

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

When someone says to you "That's a good question",
you can be sure that the question is better than
the answer you are going to get

(Jim Morrill)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area ['61' = area; ± = rough no. of stalls expected]

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Sun. 1 st | La Ferté-Macé (61) | 50 th <i>Foire de la Ferté-Macé</i> , ±300 |
| " | Dinard (35) | <i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Espl. de la Halle, ±50 |
| " | Laval (53) | v-g in car park of Carrefour, ±250 |
| " | Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53) | v-g in <i>terrain des sports</i> , 8h-18h, ±30 |
| " | Vitré (35) | v-g in Parc des Expositions, ±250 |
| " | Granville (50) | v-g in Château de Sainte Pience, ±150 |
| " | Vire (50) | v-g in 'Faire Play' (see page 3) |
| 6 th , 7 th & 8 th | Lessay (50) | <i>brocante</i> in <i>Foire Sainte-Croix</i> , ±300 |
| Fri. 6 th | La Ferté-Macé (61) | <i>flâneries populaire fertoise</i> |
| Sat. 7 th | Pleine-Fougères (35) | <i>braderie</i> in <i>Stade de Foot</i> , ±70 |
| Sun. 8 th | Ernée (53) | v-g, <i>centre-ville</i> , ±70 |
| " | St Georges-Buttavent (53) | v-g in rue de Guinefolle, ±40 |
| " | St Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50) | <i>braderie de Virey</i> , ZA de Virey, ±300 |
| " | Sourdeval (50) | v-g in 'A la Belle Epoque', ±70 |
| Fri. 13 th | La Ferté-Macé (61) | <i>flâneries populaire fertoise</i> |
| W/e 14 th /15 th | Fougères (35) | <i>braderie</i> , Centre Tiberiade, ±70 |
| Sun. 15 th | Chailland (53) | v-g around the village, ±30 |
| Sat. 21 st | Betton (35, near Rennes) | v-g in Place de la Cale, ±70 |
| " | Montenay (53) | v-g in <i>Stade Municipal</i> , ±70 (see page 5) |
| Sun. 22 nd | Granville (50) | monthly <i>brocante</i> , ±30 |
| W/e 28 th /29 th | Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) | v-g in <i>Foire des Andaines d'Automne</i> , ±300 |
| Sun. 29 th | Mayenne (53) | v-g, <i>bourse d'échanges</i> , <i>bourse du cycle</i> , ±30 |
| " | St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53) | v-g in <i>Fête du Village</i> , ±300 |

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

Eating out : *l'Auberge de la Source*

'*L'Auberge de la Source*' in St Cyr du Bailleul (50) has new owners and is re-opening its doors on the 7th September. Cindy and Michael will be offering a *menu ouvrier*, *menu du terroir* and *menu dégustation*, and *à la carte* is also possible. They will be closed on Thursdays but will be open mid-day and evenings all other days including Sunday night. On Fridays (in season) *moules frites* will be available.

Loré Village Fête

On Sun. 1st in Loré (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 www.lorevilage.org

Journées Européennes du Patrimoine

All over France, on the weekend of 21st & 22nd the *Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days) present an opportunity to take a look behind the doors of 14,000 participating local heritage sites that are not usually open to the public. You could find yourself able to visit a private house or château, and many museums will throw open their doors for free or at a reduced price. Since 1991 the scheme has spread across Europe and the event now takes place in over 50 countries. For more info: www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr or ask at a Tourist Office.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

At these pretty gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53), on the weekend of 21st and 22nd, 10h-18h, are celebrations of the *Journées du Patrimoine*. Visit the *Ecomusée*, where you can see how life was lived in the 19th century house with bread oven. Also the maize maze (*labyrinthe de maïs*) and games for children, art exhibition and the *Salon de Thé* (tea room) run by Alison. Special entry price: 3€, 6-16s: 2€, under 6s free.

Fête Communale et Animations in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

Sat 7th & Sun 8th – a weekend of diversity! Funfair, waterballs on the river near the bridge. Food & drink available on site. Fireworks on Sat. night. Free.

'Exposition Metamorflow' in Gorrion (53)

On Sat. 7th (10h to 18h30) & Sun. 8th (14h to 18h) at l'Espace Culturel Colmont in Gorrion, artist and tutor Florence Martel will be exhibiting 250 of her pupils' paintings. Free entry. Florence will also be holding a pastel course on Sat. 9h30 to 17h30. For more info contact her on www.metamorflow.fr; martelflow@gmail.com or 06 66 67 39 36.

