

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 not about how many times you get knocked down,
but how quickly you can bounce back



Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area ['35' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Thurs. 5 th	Rennes (35)	Weekly <i>marché à la brocante</i> , around the <i>Halles Centrales</i> , ±30
Sun. 5 th	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Esplanade de la Halle, ±30
Sun. 12 th	Bellou-en-Houlme(61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chavallerie, ±150
Sun. 19 th	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> in Cours Jonville, ±30

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

☞ Two *marchés* in Dol-de-Bretagne (35, SW of Mont-Saint-Michel):

On Sat. 4th is the *Marché de Dol-de-Bretagne* (35) - a traditional market with local produce: cheeses, fish, flowers, artisan-made items. Open 8h30 until 13h.

On Tues. 7th is the *Marché Bio de Dol-de-Bretagne* (35) – held inside Les Halles (built in 1879), Place Chateaubriand. Open 16h until 20h30.

'La galette des rois' – a tasty tradition

A seasonal reminder that France celebrates Epiphany each year on the second Sunday after Christmas with the *galette des rois* – a traditional puff pastry cake filled with *frangipane*, a thick almond cream. This tradition traces its roots back to the Middle Ages when the last piece of the cake, often called the 'piece for the poor' was reserved and given to the first needy person knocking at the door. Inside is a little surprise – these days a *santon* (figurine) – and the person who gets the slice with *le santon* is declared the king and so crowned.

Eating out : *Les Potins*

'*Le Potins*', 32 rue de Sévigné in Fougères (35, not far from the *Forum de la Gare*) is a *brasserie / bistrot* and has been recommended to me by 3 different people. It is rated 11 out of 58 restaurants in Fougères, has good food and great atmosphere with vegetarian options on the menu. Open: Mon. to Thurs. 9h30 - 14h30; Fri. & Sats. 09h30 - 22h30; closed on Sundays. Tel: 02 23 51 30 75.

Patinoire (ice skating rink) in Saint-Malo (35)

Until Sun. 5th Jan., from 10h until midnight, daily (including New Year's Day!) the *patinoire La Banquise* is on Esplanade Saint-Vincent (by the ramparts). For the 5th year running, it will be covering 520 sq.m. Remember to take warm clothes, gloves, scarves and hats! [There is an entry cost, but it is not given on the website!].

Exhibition of sculptures in wood

From 17th Jan. until 15th Feb., in the Salle Rousseau, Le Grand Turc, La Ferté-Macé (61), sculptor Alain Legros is holding an exhibition of his wood sculptures with the theme 'The Body'. Free entry.

Le Bucher de Sapins – burning of Christmas trees

Organised by *les pompiers* (firemen), many villages are organising a communal burning of their used Christmas trees. In Gorrion this will be on Sat. 11th at 19h30 near the old football pitch, and there will be music, snacks available and a festive atmosphere. Your *mairie* can advise you if your village/town is organising a similar event.

Exhibition : "Fougères – a town during the Great War"

Until 28th Feb. 2020, the *Archives Municipales de Fougères* welcome the exhibition "*Fougères – une ville dans la Grande Guerre : entre histoire et memoire*". Historic documents describe the life of the soldiers on the front line. The Archives are open to the public on Mons., Tues., Weds., & Fridays, 13h30 to 17h30. More info at archives@fougeres.fr

La Cave d'Andaine celebrates 100 years in business

You will notice this family-owned wine business on the side of the D908 Domfront to La Ferté Macé road, near La Chapelle d'Andaine (61). They have been trading for 100 years, and the present owners are proud to offer quality wines, beers, locally produced ciders, *Calvados*, *pommeau*, *poiré* and spirits. The team of 6 are available for any advice and they can also offer home deliveries for events, and on a 'sale or return' basis. Open: Mon. to Fri. 9h-12h & 14h-18h30; Sats. 9h-12h15. Facebook: [la cave d'andaine](https://www.facebook.com/la.cave.d.andaine).

