

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Don't worry over what other people are thinking about you -
they are too busy worrying over what you are thinking about them

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

Tue. 2 nd	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g 'Flâneries populaire d'été' (see page 3)
Sun. 7 th	Saint-James (50)	v-g/brocante at the <i>Fête Communale</i> , ±30
"	Neuilly-le-Vendin (53)	v-g in <i>Fête Champêtre</i> in <i>terrain de foot</i> , ±30
Sun. 14 th	Savigny-le-Vieux (50)	v-g in Place Mairie, ±70
"	Saint-James (50)	v-g & 'Rendez-vous des artistes', <i>centre-ville</i> , ±30
"	Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)	v-g in <i>Festival des Entrelacés</i> , ±30
"	Placé (53)	v-g in <i>terrain des sports</i> , ±30
Sun. 21 st	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , ±30
"	St Céneri-le-Gérei (61)	v-g in the village, ±30

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

Special dates / public holidays:

Sun. 14th *Fête Nationale* ('Pris de la Bastille 1789')

All towns/villages celebrate with music and fireworks. Your *Mairie* will give you details, the dates (some are on different weekends) and venues near you. As an example:-

Concert and fireworks in Ernée (53)

On Sat. 13th at the *plan d'eau des Carmines* in Ernée, a concert by *l'Harmonie Municipale* at 21h, followed by fireworks. Free.

Marchés d'été (summer markets) in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

These are evening markets every Tuesday in July and August at the camping site at Le Parc de Vaux, south of Ambrières. 17h to 20h. Free entry.

Eating out - *Le Farfadet Gourmand*

Le Farfadet Gourmand [*un farfadet* is a hob-goblin!] at 1 bis, Boulevard du Marechal Leclerc in Fougères (35) is an award-winning restaurant with fast, friendly service and great food (mainly crêpes, but also salads and some other dishes). It is rated 2 out of the 58 restaurants in Fougères! Vegetarians are welcome. Open: Fri. to Tues.: 12h–16h & 19h–21h; closed Weds & Thurs. Tel: 02 23 51 62 11.

Corso choréographique – International Carnival in Carelles (53)

On Sun. 7th from 11h to 18h, the village of Carelles comes alive with this popular annual carnival. Entertainment from 11h, then after the election of ‘Miss Mayenne’ (13h-14h15) in the presence of ‘Miss France’, the grand musical procession begins at 14h30 with many beautifully decorated floats, musicians and dancers from around the world. At 18h to 19h30 will be a show on the podium. This event is enjoyed by around 5,000 people each year. Entry: 8€, under 14s free. [Advice: it is a good idea to take fold-up chairs, as there is limited seating along the route] www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Something for all the family – ‘*Piraterie*’ in Flers (61)

On Sun. 7th, 14h30 to 18h, ‘*Dimanche en Parc*’ (Sunday in the Park) of the *Château de Flers* offers great fun for children: games, contests, and many events including a make-up workshop – children can be transformed into real pirates, thanks to clever make-up! At 18h, a 45 minute show – ‘The Shipwreck’ (for over 7s). www.ornetourisme.com

Festival ‘*Cité en Musique*’ in Domfront (61)

Taking place in Place de la Liberté in Domfront at 20h30 on Wednesdays 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st, these free concerts are for everyone. A show for youngsters will be at 16h on the 24th organised by the *Mairie*. More info: 02 33 30 60 60

Amazing horse show at *La Michaudière*, Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61)

At 15h15 on every Weds, Thurs, Sats & Suns in July & August (for the rest of the year see their website) at *la Ferme du Cheval de Trait* (farm of the draught horse) ‘*La Michaudière*’ in Juvigny-sous-Andaine, you can watch 30 powerful horses, including a Percheron and Normand & Breton Cobs, in the fascinating hour-long show “*de la Terre à la Scène*”. Over the years 450,000 visitors have enjoyed this amazing spectacle. Adults 13,5€; children age 5-12: 5€; under 5s free (price includes a farm visit, meeting the horses and the show). To visit the farm only (with its imaginative scarecrows!): 4€. English spoken. Open at 11h, there is also an exhibition on site, a space dedicated to sculptures, and a restaurant. For more info go to www.lamichaudiere.fr, 02 33 38 27 78

Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . . ?

On the label of bottles of wine, you may see ‘*Château de*’, or ‘*Domaine de*’. They may both be *châteaux*, but to be called a *Château* on the label the property has to be lived in for at least half of the year, whereas if it is lived in only at the time of the *vendange* (grape harvest) it must be referred to as a ‘*Domaine*’.

