunday concerts, ask at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office.

Fête du Poiré in Mantilly (61)

On Sun. 22nd at this annual fête you can also enjoy a meal at 12h, with entertainment from 2 concerts by 'Highland Safari'. Local products are also on sale, and a children's corner. More info at the Domfront Tourist Office (see page 6 for contact details).

Entertainment at the market in Louvigné-du-Désert (35)

On Friday 27th, during this weekly market in Place Charles de Gaulle, there will be free entertainment – impromptu juggling and amazing dexterity by the company *Tacto Tempo*. More info from the Fougeres Tourist Office (see page 6 for contact details).

Weekly *flâneries/brocante* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On every Tuesday in July and August, this *brocante* is held in *Place du Marché, Quartier Château*; around 30 stalls are expected.

New *caserne des pompiers* (fire station) in Fougères (35)

The new fire station was inaugurated at the end of May. Covering 3,356 sq.m, it is fully adapted for modern use. Built on the site of the old fire-station, it took 3 years to build at a cost of 7.2 million euros, using 23 mainly local trades. Taking pride of place in the new garage is the famous '*planche des pompiers*' – this was created in 1895 by the Paris *sapieurs-pompiers* initially as a type of test. Sited 2.4 metres above the ground, it is a 1m x 1.3m square oak shelf, 4-5 cms thick. Each morning, the firemen had to pull themselves up on to it in full fire-fighting gear. The aim was to know that the firemen were able to depend on the strength of their arms in the case of a fall from a roof or a floor collapsing.

Owners of the Château in Lassay-les-Châteaux meet the President

At the end of May, Aymeri and Cécilia de Montalembert, who own the Château in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53), met with the President at l'Elysée Palace, as their château is one of 250 monuments that have been chosen to benefit from help from the State via the *loto du patrimoine*. The official list of sites to benefit was made public in May, and Lassay-les-Châteaux was one of them.

'Pages' bookshop in Passais-la-Conception (61)

Suzanne McGregor would like to let her customers know that 'Pages' will be closed from Fri. 13th until Tues. 24th due to her summer holiday.

Guided tour of Domfront Castle in English

On Wed. 18th July at 14h30 there will be a very informative and interesting 1-hour guided tour of Domfront castle, which was built 1,000 years ago. Booking is necessary (as a minimum of 3 people is required) at the Domfront Tourist Office (see page 6 for details).

This can be followed by, at 15h30, a tour of the town of Domfront – the towers, cobbled streets, timber-framed buildings – its history is still engraved on its walls. Booking necessary, as above.

Something you didn't know you didn't know

The liqueur *Bénédictine* has always been produced at the *Palais Bénédictine* in Fécamp (76), Normandie for the entire world. It is the result of a subtle alchemy: 27 plants and spices are used to make it, and it takes around 2 years to produce the liqueur, after infusion, distillation in beaten copper stills, blendings, ageings, heating and double-distillation. Cardamon, cinnamon, clove, coriander, angelica, maidenhair, juniper, hyssop, lemon balm, myrrh, saffron & thyme are some of the plants and spices used to give *Bénédictine* its unique aspect and taste.

Méchoui in Saint Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53)

On Sun. 29th there will be a lamb (or hog) roast with entertainment all afternoon. See posters for the venue.

International Festival of folklore in Domfront (61)

On Sat. 7th at 14h30, organised by the *groupe folklorique 'Le Trou Normand'* there will be a procession through the streets of Domfront. At 21h will be a show in Ceaucé with many groups from around the world (entry payable). On Sun. 8th at 9h30 will be the procession of '*Le Trou Normand*' and all the folklore artists in costumes from around the world, from the Salle André-Rocton up to the church, followed by dances in front of the church. At 14h in the Salle-André Rocton will be the *Grand Spectacle* with all the groups (entry payable). For more info go to www.le-trou-normand.fr

Monthly *brocantes* in Le Teilleul (50) and Gorrion (53)

On one weekend per month, G D Arielle open their *brocantes* at 2 local venues. The owner, Pascal Martin, organises house clearances and there are different items each time:-

Sat. 30th June & Sun. 1st July: in the large warehouse at Le Teilleul (50, *route de Domfront*: on the bend in the road on leaving the town in the Domfront direction). 9h to 18h, non-stop.

Sat. 7th & Sun. 8th in the old *Meubles du Menhir* warehouse on rue des Frères Lumières, Gorrion (53). 9h to 18h. For more info phone 02 33 51 62 10 (some English spoken)

Peintres dans la rue in Chailland (53).