Fête Communale in St. Denis de Gastines (53)

This is on the weekend of 14th & 15th. On Sat. 14th, 20h to 02h: 'Festnoz' (music); on Sun. 15th, 11h to 18h30: *marché du terroir* (farmer's market), *trottinette* race, procession, military music. Funfair on both days. Entry: 5€ (free on Sunday)

'Portes ouvertes' (Open Day) of the Riding School

Sat. 7th, 10h to 17h at the *Parc de Loisirs*, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) is the 'Open Day' at the *Centre Equestre*. Free initiation, pony rides, introduction to the Riding School. More info at chevauxponeys@wanadoo.fr

The annual fun Obstacle Course - *l'Incendiaire*

On Sat. 14th this annual fun event takes place at the *plan d'eau* in La Ferté-Macé (61) and is in support of the Orphans of Firemen. Organised by *les pompiers*, the *plan d'eau* is transformed into an 8km course with 40 obstacles. Last year 3,800 people took part. Great fun to take part in – or just to watch and cheer them on. Open to all – a T-shirt is given to all participants. For more info: www.lincendiaire.fr

Les Peintres au village (Artists in the village)

Sun. 1st, 9h to 18h, in the pretty village of Fontaine-Daniel (53) you can watch or join the artists painting throughout the day. To register, contact: mairie-sgb@wanadoo.fr

Exhibitions

§ Until 22nd Sept., 9h to 18h in the *Thermes Gallo-Romain* in Jublains (53), the Exposition: "*l'Art du Temps*". Free entry.

§ Until 6th Oct., at the *Musée du Château de Mayenne* (the museum of the Mayenne Château) in Place Juhel, Mayenne town (53) you can see many symbols and techniques from the Middle Ages. See how people lived, ate, slept, etc., in those times. Entry: 5€, under 18s free. For more info on both exhibitions: www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Protected species

We are asked to remember that all amphibians are protected species in France. It is against the law to harm them or disturb their habitat. This includes frogs, toads, salamanders and newts.

Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53) Art Studio

Artists and beginners meet weekly on Thursday and Friday mornings or afternoons. If you would like to join a friendly and vibrant group of adults who paint in a range of mediums (watercolours, pastels, acrylics, etc), please contact Joe Morgan for full details at joseph.morgan@sfr.fr

Les Montgolfiades (balloon flights)

On 6th, 7th & 8th in St Mars-sur-Colmont (53), 5 flights will take place (subject to weather conditions). Food and drink will be available on site. Look out for signs for the location. More info: www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

'Faire Play' - Franco-British event - in Vire (14)

On Sun. 1st, 10h to 18h at the Vire Hippodrome, this 16th edition also includes a demonstration of *une montgolfière* (hot air balloon) from 14h. There is a car-boot sale, Welly-Throwing contest, Tea Corner, craft fayre and also space-hopper races for ages 6 to 12. Free parking and entry. www.faireplaynormandie.com

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat 7th in St Cyr du Bailleul (50) will be a free concert (rock & roll) in the evening, outside the church. There will be a bar and also the possibility of eating *moules frites*.

Sat. 21st at *l'Espace Louis Derbré* in Ernée (53), as part of '*Au Foin de la Rue*', from 16h30 is a walk to discover the works of sculptor Louis Derbré, with a concert at 21h. Open to all. Food and drink available on site. Free.

Foire St. Grégoire in Ernée (53)

Over the weekend 7th & 8th, 10h-19h, *centre-ville*, there will be street entertainment, music, a *braderie* of artisans & businesses, and exhibitions. Free entry.

Fête des Angevins in Fougères (35)

From 1st to 3rd Sept., there will be the grand *braderie* all day, each day. Also, on Sun 1st: at 14h: a fashion parade in Place Aristide Briand; on Mon. 2nd there will be fireworks at night-fall on rue de Rillé; on Tues. 3rd: bike races. www.ot-fougeres.fr

Croisière : Soirée Couscous

On Sat. 14th, organised by the Mayenne Tourist Office, this dinner cruise departs from Quai Waiblingen in Mayenne town (53) at 19h with a 2-hour trip aboard the '*Pays de Mayenne*'. Couscous is a favourite dish of the French. Cruise and dinner (apéritif, couscous, café gourmand): 29€; children [adult menu with reduced amount]: 19€. Reservation obligatory at the Tourist Office. More details: info@valleedehautemayenne.fr

Val's keep fit & toning classes

The keep fit class in Saint-Fraimbault (61) re-starts on Tues. 17th Sept., at 10h30. All levels of fitness catered for and an optional weekly weigh-in provided on the countdown to Christmas. 5€ per session.

