

# Bulletin !

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

## Thought for the month:

Life is a blank canvas – and you need to throw all the  
paint on it you can

(Danny Kaye)

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

Fri. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	La Ferté-Macé (61)	<i>flâneries populaires fertoise</i> (see p.3)
“	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in Grande Rue de Stuarts, ±70
Sun. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Montsûrs-Saint-Cénére (53)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> , rue de St Cénére, ±70
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> in Place Valhubert, ±30
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la Brocante</i> , Esplanade de la Halle, ±30
Tues. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>flâneries populaires bagnolaises</i> (see p.3)
Thurs. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , ±30
“	Domfront (61)	<i>flâneries populaires domfrontaise</i> (see p.3)
10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Saint-Siméon (61)	<i>vide-maison</i> (see page 2)
Sun. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	29 <sup>th</sup> <i>Foire à la Brocante, aux Antiquités et aux Collections</i> , Place du Marché, 8h30 to 19h30; ±70
Thurs. 15 <sup>th</sup>	St Mère-Eglise (50)	<i>Grand Vide-Greniers</i> , Place de la Gare, 7h-18h, ±250
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Saint-James (50)	v-g in <i>salle des fêtes</i> , La Croix Avranchin, ±30
“	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in rue Pierre Semard, ±30
Sat. 24 <sup>th</sup>	La Pellerine (53)	v-g, ±70
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Montsûrs-Saint-Cénére (53)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> , rue de St Cénére, ±70
Sat. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Brécey (50)	<i>vide-dressing</i> (clothes), in Espace Culturel

Visit [www.brocabrac.fr](http://www.brocabrac.fr) which is constantly updated with *brocantes* / *vide-greniers*, including any changes.

Special dates / public holidays:

Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> *Assomption* – the celebration of the Virgin Mary ascending bodily into Heaven. Traditional parades are held in France, often with dances and fireworks

### Eating out : ‘Le Mail’

At ‘Le Mail’, 32 rue du Château in Saint-Hilaire du Harcouët (50, in front of the church) you can get a very good *midi* (Mon. to Sat. 12h-15h) with a varied menu, daily ‘specials’ and well cooked & presented food. Rated by Trip-Advisor at 6 out of the 16 restaurants in the town. It is also a bar, which is open for most of the day. Seating outside also.

### Cancer Support France Nord : Quiz Night

On Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 20h at ‘Le Viking’ bar, Notre-Dame du Touchet (50): Quiz Night. 3€ each, max. 6 per table. More info on their Facebook page. To buy tickets please contact them on [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org).

### Cancer Support France Nord : Coffee Morning

On Fri. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10h to 12h30 at ‘Le Chatellier’, La Haute Chapelle (61) – delicious home-made cakes, raffle, greetings cards, artisan handbags, herbs & nutrition, and more. For more info and directions, please contact Bob Clarkson on 02 33 37 15 04, or email him on [bobclarkson\\_4@hotmail.com](mailto:bobclarkson_4@hotmail.com), or Cancer Support Nord, as above.

And here is an urgent request from Cancer Support France Nord:

### Cancer Support France Nord Urgently Need Your Help

“ Cancer Support France Nord is a voluntary organisation. We support English-speaking people, their friends and families that have been affected in some way by cancer. We help those who live in Brittany, Normandy and the Mayenne. We urgently need more volunteers to help us at fund-raising events - duties will include setting up tables and chairs, working in the kitchen, running a bar and much more.

Have a look at our Facebook page to see some of our latest events – [www.facebook/CancerSupportFranceNord](http://www.facebook/CancerSupportFranceNord). We need individuals who are willing and able to turn their hand to whatever is needed. Please contact us on [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org).”

### *Le Salon du Pastel* in Fougères (35)

This takes place in Fougères every 2 years – this year from Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> until Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> in the Centre Culturel Juliette Drouet, daily, 14h to 19h (except Sun. 11<sup>th</sup>: 10h-19h). Guest artist is American master pastel artist Richard McKinley. Salon closes at 17h on Sun. 25<sup>th</sup>.

