

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 most important trip you may take in life
is meeting people half way.

(Henry Boyle)

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

Fri. 5 th +)	Louverné (35)	<i>Bourse aux vêtements</i> (new & second hand clothing sale) in Salle du Maine.
Sat. 6 th)	(NE of Laval)	
Sun. 7 th	Mayenne (53)	v-g + <i>Bourse du Cycle</i> , Hall des Expo, ±100
“	St. Jacques de la Lande (35)	v-g in rue du Manoir, ±30
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g : ‘ <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> ’, ±50
Sat. 13 th	Betton (35)	v-g/ <i>braderie</i> in Place du Marché, ±150
Sun. 14 th	Tinchebray (61)	v-g in <i>Foire de la Saint Luc</i> , ±300 (see p.3)
“	Vautorte (53)	v-g/ <i>jardin/maison</i> , in <i>Salle des Fêtes</i> , ±30
W/e 20 th / 21 st	Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)	<i>Salon Antiquités/brocante</i> , near the Château, Allée Alois Monnet, entry 3,50€; ±50
Sun. 21 st	Geneslay (61)	v-g, route du Cimetière, ±30
“	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante / antiquités</i> , ±50

Visit www.brocabrac.fr which is constantly updated with *brocantes / vide-greniers*, including any changes. (But, remember, these can also change without notice)

Remember – the CLOCKS GO BACK during the night of Sat. 27th / Sun. 28th An extra hour in bed – lovely!!

[Late item for September: **Sun. 30th September**: *Art et Jardin* in Ceaucé (61)

On Sun. 30th, September 10h to 18h, is the 20th edition of *Art et Jardin* in Ceaucé (61). There will be creative workshops throughout the day, this year also making little scarecrows (at 10h-11h, 14h-15h, 16h30-17h30) Free. Open to all. More info can be found at mediatheque.bocagedepassais@orange.fr

Eating out

'*Les Ateliers de la Colmont*', between Gorrion and Brecé, is a very good place for lunch. Situated behind 'Gamm Vert', there is plenty of parking and it is well signposted. There are 2 menus: 3 courses (2 choices of each dish) for 9,80€ and a more 'speciality' 4-course menu for 14€ (I think!) + *à la carte*. Delightful decor and nicely laid out tables, it is an enterprise where people with slight learning disabilities are trained in the restaurant business. A little patience while giving your order is all that is required, and they are all trained well and are keen to learn. The manager speaks English and is very welcoming. Definitely worth going. Open Mon. to Fri., 12h–14h30

Les Jardins des Renaudies – Fête des Citrouilles (Pumpkin Fair)

On Sun. 14th from 10h-18h is the 23rd *Fête des Citrouilles* where you can discover the 80 varieties of pumpkin, in all shapes and sizes, grown here by their gardeners. There is a local produce market and sale of plants, also games & entertainment. The *Salon de Thé Anglais* will be open for teas, coffees, milk-shakes, cakes, muffins & scones. Entry: adults 5€; 6-16s 2€; under 6s free. www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr [Advice – try and get there in the morning, if possible, as parking may mean 'a long walk' in the afternoon!]

Also, on Tues. 30th & Wed. 31st – from 14h to 17h: Hallowe'en!

21st '*Plantes en Fête*' – plant sale & exchange

On Sun 14th from 10h-18h at the campsite in Domfront (61) [note the change of venue – and please check with the Tourist Office for the location] is this popular annual Plant Fair with over 40 specialist exhibitors with a great selection of plants, herbs and other vegetation. Also garden decor and some great gardening inspiration! Refreshments and tea-room on site. Free entry and parking. Sorry, no dogs. More info at www.plantesenfete.fr or www.ot-domfront.com

EuroMayenne Craft Fair

On Sun. 28th from 10h to 18h, in the Hall des Expo, rue Volney, Mayenne (53), the EuroMayenne Association are holding their 24th EuroMayenne Craft Fair with a "Spanish" theme. Free entry. This selling exhibition of handmade products from artists & amateur or professional craftspeople, will give many ideas for Christmas gifts (largest Christmas market in the department). In 2017 this event had 90 stallholders and over 3,000 visitors. There will be performances with musicians from SANFUEGO Group and dancers from ANDALUNA DANSE Association at 11h30, 14h30, 15h30, 16h30 and 17h30. On-site catering (Tea-room in the Hall and food outside). For more details: www.euromayenne.org/salon or 06 73 71 96 52.