Day ticket - Fishery

Anglers looking for a decent coarse fishing day ticket will be pleased to learn about the *Etang de Launay*, which opened two years ago. The lake is situated just before the village of Chatillon-sur-Colmont (53) on the D5 route between Gorrion and St Georges Buttavent, and is easily visible from the D5. The lake contains carp to 20lbs+, tench, pike & roach, is not deep and the carp respond really well to sweetcorn fished over depth on the bottom.

The Fishery is open daily from 8h to 20h and a day ticket is 5€ per rod (4€ per rod for children under 12 – who must be accompanied by an adult). A half-day ticket is 4€ per rod. Tickets are available at the lakeside from the Fishery owner, who will be there several times during the day. Fishing must be by rod & line with a single barb-less hook. Spinners, lures and treble hooks are not permitted. Further information is available from the Fishery owner, Jack PetitHomme, on 06 81 69 88 22 (please note: Jack does not speak English!)

Fête et Foire-Expo de la Madeleine in Mayenne (53)

On the weekend of 20th & 21st July at the Parc des Expositions, Blvd Volney in Mayenne, 10h to 22h, this annual fair-exhibition, funfair and agricultural fair has 200 stalls over the 4 hectare site. Free entry. www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Journée des peintres dans la rue

On Sun. 14th in Chailland (53), this day of artists painting in the streets is open to all. All levels and all categories can compete for 11 prizes awarded by a jury and one by the public. Inscription is free, in advance at the *Mairie* (accueil.mairie.chailland@orange.fr or 02 43 02 70 11) or on the day between 8h and 10h30. The rules are also available at the *Mairie*.

Les Jardins des Renaudies (53)

At these pretty gardens on Sun. 14th, 10h to 18h, is the popular annual ‘Garden Party’ with games in the gardens (cricket, badminton, etc.), live music (Irish folk & pop) from 14h, traditional and Morris dancing, also the *Salon de Thé* organised by Alison Benn. You can take a picnic or reserve a lunch (*repas Anglais* – kir, *entrée*, beef or pork, dessert - for 17€, children 9€, reservations before 9th July). Entry to gardens: 6€; 6-16s: 2€; under 6s free. More info at www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr.

‘Flâneries populaire d’été’

Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): Every Tuesday in July (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th) will be this popular *vide-grenier*, in Place du Marché, Quartier de Château. Around 70 stalls expected. [*Flânerie*’ (s.f) means ‘strolling’]. A lovely setting for some bargain-hunting! Free entry.

La Ferté-Macé (61): Every Friday from 5th July to the end of August, 9h to 18h in the centre of the town. Free entry.

Golf course near Laval (53)

Le Golf de Laval-Changé, at La Chabossière, Laval-Changé, is a lovely undulating course of 82 hectares, 10 minutes from Laval, beside the river Mayenne. It is the only golf course in the Mayenne *département*. There are 2 courses – *le Jariel* (9-holes) and *la Chabossière* (18 holes), and they are open all year. There is a restaurant, ‘Le Green’, and a Pro-Shop on site.

Entertainment & Concerts

Les Clés de Bagnoles and *Les Vendredis de l'Eté*

In Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): free open-air concerts on Sundays, and street entertainment on Fridays. More info from the Tourist Office: 02 33 37 85 66, www.bagnolesdelorne.com

Les Clés de Bagnoles on Sundays, 17h to 17h45 in the Square de Contades (near the lake):
 ♪ 7th: The quartet 'To Be or Not To Be' with chunks of jazz fusion; ♪ 14th: 'Red Line Crossers' – a mobile band with New Orleans, African, Caribbean and European jazz, you can follow them around the town; ♪ 21st: 'Skyzophonik' - 6 musicians with great rhythm – jazz, hip-hop, and rock.

Les Vendredis de l'Eté on Fridays, 21h to 21h45 in the Parc du Château: ☺ 12th: 'Animaniversaire' - (burlesque); ☺ 19th: 'Cie Joe Sature et ses Joyeux Osselets' with "Ouh La La!" (4 fun musicians in 'Music Hall' style); ☺ 26th: *Spectralax*: with 'Je ne suis pas venue seule:' - Diane Bonnot with her 'One Woman Show'. (min. age 12).

'Vivace' Choir is recruiting

'Vivace' choir is an English choir, based in Passais-la-Conception (61), and they are looking for new recruits. At present they number about 24, mixed voices, and have a varied repertoire. They meet in the *Salle Multiculturelle* in Passais on Wed. afternoons between 14h and 16h. They always welcome new members and they are currently preparing new work for future concerts so it is a good time to join. No previous experience of choral singing is necessary, or the ability to read music (though that helps, of course!). They don't audition so just go along – you will be made most welcome. For more info you can contact their director, Jo Basterfield, at jobasterfield@outlook.com or Lindsay Shrubsole at lindsay.shrubsole@gmail.com. Also their FB page: *Vivace Choir@singwithvivacechoir*.

