

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Anyone who thinks the art of conversation is dead
ought to tell a child to go to bed

(Robert Gallagher)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area [‘50’ = area; ± = stalls expected]

Thurs. 2 nd	Granville (50)	Monthly <i>brocante / antiquités</i> ; ±50. Free entry
Fri. 3 rd	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g / <i>braderie</i> , ±70
“	Saint-Malo (35)	<i>Les Estivales Servannaises</i> , 13h30-19h; ±250
Sun 5 th	Montsûrs (53)	v-g in rue de St Céneré; ±70
“	Hirel (35)	v-g, ±250
Sat. 11 th	St Benoit d/Ondes (35)	v-g in rue du Bord de Mer; ±250
Sun. 12 th	Bagnoles de l’O (61)	v-g in 28th <i>Foire à la Brocante</i> , pl du Marché, ±30
“	Pleurduit (35)	v-g in the Salle Omnisports, ±70
Tues. 14 th	Pontorson (50)	v-g <i>nocturne</i> (evening), 17h-22h, ±150
Wed. 15 th	Rânes (61)	v-g in Parc du Château, ±250
Sat. 18 th	La Pellerine (53)	v-g in the village, ±50
Sun 19 th	Villaines-la-Juhel (53)	v-g in rue des Glycines, ±50
W/e 25/26 th	Dinard (35)	<i>Grand Braderie de Dinard</i> , +300
Sun. 26 th	Mayenne (53)	v-g / <i>braderie, centre-ville Notre Dame</i> , ±70
“	Mortain (50)	v-g, ±30
“	Lonlay l’Abbaye (61)	v-g in town & fields, ±70
“	Passais (61)	v-g in town (Confirmation pending)

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

On every Tuesday in August, this *brocante* is held in *Place du Marché, Quartier Château*.

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

Special dates / public holidays:

Wed. 15th *Assomption* – the celebration of the Virgin Mary ascending bodily into Heaven. Traditional parades are held in France, often with dances and fireworks

Eating out

Re-visiting some good value bar/restaurants, where you can have a well-balanced and tasty *midi*. In the village of Carelles (53, where the Carnival was held last month) at 6 rue de la Croix, is the bar / restaurant '*Karel City*' where they provide a very good 5-course *midi* with wine for around 13€. Very popular, so you need to get there as near to 12 noon as possible, especially on Fridays. For reservations phone 02 43 05 32 95

Les Jardins des Renaudies

Several events this month in these pretty gardens at '*Les Mézerais*', near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) where you will find over 3,000 different species of plants and also an *eco-musée*. Wonderful colours and garden inspiration! More info: www.jardinesdesrenaudies.fr

- ☼ Until 15th August: *Journées des hydrangeas*: discover the many different types of hydrangeas (there are 350 in the gardens) on show and for sale.
- ☼ Until 21st October: *labyrinthe de maïs* (maize maze) where young and old can have fun wandering through this maze.
- ☼ on Sun. 26th, 10h -18h: *Fête du Miel & Marché Gourmand* – discover honey collecting, with tastings, and products on sale at the gourmet market.
- ☼ Art exhibition: there is a selection of water-colour, pastel and acrylic paintings for sale or just to admire.

Flories d'Antan -Saint-Fraimbault annual floral fair

On Wednesday 15th from 9h, this traditional rural floral fair offers a day full of events, with demonstrations of milking techniques, butter-making, wheat threshing and the washer-women at work, with classic cars, artisanal market, exhibition of miniatures, horse & buggy rides, wood sculptures, and games for children as enjoyed in past times. Entry 6€, under 12s free; more info from www.saint-fraimbault.com

Musée des Tisserands (Museum of the Weavers)

In the 18th century, the Mayennais wove *le chanvre* (hemp), the main crop in the department, which today has disappeared. The *Musée des Tisserands*, place Billard de Veaux in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) helps keep alive the memory of the daily lives of those weavers.

