

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes

(Marcel Proust)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area ['50' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Sun 6 th	St Hilaire du Harcouët (50)	v-g in <i>marché couvert de Marly</i> , ±50
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Espl. de la Halle, ±70
“	Louvigné-du-Désert (35)	v-g & expo of vintage vehicles in Place du 8 Mai 1945; ±30
Sun. 13 th	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in ' <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> ', ±70
“	Landéan (35)	v-g in the Salle des Sports, ±70
“	Tinchebray (61)	v-g <i>géant (giant) de St Luc</i> , ±300
W/e 19/20 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>antiquités/brocante</i> , near the Château, ±50
Sun. 20 th	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Cours Jonville, ±30
Sat. 26 th	Avranches (50)	weekly market
Sun. 27 th	Geneslay (61)	v-g, ±150

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

Remember – the CLOCKS GO BACK [yes, I know - should have kept up the payments! ha ha!] during the night of Sat. 26th / Sun. 27th. An extra hour in bed – lovely!!

EuroMayenne Craft Fair in Mayenne (53)

This 25th edition is on Sun. 27th, 10h to 18h at the *Hall des Expositions*, rue Volney, Mayenne. This year the themes are “Cabaret” and “Magic”. This popular exhibition & sale of handmade products from artists and amateur or professional craftspeople will also give many ideas for Christmas gifts. In 2018 this event had 90 stallholders and attracted over 2,600 visitors. Tea-room, hot food outside and entertainment. Free entry. More info at www.euromayenne.org/salon.

Eating out - 'La Ferme de Bras'

'*Le Ferme de Bras*', 271 rue de Bruxelles, Mayenne (53) is on the outskirts of Mayenne town and worth finding! There is a buffet *entrée*, a choice of 2 main *plats*, cheeseboard, and a choice of desserts from the cold cabinet. There are several menu options: *plat du jour & cafe*: 7,10€; *plat du jour, dessert & café*: 10,10€, *formule complet* (4 courses) & *café*: 12,40€. Run efficiently by 2 energetic waitresses in a large room with many tables, also a terrace for outside seating. Lots of parking space in front. Open Mon. to Fri., 6h30 to 19h.

Les Jardins des Renaudies – events in October

📅 *Fête des Citrouilles* (Pumpkin Fair): on Sun. 13th, 10h-18h, you can discover the 80 varieties of pumpkin, in all shapes and sizes, grown here by their gardeners. There is a local produce market and sale of plants, also games & entertainment. 📅 *Atelier deco citrouille* (pumpkin decorating): on Tues. 29th, children can learn how to decorate pumpkins and marrows. Entry: adults 5€; 6-16s 2€; under 6s free. www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

'Plantes en Fête' – plant sale & exchange

On Sun 13th from 10h-18h at the *Campsite de Champ Passais* in Domfront (61) is the 22nd edition of this popular annual Plant Fair, with over 40 specialist exhibitors with a great selection of plants, herbs and other vegetation. Also garden decor and some great gardening inspiration. Refreshments and tea-room on site. Free entry and parking. Sorry, no dogs. More info at www.plantesenfete.fr or www.ot-domfront.com

Cancer Support France Nord events

- 📅 Thurs. 3rd – CSF Coffee Morning, 10h to 12h at 'The Corner Shop' in Sourdeval (50)
- 📅 Wed. 9th – Brunch from 10h, last orders 12h30, in the Salle in Notre-Dame du Touchet
- 📅 Sat. 19th – CSF Quiz Night at 20h at the Viking Bar, N-D du Touchet (50), 3€ per person, 6 max. on each team. No advance booking needed. Raffle on the night.
- 📅 Wed. 23rd - Brunch from 10h, last orders 12h30, in the Salle in Notre-Dame du Touchet

They are looking for raffle prizes for their upcoming quizzes & coffee mornings, so if you have anything to donate please let Lisa Ashley know (nord@cancersupportfrance.org)

Exhibition of bonsai in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sat. 5th (13h30-18h) and Sun. 6th (10h-12h & 13h30-18h) near Bagnoles Château, this exhibition is free and open to all. Organised by *l'Association Ornaise de Bonsai*, you can discover the art of bonsai (in French, but explanations will be available). More info from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (see page 5).