Also, a NEW chair-based toning class starts on 19th Sept., - every Thursday at 10h30 in the Salle in La Baroche-sous-Luce (61). This aids mobility, stability and co-ordination. All abilities welcome. 5€ per session. For more information on the above contact Val McKnight on 02 33 14 40 69; e-mail: valskeepfit@outlook.com

Moulin de Champs, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

On Sat. 21st & Sun. 22nd, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*, this is a chance to see this *Monument Historique* – this Mill was in use from 1347 to 1963. Between 10h and 19h you can visit the Mill and the farm. Free.

Something for all the family – *Fête de la Terre*

For more than 100 years, in this lovely setting, the village of Fontaine-Daniel (53) has held this fête on the first weekend of September (this year on the 7th & 8th). There will be artisan stalls, artists, entertainment and games for all ages, plus swimming races in the lake. Free. There are 3 restaurants in the village – or take a picnic!

Fête Communale in Landivy (53)

On the weekend of 14th/15th in Landivy is the *Fête Communale*, throughout the village – a weekend of entertainment and activities. Free.

Lest We Forget

On Wed. 8th August was a ceremony of remembrance for the American pilots who died when their plane 'Chow Hound' was shot down by a German DCA over Lonlay l'Abbaye (61) on 8th August 1944. Sgt Treece was the radio specialist aboard the B17 bomber and was flying with the crew of 8 (3 teams of 3). They had flown 30 missions. On the site of the crash – a cornfield at the property called 'Les Vallées' - you will see an American flag flying, and at the ceremony, 9 roses were placed in memory of the 9 airmen.

Alzheimer's group for English speakers in the Orne.

For anyone worried about living with Alzheimer's, this group meets every 6 weeks. The next meeting date is Wed. 4th, 11h to 14h at *le Centre d'Accueil de Jour Alzheimer*, 25 rue Soeur Marie Boitier, La Ferté-Macé (61). The next event is World Alzheimer's Day – Sat. 21st, 10h to 16h, at the same venue as above. This is an open day for anyone worried about living with Alzheimer's in France. Their English representatives will be there from 10h to 16h and their French colleagues 14h to 16h.

Rules for picking mushrooms

The season of mushrooms is upon us, and there are over 3,000 different varieties of mushrooms in France - some of the most loved are *girolles*, *chanterelles*, *cèpes*, *bolets*, *morilles* and, of course, *les truffes* (truffles). However, there are strict rules laid down by the *Office National des Forêts*: ♦ picking must only be for family use, not for sale; ♦ for security reasons no-one must enter the area used by *la chasse*; ♦ always leave some mushroom behind (cut them so you leave some of the stem and the spores in the ground for next year); ♦ if you see a poisonous mushroom don't destroy it - nature has a purpose for it! Also, you must carry your mushrooms in a wicker basket as plastic bags ferment and damage them.

Miniature railway in Clécy (14)

Enter a miniature world at rue d'Emington in Clécy. Discover one of the most incredible models ever constructed in Europe, covering 310 sq.metres. Inter-active boxes to animate the models; and outside there is a train to visit the site and *fours à chaux* (lime kilns) plus a games area for children. www.chemin-fer-miniature-clecy.com

A mention as a word of thanks

Having helped me out of a (metaphorical) 'hole' with my TV, many thanks to Peter Cross of 'Orne Communications', Les Landes, Mantilly (61) for providing urgently a replacement piece for my TV aerial. Also on site is Garry Cross, motor vehicle technician at 'Garage des Landes'. To contact them: info@ornecommunications.fr and info@garagedeslandes.fr.

Foire d'Automne (Autumn Fair) in Gorrion (53)

On Sun. 29th from 8h30 to 19h there will be over 100 stalls around the town (for reservation details visit www.gorrion.fr). There will also be 100 vintage cars in the Place du Champ de Foire (near *la Poste*) and a fun-fair nearby. Many shops & businesses will be open. Free.

Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) - candle-lit château

This traditional *visite à la chandelle* is on Sat 21st at 21h, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*. Reservations necessary (at 02 43 04 05 47 – only 200 tickets available).

