

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Look at life through the windshield,
not the rear-view mirror

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

Sun. 2 nd	La Ferrière-aux-Etangs (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> in Place Buron, ±250
“	St Meloir-des-Ondes (35)	v-g, ±30
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , ±50
“	Le Genest St-Isle (53)	v-g, Place des Commerces, ±150
Sun. 9 th	Dol-de-Bretagne (35)	v-g in Place du Foirail, ±150
“	La Frenais (35)	<i>foire à tout</i> , 8h to 18h, ±50
Mon. 10 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Ducey (50)	v-g in <i>Boulodrome de Ducey</i> , ±50
Sun. 16 th	Landéan (35)	<i>brocante</i> in <i>ancien centre aéré</i> , ±50
“	Louverné (NE of Laval, 53)	v-g in <i>complexe sportif</i> , ±150
Sun. 23 rd	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Pleurtuit (35)	v-g/ <i>braderie</i> in Parc Emeraude, ±300
“	St. Jacques de la Lande (35)	v-g, rue du Manoir, ±150
“	Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)	v-g in <i>Centre Equestre</i> , Parc de Vaux, ±50
“	Louvigné (53)	v-g along the <i>grande rue</i> , ±150
“	St Denis de Gastines (53)	v-g in Place des Tilleuls, ±30
“	Ernée (53)	v-g in Parking of <i>Salle Clair de Lune</i> , ±70
W/e 29 th /30 th	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in the streets of the town, ±200

A selection here, but visit www.brocabrac.fr which is constantly updated with *brocantes* / *vide-greniers*, including any changes.

Special dates / public holidays:

Sun. 9 th	<i>Pentecôte</i> (Pentecost)
Mon. 10 th	<i>Lundi Pentecôte</i>
Sun. 16 th	<i>Fête des Pères</i> (Fathers' Day)

Eating out : ‘La Carotte’

‘La Carotte’ is a *bistro creatif* at 14 Quai Carnot, Mayenne (53, on the river, below the château) serving vegetarian, bio meals with inspired menus using locally sourced ingredients. There are ‘tapas’ to enjoy with an aperitif, a salad bar with unusual and tasty dishes, and a *menu du jour*. They have a riverside terrace for sunny days, and host regular art and music events. Closed on weekends. For opening hours and menus visit www.lacarotte-bistro.com

Les Jardins des Renaudies – events in June

At these pretty gardens at Le Mézerais, near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53), created in 1988 by the *pépiniériste* Jean Renault, there are over 3,000 species of flowers, plants and trees. You can take a picnic, and there is also the *Ecomusée*, and the *Salon de Thé Anglais* which is open on Sats. & Suns. from 14h-18h. For more info: www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Sun. 2nd: ‘*Rendezvous aux Jardins*’ with an exhibition of works by local artists, and music through the day with *l’Ecole de Musique du Bocage* and the percussion band *Batacada Ambrières-les-Vallées*. The theme ‘*Terre, Air, Feu et Eau*’ inspires the day.

Sat. 8th to Mon. 10th [Sun. open 10h-18h; Sat. & Mon.: 14h-18h]: *Journées Nationale* with the *Club Bonsai du Coglais*, with an exhibition and creative workshops to show the skills of Bonsai. Guided visits at 11h.

Sun. 23rd: ‘*Peintres aux Jardins*’ (Artists in the Gardens) when artists can set up their easels around the gardens, and from 10h you can watch them paint. Judging from 17h.

Fête champêtre in La Dorée (53)

On the weekend of 15th & 16th at the *plan d’eau* (lake) in La Dorée, there will be entertainment on both days and the *vide-greniers* on the Sunday. Free entry.

Open Gardens

For the third year running, two gardens will be opening to the public at ‘Les Barries’, Niort-la-Fontaine (53) for the charity ‘*A Chacun son Everest*’ on Sun. 9th from 10h until 18h: a French garden of one hectare and Avis Kidd’s English wildlife friendly garden, with wood sculptures. As usual, there will be a *salon de thé* in each garden and also plants for sale, as well as other interesting things to see. For more information on these and other gardens to visit and directions, go to www.opengardens.eu.

The charity ‘*A Chacun son Everest*’ was founded by a French doctor to help children and women who have cancer to recuperate after long spells in hospital, to regain their confidence and to regard their illness as their own Everest to climb and conquer. For more information on the charity see www.achacunsoneverest.com.