Exhibition of the Tapestry 'Game of Thrones'

Until December 2019, this award-winning tapestry from Belfast (where 'Game of Thrones' was mostly filmed) shows action from the popular 'Game of Thrones'. An inspired tapestry, it will be on show in the Hotel du Doyen (close to Bayeux Cathedral) near the original Bayeux Tapestry. At over 87 metres long it was hand-embroidered by a team from the National Museums of Northern Ireland. Free viewing. For more info go to www.bayeuxmuseum.com

Les Foulées Octobre Rose 2019 in Mayenne (53)

On Sun. 13th from 8h30 to 12h30, this run departs from Square de Boston in Laval (53). We can all get moving against breast cancer. Everyone can join in and show that they have a great heart and support women in their fight against breast cancer.

Fête de la Coquille et des produits de la mer

Calling all lovers of scallops and sea-food! On the weekend of 19th & 20th at the Port of Ouistreham (14) & on Place General de Gaulle is a celebration of all sea-food. Fish market, exhibitions, cookery demos, the possibility of a visit to *le Phare* (the lighthouse, 1€), concerts & parades, and entertainment for children on the theme of the sea. Free.

Next English film in Gorron cinema (53)

The next 'British Monday' film in Gorron is on Mon. 14th, and it is 'The Goldfinch' (advertised in the cinema listing in French as '*Le Chardonnet*'). Directed by John Crowley, it was released in August 2019 and stars Finn Wolfhard, Sarah Paulson, Nicole Kidman, Aneurin Barnard, Jeffrey Wright. Tickets, 5,50€, are on sale at the cinema (beside the church) from 20h on the night. For pre-film refreshment, the *Bar de la Mairie* is at the bottom of the hill, below the church.

Balade sur les Grèves (Walk on the seashore)

On Tues. 1st and Wed. 9th, 14h to 16h, are guided walks (with French guides) on the seashore around Mont-Saint-Michel. Ideal for those with limited time or who are not great walkers, this is a great way to see Mont-Saint-Michel and its abbey, village & ramparts from a different angle. Tickets: 5,50€. Reservation necessary at 02 33 70 83 49 (9h-12h30 & 13h30-18h) or info@decouvertebaie.com

As a point of interest: '*la grève*' has 2 meanings - the (sea)shore, sandy beach, strand. Also, in this context, as it was the open space on the banks of the river Seine where dissatisfied workmen assembled, it became the word for strike (of workmen). *Faire grève* is to strike, to be on strike. Just thought you might be interested!

"Calligraphy is the art of beautiful handwriting"

Calligraphy Workshop for beginners on Mon. 21st from 10h30 to 16h at the studio in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Enjoy structuring your letters, developing your style and making the most of presentation. It can make Christmas cards and gifts very personal and very special. All equipment will be included, as will lunch. The all-inclusive cost is 45€ per person, but places are limited. If you would like more information you can contact Jane Bicknell at the studio: jane.bicknell.art@gmail.com

Sortie nature des champignons (mushroom nature trail)

On Fri. 11th and Sat. 19th from 15h to 17h there will be guided walks, in French, to discover the many mushrooms in the Forêt des Andaines (61), departing from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office. You will be able to find *cèpes* and *bolets* and learn to recognise the tastiest, the strangest and even the more lethal ones. Registration is necessary at the Bagnoles Tourist Office before 11h30 on the day. Tickets: 8€, 10s - 14s free (minimum age 10 years old). The group will be of between 4 and 30 people. More info from the Bagnoles Tourist Office (see page 5 for contact details)

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 6th at 17h in *l'Eglise Ste Madeleine*, Place de l'Eglise in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): *Concert d'Orgue* (organ concert) with works by Kaufmann, Sweelinck, Bach, Kneba, Saint-Saëns. Free (with a collection). More information from the Bagnoles Tourist Office.

Sun. 6th at 17h in the *Centre d'Animation et de Congrès*, 8 rue du Professeur Louvel, Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): Rhoda Scott – one of the most popular and charismatic jazz artists in France with her Hammond organ – and jazz singer Leslie Lewis, in the style of Ella Fitzgerald. Tickets, 26€, available from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office. www.septembre-musical.com

Sat. 12th at 21h at the *Centre d'Animation et de Congrès* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): '*Femmes Compositrices*' by the *Pantagruulaire Quintette à Vent* (wind quintet) featuring relatively unknown female composers such as Claude Arrieu, Elsa Barraine, Mel Bonis, Hedwige Chretien, Amy Beech, Agathe Baker Grondhal. Tickets 15€ (centre of auditorium) or 12€ (side). More info from the Tourist Office (see page 5).

Direct transmission of the opera: 'The Barber of Seville'

On Sat. 5th at 18h to 21h30 in the *Centre d'Animation et de Congrès*, 8 rue Professeur Jacques Louvel in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) this opera by Rossini, in 2 acts, will be transmitted on film as it takes place at *l'Opera de Rouen*. Free, but reservation necessary at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (for contact details see page 5). [This will be shown at the same time in Argentan at the Quai de Arts, 1 rue de la Feuille].

