

## Bulletin !

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

### Thought for the month:

There is something about the outside of a horse  
that is good for the inside of a man

(Sir Winston Churchill)

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

Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in 'A la Belle Epoque', ±70
"	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
"	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> at Le Chevallerie, ±150
"	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Espl. de la Halle, ±50
"	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>Bourse de Collection</i> in Salle du Compele. Allée Alois Monnet, 1€ entry, ±70
W/e 9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup>	Rives d'Andaine (61)	v-g in the Salle des Fêtes, ±70
Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Rennes (35)	<i>Les Puces de Rennes</i> , ±50
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> in Cours Jonville, ±30
"	Rennes (35)	<i>Brocante Retro Vintage Fripes</i> [clothes], Halle Martenot, ±100

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

### Some *Marchés de Noël* and Christmas Fayres

Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	St Martin des Landelles (50)	APACTP Xmas Fayre (see page 2)
W/e 16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup>	Putanges-le-Lac (61)	<i>Marché de Noël</i>
"	Renazé (53, SW of Laval)	<i>Marché de Noël</i> in the Salle Omnisports; ±30

### Special dates / public holidays:

- Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> *Toussaint* (All Saints' Day) - a festival honouring the saints of the Roman Catholic church. It precedes the *Fête des Morts* on the 2nd when people honour the dead and bring flowers, usually chrysanthemums and heather, to the graves of relations.
- Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> *l'Armistice* (Remembrance Day) - this is the day when those killed in both WWI and WW2 are remembered. Services take place across France, one of the most well known being the Memorial Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris.

### Eating out : ‘*La Rabine*’

I recommended this restaurant in August 2017 and it is still very good! They have added an extra restaurant area on the side, as they are so popular! It is near St Pierre des Landes (53, on the RN12 between Ernée and Fougères). There is seating for 40 in the original restaurant, plus at least another 40. An excellent selection of dishes – plus an amazing choice from 8 different vegetable dishes! Open Mon. to Fri. 11h30-15h & 19h15-22h (some themed weekends also). Plenty of parking space alongside. Highly recommended!

### *Le Parc Botanique de Haut Bretagne*

These privately owned 25 ha gardens are open to the public each year from April until 15<sup>th</sup> November. Sited 10km north of Fougères (35) at Le Chatellier, there are 24 themed gardens – and at this time of year there are also the wonderful colours of the trees around the ponds, lakes and in the woodland. Entry: 9,90€, children (5-12) 7,90€. [www.jardinbretagne.com](http://www.jardinbretagne.com)

### Cancer Support France Nord event

On Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> is the CSF Quiz and Curry Night at 19h30 in the Salle des Fêtes in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Vegetarian options are available – please advise them at the time of booking. Tickets: 15€, which MUST be paid for in advance. There is a bar & raffle. For your tickets please apply to [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org). CSF Nord are also looking for volunteers - please contact them if you are interested in helping this important local charity.

### *Foire de Noël* in St. Martin des Landelles (50)

This festive day for all the family is on Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10h to 17h in the Salle Polyvalente in St Martin des Landelles (SW of St Hilaire-du-Harcouët) organised by *l’Assoc. AFACTP [Amité Franco-Anglaise au Carrefour des Trois Provinces* - which has been going for approx. 20 years to bring together like-minded people wishing to meet others in their area when struggling to integrate]. There will be jewellery, hand-made items, local businesses, a choir, activities for children and tombola. There will be tea & coffee as well as light lunches (incl. Fish & Chips), bacon rolls, soup, etc., as well as a *buvette*. There may also be a cake stall selling cakes and biscuits to take away subject to donations. Free entry. For more info contact [afactpnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:afactpnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Change of ownership in Gorrion (53)

As many of you will know, Ingrid Desein - who for many years ran ‘*Bout’Chou* selling wool, patterns and haberdashery - closed the shop earlier in the year due to health reasons. On 5th November the shop will re-open, as ‘*La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux*’ is moving into the premises. As well as a wide range of handmade gifts and cards (new stock as well as the regular favourites) there will also be wool, patterns and haberdashery. New services available include clothes repairs & alterations and sewing machine repairs/servicing. On a Tuesday and Thursday, popular sports therapist Val Hanratty will also be based in the shop. A warm welcome awaits new and old customers.

