

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Enjoy the little things in life – for one day you may
look back and realize they were the big things

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

Fri. 1st & Sat. 2 nd)	La Ferté-Macé (61)	<i>vide-maison</i> , in rue du Château, 9h30 to 18h.
Sun. 3 rd	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at Le Chevallerie, ±150
W/e 9 th /10 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> in <i>Salle Omnisports</i> , ±50
Sun. 17 th	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , ±30
Sun. 24 th	La Bigottière (53)	Spring Sale (see p.2)
''	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at Le Chevallerie, ±150

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

Special dates:

Thurs. 14th: St Valentine's Day. A selection of venues for that romantic candle-lit dinner is shown below (reservation necessary):

Diner aux chandelles (Candlelight dinner):

Thurs. 14 th :	Dompierre (61) - 'Relais de la Foret'	(02 33 30 44 21)
14 th & 15 th :	Gorron (53) - 'Le Papillon'	(02 43 05 86 47)
14 th to 17 th :	St Georges de Rouelley (61) - 'Le Saint Georges'	(02 33 49 78 49)
14 th to 17 th :	Domfront (61) - 'Hotel de France'	(02 33 38 51 44)
Thurs. 14 th :	Bellême (61) - 'A la Dinette Gourmande', Place du Général Leclerc	

There are many others – your nearest Tourist Office may be able to give some venues.

Tout le monde contre le cancer

On Sat. 2nd, departing at 14h30 from the Salle Godard, near the *Gymnase, Quartier St Sauveur*, in Flers (61), this is a walk in support of the fight against cancer, organised by *Les Vikings Flèriens*. Choice of 3km, 6km or 9km walks, or a 25km bike ride. Registration at 13h30. 5€ – all proceeds going to *La Ligue Contre le Cancer*. More info from the Flers Tourist Office (02 33 65 06 75), www.flerstourisme.fr

Eating out : *l'Eveil des Sens* in Mayenne town

This restaurant at 429 Boulevard Paul Lintier in Mayenne (53, near the old hospital) has been run by Isabelle and Nicholas Nobis since 2010, and they have been awarded a Michelin Star again - for the eighth consecutive year. With modern, creative cuisine, it is ideal for that special occasion (e.g. Saint Valentine's Day) and is not as expensive as you would expect for a restaurant of this calibre (menus start at 26€). Closed on Mondays, also Tuesday & Sunday evenings.. More info at www.restaurant-leveildessens.fr

Les Jardins du Val Nancon, Fougères (35)

A pleasant stroll around these gardens, near the Château in Fougères, will help get rid of any winter blues! Open to all (dogs allowed on a leash). You will see signs directing you from near the Château entrance.

Grande Daze Animal Companion Centre Spring Sale

On Sun. 24th from 10h to 16h, Grande Daze Rescue is holding a Spring Sale at the *Salle des Fêtes* in La Bigottière (53). Tea, coffee & cakes will be on sale, as well as home-made cookies, jams & chutneys. Lots of new bargains on sale too – books, toys, bric-a-brac, CDs, DVDs, clothing, etc. Contact details for more info, location, etc.: 06 04 01 83 73, or 02 43 90 75 83. (www.grande-daze.com)

Photo competition

As part of *les journées mycologiques* (study of mushrooms) there will be a photo competition in La Ferté-Macé (61) from 13th to 21st October. The theme: “*champignons du vert au violet*” (mushrooms from green to violet”). Your photos can be given to the Tourist Office, 11 rue de la Victoire in La Ferté-Macé, before 7th Oct. Rules are available at the Tourist Office. Entry: 5€, under 16s free. otsi.la-ferte-mace@wanadoo.fr

Bird observation in the Orne

Le Groupe Ornithologique Normand and the *mediathèque Andaine/Passais* organise bird-related events, night-time walks, etc., at this time of year (the next night walk is in March). On 9th Feb., there will be a workshop for making nesting boxes and bird feeders (in French, but some English may also be spoken) at the *mediathèque* in La Chapelle d'Andaine.

Something for all the family - Discovering Donkeys

At 15h30 on Tuesdays 12th & 19th and Thursdays 14th & 21st you will be welcome at *La Ferme du Bois Gamat*, Laval (53) to meet the donkeys of the farm and the work of Agnes. The visit allows direct contact with these lovely animals, for the happiness of children – and the adults who accompany them! Entry: 3,50€.

Bison Futé - traffic info

Drivers can find out more about road conditions on their journey this winter as the traffic agency *Bison Futé* (lit. Cunning Bison) creates up-to-the-minute road weather maps. www.bison-fute.gouv.fr has a *Routes en hiver* section with zoomable maps of France and main winter black spots, giving green, amber, red and black warnings.