Sport & Leisure Activities

Rallycross Mayenne Championnat de France (stock car racing championships)

On Sat. 21st & Sun. 22nd at the Circuit Maurice Forget, Chatillon-sur-Colmont (53, off the N12). For full details go to www.rallycrossfrance.com

Walk – ‘*Rando-Patrimoine*’ in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)

On Sun. 8th, 14h30 to 17h30, from Place de la Mairie, this 6km walk will help you to appreciate the rich heritage of this ‘*Petite Cité de Caractère*’ and discover the three châteaux which give this village its name. Entry 5€, children and handicapped 3,50€

Fête de Saint Mathieu in Montenay (53)

On the weekend of 21st & 22nd - on Sat., 13h30 to 16h30: 5 or 10km races ‘*Les Foulées Montenaysiennes course a pieds*’, all categories (reservations: 06 11 91 60 36); 8h to 18h: *vide-grenier* at the Stade (reservations: 06 11 32 16 03); fireworks at 23h at the Stade. On Sun.: walks starting at 9h from Place de l’Eglise - 2 circuits, 8 or 12 km. Entry: 2€, towards research into *mucoviscidose* (cystic fibrosis): comitedesfetesmontenay@hotmail.fr to register. At 14h: grand parade with floats, dancers, etc., 15h: cycle race .

Association Bien-être en Rythme à Champsecret - Zumba

Suitable for all ages and all fitness levels, you don’t have to be able to dance! Adult classes Tues. mornings 10h30-11h30 and Thurs. evenings 20h-21h in the *Salle des Fêtes* in Champsecret (61). 5€ to join the Association and then 5€ per class (but preferably a month in advance and in the case of non-attendance the amount paid carries forward). The first class is free to try. There are also children’s classes on Weds. at 16h-16h45 and 17h15-18h in the *Salle des Associations* in Champsecret. 2,50€ per class. For more information please contact Angela Breward: angela.breward@orange.fr, 02 33 38 29 97

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

And finally:

Outside an Italian restaurant: “Stop! The country is going to pizzas”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

That’s all for this month and I hope you can enjoy some of the events and festivities this month. Fingers crossed for our recent good weather to be continued!

Judy Skinner

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

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

September 2019

| Date | Event | Place | Page |
|---|--|-----------------------|------|
| Sun. 1 st | Village fête | Loré | 2 |
| “ | Artists in the village | Fontaine-Daniel | 3 |
| “ | ‘Faire Play’ Franco-British event | Vire | 3 |
| 1 st – 3 rd | <i>Fête des Angevins</i> | Fougères | 4 |
| Wed. 4 th | Alzheimer’s Group meeting | La Ferté-Macé | 5 |
| 6 th , 7 th & 8 th | Balloon flights | St Mars-sur-Colmont | 3 |
| Sat. 7 th | Rock & Roll Concert | St Cyr-du-Bailleul | 4 |
| “ | Riding School Open Day | Ambrières-les-Vallées | 3 |
| W/e 7 th & 8 th | <i>Fête de la Terre</i> | Fontaine-Daniel | 4 |
| “ | Exhibition ‘ <i>Metamorflow</i> ’ | Gorron | 2 |
| “ | <i>Fête Communale</i> & entertainment | Ambrières-les-Vallées | 2 |
| Sun. 8 th | 6km walk to discover the village | Lassay-les-Châteaux | 6 |
| Sat. 14 th | <i>l’Incendiaire</i> Fun Obstacle Course | La Ferté-Macé | 3 |
| “ | <i>Soirée Couscous</i> on the river | Mayenne | 4 |
| W/e 14 th , 15 th | <i>Fête Communale</i> | Landivy | 4 |
| “ | <i>Fête Communale</i> | St Denis-de-Gastines | 2 |
| Sat. 21 st | Road race & fireworks | Montenay | 6 |
| “ | Visit to sculptures by Louis Derbré | Ernée | 4 |
| “ | World Alzheimer’s Day – meeting | La Ferté-Macé | |
| “ | Candle-lit château visit | Lassay-les-Châteaux | 5 |
| 21 st / 22 nd | <i>Journées du Patrimoine</i> | All over France | 2 |
| “ | <i>Les Jardins des Renaudies</i> | Colombiers-du-Plessis | 2 |
| “ | Visit the <i>Moulin de Champs</i> | Ambrières-les-Vallées | 4 |
| “ | Rallycross Championships | Chatillon-sur-Colmont | 6 |
| Sun. 22 nd | Walk, floral parade & fireworks | Montenay | 6 |
| Sun. 29 th | <i>Foire d’Automne</i> (Autumn Fair) | Gorron | 5 |