### *Degustation* (tasting) of *jus frais* (fresh juice)

On Fri. 30<sup>th</sup> at Place Charles de Gaulle in Louvigné-du-Désert (35), 9h30 to 12h30, you can sample the producer’s bio juices, with the owner giving explanations of health properties and balanced food techniques (in French).

### *A vide-maison* in Saint-Siméon (61)

On Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> & Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> Lynda and Derrick are having a *vide-maison* (garage-type sale) at ‘La Riturière, off the D55 (route de Passais, just outside Saint-Siméon). Please look out for pink balloons.

### *Les Médiévales de Domfront (61)*

Oyez, oyez! On 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> at this 19<sup>th</sup> edition you can enjoy Domfront at its festive best for this popular Medieval Weekend! Near the Château will be shows, including a cavalry show, and exhibition of birds of prey; nearby will be several military camps and tournaments. Musical entertainment will be continuous throughout the town. For more info: [www.domfront-medievaes.com](http://www.domfront-medievaes.com)

#### *'Flâneries populaire d'été'*

These are weekly *vide-greniers*/markets [*flânerie* (s.f): 'strolling'] in August :

In Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): Every Tuesday (6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>) in Place du Marché, Quartier du Château, 9h to 18h, ±30 stalls; free entry.

In Domfront (61) – every Thursday (8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>) at the Château; ±30; free entry.

In La Ferté-Macé (61): Every Friday (2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>) 9h to 18h in *centre-ville*; ±30 stalls; free entry.

### *Musée des Tisserands in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)*

In the midst of genuine 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in *place Billard de Veaux*, you will learn about the history of *les tisserand(e)s* (the weavers) - their origin, know-how and daily lives which contributed to the prosperity of Bas-Maine before this region became Mayenne in 1790. Grown in the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, hemp was used to make clothes, ropes and sails, and today is still used in various industries, including paper and food processing. The loom, which was installed in the cellar of these dark and damp houses, was the most valuable asset of the weavers. Open until 31<sup>st</sup> Aug., daily (not Mon.) 14h30-18h30. Entry: 3€, 6s-14s: 2€, under 6s free.

### *New outdoor fitness areas in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)*

As well as invigorating walks through the nearby forests, Bagnoles de l'Orne offers outdoor fitness areas near *les jardins du lac* (lake gardens) and the *piscine* (swimming pool). Organised by the Tourist Office, they are a great way to tone the body and they all come with instruction for use. Open to all, they are always accessible. Also, training sessions on the equipment are available with sports teacher Davina Retoux on Mons. at 18h and Fridays at 10h, 8€ per session – more info from the Tourist Office, [www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

### *Flories d'Antan in Saint-Fraimbault (61)*

On Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> from 9h-19h30, this annual floral fête celebrates life in the early 1900s - 50 stalls with local produce and crafts, including lace-making and spinning; demos of milking cows by hand, butter-making, wheat harvesting & threshing; watch the washer-women at work, the blacksmith in the forge. New for 2019: puppet-making and tree climbing. Also a parade of classic cars & tractors, horse & buggy rides, 'forgotten' games for both children and adults, and music. Entry 6€, under 12s free. [www.saint-fraimbault.com](http://www.saint-fraimbault.com)

### *Le Moulin de la Quentiniere, Désertines (53)*

At *Le Moulin de la Quentinière* they are constructing a raised decked barbecue area and *pétanque* court, and on Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> the occasion will be marked with a match featuring their local *pétanque* team, with drinks, some great barbecue food & snacks. Not a public event – and by ticket only as numbers are limited, so contact Dorn at [lemoulinq@gmail.com](mailto:lemoulinq@gmail.com).

## Entertainment & Concerts

♪ Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 20h30 in *l'Eglise Notre-Dame de l'Eau*, Domfront (61, at the lower part of the town): 'Karitas' with Gregorian chants.