On Sat. 14th you can watch artists while they are painting in and around the town, and a *repas champêtre* (country meal) is available at mid-day. More info: 06 77 03 13 61

Massage and beauty therapy in Gorrion (53)

'*La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux*' in Gorrion is pleased to announce a permanent addition to their business. Sports Massage Therapist Val Hanratty will be on site every Tues. and Thurs. offering massage and beauty therapy. Contact Val for appointments on 06 49 61 03 13

The new speed signs in place from 1st July

The very unpopular measure to reduce speed from 90 km/h to 80 km/h will take effect from 1st July around France. In the Orne department alone, this applies to 5,400 km of roads and the new speed signs, which were made by a company in the Basque region, have cost the *Conseil départemental de l' Orne* the sum of 23,000€ which will later be repaid by the State.

Something for all the family in Mayenne town (53)

Sun. 15th in the *parc du Chateau* in Mayenne town, from 8h to 18h is a day comprising a painting competition, *marché artisanal*, a giant picnic and the final of the World Cup football. More info at the Mayenne Tourist Office (for contact details see below)

Some Tourist Office contact details:-

Bagnoles de l'Orne (61):	02 33 37 85 66	www.bagnolesdelorne.com
Domfront (61)	02 33 38 53 97	www.ot-domfront.com
Fougères	02 99 94 12 20	www.ot-fougères.fr
Laval:	02 43 49 46 46	www.laval-tourisme.com
Mortain:	02 33 59 19 74	www.mortainais-tourisme.org
Saint-James	02 33 89 62 38	www.saintjamestourisme.com

Sport & Leisure Activities

Hydromodélisme in La Ferté Macé (61)

On 13th & 14th at the *plan d'eau* in La Ferté-Macé, you can watch the model boats in action with the members of the *Club Hydromodélisme Fertois*. Free. Also, at nightfall on the 13th there will be fireworks beside the lake.

Journée des sports en plein air et nature in Gorron (53)

On Sun. 8th at the *Parc de la Colmont* – a day with a multitude of sports. For details of all the activities go to www.gorron.fr

A walk around Ernée (53)

On Wed. 18th: a 8km circuit walk, departing from the Place de la Mairie. More info: 02 43 05 22 15

Evening walk around La Dorée (53)

On Thurs. 26th: a walk of 8 to 10kms with the *Randonneurs du Bocage*. Depart at 20h. For info of the meeting point, tel. 02 43 05 08 90 or 02 43 05 07 35.

Swimming pool in Dol-de-Bretagne (35)

The *Piscine Dolibulle* in rue de l'Abbaye, Dol-de-Bretagne, is open all year and has good access for reduced mobility. Adults: 5,60€ to 6,20€; children: 4,75€ to 5,55€, under 3s free. For more info go to www.piscine-dolibulle.com

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That's all for this month. If you know of any event in the coming months and you feel that others might like to hear about it, do let me know and I will put the details in that month's issue.

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

July 2018

Date	Event	Place	Page
Sun. 1 st	<i>Corso choréographique</i>	Carelles	2
“	<i>Fête champêtre</i> (country fair)	Neuilly-le-Vendin	3
“	Concert by ‘ <i>La Lyre</i> ’ de Flers	La Ferrière-aux-Etangs	4
“	Classical concert with cello & accordion	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Mon. 2 nd	Visit to ‘ <i>la Table du Diable</i> ’	Passais-la-Conception	3
6 th & 7 th	<i>Au Foin de la Rue</i>	St Denis-de-Gastines	4
Sat. 7 th	Emmaüs Special Sale	Fougères	3
“	International Festival of Folklore	Domfront	6
Sun. 8 th	Dom Ferrer (vintage folk songs)	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Day of outdoor sports and activities	Gorron	7
Mon. 9 th	Concert of popular music	Ambrières-les-Vallées	4
Thurs. 12 th	Visit to the <i>Musée Charles Léandre</i>	Domfront	3
Fri. 13 th	<i>l’Harmonie Municipale</i> and fireworks	Ernée	4
“	<i>Hydromodélisme</i> and fireworks	La Ferté-Macé	7
13 th & 14 th	<i>Les Entrelaces</i> – street arts festival	Lassay-les-Châteaux	4
“	Music, with fireworks on the 13 th	Gorron	4
Sat. 14 th	<i>Fête National</i>	All over France	1
“	Longest picnic table in the world!	Along the river Mayenne	3
“	<i>Peintres dans la rue</i>	Chailland	6
Sun. 15 th	Garden Party	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	Family activity day	Mayenne	6
Wed. 18 th	8km circuit walk	Ernée	7
“	English guided tours of the castle & town	Domfront	5
Sun. 22 nd	Re-live the Middle Ages	Fougères	2
“	<i>Fête du Poiré</i>	Mantilly	4
Mon. 23 rd	English guided tour of the Cathedral	Coutances	2
Wed. 25 th	<i>Promenade en calèche</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
Thurs. 26 th	8 – 10km walk	La Dorée	7
Fri. 27 th	Entertainment at the market	Louvigné-du-Désert	4
Sun. 29 th	<i>Mechoui</i> and entertainment	St Aubin-fosse-Louvain	5