### 60<sup>th</sup> Art Exhibition in Ernée (53)

From 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Espace Clair de Lune, route des Mirettes in Ernée, the 60<sup>ème</sup> Exposition Régionale d’Art d’Ernée is open at 14h to 18h - but on Sundays 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> from 10h to 12h & 14h30 to 17h. Free entry.

### *Foire Saint-Martin* in Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50)

This annual 3-day *foire* takes place on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> around the town, with around 800 stalls, also agricultural machinery, farming competitions and *fête foraine* (fun fair). This attracts over 150,000 visitors each year. More info at [www.st-hilaire.fr](http://www.st-hilaire.fr)

### Lions Club of Domfront – *les roses de la solidarité*

Traditionally in mid-November you will see members of *le Lion's Club* selling roses outside many supermarkets, commercial centres and church forecourts. They support local area events (local associations, handicapped people, families in distress, the Alzheimers Welcome Centre) as well as regional, national and international causes (including *Handi-chiens*, which trains and provides assistance dogs for handicapped people). They also organise various events – social evenings, tourist outings, flea markets, collections, exhibitions, etc.

### Coarse Fish for sale

The *Etang de Launay*, which is situated just before the village of Chatillon-sur-Colmont on the D5 when travelling from Gorron towards Mayenne, is being drained and restocked. As a result the fishery owner, Jack Petithomme, has a range of coarse fish for sale. These include carp up to 10kg, tench, pike, zander and roach. Anyone interested should attend the sale at the lake which takes place on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Telephone numbers

I have been asked to repeat, for people who have newly arrived in France, the following advice: when giving out a phone number, the figures are divided into blocks of 2 (for example: 02 43 60 17 77) and it is very important to pause between the numbers to avoid ambiguity. Without the pause, 60 followed by 17 could be understood to be *soixante-dix-sept*, which is 77. So, when dictating the number 02 54 60 17 77 you would say: *zero deux* [pause] *cinquante-quatre* [pause] *soixante* [pause] *dix-sept* [pause] *soixante-dix-sept*.

### 3 different style classes

Val McKnight will be teaching 3 different style classes a week:

- ◆ Tuesdays: Aerobics from 10h30 to 11h30 in the Salle in Saint-Fraimbault (61);
- ◆ Weds.: (new) ‘Salsacise’ (based on dance moves to Latin music, no partner required) 18h30 to 19h30 in the Salle in St Mars d’Egrenne (61, behind the church);
- ◆ Thurs: Chair-based exercise in the Salle in La Baroche-sous-Luce (61), 10h30 to 11h15.

All classes are 5€ per session, no block booking required. Come and go as you wish. For further information contact Val on 02 33 14 40 69.

### *La Biscuiterie de l'Abbaye* – Open Days

On Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> & Fri. 8<sup>th</sup>, as part of the operation ‘*Decouvrez ce que vous mangez!*’ (find out about what you are eating!). *l'ANIA* (*Assoc. Nationale des Industries Alimentaires*) [the Association of National Food Industries] are opening the doors to the *Biscuiterie* in Lonlay l’Abbaye to the public from 9h to 12h & 14h to 17h. Biscuits have been made here since 1909 – and use only free-range eggs - and you can see every stage of the fabrication of these famous biscuits, which are also exported to the USA. For more info go to [www.biscuiterie-abbaye.com](http://www.biscuiterie-abbaye.com)

## Entertainment & Concerts

Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in the Chapelle of the Hotel Perrier de Bignon, 7 rue de Marchis, Laval (53): a concert of ancient music with lute, baroque guitar & mandolin. Tickets: 20€, children 12€. For reservations: 02 43 49 90 00 or visit [www.laval-tourisme.com](http://www.laval-tourisme.com)

Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in Changé (53): ‘Lady Sings The Blues’ - 2 jazz singers and 19 musicians, with songs made famous by Nina Simone and Billie Holliday (blues/jazz/folk/soul). Tickets 13€, children/students: 6,50€. [www.laval-tourisme.com](http://www.laval-tourisme.com)

Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> at 15h in l’Eglise in Saint-Bomer-les-Forges (61), a concert by the choir *Domf’amiré*, led by Emma Mory. [Also, this 40-strong choir meets each Thursday evening between 19h and 20h30 in the *Maison des Associations* in Domfront]. More info from [emmamory@live.fr](mailto:emmamory@live.fr)

Fri. 29<sup>th</sup> from 21h30 at the ‘Bowling’ in Vire (14): a concert (free) with the Irish Folk group ‘The Troubadours’ and a ‘*Soirée Fish & Chips*’. [www.latable-bowling-vire.fr](http://www.latable-bowling-vire.fr)

### ‘Arrin Duo’ in Brecé (53) church

On Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> at 15h30 in Brecé church: ‘Arrin Duo’, blending Classical with Celtic music. Flute, guitar and acapella singing. An hour of calm in a crazy world. Free, with donations afterwards. For more info: [www.arrin.com](http://www.arrin.com)

### *Soirée Années 80 at l’Auberge de la Source (61)*

On Fri. 15<sup>th</sup> from 19h at *l’Auberge de la Source*, 4 rue de la Source (by the church) in St-Cyr-du-Bailleul (61) is an ‘80s evening’ with a DJ. If you wear an 80’s accessory (wig, etc) you will be offered a free cocktail! Their normal menu is offered, but there is also a chance to have a ‘board to share’ (with cheese, meat, etc). To book: 02 33 61 75 19.

### ‘Downton Abbey’ in Gorrion cinema

‘Downton Abbey’ is being shown in Gorrion (53) on Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> at 20h30. Tickets (5,50€) are available at the cinema from 20h on the night. You can buy a pre-film slurp, and even a light meal (or even just cheese & wine) at the *Bar de la Mairie* at the bottom of the hill (for meal res. contact Melanie on 02 43 08 04 59).

### The law against noise

[Advice for the benefit of both users and neighbours]: During gardening and building works by home-owners and businesses, the use of many tools and equipment can be the cause of unacceptable noise. Equipment such as mowers, grinders, sanders, chainsaws, perceuses, mechanical saws, etc) can only be used during working hours on weekdays: 8h to 12h & 14h to 19h; Saturdays: 9h to 12h & 15h-19h30; Sundays & fête days: 9h to 12h. If someone nearby is causing a disturbance you can inform the *Mairie*.

### Another mushroom nature trail in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

The time I gave for guided walks on Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> and Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> was, apparently, incorrect (although I took the details from the Bagnoles de l’Orne website itself!). However, there will be 2 more – on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 09h45 and on Fri. 8<sup>th</sup> at 15h. Booking is necessary at the Tourist Office in advance – and it may be a good idea to check with them that the times have not changed in the meantime!! Tel: 02 33 37 85 66

## French people whose names are immortalised in history . . . and language

Have you ever wondered about the origins of some of the more unusual words in the French language? Many are derived from the surnames of actual French people who made them famous. Over the next few months I will be exploring the names Jacquard, Nicotine, Silhouette, Béchamel, Pralines and Pasteurisation. This month:- Jacquard.

Jacquard print refers to an elaborate diamond pattern woven into fabric that was originally produced on a Jacquard loom – the earliest programmable loom, which wove patterned silk automatically. Joseph Marie Jacquard, the loom's inventor, lived from 1752 to 1834 in Lyon. The Jacquard loom's operational system of using punched cards inspired the development of English engineer Charles Babbage's digital programmable computer in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Switching on the Christmas Lights in Laval (53)

On Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> (time not specified) by the river, near Pont Aristide Briand, Place de la Trémoille: the official switching-on of the amazing Christmas lights of Laval, followed by fireworks. Not to forget a visit from Father Christmas!

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

Saint-Fraimbault (61), the celebrated '*ville fleuri*', wasn't always a small village. In 1836 it was quite a large town with 3,056 inhabitants, but by 1911 the number had dropped to 1,935 and to just 601 in 2010. This was due mainly to families leaving rural areas as certain local traders were no longer so needed: *casseur de pierre* (stone-breaker), *cerclier* (cooper), *chaisier* (chair-maker), *taupier* (mole-catcher), *scieur de long* (wood-stripper) or *cordier* (ropemaker). However, many skills were still necessary: *bourelrier* (saddler/harness maker), *couturière* (dressmaker/seamstress), *sabotier* (shoe-maker) and *cantonnier* (road surveyor/repairer).