♪ Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in *l'Eglise Saint-Sulpice*, Fougères – 'New Gospel Family'. These popular international Gospel singers have performed at over 1,000 concerts and sang with Stevie Wonder. Tickets 18€, students 15€. [www.newgospelfamily.com](http://www.newgospelfamily.com)

### “Housebound” at the Summer Festival in Passais-la-Conception (61)

On Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> at 20h, as part of the 2019 Summer Festival at Château Jasmine, in conjunction with *Fun Théâtre Communautaire*: “Housebound”, a one-act play by Simon Mawdsley. In English, with French sub-titles! Tickets not needed, as included in the fête entry fee.

### Free outdoor concerts in Fougères (35)

Fri. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 18h30-21h30 in Place Aristide Briand: “Two Men in Blue” (blues)

Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup>, 17h30-20h in Place Raoul 11, the duo “LN et Max” with music you’ll want to dance to.

Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> at 16h30 at ‘*Le Faubourg*’ near the Château entrance: ‘Two Men in Blue’ (blues).

Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> 18h–21h30 in Place Aristide Briand, Fougères (35): concert with Ela d’Am.

Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> at 16h30 in front of the Château in Fougères, organised by the *crêperie ‘La Duchesse Anne’*: a concert with Dédé le Meut and Samuel Hennaff. Traditional music.

### “The Rock & Roll Years” in Désertines (53)

On Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> & Thurs. 15<sup>th</sup> at 19h15 (doors open at 18h30) in the Salle Polyvalente in Désertines: a Musical Theatre Production in support of Cancer Support France and ‘When You Wish Upon A Star’: “The Rock ‘n Roll Years”. Tickets 10€, children 5€, available from CSF; *Bar du Pecheur* in l’Epinay le Comte (61); *La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux* in Gorron (53), or tel: 02 33 38 71 61, email: [normandymusic@yahoo.com](mailto:normandymusic@yahoo.com).

### *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](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

*Les Clés de Bagnoles on Sundays*, 17h to 17h45 in the Square de Contades (near the lake) or the Parc du Château: ♪ 4<sup>th</sup>: Ilaria Graziano & Francesco Forini – guitar & ukulele (blues/folk/tango, with humour & charm); ♪ 11<sup>th</sup>: La Têtà Toto (reggae, jazz, flamenco); ♪ 18<sup>th</sup> : ‘Huit Nuits’ (a fun mix of guitar, cello and song).

*Les Vendredis de l’Eté on Fridays*, 21h to 21h45 in the Parc du Château: ☺ 2<sup>nd</sup>: ‘Les Steinleinchen’ with ‘Rencontres’ (3 ladies & a piano!); ☺ 9<sup>th</sup>: ‘Cie Les Acrobates Amoureux’ with «Home Sweet Home» (acrobatics & humour); ☺ 16<sup>th</sup>: ‘The Five Foot Fingers’ with ‘Johnny Forever – The Rock & Road Tour’ - a tribute to Johnny Halliday

### *Terre en Fête* in Montaudin (53)

On the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> from 10h, Montaudin has its first *comice agricole* (farming fête) with entertainment and competitions of harvesting & threshing. Look for local signs.

### Lest We Forget : *La Libération de Barenton* (50)

On Wed. 7<sup>th</sup>, Sara Harvell, American resident of Barenton, will provide a multi-media, bilingual presentation as part of Barenton's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the town's liberation by the US Army on 7 August 1944. The program is a microhistory of the liberation of Barenton by the 3rd Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment, 30th United States Infantry Division (Old Hickory), as well as other US Army units that preceded and followed the 3rd Battalion through Barenton.

The program is tightly focused on the key players - both Barenton Resistance members and US Army officers - who led the various actions in and around Barenton from May to August 1944. The presentation will precede a ceremony at the *Monument des Morts*, followed by a *vin d'honneur*. Amy Malone, an accomplished American professional soprano and wife of Bruce Malone - superintendent at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery - will sing the American and French national anthems.

The event is at the school *cantine*, directly opposite the *Monument aux Morts* (a US Army jeep should be parked out front). Doors open to the public at 9h30; video presentation begins at 10h30; ceremony at *Monument des Morts* at 11h, followed by the *vin d'honneur* at the same venue as the presentation. For more information, contact the *mairie* of Barenton.

