

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

The real problem with leisure time is how to
keep others from using yours

(Arthur Lacey)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area ['35' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Sat. 1 st	Saint Malo (35)	<i>Braderie/brocante, Champ des Courses, ±150</i>
Sun. 2 nd	La Ferté-Macé (61)	<i>50th Foire de la Ferté-Macé; ±300</i>
“	Tanis (50)	<i>v-g in the Terrain des Sports, Brée; ±70</i>
“	Domfront (61)	<i>v-g in the Fête de Saint-Front; ±50</i>
“	Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53)	<i>v-g/brocante in the Terrain des Sports, 8h-18h; ±30</i>
Sat. 8 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	<i>v-g / brocante at La Chevalerie, ±150</i>
Sun. 9 th	St Hilaire du Harcouët (50)	<i>36th Vide-Grenier de Virey, ±300</i>
“	Commer (53)	<i>v-g in Fête Communale; ±250</i>
“	La Richardais (35)	<i>v-g in Intermarché car park; ±250</i>
“	Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)	<i>v-g in the town, ±30</i>
“	Magny-le-Desert (61)	<i>v-g in le bourg, ±50</i>
Sun. 16 th	Dinard (35)	<i>v-g in Quartier de St Enogat; ±250</i>
Sat. 22 nd	Betton (35: N of Rennes)	<i>v-g in Place de la Cale; ±70</i>
Sun. 23 rd	Bais (53)	<i>v-g in 'Festy Week' in the Salle Polyvalente car park, 6h – 20h; ±150</i>
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	<i>v-g / brocante at La Chevalerie, ±150</i>
Sat. 29 th	Changé (53)	<i>Puces des Coutourières, des Tricoteuses et Loisirs Creatifs in Salle des Nymphes; ±50</i>
W/e. 29 th /30 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>v-g in Foire d'Automne; ±50</i>
Sun. 30 th	Fougères (35)	<i>v-g / braderie in the Jardin des Fêtes, ±150</i>
“	Gorron (53)	<i>v-g / braderie, centre-ville, ±50</i>
“	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)	<i>v-g in the Fête Médiévale (see page 2)</i>
“	Chanu (61)	<i>v-g in the village, ±250</i>

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

Eating out

[With thanks to Viv A for this recommendation]: *La Lic'Orne*, at 2 Impasse des Tisserands, St Maurice-du-Désert (61, just NW of La Ferté-Macé) is a good restaurant/pizzeria with meal choices from 9€ to 20€. Open Mon., Tues., Wed. 9h30-14h30 (closed in evenings); Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 9h30-14h30 & 18h30-21h, and Suns. 10h-14h30 & 18h30-21h. 02 33 14 56 86

Journées Européennes du Patrimoine

All over France, the weekend of 15th & 16th the *Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days) presents 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

Fête Médiévale, vide-greniers & fireworks

On the weekend of 29th & 30th in St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53) this fête starts on Sat. evening with a meal accompanied by musical entertainment and medieval dances, followed by fireworks. On the Sun. 30th there will be music & entertainment in the village, *vide-greniers* and a *fête foraine* (fun fair). Food will be available on site.

Visit le Jardin à la Bayette in La Dorée (53)

On Sun. 9th, 10h-18h, as part of the 'Open Gardens', Shirley Edwards will be opening her garden to the public, with the proceeds being donated to a charity. Entry: 10€. For more info and location please contact Shirley at 02 43 03 10 72. www.opengardens.eu

Loré en Fête

On Sun. 2nd, the village of Loré (61, east of Ceaucé) comes alive with its annual fête, with *vide-greniers*, *pétanque* matches and a bouncy castle. Food is available on site - for meal reservations please go to www.lorevillage.org

Salon des Peintres Amateurs

On Fri. 28th in *l'Espace Monnier* (the furniture shop), rue de Bretagne in Gorron (53) 40 artists of *l'Association Art-Bo* will be exhibiting their paintings, sculptures and photos. Free.