‘Les Peintres dans la rue’ (Artists in the street)

On Sun. 2nd in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) this annual competition for artists along the streets of the town, takes place from 10h to 18h. The theme is ‘*Un Printemps à Lassay*’ (A Springtime in Lassay). Join in or watch the artists paint! There will also be a market of local products, workshops for the fabrication of musical instruments from vegetables (e.g. a flute made from a carrot!), music with *Batacada* at 11h30 and a discovery walk around the town. Free. Registration available on lassay@valleedehautemayenne.fr

11th *Fête des Plantes - 'Entre Ville et Jardin'*

On the weekend of 1st & 2nd from 10h to 18h, this popular garden fête, organised by the *Association Entre Ville et Jardin*, is held in the grounds (*le parc-arboretum*) of the château of Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) surrounded by 154 species of magnificent trees. The theme at this festive and convivial event will be '*le parfum au jardin*' and there will be 72 stands with artisans and expo/sale of plants and garden objects. Entry 3€, under 12s free. More info: www.bagnolesdelorne.com

Wellness Retreat at *Le Moulin de la Quentinière*

On Mon. 17th to Fri. 21st, *Le Moulin de la Quentinière* will be hosting a week-long Wellness Retreat: yoga, deep meditation and mindfulness sessions, nutrition seminars and advice, essential oils education and workshops. You can book to attend a day, or two or three, or the whole week. The residential price is fully inclusive of accommodation, all meals and in-house beverages, all Retreat sessions. The day non-residential price includes all Retreat sessions, lunch and all in-house beverages as well as use of the leisure facilities. Contact 07 68 82 10 00 for more info or visit www.le-moulin-quentiniere.com

La Ballue gardens

Wander at your leisure in these enchanted gardens, near Mont-Saint-Michel (50). Set on 17th century terraces, the *jardins labyrinthiques* of the *Château de la Ballue* dominate the valley of the Couesnon. Inspired by Italian baroque, these gardens offer a circuit with several different themed areas. Open: May to Sept., daily 10h to 18h30. Adults: 9,50€; 10-18s & students: 7,50€; under 10s with parents: free. A botanical map and index is available in English, German and French. www.laballuejardin.com

Les Drôles de Jardins in St-Fraimbault (61)

On Sat. 15th, as each year, a dozen small gardens are created in St-Fraimbault by schools and clubs and they are waiting for you to judge them! Sited on the raised fields between the town and the lake (entry opposite the Information Desk), there are new themes every year. Free entry.

Parade of old tractors in Chantrigné (53)

On Sun. 9th in the *terrain des sports*, there is the gathering of old tractors from 8h, with the procession starting at 9h. You can take a picnic! www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com.

Guided visits in English in Domfront (61)

Every Wednesday from 19th June, organised by the Domfront Tourist Office are these popular and interesting guided tours: ♦ at 14h you can learn about the history of the Château de Domfront, ♦ at 16h: *Le Musée Charles Léandre*; ♦ at 17h: the Saint Julien church. To reserve your places, contact the Tourist Office on 02 33 38 53 97.

Exhibition: "*l'Art du Temps*" in Jublains (53)

Until 22nd Sept., at 9h to 18h at the *Thermes Gallo-Romains* and *l'Eglise de Jublains*, two Mayenne artists exhibit their sculptures in many different mediums. Free. For more info: www.jublains.fr

Entertainment & Concerts

Thurs. 20th at 18h in the Théâtre Municipal, Place Juhel, Mayenne (53) – a musical show entitled “*Culture et Santé*”. Free

Concerts by the ‘Melodica’ choir

‘Melodica’ choir are pleased to announce two concerts at the end of June: Fri. 28th at the church in Le Chatellier (61) at 20h30, and on Sun. 30th in the church at Ségrié-Fontaine (61) at 16h30. Free entry with a collection for local charities. The concert programme includes songs from around the world in a lighthearted, enthusiastic manner. Something for everyone. For more info contact conductor Fiona Megeary on randf.megeary@wanadoo.fr

Fête de Saint-Médard

On Sun. 9th this annual fête in Saint-Mars d’Egrenne (61) has the *vide-greniers*, with a musical procession at 10h. Lunch available in a marquee (adults 14€, children 9€), and snacks (*crêpes*) & drinks are also available. Free bouncy castle.

