

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Time is precious – waste it wisely!

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

Sat. 2 nd	Changé (53)	<i>Bourse aux vêtements</i> (second-hand clothing sale), 10h to 14h30 in Salle Nymphéas
Sun. 3 rd	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , place Valhubert, ±50
“	Rennes (35)	‘The Retro Market’, in Halle Martenot, ±70
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g: ‘ <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> ’, route de Ger, ±70
“	St Melior des Ondes (35)	39 th <i>Braderie des Petits Bouts</i> , ±150
Fri. 8 th)	Saint-Malo (35)	<i>vide-maison</i> (house clearance) in rue du Plessis
Sat. 9 th) -	“	
Sun. 10 th)	“	
Sun. 10 th	Cossé-le-Vivien (53)	v-g in Salle de l’Oriette, ±50
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 17 th	Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> , Place du Marché, ±150
Sun. 24 th	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , ±30
“	St Aubin-du-Cormier (35)	<i>braderie</i> in the Salle de Sport, ±70
“	Agon-Coutainville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place du 28 Juillet, ±50
“	Vitré (35)	v-g in parking of Saint-Martin, ±50
Sun. 31 st	Dinard (35)	<i>braderie</i> Notre-Dame de la Mer, ±30

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

Special dates:

Fri. 1 st	St David’s Day
Sun. 17 th	Saint Patrick’s Day – celebrated in many towns & villages in France
Wed. 20 th	Spring Equinox

Eating out in Saint-Fraimbault (61)

Good news – the bar/restaurant in Saint-Fraimbault has re-opened and is called ‘*Au Point Nommé*’. Lysandre & Arnaud Texier, 2 young people with restaurant experience, will be using local produce and offer a *menu ouvrier (midi)* for 12,50€, with an *à la carte* evening menu and themed evenings (e.g. Saint Patrick’s Day). Open 8h to 22h. Contact: restostfraimbault@gmail.com / 02 33 66 97 26

Les Jardins des Renaudies

In 2018, there were 20,945 visitors at *les Jardins des Renaudies*, near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) - 1,500 less than in 2017, but a possible cause could be the weather conditions. For 2019 the entry price has changed – it is now 6€, except for special events [*chasse aux oeufs* (Easter-egg hunt), *Rendez-vous Aux Jardins*, *Journées des Patrimoine*, etc.], when it will be 3€ for everyone.

The reception area (with tables and kitchen facilities) can be hired at a cost of 315€ for up to 200 people (*midi* or *soir*), 436€ for the day. Contact: 02 43 08 02 08.

Marché du terroir et de l’artisanat

On Sun. 10th at the *Salle des Sports* in Brecé (53), 10h to 17h, the traditional market this year is in support of ‘*Les P’tits Dououds de la Mayenne*’. Lunch can be purchased (*galettes, saucisses, crêpes, frites*) from 11h. Free tombola.

Soirée choucroute in Loré (61)

On Sun. 31st the village of Loré is holding once more its *choucroute* meal (with an alternative *roti de porc* if preferred) which is usually very popular and a sell-out. Details can be found on the village website www.lorevillage.org. The event is held in the *Salle Communale* (Village Hall) from 12h15. The cost of the meal, including a dessert and one drink: 15€ for adults and 7€ for under 12’s.

Open Day at ‘Pages’ bookshop, Passais-la-Conception (61)

On Sat. 23rd, ‘Pages’ will be celebrating their 9th anniversary and they are opening up the second floor so there will be even more books! Tony French and Suzanne will also be launching their new venture as an ‘Official Stockist of Frenchic Furniture Paint’. Frenchic is a natural and environmentally friendly chalk and mineral paint which caters for all your up-cycling and interior/exterior painting needs. Tea, coffee & cake will be provided between 10h and 16h. For more info, e-mail: suzymcg@hotmail.com, tel. no: 06 84 74 72 70.

Basilique in Pontmain - donations

This very impressive sanctuary in Pontmain is becoming up to date and is now offering the facility for its faithful to give donations with their *carte bancaire* (bank card). “People have less and less money on them these days, but everyone has a bank card” explains Father Renaud Saliba. Installed near the chapel of the Virgin Mary in the Basilica, the pilgrims can pay for their candle (2€ to 8€), give towards the collection, help finance the repair works, or to have a Mass said. This is also a security measure, as the donations box has been subject to theft. Donations can also be made by a telechargable app on a smartphone.