The commune of Ambrières acquired 3 weavers' houses and *l'Association Arts et Coutumes de la Mayenne* opened a museum in 1988 within the 3 houses. On entering, we are plunged into the world of 18th century weavers. The many items on display, videos explaining the hard life of those times and local customs will help us to understand the history and knowledge of these men, women & children who worked with hemp. The local architecture has been faithfully reproduced. Open only in July & August, daily (except Mondays) from 14h30 to 18h30. Entry: 3€, 6-14s: 2€. Group guided visit (in French) lasting 1h30: 2,50€.

Two trips on *Le Petit-Train* in Fougères (35)

🚂 On Wed. 1st at 19h: '*La quête de la licorne*' – on the little train you will discover the road of *la blanche licorne à la corne d'or* (white unicorn with golden horn). 🚂 On Wed. 15th at 19h you can join the petit train and see where the workers used to live. Depart from place Raoul II (in front of the Château). Tickets: 7€, 3-12s: 4,50€, at the Tourist Office (see p.6)

Village of the month : Sainte-Suzanne (53)

Around the tiny cobbled streets it is as if time has stood still. William the Conqueror didn't lose many battles, but he failed miserably when he tried his luck at tiny Sainte-Suzanne, an 11th century stronghold overlooking the river Erve, SE of Mayenne. In 1425, during the Hundred Years' War, the English took possession of this town and remained its overlords for 14 years. The medieval château has impressive ramparts and dungeons and a museum introducing you to life in medieval times. Also, half a league away (just a few minutes by car!) is *La Ferté-Clairbois*: a reconstruction of a 13th century farm built by Gilles Raab, a man with a passion for the Middle Ages, which offers visitors lively medieval entertainment and gives you a taste of the lives of knights of old. www.ferteclairbois.com

English guided tour of Domfront (61)

This very interesting, 1-hour, guided tour takes place on Wed. 8th at 15h30. Reservations necessary at the Domfront Tourist Office (see page 6 for contact details).

'La Michaudière' – la Ferme du Cheval de Trait

Open from 1st April to 16th October, at this famous working-horse farm in Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61) you can discover 30 different breeds of horses, including Cobs, Normands, Bretons, Percherons, Comtois and Ardennais - and also a Shire, the largest horse in the world - and their relationship with man. There are daily shows from 15h30 (ploughing, mounted gymnastics, 4-in-hand) and you can visit the site and an exhibition from 11h on Weds., Thurs., Sats & Suns. Tickets: 13,50€, children 5–12: 5€, under 5s free. Restaurant on site (reservation recommended). For more info go to: www.lamichaudiere.fr

Porcelet Grillé - a Pig Party - in Loré (61)

A new village youth association '*Les Copains de Loré*' has been set up in the village of Loré (between Céaucé and Sept Forges) with the objective to raise money and organise events for the benefit of the village *jeunesse*. It is being launched with its first event – *Porcelet Grillé* – on Tues. 14th from 19h in the Loré village hall. There will be a DJ and *divertissements* for the youngsters. Adults: 15€, under 12s: 7€. For further details and reservations, see the village website: www.lorevillage.org.

A unique project for 2019 – apply now

A very special version of the pantomime 'Sleeping Beauty' will be performed at the theatre in Passais-la-Conception (61) in March next year - with French and English dialogue. The association "*Fun Theatre Communautaire*" has been formed to facilitate the project, which will produce a dual-language show to be enjoyed by all. The concept is already drawing great interest across Passais Villages and beyond. But they need people, to express interest now to help bring it to fruition: on stage or helping from the sidelines, French or English speaking. E-mail funtheatre@follett.fr for an application form, or visit funtheatre.eu for more information. THEY NEED YOU.

Balade en calèche (horse & buggy ride) in Domfront (61)

On Wed. 1st at 14h you can discover the history of this interesting medieval town on the half-hour ride. Prior reservation is necessary at the Tourist Office (see page 6 for contact details) as places are limited.

Entertainment & Concerts

Wed. 1st as part of the ‘*Festival Cité en Musique*’ in Domfront (61): concerts in Place St Julien: at 20h - *Le Baron*; at 21h - Frédéric Fromet (humorous songs). Free.