Fête in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

On the weekend of 8th & 9th, this takes place in rue Guillaume le Conquérant. On Sat. from 15h: climbing & waterball, *marché de terroir*; road race and *fête foraine* (fun fair). In the evening at 21h30: a torch procession departing from Place de la Mairie; at 22h: fireworks on the Pont de la Varenne. On Sun.: *fête foraine* and *vide greniers* all day. Free.

'Open Day' at the *Centre Equestre* (riding school)

On Sun. 9th this horse riding school in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) opens its doors to show their facilities. There will be horsemanship demonstrations, trial rides for adults & children, and sale of clothing and equipment. Free.

Fête des Angevins in Fougères (35)

This takes place on Sat. 1st, Sun. 2nd & Mon 3rd: On Sat. 1st is the children's *braderie*, then at 21h a night procession through the town. On Sun. 2nd: a *grande braderie* all day in the streets, and at 14h30 a fashion parade. On the Mon. evening at 22h: a *grand spectacle pyrotechnique* (firework display). www.ot-fougeres.fr

Emmaüs boutique in St-Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50)

A reminder that many bargains can also be found at the little Emmaüs shop in rue d'Alsace Lorraine, St Hilaire-du-Harcouët (near the church). [Emmaüs is the famous charity for the homeless] Very inexpensive kitchen ware, household linens and clothes. Only open on Weds & Sats: 10h–12h & 14h–17h; and Fridays 10h–12h

Salon de Mariage (Wedding Fayre) near Désertines (53)

On Sun. 23rd from 14h to 18h, *Le Moulin de la Quentinière* (8 La Quentinière, near Désertines, off the D513) is hosting its very first *Salon de Mariage*. There will be a fashion show with cake/food tastings, demonstrations, trade stands and tombola. Entry is 2€ to include an event programme and welcome drink (proceeds to Breast Cancer Care). 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 - but it is not just for potential brides and grooms to attend, it's a fun day out for everyone to come and see *Le Moulin* and its great facilities. For more info on *Le Moulin de la Quentinière* go to www.le-moulin-quentiniere.com.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

At these pretty gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53), on the weekend of 15th & 16th, 14h-18h are celebrations of the *Journées du Patrimoine*.

Also, on Sunday 23rd from 10h to 18h, you can watch the Artists in the Gardens and also the Ikebana demonstrations. For more info go to www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Salon des Arts Manuels in Ernée (53)

On Sun. 2nd in the *Salle Constant Martin* in Ernée is an exhibition of paintings, sculptures and other craft-related items. Free.

Visit to the *Théâtre Municipal* de Mayenne (53)

As part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*, on the weekend of 15th/16th, between 14h and 18h, you can visit this impressive theatre (near the Château de Mayenne) which is the only old, elegantly designed theatre remaining in the department of Mayenne. Inaugurated in Feb. 1891, it was closed in 1993 to 1997 for restoration works. It is still a major venue for concerts and cultural events. Free visit.

Fête Communale in Commer (53)

On the weekend of 8th & 9th is this annual fête: on Sat. evening a *repas dansante* (meal with dancing); on Sun. 9th the all-day *vide-greniers*; at 14h will be entertainment and a miniature radio-controlled vehicle competition. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office

Entertainment & Concerts

♪ Sun. 2nd from 15h to 16h30 at the *Thermes Antiques* in the *Musée de Jublains*, rue Henri Barbe in Jublains (53) – *Concert aux Bains*, with a classical repertoire. Tickets: 6€, age 7-18s: 2€, under 7s free. Reservation advised as places are limited. www.museedejublains.fr.

♪ Sun. 16th at 18h in the Basilique Notre-Dame in Pontmain (53) at this impressive basilica, with its wonderful stained glass windows, will be an organ recital: ‘*Concert du Grand Orgue*’ by resident organist Alain Guérinel. Free.