Exhibition : "Utah Beach – Then and Now"

Until 20th Nov. 2020, the *Musée du Débarquement* at Utah Beach (50) invites you to discover their exhibition where the past will be unveiled. Open: 10h to 18h. Adults 8€, 6-15s: 5€, under 6s free. For more info and location: www.utah-beach.com

Standing stones in Fougères forest

There are remarkable standing stones in the forest of Fougères (35). The beech reigns supreme in this 1,700 hectare national forest, where you'll find an alignment of around 50 standing stones known as *Le Cordon des Druides* (the Line of the Druids). Not far away is the '*Pierre Courcoulée*', a gallery grave with an impressive cap-stone that is split in two. Also, at *les Celliers de Landéan* you will find an underground gallery of stone arches which are still very much a mystery. For more information contact the Fougères Tourist Office (tel: 02 99 94 12 20; www.ot-fougeres.fr)

Exhibition "Grace de Monaco, princesse en Dior"

Until 5th January, at 18h in the *Musée Christian Dior*, rue d'Estouteville, Granville (50) this exhibition [which has been extended from last year due to its popularity – since its opening in April 2019 it has welcomed over 65,000 visitors] on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the birth of Princess Grace of Monaco. The *Musée Christian Dior* highlights her personality and style – after meeting Prince Rainier III in 1955, Grace Kelly showed a particular taste for the creations of the *Maison Dior*. On display are 85 dresses of *haute couture*, and a selection of portraits, photos, film extracts, perfumes & correspondence. Entry: 12€, reservations@museechristiandior.fr, 02 33 61 48 21.

New medical centre has opened in Gorrion (53)

After 2 years of building work, the new *maison de santé pluridisciplinaires* is open (opposite the swimming pool). Covering an area of almost 800 sq.m it will hold 6 *médecins généralistes* (GPs), 6 *infirmières* (nurses) and one *ostéopathe* (osteopath). Two *sages-femmes* (midwives) will be based there, and it is hoped that a *kinésithérapeute* (physiotherapist) will be there soon also.

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

This month:- Silhouette. Etienne de Silhouette was Finance Minister in the 18th century to King Louis XV, and was known for his unpopular taxes on the rich and nobility. He was notorious for his hard-line austerity and penny-pinching, so *à la Silhouette* was a term used to denote anything cheap or austere. De Silhouette's hobby of cutting shadow portraits out of paper, as a cheaper alternative to painted or sculpted portraits, was given the name *silhouette*.

Something for all the family – le Roc des Curiosités

At the *Pointe du Roc*, 1 Blvd de Vaufleury in Granville (50) there is a unique experience, both educational and entertaining: the Aquarium (the aquatic world of Nautilus, with, seahorses, piranhas, angel fish, and more), Butterfly Garden (a magical, exotic world), Mineral Palace (the crystals' bright colours made into curious animals such as dragons and unicorns) and Shell Fairyland (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 – 1st Oct. to 31st March: 10h-12h30 & 14h-18h30; from 1st April to 30th Sept.: all day 10h-19h. Tickets: adults: 9€, students & disabled: 7€; 4-14s: 6€; under 4s free. www.aquarium-du-roc.com

Entertainment & Concerts

Fri. 10th at 20h in the Centre Madeleine Louaintier, Square Delauney in Laval (53), a jazz concert with ‘*Compagnie Nabalitaine*’. Tickets 8€; 12s to 18s: 5€; under 12s free. More info from the Flers Tourist Office (tel: 02 33 65 06 75, www.ornetourisme.com)

Fri. 17th at 20h30 and Sat. 18th at 15h & 20h30 at *Le Palais du Grand Large* in Saint-Malo (35): concerts with “*Coeurs en Choeur*” – 8 singers and 18 musicians. Ticket price unknown, but more info at the Saint-Malo Tourist Office: www.saint-malo-tourisme.com)

Sun. 19th at 16h in *l’Eglise de Saint-Front*, Domfront (61): the choir ‘*Arc en Ciel*’. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (www.ot-domfront.com; tel: 02 33 38 53 97)

Sun. 19th at 16h in the *Centre Culturel Juliette Drouet* in Fougères (35): *l’Orchestre Symphonique de Nantes* with “*l’Orchestrale*”. Tickets: 16€, available from the Fougères Tourist Office, or at the *Centre* one hour before the performance, subject to availability. For more info, contact the Fougères Tourist Office (www.ot-fougères.fr; tel: 02 99 94 12 20).

Mon. 20th at 19h in the *Conservatoire Claude Debussy*, Parc des Chênes in St Malo (35) – ‘*Carte Blanche*’: a piano recital by Dimitri Weissenberg, who was a student at the *Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris*. A programme with Bach, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Ravel and Schédrin.