Craft and wellness event at ‘*La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux*’

‘*La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux & L’Armoire des Beaux Vêtements*’, 8 Place de la Mairie in Gorrion (53), with Val Mitchell & Essential Healing are holding an Open Evening on Wed. 13th from 17h to 20h. Craft demonstrations, mini makeovers and Check for Energy Blockages using acupuncture points. There will also be a tombola – the 1st prize will be a voucher for a meal at ‘*Le Papillon*’ restaurant in Gorrion. Complimentary refreshments are available. For more info and/or directions, contact Anne on 06 49 07 82 55:

‘Leader Price’ in Ernée (53)

After 3 years of trading in Avenue Aristide Briand in Ernée, Leader-Price closed in February with a loss of 6 jobs. Leader-Price is a French company, created in 1990. Dedicated to hard-discount, there are around 800 shops in France. They are part of the Casino group - one of the world leaders in food distribution with more than 12,000 shops throughout the world and an annual turnover of €38 million.

Exhibition : ‘Sculptures et Peintures’ by Camille Gerault

From 8th to 23rd at the Salle Rousseau, Cour du Grand Turc in La Ferté-Macé (61). Free entry,

Recycling – what to put where (a reminder)

- ☞ The green bins are for glass pots and bottles (without corks/lids) and perfume bottles
- ☞ The black bins are for plastic bottles & flasks, juice cartons, tin cans [they do not have to be clean, just empty], cardboard & packaging, newspapers, magazines, brochures.
- ☞ Not to be recycled, but put into the dustbin in a sealed bin liner: plastic bags, cling film, plastic & polystyrene containers, nappies, flowerpots, broken crockery.

At the déchetteries there will be someone who can advise you if you are not sure about anything (e.g. electrical items, building materials, etc).

Salon – *Puces des couturières et des loisirs créatifs*

On Sunday 10th from 10h to 18h at the Communs du Château, Allée Alois Monnet in Bagnolles de l’Orne (61), this is open to all and there will be material, wool, craft accessories, etc. [For a stand, contact 03 33 37 23 20: 4€ per table]

Gorrion cinema attendance

10,308 – that is the number of tickets sold at Gorrion cinema in 2018: 880 more than in 2017. Hopefully the great attendance figures by the British cinema-goers has helped make this good result. (That, and having some good films shown!)

Feedback for Brexit

Amy Roxanne Byrne-Evans would like to get more information from the Expats here and she is going to question Jean-Marc Allain, the *Maire* of Gorrion, and hopefully get on radio *Bleu Mayenne*. She would like your opinions, and to know of any problems you have encountered and help you have received. You can come to ‘*Manges-tu?*’ during opening hours, or visit her on facebook: “Amy Roxanne Byrne-Evans”

Entertainment & Concerts

Fri. 8th at 20h30 in the Salle Josephine-Baker, Lycée des Andaines, La Ferté-Macé (61): *Soirée* with & Pat (accordion) & Fano. Free concert followed by a *pot de l'amitié* (friendship drink).

Sat. 9th at 19h30 in the Salle Vibrations, 30 rue Pierre Neveu, La Ferté-Macé (61): *repas-concert* (dinner concert) with the theme “*Pêle-mêle musical*”. Price for concert and dinner: 23€. Reservations before 7th March at isabelle.fourmond@hotmail.fr or 06 07 30 03 47

Fri. 15th at 21h in the Salle Jean-Gabin of the Casino in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): the popular duo ‘*Diva Faune*’. Influenced by electronic & pop music, they have had more than 7 million viewings on Youtube. Tickets: 27€, available at www.casino-bagnolesdelorne.com

Tues. 19th from 20h30 to 22h30 at the Salle Multicultural, rue de Bretagne in Passais-la-Conception (61): a concert by Chloé Lacan: ‘*Printemps de la Chanson*’, with her accordion and group ‘*Ménage à trois*’. Tickets 10€, children 5€.