Candle-lit visit to the château in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)

On Sat. 15th from 21h to 23h, this visit is very atmospheric, with stories and lighting effects. Tickets 8€ (12s-16s: 4€) are available for just 200 people (reservation obligatory – 02 43 04 74 33) but some may possibly be on sale on the night.

. Obstacle Course “*l’Incendiaire*”

On Sat. 15th this annual fun event takes place at the *plan d’eau* in La Ferté-Macé (61) and is in support of the Orphans of Firemen. Organised by *les pompiers*, the *plan d’eau* is transformed into a vast obstacle course – last year 3,700 people took part in either a 6km course with 30 obstacles, or a 12km course with 60 obstacles. 40 departments joined in, from western Brittany to Paris. Great fun to take part in – or just to watch and cheer them on. For more info: www.lincendiaire.info

Cancer Support France Quiz Night

This will be on Sat. 8th at the CSF Day Centre in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Doors open at 19h and the quiz will start promptly at 19h30. The ticket price is 9,50€ which includes a hot supper and entry to the quiz. (Please take your own drink and glasses). To buy your tickets please contact them on nord@cancersupportfrance.org.

Also, please see under ‘Advance Notice’ (page 7) details of their Auction & Curry Evening in October, as ‘early bird bonus’ tickets will need to be booked in September.

Yoga pour tous (Yoga for everyone)

For those of you looking for yoga classes in the area, Happy Friends Mayenne are offering a variety of yoga sessions from September, suitable for all ages and levels. On Sat. 8th from 10h-17h at 10 rue Alain Gerbault in Gorrion (53), there will be ‘Open Doors’ with free organic teas, coffee, hot chocolate and brioche offered. Couches and chairs will be available for those not able to get on the floor. The first session is free, and all sessions will be conducted in English, and sometimes there will be some French. Registration can be during the ‘Open Doors’ on Sat. 8th or during the week, 12h – 13h. For more details contact happyfriendsmayenne@gmail.com or 02 44 29 51 80

Recent Book Sale in l’Epinay le Comte (61)

A message from Jane Caddick: The book sale held in L’Epinay in May this year raised 688€ which was to go to the restoration of our church. Things have changed! Due to indecision/political differences and typical French restrictions at every corner, the church fund has not been set up and the church repairs have yet again been put back, even maybe another 12 months. Rather than sit on the money it has been decided to give it to other charities. We trust all those who gave willingly will not object to this.

Lest We Forget : the Big Red One Assault Museum

They had an appointment with destiny: you have one with history . . . this museum, on the D514 at Le Bray, Colleville-sur-Mer (14, near Bayeux) is dedicated to the first assault waves of the élite and the pride of the American army: the famous Big Red One - the First Infantry Division. This is the largest certified collection in the world on this first wave unit, an extremely rare collection without equal; the scenographies are reviewed each year. Open: 1/3 to 31/05: 10h-12h & 14h-18h (closed Tues.); from 1/6 to 31/8: daily, 10h-19h non-stop; 1/9 to 30/11: 10h-12h & 14h-18h (not Tues.). Entry: adults: 5€, students: 3,50€. www.bigredoneassaultmuseum.com

Painters in the village of Fontaine-Daniel (53)

On Sun. 9th from 10h30 to 19h, there is a painting competition for the public (artists can set up from 8h). The finished paintings will be on show in the *Salle des Fêtes* at 18h. For more info: 02 43 00 30 39 or e-mail sgb@wanadoo.fr. Free

EuroMayenne French Classes

A few places are available in the EuroMayenne French classes held every week in the *Ancienne Mairie*, Place Louis de Hercé, Mayenne (53) with a qualified French national teacher, well respected and popular since 2004. For more information go to www.euromayenne.org/french-lessons/ or frenchlessons@euromayenne.org

15th *Fête de la Terre* & Guided Tour in Fontaine-Daniel (53)

As part of the *Fête de la Terre* in Fontaine-Daniel: on Sun. 2nd at 11h will be a guided tour of the village (including areas usually private) with author Ursula Benjamin, whose recent historical novel ends in the village. Meet at the 'Accueil' stand in the village square. You can buy your tickets for the walk there; e-mail: ursula@ursulabenjamin.com, also, for more details of the *fête* go to www.fetedelaterre.fr.