Sat. 25th at 20h to 22h in *l’Espace Claire de Lune* in Ernée (53): “3’E : Titi Robin”: Gypsy/Spanish music with guitars, accordion and percussion. Tickets 12€, children 7€. Info at www.cc-lernee.fr

Fri. 31st at 20h30 in the *Centre Culturel Juliette Drouet*, Fougères (35) – a musical show “*Awake Irish Trance*”. For lovers of Irish music, the 2 Quimbert brothers have invited other musicians to join them on this musical adventure. Duration: 1hr 15mins. Tickets: 5€. More info from the Fougères Tourist Office (see above).

Weekly markets in the Mayenne department (53)

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Craon, Mayenne, Villaines-la-Juhel
Tuesdays	Ernée, Laval (centre), Montsûrs
Wednesdays	Cossé-le-Vivien, Gorrion, Lassay-les-Châteaux
Thursdays	Andouillé, Château-Gontier, Evron
Fridays	Fougerolles-du-Plessis, Javron-les-Chapelles, Meslay-du-Maine
Saturdays	Ambrières-les-Vallées, Mayenne
Sundays	Bazouges, Bourgneuf-la-Forêt, Laval (St Nicholas)

It is wise to double check before going, as these can change without notice. Next month: the weekly markets in the Calvados (14) department

Increase in the price of stamps

Stamps within France will increase to 97c for a *timbre vert* and to €1.16 for a red ‘priority’ stamp. International stamps, which cost the same in the EU and elsewhere as of last year, will rise from €1,30 to €1,40.

Sport & Leisure Activities

12th International Men's Tennis Championships

From 12th to 19th January, at the *Complexe Tennistique Maxine Merlin* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). Free. More info from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66)

Walking:

Sun. 12th: a 8km *randonnée pedestre* in and around the town of Gorrion (53) departing from l'Eglise at 09h. 2€ for non-members.

Sun. 19th: a *randonnée à pied* in Ceaucé (61). Depart from l'Eglise at 14h. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (02 33 38 53 97, some English spoken)

Mon. 27th: a gentle walk in Domfront (61). Depart from *l'Espace Rocton* at 13h30. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (see above).

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

English film in Gorrion cinema

This month there will be 2 films. On Mon. 6th: '**Brooklyn Affairs**', directed by Edward Norton, with Edward Norton, Bruce Willis, Gugu Mbatha, Alec Baldwin; on Mon. 13th: '**Knives Out**' (French title: *A couteaux tirés*), directed by Rian Johnson, with Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Jamie Lee Curtis, Ana de Armas. Tickets, 5,50€, are available at the cinema on the night. For a pre-film snack, Melanie at the *Bar de la Mairie* offers a plate of cheese or ham and a glass of wine for 7€. (02 43 08 04 59) and she does a very nice *vin chaud*!

Also, the cinema in the Casino in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) shows an English film most Mon. evenings at 21h. For info, go to www.casino-bagnolesdelorne.com

And finally,

Did you hear about the farmer who won an award? They say he was outstanding in his field.

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That's all for this month. Just a reminder, please, to keep in touch now and then (giving feedback, etc., is also really useful!) as my system will drop any names from whom I haven't heard for over a year. People leave the area or change their email addresses, etc., and don't let me know, and with over 300 names on my distribution list (it's not a mailing list) I need to keep it fine-tuned! I'm sure you understand! It will be good to hear from you.

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

January 2020

Date	Event	Place	Page
Fri. 10 th	Jazz concert	Laval	4
Sun. 12 th	Beginning of Tennis Championships	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
“	Informative walk around the town	Gorron	5
Fri. 17 th	Concert with ' <i>Coeurs en Choeur</i> '	Saint-Malo	4
Sat. 18 th	Concerts with " <i>Coeurs en Choeur</i> "	Saint-Malo	4
Sun. 19 th	Concert: " <i>l'Orchestrale</i> "	Fougères	4
“	Concert with the choir ' <i>Arc en Ciel</i> '	Domfront	4
“	Walk in the town and surrounding area	Ceaucé	5
Mon. 20 th	Piano Recital by Dimitri Weissenberg	Saint-Malo	4
Sat. 25 th	<i>3'E: Titi Robin</i> – gypsy/Spanish music	Ernée	4
Mon. 27 th	A gentle walk	Domfront	5
Fri. 31 st	'Awake Irish Trance'	Fougères	4