Festival Via Aeterna

On Sun. 6th from 10h in the Abbey in Mont-Saint-Michel: a concert with the Yurlov Russian State Academic Choir, including music by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Sviridov, Grechaninov. Tickets 20€ from the Avranches Tourist Office (see page 5)

Piano recital by Xiaolu Zang

On Sat. 12th at 20h30 at 34, rue de la Paix, Laval. At just 20 years old, Xiaolu Zang, winner of 3rd prize at last year's *Concours International de Piano de Mayenne*, will be playing works by Claude Debussy, Franz Liszt, & Marcel Ravel. Tickets: 15€ (students & unemployed: 10€). More info: www.laval-tourisme.com

Something for all the family – *les Grottes de Saulges*

Discover the magic and splendour of an underground world over 100,000 years old in 2 of the 22 caves at Thorigné-en-Charnie (53, SE of Laval). Artefacts found in the Margot and Rochefort caves show that man has been there for more than 35,000 years. There are stalagmites and stalagmites, a troglodyte cave, prehistoric wall paintings & engravings. Entry: 6,50€, children & students: 5€. Above ground is the *Musée de Préhistoire* which describes the life of that time, with virtual reality helmets and activities for all the family (entry: 5€, children & students 3,50€). Open daily, until 14th November - weekdays: 14h-17h; weekends: 10h-12h & 14h-17h. You can also take a walk in the valley above ground. For more info: www.grottes-musee-de-saulges.com.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Road race in Saint-Fraimbault (61)

On Sat. 12th at 15h will be a 12.5km race, '*Les Foulées Frambaldéennes*', departing from the Salle Polyvalente. Reservations and inscription in rue St Denis. More info: www.saint-fraimbault.com

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

Emmaüs Special Autumn Sale in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 5th at *La Ferme de Paron* in Fougères (near the main *Poste*), 9h-12h & 14h-17h. Lots of bargains to be had!

'Elliotts Boucherie' in Gorron (53)

Lorraine and Darren would like to remind their customers that they will be closed from Sat. 5th, re-opening on Wed. 16th October.

Some Tourist Office contact details:

Avranches (50)	www.avranches.fr	02 33 58 00 22
Bagnoles de l'Orne (61):	www.bagnolesdelorne.com	02 33 37 85 66
Fougères (35)	www.ot-fougeres.fr	02 99 94 12 20
Laval (53)	www.laval-tourisme.com	02 43 49 46 46

And finally,

What training do you need to become a rubbish collector? None. Apparently, you just pick it up as you go along.

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That's all for this month. A shorter issue this month as I was away in Italy for half of it! But I hope what you find inside is useful and interesting,

Judy Skinner

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

8Events by the day (not including *vide-greniers*):

October 2019

Date	Event	Place	Page
Tues. 1 st	<i>Balade sur les grèves</i>	Mont-Saint-Michel	3
Thurs. 3 rd	CSF Nord Coffee Morning	Sourdeval	2
“	Filmed opera: ‘The Barber of Seville’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Sat. 5 th	Emmaüs Special Autumn sale	Fougères	5
W/e 5 th & 6 th	Exhibition of the art of bonsai	Bagnoles de l’Orne	2
Sun. 6 th	Organ concert	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Jazz with Rhoda Scott & Leslie Lewis	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Yurlov Russian State Academic Choir	Mont-Saint-Michel	4
Wed. 9 th	CSF Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
“	<i>Balade sur les grèves</i>	Mont-Saint-Michel	3
Fri. 11 th	Mushroom nature trail	Bagnoles de l’Orne	3
Sat. 12 th	<i>Pantagruulaire</i> wind quintet	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Piano recital by Xiaolu Zang	Laval	4
“	Road race	Saint-Fraimbault	5
Sun. 13 th	<i>Fête des Citrouilles</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	<i>Plants en Fête</i>	Domfront	2
“	<i>Octobre Rose 2019</i> cancer run	Laval	3
Mon. 14 th	English film: ‘The Goldfinch’	Gorron	5
Sat. 19 th	CSF Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
“	Mushroom nature trail	Bagnoles de l’Orne	3
W/e 19 th /20 th	<i>Fête de la Coquille</i>	Ouistreham	3
Mon. 21 st	Calligraphy workshop	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
Wed. 23 rd	CSF Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Sun. 27 th	EuroMayenne Craft Fair	Mayenne	1
Tues. 29 th	Pumpkin decorating for children	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2