### Mistletoe and thistle

A seasonal reminder that the removal and destruction of mistletoe (*le gui*) from all poplars and fruit trees is compulsory. Also, all landowners, especially those absent for part of the year, must remove - and/or arrange to destroy - any thistle (*le chardon*) on their land before it flowers, including any in the areas along the borders.

### *Marché d'été du jeudi* in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

From 1<sup>st</sup> Aug., every Thursday from 17h to 20h at the Camping de Vaux, Parc de Vaux near Ambrières-les-Vallées, these are evening markets with local artisan produce and items (see address below).

Also, on Tues. 20<sup>th</sup>, 20h30 to 22h30 at the Parc de Vaux (35 rue de Colverts) – a free concert by David Luca, with a varied repertoire of French and English songs. There is a snack bar on site selling pizzas, paninis, *gaufres* (waffles), ice creams and drinks.

### Something for the family – *le Parc Ange-Michel*

At St Martin de Landelles (50, between St Hilaire du Harcouët and Saint-James), this amusement park has something for both adults and children. For older ones: 'Flying Sidecars' (new this year), 'Flash Tower', Karting, 3D cinema, Aquasplash, boating, water slides, swimming (note: swimming trunks, not shorts, are required); and for the smaller children: pony ride, small dodgem cars, piggy train, small animals farm, and much more. For more info go to [www.angemichel.com](http://www.angemichel.com). Restaurant & snack bar on site. Open every day in August, 10h30 to 19h. You would need a full day to do everything! Tickets (price includes all activities): adults & children from age 12: 17,50€; children 95cm and up to 11 yrs: 15€, under 95cm free.

### *Fête communale* in Lonlay l'Abbaye (61)

On the weekend of 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup>, this annual fête has lots of stalls and entertainment.

## Birds of prey protecting their nesting sites

A reminder to be vigilant if jogging, walking or cycling in forests at this time of year. Several joggers in the forest of Fougères have recorded being swooped at by *une buse* (a buzzard) as they have been protecting their nesting young. The wingspan of a buzzard can reach 1m40 and, although not dangerous, the sudden warning swoop can be quite alarming. This is a protected species and there have been 6,000 couples recorded in Brittany. They play an important role in keeping down the numbers of rodents.

### *Balades en calèche* (horse & buggy rides) around Domfront (61)

On every Wed. until 14<sup>th</sup> Aug., between 14h and 17h30, these rides depart from the Tourist Office, 12 place de la Roirie, Domfront (near the château). The buggy, pulled by 'Rachel', takes you on a 10-minute tour and you can discover the individuality of this medieval town. Tickets 5€, children 3€. Reservations at the Tourist Office, 02 33 38 53 97, [info@ot-domfront.com](mailto:info@ot-domfront.com)

### Special Emmaüs (the charity for the homeless) sale in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the *Ferme de Paron*, Fougères, 9h-12h & 14h-17h, there is a special sale – even MORE bargains to be found! More parking spaces are now available there, with an alternative exit route.

This year, Emmaüs celebrates 70 years of activity. In November 1949, Abbé Pierre created the first Emmaüs community; the site at the *Ferme de Paron* in Fougères was set up in 1976 and it now gives useful work to 32 *compagnons* and employs 31 salaried workers, 20 of whom receive state aid. Open to the public on Wed. and Sats. 9h-12h & 14h-17h, but donations can be taken there on any day during the same hours.