Rules for picking mushrooms

The season of mushrooms is upon us, and there are over 3,000 different varieties of mushrooms in France - some of the most loved are *girolles*, *chanterelles*, *cèpes*, *bolets*, *morilles* and, of course, *les truffes* (truffles). However, there are strict rules laid down by the *Office National des Forêts*: ♦ picking must only be for family use, not for sale; ♦ for security reasons no-one must enter the area used by *la chasse*; ♦ always leave some mushroom behind (cut them so you leave some of the stem and the spores in the ground for next year); ♦ if you see a poisonous mushroom don't destroy it - nature has a purpose for it! Also, you must carry your mushrooms in a wicker basket as plastic bags ferment and damage them.

Foire St. Grégoire in Ernée (53)

This 2-day fair is on Sat. 1st (10h to 19h) & Sun. 2nd (7h to 18h). Two days of street entertainment, *braderie des artisans et commerces* and exhibitions. www.ville-erneefr

Grande Vente Emmaüs

On Sun. 16th in the *marché couvert de Marly* in St Hilaire de Harcouët. Lots of bargains to be found!

Fête Communale de la Saint-Matthieu & fireworks

On the weekend of 15th & 16th in Cigné (53), this village fête includes fireworks on Saturday night, and on Sun. 16th the *vide-greniers* (free placing, but booking required – 02 43 03 91 14, or garnier.michel3@wanadoo.fr), *marché de terroir* (farmer's market) and *fête foraine* (fun fair). Free

Macmillan Cancer Support World's Biggest Coffee Morning

This takes place on Thursday 27th. After the amazing support they had last year and the brilliant sum of money they all managed to raise, they are doing it again - this time it will be held at *Le Moulin de la Quentinière* in Désertines (53). There will be a bake-off, lots of cakes, tombola and bric-a-brac table - all to raise money for Macmillan. They hope to see you there - tell your friends.

Fête Communale in St Denis de Gastines (53)

This 2-day fête is on the weekend of the 8th & 9th. On Sat. 8th: from 15h, line dancing demos & concerts; at 20h: *soirée tartiflette* with music. On Sun.: all day *marché de terroir* (farmer's market) exhibition of English vehicles and *trotinette* racing. At 13h: a parade through the town. More info at www.facebook.com/comitedesfetessaintdenisdegastines

Change of ownership of 'Le Bacchus'

The bar/restaurant *Le Bacchus* in Levaré (53) is under new management. M & Mme Travers offer a *menu ouvrier* for 12€, and from October they propose themed evenings. They are open daily [Mon/Wed/Thurs. 07h30–21h; Tues: 07h30-15h; Fri. 07h30 to midnight; Sat.: 08h to 0100 (Sun.); Sun. 08h30-13h & 17h30-23h].

Les Montgolfiades – hot-air balloon flights

On 14th to 16th, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine* in St Mars-sur-Colmont (53), hot-air balloons will take up to 5 flights during the day (depending on the weather). Free.

Manoir de l'Automobile in Lohéac (35)

Lohéac is a village 35kms SW of Rennes with 658 inhabitants, with its origins dating back to 835AD. Since 1976 it has been hosts to the World Rallycross Championships. On the same site is the *Manoir de l'Automobile et des Vieux Metiers* – a collection of over 400 vehicles (including F1, Ferrari and Alpines) housed in 15,000m² of exhibition space. [Note: on the 1st weekend in October there is the *Auto-Brocante Festival*]

Finding lost property

A reminder that in the event of an item being lost, it is always advised to enquire at the *Mairie* nearby. When *les forces de l'ordre* (*gendarmes*) come into possession of objects lost, they normally pass them on to the *Mairie*. If after a year an item is not claimed it becomes public property.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Rallycross - FIA World Championships