Gorron Dance Gala

◆ On Sat. 15th at 20h30 & Sun. 16th at 15h in *l’Espace Colmont*, the Gorron Dance Gala this year is ‘The Wizard of Oz’. ◆ Also, Gorron Dance Orientale (Jae de Wylde and her ladies) will be dancing between 18h and 19h30 outside the Gorron *Mairie* at the *Fete de Musique* on Sat. 22nd. Feel free to go and shimmy with them! ◆ At the same time, outside the Bar des Sports, Sara from Gorron Dance will be giving demos of Modern Jazz dance with some of her girls and free taster classes for little ones.

English (VO) films in Gorron (53)

This month there will be 2 films in English in Gorron cinema. On Mon 10th: ‘Avengers End Games’ (sci-fi/fantasy); on Mon 24th (to celebrate the *Fête de la Musique!*): ‘Rocketman’, an epic musical about the incredible human story of Elton John’s breakthrough years. [Note: the ‘VO’ film on Mon 17th (*‘Douleur et Gloire’*) is in Spanish with French sub-titles]. Tickets, 5,50€, are on sale at the cinema from 20h on the night, and pre-film refreshments are available at the *Bar de la Mairie* at the bottom of the hill.

English (VO) films in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

For those who live a long way from Gorron, there are English language films showing in the Casino in Bagnoles de l’Orne on Monday evenings at 21h throughout the year. To access the month’s programme, go to www.casino-bagnolesdelorne.com. Note: VO [Version Original] films are in the language in which were made in (English, Spanish, German, etc.) and are not marked as such, so are not necessarily in English, although they all have French sub-titles. Tickets are 7€, (students, and each Wednesday, 6€, under 14s: 4€). For those wishing to have a meal beforehand, not all restaurants are open on a Monday night but the *Café de Paris* (nearby) and the pizzeria ‘*Il Coccodrillo*’ (opposite the Casino) are open.

‘Happy Independence Day’!

On the weekend of 22nd / 23rd at the Hippodrome, rue de Triqueurville, in Saint-Malo (35) is a Grand Country & Western Event, one of the largest gatherings of Country & Western dancing, with ‘Old West’ games and also activities for the young. Entry: 10€ or 15€, under 12s: 3€. More info: www.saint-malo-tourisme.com.

Lest We Forget – 75 years ago . . .

June 6th 1944 – D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, begins in the early-morning hours as Allied forces land on the Normandy beaches. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions, along with 4,400 ships and landing craft and 11,000 aircraft. By the end of the day, 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed and 15,000 were either killed or wounded.

Fête Annuelle de Centre Equestre

On Sun. 23rd in the *Parc des Loisirs de Vaux*, Ambrières-les-Vallées, is the fête of the Riding Centre of Ambrières-les-Vallées. There will be competitions in the morning and a horse show in the afternoon, the *vide-greniers* from 8h, pony rides & games. Free.

Rendez-vous aux Jardins – le Jardin de Clivoy (53)

On Sat. 8th (11h-18h) & Sun. 9th (14h-18h) in the gardens of the Château de Clivoy in Chailland (53) you can visit the *potager* (enclosed kitchen garden), fruit trees and roses with box-hedge surrounds, fountains, hothouses, also the English-style park – one of the prettiest sites in the Vallée de l'Ernée. Entry: 6€, under 15s free.

Something for all the family – *les Romains dans la ville*

On Sat 8th (13h30-18h) and Sun. 9th (10h-18h) at the *Musée Archéologique Départemental*, 13 rue de la Liberation in Jublains (53) you can experience the colours and sounds of the ancient Roman town of *Noviodunum* (Jublains), with entertainment and events in the theatre and fortress. There will be groups from all over France with costumed historical reconstructions – soldiers, merchants, gladiators, legionnaires. Workshops for children. Entry: 6€, 7 to 18s: 4€, under 7s free. www.museedejublains.fr

Phoenix Auto-Moto Club de Désertines

On Sun. 30th, the *Phoenix Auto-Moto Club de Désertines* will be holding their Summer Show at the *Terrain de Foot* in Désertines (53) from 11h onwards. There will be a Hog Roast (provided by Elliotts of Gorrion), club bar, live music (courtesy of Missing Lynx), the Red Lion Morris Dancers, *bourse d'échanges* (sale of spares), and more! Trophies for Best Car & Motorbike in Show. Free Entry. For more info and FREE Auto & Moto registration, email: infosummershow2019@gmail.com.