Art exhibition in St Claire de Halouze (61)

Until 3rd April, at the *Bibliothèque Municipale*, this is a collection of around 400 works by over 100 artists, known as well as not-yet-known - paintings, design, engravings, collages, photos, sculptures and ceramics. www.ornetourisme.com

How's this for a good idea!

No doubt other towns enjoyed this same event, and in Gorron, on 11th January, the *CAP Gorronnais & les Pompiers de Gorron* invited everyone to take their *sapins de Noël* (natural Christmas trees) to the *Stade Lucien Dollé* (football stadium) where *les pompiers* organised a huge bonfire. The Christmas trees that gave so much pleasure over the festive season continued to do so for one more evening – and no need to lug them off to the *dechetterie*!

Biscuiterie de l'Abbaye – sale of biscuits

On Sat. 2nd from 9h, at the well-known *Biscuiterie de l'Abbaye*, route du Val, Lonlay l'Abbaye (61) you can purchase some excellent biscuits from their discontinued lines. More info: www.ot-domfront.com

Exhibition: Bronzorama – a look at the Bronze Age

From 1st Feb. until 22nd April, at the *Musée Archéologique Départemental*, 13 rue de la Liberation in Jublains (53) this is a new, contemporary exhibition of the Bronze Age in the west of France (Normandy, Brittany and Pays de la Loire). Some artefacts date from 1,400 BC, illustrating the life of the inhabitants around 3,500 years ago. Open: daily (not Weds.) 9h30-12h30 & 13h30-17h30. Entry 4€ (under 18s free) and free on the 1st Sunday of the month. www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Cashback of 60€ is now available

Cashback is now widely available in France and Casino supermarkets are among the first to take it up. The concept, which allows you to get cash from stores as long as you make a purchase by bank card, is already widespread in several European countries but was slow to start in France. It has come in following a European directive.

The maximum amount you can get is 60€. It is hoped this will especially help people living in rural areas, far from bank cash dispensers whose numbers have fallen in recent years.

Art in Fougerolles du Plessis

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.

Leisure events in Gorron (53)

Events at 10 rue Alain Gerbault in Gorron, in both English and French. Contact Maria (tel: 06 61 71 90 00)

- ◇ Yoga for everyone (*Yoga Pour Tous*) – all ages, all levels. Tues. & Sats. 11h-12h
- ◇ Stitch & Bitch sewing group: (*groupe de couture*) – begins Friday 15th Feb.
- ◇ Adult Karaoke in English & French, Fridays, 20h until midnight; 8€ per person which includes a drink.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 2nd at 20h30 in *l'Espace Clair de Lune* in Ernée (53): Lisa Simone en concert: (Lisa is the daughter of Nina Simone), with an evening of jazz, funk, soul, pop & Afro. Tickets 12€ & 7€, available at 02 43 05 98 80.

Sat. 2nd at 20h30 in the Centre Culturel Juliette Drouet in Fougères (35): *Natah Big Band au Festival Les Flambées Celtik*. 10 musicians with their new arrangements of modern jazz. Duration: 1hr 30. Tickets: 5€ (ask at the Fougères Tourist Office)

Sun. 3rd at 15h30 in the 'Cabaret & Club' in Château-Gontier (53): '*Big Band de Sud-Mayenne + Boeuf Jazz*'. Tickets 10€. More info & reservations at the Laval Tourist Office (02 43 49 49 46) or at livelcabaret@gmail.com

Fri. 8th at 20h30 in the *Théâtre Victor Hugo* in Fougères (53): Pauline Croze in concert, with popular songs and African music. Duration: 1h30. For tickets, ask at the Fougères Tourist Office (02 99 94 12 20)

Sat. 9th at 20h30 in *l'Espace Culturel Colmont* in Gorrion (53) – organised by the *Comité de Jumelage* (Twinning) *Gorrion-Schwaikheim*, this is a dinner dance and cabaret. Tickets: 19€ (under 12s 10€) available from the Gorrion *Mairie*.

Sun. 10th from 10h to 12h30 in the *Petit Théâtre* in Chailland (53): a Guitar Master Class with Michel Haumont. Tickets: 20€. www.guitaresaubeffroi.com/Michel-Haumont.

'Sounds of the 60s' – The Encore

On Sat. 16th at 20h (doors open at 19h) in the bar/restaurant '*Le Viking*' in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50): a repeat of the very enjoyable 'Sounds of the 60s' show, featuring many popular songs of the decade. Bar and snacks available. Entry is free, but admission is by ticket only, and donations to Cancer Support France are very welcome. Reserve your tickets now, as numbers are limited, by tel: 02 33 59 20 11; e-mail: normandymusic@yahoo.com, waters.norman@orange.fr or at the bar '*Le Viking*'.