Tues. 7th, 19h-21h at the restaurant ‘*Le Capri*’ in Fougères (35) an *apéro-folk* evening: a concert by Romain Tellier, accompanied by a mini-pizza, glass of *rosé-pamplemousse* or an Italian aperitif. Tickets: 10€ (book in advance at ‘*Le Capri*’: 02 99 94 22 10)

‘Sounds of the Sixties’ in Désertines (53)

This latest show from Gemini Productions will take place in Désertines on Wed. 15th (which is also a public holiday) and is in aid of Cancer Support France and When You Wish Upon A Star. There is an afternoon *matinée* at 14h and an evening performance at 19h15. There will be a bar serving beers and soft drinks, hot and cold snacks and also a complementary cup of tea or coffee supplied by our friends at CSF.

The success of the previous shows “Spotlight on Broadway” and “A Sentimental Journey” raised over 3,000€ for charity and the organisers hope to top that this year with their lively performance of over 2 hours of classic 60s songs. Tickets, at 10€ per person, are available from the *Bar du Pecheur* in L’Epinay-le-Comte (61), the *Bar ‘Le Viking’* in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50), Cancer Support France, or by contacting normandymusic@yahoo.com

‘*Les Clés de Bagnoles*’ – free open-air concerts

On Sunday afternoons from 17h to 18h in the Square de Contades in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) near the lake. Relax on the grass and enjoy the music.

- ♪ - 5th: Dan Gharibian & his trio ‘Bratsch’ with music from the Balkans & southern Europe, with some jazz & gypsy music;
- ♪ - 12th: ‘Les Frères Jacques’ - a trio of musicians with ‘Sweet Vocal Harmonies’ from Chicago to Swinging London, with some jazz & French songs;
- ♪ - 19th: ‘Stabar’ - a Nantais quartet, with jazz, swing & salsa.

Entertainment in St Hilaire du Harcouët (50)

On Wed. 1st from 15h, at *le Jardin des Vallons* (or, if wet, in the *marché couvert de Marly*): ‘*Le Clown Zag*’ will entertain young and old. More info at the Tourist Office (see page 6).

Also in August in St Hilaire du Harcouët, every afternoon from 13h30 to 18h30 at the *plan d’eau du Prieuré* (the lake below the church) will be entertainment and activities for all. Free. More info: www.laverriere@st-hilaire.fr

Concerts in the Parc de Vaux in Ambrières-les-Vallés (53)

Near the camping area, at 21h are open-air concerts during August:- Tues. 7th: Yann Quéталard; Tues. 14th: Emma Mory; Tues. 21st: David Luka; Mon. 27th: Yann Quéталard. For more info on the site go to www.parcdevaux.com

‘*Tain-Tam Arts*’ concerts in Mortain (50)

These free concerts continue on Thursdays in 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. 2nd: ‘*Back Seat Bingo Club*’ (rock/rockabilly);
- ♻️ Thurs. 9th: ‘*Vintage Power Trio*’ (music from the 70s to today).

Marchés de Jeudi soir in Fougères (35)

At 17h30 on Thursdays 16th & 23rd, at the foot of the Château in Fougères, place Raoul II, you will find local produce (cider, honey, crêpes) and also many trades including jewellery and engraved glass. Entertainment on site – dances and traditional Breton games. More info at the Fougères Tourist Office (see page 6).

Something for all the family - Festyland

Festyland, at Bretteville-sur-Odon (14, SE of Caen) is apparently the largest theme-park in Europe, where both young and older can enjoy an unforgettable day. 30 themed attractions with new ones each year. Open daily in August: 10h30–19h; in September: weekends only. Adults: 17€, under 12s (or under 95cm in height): 15€. Free. www.festyland.com

Donkey rides in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

[For 3 to 10 year olds]: on most Saturdays and Mondays in August, between 14h & 17h in the *Jardin du Lac* in Bagnoles de l'Orne, children can enjoy a donkey ride on a 250 metre circuit. 3€ for 1 circuit, 5€ for 2 circuits (cash or cheque only, please). By reservation only at the Tourist Office (see page 6 for contact details)

'Zone bleue' parking discs

A reminder when in a town - if using a parking space within blue lines you must show your arrival time by using the official '*zone bleu disque*' that can be purchased at many *Presses* (newsagents). A sign nearby will show the time allowed (normally 1½ hours, but it does vary) and if no disc is visible you will be fined – or even towed away. This system does help to keep cars moving and allows more people to visit busy shopping areas.