Cancer Support France Nord Auction & Curry Evening

On Sat. 6th 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, for those who booked before 22nd Sept. an 'early bird bonus' price of 10€). To buy tickets please contact them on nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Auto-brocante Festival in Lohéac (35)

On the weekend of the 6th & 7th, 9h to 19h at the *Manoir de l'Automobile et des Vieux Métiers*, route de Lieuron, Lohéac, is the 26th edition of this popular *auto-brocante*, where around 400 stalls are expected. You will find on sale all kinds of car parts and tools, and there are also demonstrations on the circuit attached with '*Renault Classique*'. Entry: 12€; ages 10 to 16: 8€, under 10s free – the price includes a visit to the Museum. . Free parking. There will be food and drink available on site.

Foire à la Saint-Luc in Tinchebray (61)

On Sun. 14th from 7h to 18h, is the grand *vide-greniers* (around 300 stalls) and the *fête foraine* (fun fair). Free. More info at www.ornetourisme.com

New farm shop in Lignéres-Orgères (53)

Amy Russell runs a 50-acre farm and they have opened a farm shop, selling their free range meat such as pork. They are open every Sunday between 10h and 16h. They also run smallholding courses (including beekeeping and sheep, chicken & pig keeping) and family farm experiences, with a view to educate people in animal welfare and the preservation of wildlife. For more info: www.delaterrefrance.com

Foire Expo de Fougères

From 19th to 21st at l'Espace l'Aumaillière in Fougères (35) there are 3 days with habitat, wines & gastronomy, cars, leisure, gifts and entertainment. Open on Fri.: 14h-19h; Sat. & Sun.: 10h to 19h. Entry 5€ (free for under 16s with an adult). Over 100 stalls anticipated. More info at the Fougères Tourist Office: (www.ot-fougeres.fr)

Something for all the family – Discovery of mushrooms

Organised by the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office: on Mon. 22nd, 15h-17h you can learn about mushrooms. Small, large, coloured, stinky, amusing – mushrooms can hold many surprises. Learn to recognise them, as some are very good but others very dangerous. To bring boots and a basket is advised, and a knife for the adults. You can reserve your place before 11h30 on the day. Tickets: 4,50€; 4-12s: 3€, under 4s free. More info from www.bagnolesdelorne.com

Le Broc-café d'Anne-Marie in Champsecret (61)

This *brocante* is a regular "Ali-Baba's Cave". Located opposite the *Mairie*, the café is open from 7h30 with cakes (from the *boulangerie* in the village) and coffee, surrounded by *brocante* items. However, she is only open 3 days a week – Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, all day. No contact numbers available, but just turn up!

Salon de Peinture in Domfront (61)

On Wed. 10th from 10h in the *Maison des Associations* in Domfront, the Lion's Club is organising a painting contest for any technique or theme, followed by an exhibition open to everyone freely, in honour of François Hubert Benoist, a local painter. Go and see the works of local amateurs and vote for the one you like the most. For more details go to www.ot-domfront.com

Entertainment & Concerts

Tues. 2nd at 20h in the *Centre Madeleine Louaintier*, 9 Square Delaunay in Flers (61): “*Concert Au Salon*” – flute and piano, organised by the *Conservatoire de Musique de Flers Agglo*. Includes works by Berlioz. Free. (www.orne-tourisme.com)

Sun. 7th at 17h in the Centre d’Animation in Bagnoles de l’Orne: classical music with “*Septembre Musical de l’Orme* – Airelle Besson, Jazz Woman”, and her quartet with trumpet, keyboard, drums & song. Tickets 23€. (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

‘Cantamus’ concert

Cantamus, the well known ladies choir, are celebrating 10 years together with an anniversary concert on Sun. 7th at 16h in the hall in Dompierre (61). Entrance is free, with a celebratory drink and cake after the concert. The programme will feature many of the pieces they have performed over the years in numerous venues, raising several thousand euros for local and international charities. Space is limited and they would ask you to kindly e-mail: cantamuschorale61@gmail.com to reserve your seats.

Art in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

Studio tutored sessions in Watercolours, Acrylics, Oils and Pastels will run through the long winter, and interested parties (beginners and others) are invited to join in. Ring the tutor/artist Joe Morgan on 02 43 13 06 72 for further information.

Change of ownership at *le Garage Juillet* in Gorrion (53)

After 28 years as a *garagiste*, Pascal Juillet has passed the baton to Fabien Mahy and his wife (although Mme Juillet will still be working in the office). Located at 2 rue du Douanier Rousseau, it is now called “*Gorrion Automobiles*”. There will be no changes, although they hope to add to the facilities. They are open Mon. to Fri.: 8h-12h & 13h30–18h30, and Sats., 8h-12h. 02 43 08 62 95.