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 on Fri. 15th and Sat. 16th. Tickets are 6€ for adults and 4€ for children. Details of reservations and outlets on www.funtheatre.eu ; also the Domfront Tourist Office 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

Ciné-opéra – Le Lac des Cygnes (Swan Lake)

Sun. 24th at 14h30 in the cinema in La Ferté-Macé (61): direct transmission from Paris. More info and tickets from the Tourist Office: 02 33 37 1097, www.lafertemace.fr

Exhibition at the Gorrion (53) médiathèque

An exhibition entitled ‘*Fromages de terroir et vins de France*’ will be viewable at the médiathèque until the end of April. For opening hours: www.gorrion.fr/culture/mediatheque

Lest We Forget : Mortain (50)

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the *Débarquement*, the commune of Mortain has decided to re-evaluate the effects of the battle of Mortain with an app – ‘Kit M’. The *Maire* & President of *l’Amicale Old Hickory* says “We feel that people are lacking information and they want to know more”. Thanks to the app, you can discover how the people of Mortain lived at this terrible time when 90% of the commune was destroyed. There will be images of the people who re-built Mortain, and nearby villages. Also, from 2nd June, two circuits will be available, beginning at La Petite Chapelle, not far from Côte 314.

Kit M can be telecharged free, and also without connection. “Mortain and the surrounding area had a sad past, but we are trying to do something positive, said the *Maire*. For more info, visit the Mortain Tourist Office (www.mortainais-tourisme.org)

Sport & Leisure Activities

Course pédestre (Road race)

On Sat. 30th starting at 14h30, between the *Centre de Pleine Nature* in Torchamp (61) and the *Gite de Bellevue*. 10€ to enter – and a prize for all who finish! Organised by CDC du Bocage de Passais, 02 33 37 87 83. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (02 33 38 53 97), www.ot-domfront.com

Finals of District Tennis Championships in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61):

At the *Complexe Tennistique Maxine Merlin*: ♦ on the weekend of 2nd & 3rd at 14h: Singles for 11 to 18 years old; ♦ on 9th & 10th: Doubles for 6 to 10 years; ♦ on Sunday 10th: Senior Singles. Food available on site. More info from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66). www.bagnolesdelorne.com

Course de Printemps (Spring Race)

Sat. 2nd around the '*plan d'eau*' (*base de loisirs*) in La Ferté-Macé (61) this race is open to all. A 10h start for children; 11h start for adults. Registration at 06 71 95 21 70. Organised by "*Jogging d'Andaine*". More info: www.lafertemace.fr ; 02 33 37 10 97

Tennis Open in Flers (61)

From 1st to 17th March, this takes place in the *Tennis Club de Flers, Stade du Hazé*. More info at the Flers Tourist Office (www.wornetourisme.com)

Feedback from last month

The concert with Lisa Simone (Nina Simone's daughter) in Ernée was a great success and some of the 700-strong audience danced to her music – and she received a standing ovation.

Advance notice for April (booking recommended in March): Spring Afternoon Tea

On 2nd April from 14h at *Le Moulin de la Quentinière* in Désertines (53) will be the Spring Afternoon Tea where you can spend some time and enjoy a pot of tea, finger sandwiches, a selection of pastries & cakes. Price per person: 7,50€ or 8€ with a glass of fizz!! Call Saveena on 07 68 82 10 00 or email lemoulin@gmail.com now to book

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And finally, a late News item:

Police have confirmed that a man in England, who fell into a combined harvester while trying to steal it, has been bailed. (haw haw!)

Judy Skinner

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

March 2019

Date	Event	Place	Page
1 st – 17 th	Tennis Open	Flers	5
Sat. 2 nd	Course de Printemps (Spring Race)	La Ferté-Macé	5
Fri. 8 th	Concert with Pat & Fano	La Ferté-Macé	4
8 th – 23 rd	Exhibition by Camille Gérault	La Ferté-Macé	3
Sat. 9 th	<i>Repas concert</i> (dinner concert)	La Ferté-Macé	4
Sun. 10 th	<i>Marché du terroir & de l'artisanat</i>	Brecé	2
“	<i>Salon des Puces Couturières</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Wed. 13 th	Craft & Wellness Event	Gorron	3
Fri. 15 th	Concert with ' <i>Diva Faune</i> '	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Fri. 15 th &) Sat. 16 th)	Pantomime: The Sleeping Beauty of Passais Village	Passais-la-Conception	4
Tues. 19 th	Concert with Chloé Locan	Passais-la-Conception	4
Sat. 23 rd	'Pages' bookshop Open Day	Passais-la-Conception	2
Sun. 24 th	Swan Lake – emission from Paris	La Ferté-Macé	4
Sat. 30 th	Road race	Torchamp	5
Sun. 31 st	<i>Soirée choucroute</i>	Loré	2

Advance notice for April:

Tues. 2 nd April	Spring Afternoon Tea	Désertines	5
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