Opera transmitted direct from Paris to La Ferté-Macé (61)

On Sun. 17th at 14h30 in the cinema in La Ferté-Macé. 8 rue Saint-Denis: the opera 'Carmen', by Bizet, is transmitted directly from the *Opéra Bastille* by film. [Possibly a modern version of this classic opera]. Tickets on sale at the cinema.

La Route du Rock – Collection hiver

From 19th to 23rd, in Saint-Saveur Chapel in Saint-Malo (35) [Intra-muros]: in the deep mid-winter Saint-Malo takes time out for some magic moments with the winter version of the *Route du Rock Festival* – with a programme that is as up-to-date and meticulous as ever. A blend of legendary names and great new bands, plus a few headliners such as Radiohead, Placibo, Dominique A, etc. For more info: www.saint-malo-tourisme.com

Arielle Brocante

The 2 venues will be open this month at the usual times – at Le Teilleul on 1st weekend of the month (2nd & 3rd) and in Gorrion (near *Manges-tu?*) on the 2nd weekend (9th & 10th). For enquiries, contact Pascal or Arielle (they both speak English) at 06 73 37 61 75.

Lest We Forget

La Petite Chapelle Saint-Michel in Mortain (50) is located on the hill of Montjoie which, at 323m, is the highest point of the town and on a clear day you can see Mont-Saint-Michel. The first chapel was built in 1613 but did not survive the Revolution; the present chapel was built in 1852 and restored in 1955. Today it is a place of remembrance of the battle in August 1944 where many soldiers lost their lives - it was held by the 2nd Battalion of the 120th Regiment of the 30th American Division 'Old Hickory' and they were surrounded for 6 days and nights by the SS, who could not take it. There is parking at the top of the hill and there is a peaceful walk along the avenue to see the memorial. www.mortain-tourisme.fr

Closure of *Café Gourmand* in Gorrion

Sadly, Jessica Gourdet has closed the *Cafe Gourmand*, and it is up for sale. She will be missed, as she worked hard to continue the tradition of excellence we enjoyed with Amanda.

Walking

Organised by the *Randonneurs du Domfrontais*, there are regular walks each month:

☞ 5th Feb: Le Mesnil-Ciboult; ☞ 10th Feb: 'Lonlay l'Abbaye'; ☞ 20th Feb: La Nocherie

Meet in the car park of *l'Espace Rocton* in Domfront (61) at 13h30 for car-sharing. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (02 33 38 53 97).

[Remember, for all sporting activities you need a current health certificate from your doctor]

[Advance notice :](#)

La Belle au Bois Dormant de Passais Villages - The Sleeping Beauty of Passais Villages

A pantomime for all the family in two languages. With a cast of around 40 people including French and English, live music, song & dance, this will be a unique experience that everyone can enjoy, regardless of age or nationality. Shows will be in the theatre in Passais-la-Conception at 19h45 pm on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 March but tickets (6€ for adults and 4€ for children) will be on sale from early February. Details of reservations and outlets will be published on www.funtheatre.eu soon; the Tourist Office in Domfront will take telephone reservations (02 33 38 53 97), or you can register for their mailing list on tickets@follett.fr or billets@follett.fr

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Have a great month!

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

February 2019

Date	Event	Place	Page
Sat. 2 nd	Walk for <i>La Ligue Contre le Cancer</i>	Flers	1
“	Lisa Simone in concert	Ernée	4
“	Natah Big Band au Festival	Fougères	4
“	Sale of discontinued biscuits	Lonlay l'Abbaye	3
W/e 2 nd & 3 rd	Monthly <i>brocante</i>	Le Teilleul	4
Sun. 3 rd	Concert: Big Band de Sud-Mayenne	Château-Gontier	4
Tue. 5 th	Walk – Le Mesnil Ciboult	Domfront	5
Fri. 8 th	Pauline Croze in concert	Fougères	4
Sat. 9 th	Dinner dance and cabaret	Gorron	4
“	Workshop for nesting boxes and feeders	La Chapelle d'Andaine	2
Sun. 10 th	Guitar Master Class	Chailland	4
“	Walk – Lonlay l'Abbaye	Domfront	5
W/e 9 th & 10 th	Monthly <i>brocante</i>	Gorron	4
Tue. 12 th , 19 th	Discovering Donkeys farm visit	Laval	2
Thu. 14 th , 21 st	Discovering Donkeys farm visit	Laval	2
Sat. 16 th	'Sounds of the 60s' show	Notre-Dame du Touchet	4
Sun. 17 th	Opera 'Carmen' filmed from Paris	La Ferté-Macé	4
Wed. 20 th	Walk – La Nocherie	Domfront	5
Sun. 24 th	Grande Daze Rescue Spring Sale	La Bigottière	2