Re-live medieval times at the Château in Fougères (35)

On Sun 12th from 11h to 12h30 & 14h to 17h30, you can see horsemen, gentlefolk & entertainers, as well as medieval workshops, games, dances, cooking and money. Entry: 8,50€. More info from the Tourist Office (see page 6)

Bargains at Emmaüs (the charity for the homeless) in Fougères (35)

At reminder that this Emmaüs dépôt at *la Ferme de la Paron*, where you will find items at amazingly low prices, is open on Weds & Sats. 9h-12h & 14h-17h. Or you can visit their small boutique in the town at 1 rue de la Forêt, again on Wed. & Sats., at the same times. You can take items for donating to the dépôt daily at 9h-12h & 14h-17h.

'Rajasthan' – new Indian restaurant in Mayenne (53)

'*Rajasthan*' has opened at 13 Place Juhel in the centre of the town of Mayenne (almost next door to the *Parc du Château/Théâtre*). Owner Haroon Raja offers traditional, authentic Indian cooking, with a choice of several menus (from 12€, vegetarian or not, up to 48€ for 2 people) and also *à la carte*. Seating 40 people inside, there is also a terrace with capacity for 30 more. Open every day, 12h – 14h & 19h – 22h30. Tel: 09 84 34 08 32

Fête de la Moisson (Harvest Fête)

On Wed. 15th in the town of St Denis de Gastines (53), this annual celebration of rural life over the years, takes places from 11h.

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

There are several Breton dialects, all founded upon the Celtic, and many place names in Brittany resemble those in Wales or Cornwall. Amongst the more common prefixes are 'Lann-' or 'Lan-' (llan) meaning church place, confirming the grant of land to a church builder; 'Plou-' or 'Ple-' means the parish, indicating the settlement of an immigrant clan; 'Tre-' signifies the homestead, around which a hamlet grew, while 'Loc-' is an abbreviation of '*locus penitentiae*' a hermitage, and 'Pen-' as in Welsh, means a headland.

19th expo of classic cars in Javron-les-Chapelles (53)

On Sun. 5th in the *terrain municipal* (camping), route de Bagnoles de l'Orne, organised by *l'Amicale des Vieux Pistons Javronnais*, there will be classic (pre-1975) vehicles, *vide greniers* and sale of parts. Each year this event attracts around 4,000 visitors. The tombola 1st prize: an 1984 R5. For more info contact Virginie Pelé: avpj@orange.fr / 07 84 92 89 01

'Manges-tu?' in Gorrion – a new range of ice creams!

At *Manges-tu?*, 12 rue des Frères Lumières, Gorrion (53, behind the *Trésor Public*), as well as the well-stocked '*épicerie*', there is a *Salon de Thé* where - inside or on the pretty terrace - you can enjoy freshly prepared hot & cold snacks, afternoon tea, smoothies and a mouthwatering choice of ice-creams – including a Knickerblocker Glory and Banana Split! For opening hours go to www.manges-tu.com or their facebook page (Manges-tu Gorrion).

Summer Garden Party at the Château du Bailleul (53)

Sun. 12th at the Château du Bailleul, Hercé (but on the outskirts of Gorrion, near the old Lidl site), from 11h to 20h there will be food stalls, outdoor bar, Prosecco Bar, and other delights! Free entry. www.chateaudubailleul.com/party or on Facebook: chateaudubailleul.

American military camp at Bourgneuf-la-Forêt (53)

Organised by 'Mayenne Liberty Festival', on 4th & 5th there will be over 40 WW2 vehicles and civil & military re-enactments in this town that was liberated by the Americans on 6th August 1944. On Sat 4th at 9h: historic convoy through La Croixille, Juvigné, Chailland, Andouillé, St Jean-sur-Mayenne. At 14h the camp will be open to the public, with a Liberty Dance at 21h. On Sun 5th at 9h the camp is open to the public; at 12h a parade of vehicles through the town & between 14h and 18h will be animations at the camp.