### *Le Roc des Curiosités* in Granville (50)

At the Granville (50) *Pointe du Roc* there is a unique experience, both educational and entertaining. The Aquarium (an aquatic world tour with sea-lions, seahorses, piranhas, angel fish, and more); Butterfly Garden (a magical, exotic world); Mineral Palace (the crystals' bright colours and varied shapes are turned into works of art) and Shell Wonderland (magnificent rooms where over 3 tons of shells and coral from around the world are on show). Snacks are available on site at the *Roc des Gourmandises*, with a wonderful view of the port and bay from the terrace. Open all year – 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. to 31<sup>st</sup> March: 10h-12h30 & 14h-18h30; from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept.: all day 10h-19h. Guided tours in English are available on request. Tickets: adults 9€, students & disabled 7€; 4-14s: 6€; under 4s free. [www.aquarium-du-roc.com](http://www.aquarium-du-roc.com)

### Events at *Le Château du Bailleul*, Hercé (53)

Angelina and Philip welcome you to 2 events at *le Château du Bailleul* (on the outskirts of Gorrion, near the old Lidl site), from 12h to 22hrs. Sorry, no dogs admitted. Parking outside the Château grounds only (plenty near the entrance):

☞ Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12h to 23h: Beer Festival, with live music from 'Lost Weekend' and Léon; there will also be a DJ, *apéro* concert, Pimms, Fizz & wine-bar and hog roast. Free entry.

☞ Sun. 25<sup>th</sup>, 12h to 22h: Summer Garden Party, with a hog roast, stalls, outdoor bar and music, including Shaun G in concert [rock & blues] at 18h. Entry: 1€. See their Facebook page.

## Sport & Leisure Activities

### *Hydromodélisme* (battery-controlled model boats)

On Sun. 25<sup>th</sup> at the *plan d'eau* in La Ferté-Macé (61), you can see demonstrations of these models in action. Free. More info: [www.lafertemace.fr](http://www.lafertemace.fr) There are many more activities to enjoy on the same site, including swimming, mini-golf and you can also enjoy a relaxing 2km stroll (or power-walk!) around the lake. On-site is a bar/restaurant (*crêpes* / burgers / ice creams). More info: [www.lafertemace.fr](http://www.lafertemace.fr)

### Gorron swimming pool

Newly cleaned, this pool also offers AquaGym sessions on Mon. & Thurs. from 19h to 19h45: 6,30€ a session. Tickets available at the *Accueil* of the pool (02 43 08 11 69). For opening hours, go to the Gorron website: [www.gorron.fr](http://www.gorron.fr)

### Advance notice for September – Loré Village Fête on Sun. 1<sup>st</sup> September

In Lore (61) will be a *vide-grenier*, *pétanque* competition, '*chamboultour*' and '*pêche au canard*' Food & drink (breakfast, brunch & lunch) are available from 8h until 14h, and various demonstrations and concerts from 14h onwards - these include Emma Mory in concert at 14h30 & 16h. During the afternoon will be amusing and interactive physical demonstrations by Bernard Desgrippes; make-up sessions for all with Delphine; '*Atelier bien-être*' (well-being workshop) by Maria. Also a tombola with some good prizes, including a laptop computer – the draw will be at 18h: More info on the website [www.lorevillage.org](http://www.lorevillage.org).

And finally:

Q: There was an English cat called 'One-Two-Three' and a French cat called 'Un-Deux-Trois' and they wanted to cross a river. The English cat suggested they had a race to see who could get across first. Who won?

A: The cat called 'One-Two-Three', because 'Un-Deux-Trois' cat sank.

[Yes, I know - they're getting worse!]

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That's all for this month. Lots going on, but I do suggest that you visit or contact the Tourist Offices for more ideas and info.

*Judy Skinner*

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

August 2019

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“	Concert by ‘Karitas’ - Gregorian chants	Domfront	4
Sat. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Emmaüs Special Summer Sale	Fougères	6
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W/e 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Les Médiévales de Domfront</i>	Domfront	3
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10 <sup>th</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Le Salon du Pastel</i>	Fougères	2
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Thurs. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Flories d’Antan</i>	Saint-Fraimbault	3
“	‘New Gospel Family’ concert	Fougères	4
Sun. 18 <sup>th</sup>	‘Housebound’ - at Château Jasmine	Passais-la-Conception	4
Tues. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Concert with David Luca	Ambrières-les-Vallées	5
W/e 24 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Comice Agricole ‘Terre en fête’</i>	Montaudin	4
“	<i>Fête communale</i>	Lonlay l’Abbaye	5
Sun. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Garden Party	Hercé / Gorrion	6
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