On the weekend of 1st & 2nd, this popular stock-car racing takes place on the circuit in Lohéac (SW of Rennes). www.rallycrossloheac.com. For more info on the village and amenities, see p. 6

Rallycross - Championnat de France

On 22nd & 23rd in Chatillon-sur-Colmont at the *Circuit Maurice Forget* (just off the N12 Mayenne to Ernée road) are the annual stock-car racing championships. For further details go to www.rallycrossmayenne.com

Advance notices for events in early October:

Auction & Curry Evening: on Sat. 6th Oct. in the *Salle des Fêtes* in Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50) is a Curry followed by an Auction to raise money to enable Cancer Support France to continue with their support of those affected by cancer in our community. Doors open at 19h, the meal is at 19h30. There will be a bar selling wine and beer. Ticket price 12€ – or, **if you book by the 22nd Sept.**, an ‘early bird bonus’: 10€. To buy tickets please contact them on nord@cancersupportfrance.org

‘Cantamus’ concert: Cantamus, the well known ladies choir, are celebrating 10 years together with a concert on Sun. 7th Oct at 16h in the hall in Dompierre (61). Full details will appear in the October bulletin. They expect a large audience at this performance as it will be their last concert together as the group is disbanding. Space is limited and they would ask you to kindly email cantamuschorale61@gmail.com to reserve your seats.

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That’s all for this month. Some months you may find that most events / places of interest, etc., seem to be all in one area. This is totally dependent on the Tourist Offices and what they put out and the articles in local papers! If you hear of an event coming in your area for the following month - fete, exhibition, concert, etc., - do let me know about it and I can put it in the Bulletin.

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*):

September 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Page</u>
W/e 1 st / 2 nd	<i>Fête des Angevins</i>	Fougères	3
“	<i>Foire St Grégoire</i>	Ernée	5
“	FIA World Rallycross Championships	Lohéac	7
Sun. 2 nd	Guided tour of the village	Fontaine-Daniel	5
	<i>Salon des Arts Manuels</i>	Ernée	3
“	<i>Loré en fête</i>	Loré	2
“	<i>Concert aux Bains</i>	Jublains	4
Sat. 8 th	Cancer Support France Quiz Night	Notre-Dame-du-Touchet	4
“	Yoga For Everyone	Gorron	4
W/e 8 th / 9 th	<i>Fête Communale</i>	Commer	3
“	Annual fête	Ambrières-les-Vallées	2
“	<i>Fête Communale</i>	St Denis de Gastines	6
Sun. 9 th	<i>Le Jardin à la Bayette</i> ‘Open Garden’	La Dorée	2
“	Painters in the Village	Fontaine-Daniel	5
“	<i>Centre Equestre</i> Open Day	Ambrières-les-Vallées	2
14 th to 16 th	Hot-air balloon flights	St Mars-sur-Colmont	6
Sat. 15 th	Candle-lit visit to the Château	Lassay-les-Châteaux	4
“	<i>l’Incendiaire</i> Obstacle Course	La Ferté-Macé	4
W/e 15 th /16 th	<i>Fête Communale</i>	Cigné	6
“	Visit to the Theatre in Mayenne	Mayenne	3
Sun. 16 th	<i>Concert du Grand Orgue</i>	Pontmain	4
“	<i>Grande Vente Emmaüs</i>	St Hilaire-du-Harcouët	5
W/e 22/ 23 rd	<i>Rallycross</i> championships	Chatillon-sur-Colmont	6
Sun. 23 rd	<i>Salon de Mariage</i> (Wedding Fayre)	Désertines	3
“	Artists in the Gardens & Ikebana	Colombiers-du-Plessis	3
Thurs. 27 th	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Désertines	6
Fri. 28 th	<i>Salon des Peintures</i>	Gorron	2
W/e 29 th /30 th	<i>Fête Médiévale</i>	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie	2