'Tain-Tam Arts' concerts in Mortain (50)

There are free outdoor concerts on Thursdays from 18h30 in the *jardin de la piscine* (centre-ville, Mortain). For more details: www.mortainais-tourisme.org

Organ recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Wed. 10th at *l'Eglise Sainte Madeleine*, Place de l'Eglise, near Bagnoles Château will be an organ recital by Marie-Hélène Geispieler – playing a selection from Bach, Krebs and Schumann. Free, with a collection.

The group *Voix d'Eté*

The group *Voix d'Eté* is a *Franco-Anglais* choir based in Joué-du-Bois (61). Here are 2 concerts they will be giving in July. Free entry, with donations requested.

♪ Fri. 5th at 20h30 in *l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine* in la Chapelle-d'Andaine (61) - a voyage in space and time, with Purcell, Morley, Mendelsohn, Byrd, Vecchi, Handel, Bach, Nils Lindbergh and Saint-Saëns. Donations to help with the restoration of the chapel organ.

♪ Sat. 6th at 20h30 in la Chapelle de l'Oratoire in Passais-la-Conception (61). Programme as above. Donations to go towards the restoration of La Chapelle.

Lest We Forget - *Mémorial de Montormel*

In August 1944, 9 Allied divisions surrounded 100,000 Germans in the Falaise-Chambois pocket. The Battle of Normandy was over. Situated in the same area, at 'Les Hayettes', Montormel (61), between Argentan and Vimoutiers, the *Mémorial de Montormel* offers an exceptional view over the *Vallée de la Dives*. Relics, a relief map and a film help to describe the desperate situation facing the Polish, Canadian, British, American and French soldiers. Entry: 5,50€; students and children over 12: 3,50€; 6 – 12s: 2,50€. Veterans and their escorts free. www.memorial-montormel.org

Randonnée fraîcheur (cool evening walk) in Montenay (53)

Wed. 3rd, this 8 km circuit around the area, 20h to 22h, departing from Place de l'Eglise. More info: 02 43 05 84 54

Randonnée en forêt (forest walk)

Sun. 7th a choice of walking (13km) or VTT (13km – 60km). Departures from 8h to 10h from the *terrain de foot* (football ground) in St Georges-Buttavent (53)

School meals for children at an early age

France serves great school meals – even at most crèches, tots sit down to a small 3-course lunch (e.g. soup, chicken & potatoes, cheese & fruit) and the menu is posted at the gate which aims to allow families to plan and avoid serving the same dishes that evening. Each child has a bib, spoon & fork, a sippy cup and a napkin. Not all of them manage to use the items expertly, but by 18 months old they are making a stab at it. Proper meals carry on throughout the education system - parents are discouraged to tuck snacks into satchels, and staff are instructed not to let children eat anything for at least 2 hours before lunch. Because the education system takes food seriously, children know how to behave well in restaurants - it all starts young, with toddlers learning to sit at a table and eat a proper meal.

Advance notice for October - the 25th EuroMayenne Annual Craft Fair

On Sun. 27th October, this annual craft fair will take place at the Hall des Expositions, rue Volney, Mayenne (53), 10h to 18h. Stallholders are most welcome to exhibit their handmade crafts. For further information, contact Nicole Devel-Laigle, President, Association EuroMayenne: 06 73 71 96 52.



And finally:

Did you hear about the explosion in the French cheese factory? There was *de brie* everywhere.



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

July 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Page</u>
Tues. 2 nd	<i>Flâneries populaires d'été</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Wed. 3 rd	Cool evening walk	Montenay	5
Fri. 5 th	Concert with <i>Voix d'Été</i>	La Chapelle d'Andaine	4
Sat. 6 th	Concert with <i>Voix d'Été</i>	Passais-la-Conception	4
Sun. 7 th	International Carnival	Carelles	2
“	'Piraterie' at the <i>Parc du Château</i>	Flers	2
“	Walking or cycling in the forest	St Georges-Buttavent	5
“	Free open-air concert	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Tues. 9 th	<i>Flâneries populaires d'été</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Wed. 10 th	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Fri. 12 th	Free street entertainment	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Sat. 13 th	Concert and fireworks	Ernée	1
Sun. 14 th	Free open-air concert	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	Garden Party	Colombiers du Plessis	3
“	Artists painting in the streets	Chailland	3
Tues. 16 th	<i>Flâneries populaires d'été</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Fri. 19 th	Free street entertainment	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
W/e 20/21 st	<i>Fête & Foire Expo de la Madeleine</i>	Mayenne	3
Sun. 21 st	Free open-air concert	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Tues. 23 rd	<i>Flâneries populaires d'été</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Fri. 26 th	Free street entertainment	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Tues. 30 th	<i>Flâneries populaires d'été</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3