### Some weekly markets in the *Manche* (50)

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Briquebec, Carentan, Saint-James, Torigni-sur-Vire
Tuesdays	Cherbourg, Ducey, Sourdeval, Villedieu-les-Poêles
Wednesdays	St Hilaire-du-Harcouët, La Haye Pesnel, Pontorson
Thursdays	Carteret, Coutances, Ger, Le Teilleul, Saint-Pois
Fridays	Brécey, Les Pieux, Pirou, Saint-Lô, Valognes
Saturdays	Avranches, Barneville-Carteret, Cherbourg, Granville, Mortain, Saint-Lô, Notre-Dame du Touchet
Sundays	Barenton, Pirou, Hauteville-sur-Mer, St Jean-le-Thomas

(It is wise to double check before going, if possible, as these can change without notice).  
Next month: the weekly markets in the Orne (61) *département*.

## Sport & Leisure Activities

### Walking

On Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> – a 6km (moderate rating) walk near Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). Meet by the *marché couvert* near the Tourist Office by 14h (you need to register there beforehand). Free. [www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

### *Découverte de la Baie* – guided crossing

On Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup>, this guided crossing of the Baie of Mont-Saint-Michel (50) departs from the Bec d'Andaine in Genêts. You will cross the sands below Mont-Saint-Michel, have 1 - 2 hours free time inside, then a bus will take you back to Genêts. Tickets 13,50€, children 6,50€. For tickets and more info on this and other crossings go to [www.decouvertebaie.com](http://www.decouvertebaie.com)

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

### Beware of a 'lost pet' scam

Pet owners in France are being warned against a new scam that asks owners of lost pets to pay a 'ransom to reclaim' their beloved animal, only to find that their pet is still lost. Scammers have been reported as contacting people who have lost a pet cat or dog, through the details on the owner's 'lost pet' poster or social media post. The scammers then say that they have found the animal and offer the pet's ID number as 'proof', having most likely found the number online or via social networks. They then ask the pet owner to pay money to cover vet bills that they claim to have been paid for the pet, or simply as a 'fee' to cover the costs of caring for the animal and/or giving it back. In reality, the scammers do not have the pet.

**Advance notice** for the *Animation de Noël* in Fougerolles-du-Plessis on 8<sup>th</sup> December

Following last year's popular Christmas Fayre, stallholders are invited to reserve table space for this year's event. Approx. 2.2 metres at 2€. To reserve, or for more info, contact either [donnaakinson@outlook.com](mailto:donnaakinson@outlook.com) or [josephmorgan@sfr.fr](mailto:josephmorgan@sfr.fr)

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And a late news item:

In the English Channel a ship carrying red paint collided with a ship carrying purple paint. It is believed that both crews have been marooned.

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That's all for this month – still quite a bit going on to get us rushing around to keep warm!!

*Judy Skinner*

*e-mail: judithsk@free.fr*

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

November 2019

Date	Event	Place	Page
Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Walk across the sands & visit	Mont-Saint-Michel	6
“	Mushroom nature trail	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>APACTP Foire de Noël</i>	St Martin des Landelles	2
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Biscuiterie</i> Open Day	Lonlay l’Abbaye	3
Fri. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Concert of ancient music	Laval	4
“	Mushroom nature trails	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Foire Saint-Martin</i>	St Hilaire-du-Harcouët	3
9 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup>	60 <sup>th</sup> Regional Art Exhibition	Ernée	2
Mon. 11 <sup>th</sup>	the film ‘Downton Abbey’	Gorron	4
Fri. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Soirée Années 80</i>	St Cyr-du-Bailleul	4
“	Concert: ‘Lady Sings the Blues’	Changé	4
Sat. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Coarse Fish sale	Chatillon-sur-Colmont	3
“	<i>Domf’amiré</i> choir	St Bomer-les-Forges	4
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	‘Arrin Duo’ concert	Brecé	4
Wed. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Walk	Bagnoles de l’Orne	6
Fri. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Concert & <i>Soirée Fish &amp; Chips</i>	Vire	4
Sat. 30 <sup>th</sup>	CSF Curry & Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
“	Switching on the lights & fireworks	Laval	5