French State gives advice on avoiding scam websites

[*With thanks to The Connexion for this advice*]: Every year, one million people in France are estimated to be fooled by false administrative websites – leading to identity fraud and stolen funds – costing at least €1.5million, according to the Ministry for Economy & Finance. The advice comes from (<http://www.lefigaro.fr/conjoncture/2018/09/16/20002-20180916ARTFIG00178-le-gouvernement-alerte-les-internautes-contre-les-faux-sites-administratifs.php>). It focuses on websites offering national administrative tools that are usually free. The advice includes checking that any official site for administration ends in the web address “gouv.fr”, or “.fr” as a minimum, but even sites that appear legitimate, such as with a ‘fr’ or using *République Française* imagery – such as Marianne or the tricolor – may not be. Users are therefore also advised to cross-check web addresses with the official list of French administration sites at <http://www.service-public.fr> as your starting point for official tasks. Some fraudulent websites may come up higher in search engine results than the real ones, so it is important to double-check sites, even if they appear reputable. Users should also check if a particular service is free or not, and stay alert if a website asks for money or bank details for something that should be free.

Lest We Forget

73 years after the end of WW2, the identity tag belonging to 1st Lt Thomas Wesley Crosby was returned to his son in Kansas. Lt Crosby was one of the crew of the B17 bomber "Scrappy Mike", which was shot down over Evreux on 13th August 1944. "Scrappy Mike" crashed near St Clair-de-Halouze (61) - of the 9 crew, only he was able to parachute out. Although he landed safely, Lt Crosby was captured by the Germans near Lonlay l'Abbaye and later shot. The 8 other bodies were buried in the commune and later moved to the cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer. Ten years ago, a Tinchebray resident came across the tag, and research discovered that Lt Crosby had been 22 years old at the time and his body had been returned to Kansas in 1949. As a result of this detailed research, this year *L'Association Normande du Souvenir Aerien 1939-1945 Orne-Maine* organised for the identity tag to be sent to his very grateful family in Texas.

Excursion to *les Plages de Débarquement* (Landing Beaches)

On Sun. 7th, departing from the Place du Marché in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), this coach trip enables the discovery of the American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, overlooking Omaha Beach - 70 ha., holding 9,387 white, perfectly aligned, crosses. Lunch will be at one's own expense. Then a stop at the German Battery at Longues-sur-Mer – Arromanches, leaving the area at 17h30, arriving back in Bagnoles de l'Orne around 19h30. Tickets: 39€, available at the Bagnoles Tourist Office (cheque or cash only, please). (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

National *concours* of the Normandy Donkey

On Sun. 7th at the Haras National du Pin, Le Pin-au-Haras (61), organised by *l'Assoc. de l'Ane Normande*, the best donkeys of the *race Normand* will be present. The 2 best males and females will be selected to represent the race at the *Salon International de l'Agriculture* in Paris. More info: www.haras-national-du-pin.com

Walks near Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

There are two 7.2 km guided walks near Bagnoles de l'Orne this month, from 15h to 17h30: ♪ Tues. 2nd and ♪ Fri. 26th. Reservation necessary before 11h30 on the day. 3,50€ (under 12s free). More info at the Bagnoles Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66)

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That's all for this month. As a reminder, do please keep in touch, just once or twice a year is good, as if I don't hear from anyone for over a year I tend to take them off my distribution list, as people have been known to leave the area, or change their e-mail address, and not let me know, so this way I can keep my list 'fine-tuned'!

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

Late item for end-September:

Sun. 30 th Sept.:	<i>Art et Jardin</i>	Ceaucé	1
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Date	Event	Place	Page
Tues. 2 nd	<i>Concert au Salon</i>	Flers	4
“	7.2 km guided walk	near Bagnoles de l’Orne	5
Sat. 6 th	CSF Nord Curry & Auction	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
W/e 6 th & 7 th	<i>Auto-Brocante Festival . . .</i>	Lohéac	3
Sun. 7 th	‘Cantamus’ concert	Dompierre	4
“	National <i>concours</i> of Normandy donkeys	Le-Pin-au-Haras	5
“	<i>Septembre Musical de l’Orne</i>	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Excursion to the Landing Beaches	from Bagnoles de l’Orne	5
Wed. 10 th	<i>Salon de Peinture</i>	Domfront	3
Sun. 14 th	<i>Fête des Citrouilles</i> (Pumpkin Fair)	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	<i>Plantes en Fête</i>	Domfront (new venue)	2
“	<i>Foire à la Saint-Luc</i>	Tinchebray	3
19 th – 21 st	<i>Foire Expo</i>	Fougères	3
Mon. 22 nd	Discovery of Mushrooms	Bagnoles de l’Orne	3
Fri. 26 th	7.2 km guided walk	near Bagnoles de l’Orne	5
Sun. 28 th	EuroMayenne Craft Fair	Mayenne	2