Will 'Amazon' be opening a depot near Fougères (35)?

A decision is to be made whether Amazon will open a logistics centre at Saint-Saveur-des-Landes (35, west of Fougères), which would be an ideal location between Brittany and Normandy – at present, there is no Amazon site in the north-west of France. Plans are being discussed for a 5 ha. site near the A84 *Autoroute*, which would create 80 jobs - however, nothing has been decided yet.

Fête des Jardins in Barenton (50)

On Sun. 23rd, 10h-18h at the *Musée du Poiré* in Barenton, there will be an artisanal produce market, flower workshop, sale of wood-fired-oven baked bread. Refreshments on site.

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

In 2018, 2.2 million Chinese tourists visited France, spending more than 4 billion euros.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Randonnée fraîcheur (Evening Walk)

On Wed. 26th, 20h to 22h, is an 8km walk from Chailland (53) to Villeneuve. Depart from the *Salle des Fêtes*. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)

First helicopter flights

On Sun. 23rd, the *Comité des Fêtes* in Saint-Bomer-les-Forges (61) are organising 'first flights' in a helicopter. Discover the commune and its surroundings from the air in a flight lasting 6 minutes. 5 places on each flight, 45€ each adult and 35€ for under 12s. For reservations: 02 33 37 70 24 or 06 68 85 99 57

'*Les Guinguettes*' in St-Fraimbault (61)

On Friday evenings from 23rd June until 4th Aug., 18h to 23h (with a short break at 20h), you can dance beside the lake on an area of 200sq.m (covered if raining) to the sound of live accordion music. Entry 6€ which includes a *crêpe* and bowl of cider. No need to book – just turn up and dance the night away in this lovely setting!

'*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) and supermarkets. 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.

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And finally:

At work last month a man fell into an upholstery machine. Don't worry – he's fully recovered. (haw haw!)

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That's all for this month. Just a reminder to, please, keep in touch once a year or so, just to let me know you are still wanting the Bulletins (as some people have left the area, or changed their e-mail address, and not let me know) and this way I know you are still wanting me to send them to you. Thanks.

Judy Skinner

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

June 2019

Date	Event	Place	Page
W/e 1 st & 2 nd	<i>Fête des Plants</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Sun. 2 nd	<i>Rendez-vous au Jardins</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	Artists in the streets	Lassay-les-Châteaux	2
Sat. 8 th & Sun. 9 th	<i>Les Romains dans la ville</i>	Jublains	5
” ”	RDV at <i>Le Jardin de Clivoy</i>	Chailland	5
Sat. 8 th to 10 th	<i>Journées Nationale</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
Sun. 9 th	‘Open Gardens’ visits	Niort-la-Fontaine	2
“	Parade of old tractors	Chantrigné	3
“	<i>Fête de Saint-Médard</i>	St Mars d'Egrenne	4
Sat. 15 th	<i>Les Droles de Jardins</i>	Saint-Fraimbault	3
“	Gorron Dance Gala	Gorron	4
15 th & 16 th	<i>Fête champêtre</i> (country fête)	La Dorée	2
Mon. 17 th to Fri. 21 st	Wellness Retreat	Désertines	3
Thurs. 20 th	Show: <i>Culture et Santé</i>	Mayenne	4
W/e 22 nd / 23 rd	Country & Western event	Saint-Malo	4
Sun. 23 rd	<i>Peintres dans les Jardins</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	Riding Centre fête	Ambrières-les-Vallées	5
“	<i>Fête des Jardins</i>	Barenton	5
“	First helicopter flights	St-Bomer-les-Forges	6
Wed. 26 th	8km walk from Chailland	Chailland	6
Fri. 28 th	Concert by the ‘Melodica’ choir	Le Chatellier	4
“	<i>Les Guinguettes</i> by the lake	Saint-Fraimbault	6
Sun. 30 th	<i>Phoenix Auto-Moto Club S/Show</i>	Désertines	5
“	Concert by the ‘Melodica’ choir	Ségrié-Fontaine	4