Château de Carrouges (61) by candlelight

On Fri. 17th at 20h, this 2-hour visit begins outside with the impressive 15th century buildings. Then a visit to the interior of the Château, lit only by candlelight, showing how life was in those days for the Veneur family in the 18th century. Tickets: 7€, under 26s: 1,50€, under 12s free - available by email: chateau-carrouges@monuments-nationaux.fr

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 (35)	02 99 94 12 20	www.ot-fougeres.fr
La Ferté-Macé (61)	02 33 37 10 97	www.tourisme-lafertemace.fr
St-Hilaire du Harcouët (50)	02 33 79 38 88	www.st-hilaire.fr

Sport & Leisure Activities

Motocross (scrambling)

On Sat. 25th from 8h30 to 21h, at the *plan d'eau (Ferté-plage)* in La Ferté-Macé. There is food and drink available on site. More info on Facebook: Moto Club Fertois, or the Tourist Office in La Ferté-Macé (contact details on page 6)

Tir à l'arc (archery) lessons in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Weds. 8th, 22nd & 29th & on Sat. 11th at *le Pas de Tir*, avenue de La Ferté-Macé. Info and reservations at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (see page 6)

A local swimming pool – Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)

This open-air municipal pool is open from the end of May until 16th September. For opening hours you can ask at the Domfront Tourist Office (contact details page 6)

Advance notice: *'Salon de Mariage* near Désertines (53)

Le Moulin de la Quentinière (8 La Quentinière, near Désertines (off D513) is hosting it's very first *Salon de Mariage* on Sunday 23rd Sept., 14h to 18h. There will be a fashion show and exhibitors. Entry is 2€ to include an event programme and welcome drink. Exhibitors are requested to contact 07 80 39 39 39 for more information. Any past blushing brides who would like to come and showcase their wonderful dresses are welcome to join our fashion show. For more info on *Le Moulin de la Quentinière* go to www.le-moulin-quentiniere.com.

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That's all for this month – plenty of variety for outdoor events and entertainment, also gardens, evening markets and *vide-greniers*, tours of medieval towns, fêtes and sporting activities. Something for everyone, I hope!

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

August 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Page</u>
Wed. 1 st	Ride on <i>Le Petit Train</i>	Fougères	2
“	Horse & buggy rides	Domfront	3
“	Entertainment by <i>Le Clown Zag</i>	St. Hilaire du Harcouët	4
“	Concerts in <i>Festival Cité en Musique</i>	Domfront	4
Thurs. 2 nd	<i>Tain-Tam Arts</i> open-air concert	Mortain	4
W/e 4 th & 5 th	US army vehicles & military camp	Bourgneuf-la-Forêt	6
Sun. 5 th	Music from Dan Gharibian & ‘Bratsch’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Expo of classic cars & parts sale	Javron-les-Chapelles	6
Tues. 7 th	<i>Apéro-folk</i> evening at ‘Le Capri’	Fougères	4
Wed. 8 th	English guided tour	Domfront	3
Thurs. 9 th	<i>Tain-Tam Arts</i> open-air concert	Mortain	4
Sun. 12 th	Music from ‘ <i>Les Frères Jacques</i> ’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Re-live medieval times at the Château	Fougères	5
“	Garden Party at the Château	Hercé/Gorron	6
Tues. 14 th	<i>Porcelet Grillé</i> - Pig Party	Loré	3
Wed. 15 th	<i>Flories d’Antan</i>	St. Fraimbault	2
“	Ride on <i>Le Petit Train</i>	Fougères	2
“	‘Sounds of the Sixties’ concert	Désertines	4
“	<i>Fête de Moisson</i>	St Denis de Gastines	5
Fri. 17 th	Château by Candlelight	Carrouges	6
Sun. 19 th	Open-air music from ‘Stabar’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Sat. 25 th	<i>Moto-cross</i> (scrambling)	La Ferté-Macé	7
Sun. 26 th	<i>Fête du Miel & Marché Gourmand</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2