

## *Bulletin !*

Although we are all still social distancing, here is a selection of things to see and do in this part of France.

**Thought for the month:**

Put up with what you can't change,  
and change what you can't put up with

There will be no *vide-greniers* yet, but the *brocante* in Le Teilleul (61 - on the Domfront road outside Le Teilleul) will be open every afternoon, 14h30 - 18h30.

***Take your own pen***

Banks are trying to adapt to the current situation by making as much as possible available remotely.

However, supporting clients is top priority and they have done everything necessary to welcome you into their branches, while of course respecting social distancing barriers.

If you need to make an appointment at the branch, they have made the following request:

- Bring your own pen if possible.
- Use the hydro-alcoholic gel available at the branch entrance
- Wear a mask if possible
- Respect the distance to the ground markings inside and outside the agency
- Respect the maximum number of people allowed in the Self-service Banking Areas.

Whilst the above is specific to Crédit Agricole, I am certain that these principals are being adopted and implemented by other banking groups too.

***Le Refuge de l'Arche*** has re-opened

Further to last month's feature, the Refuge has received permission to re-open, with strict safety measures. Masks are strongly advised to be worn, social distancing respected, there will be markings on the ground and many chances to disinfect hands, etc. There will be no games or picnic areas, but the boutique will be open, taking a maximum of 10 people at a time. Over 22,000€ in donations have been received by the sanctuary, which goes a long

way towards the 3,180€ daily costs of feeding the animals - with 865kg of food (400kg of fruit and veg., 275kg of hay, 75kg of meat and over 100kg of seeds & nuts).

For more info on location and opening times, go to [www.refuge-arche.org](http://www.refuge-arche.org)

### *La Fête de la Madeleine* in Mayenne (53) is cancelled

The annual *Fête de la Madeleine*, normally held in the *Hall des Expositions* in Mayenne town, would have been celebrating its 50 years' anniversary in July. However, due to both the fire in the Hall last November and then the Covid-19 pandemic, it was expected to just be postponed. However, as the Hall is already booked up for the last months of the year, visitors (30,000 last year) may need to await until 2021 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

### One child, one tree

In Jublains (53), in recognition of the 30 births between 2017 and 2019, 30 fruit trees were planted (apple, cherry, apricot, pear) with the assistance of the families. The trees were planted in pairs of the same species to assist pollination. After several years, the children can go and sample the fruit – from a tree which carries a medallion with their name on it.

### 'Pages' bookshop in Passais-la-Conception (61)

Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances Suzanne had to close the Gorrion shop but she would like to thank everyone who supported her there. She has returned to the same opening times in 'Pages' at Passais as before - Tuesday, Friday & Saturday from 09h30 - 16h.

## Eating in! - Cheese of the Month

*'Bons Mayennais' camembert.* The *Fromagerie Vaubernier* in Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53) is an independent family cheese dairy where they have been making cheese for over 100 years from milk collected from 210 milk farmers in the Mayenne region. *'Bons Mayennais'* can be baked in its special box for a yummy *entrée*, and is sold both plain or with pepper.

### Village of the month – Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53)

This village was first mentioned in AD650 and was under the jurisdiction of Evron. It was known as 'Villa Martiniaco', with the Gallo-Roman name of Martiniacu, meaning the rural domain of Martinus. Over the years the name became Martigné, and in 1984 it became Martigné-sur-Mayenne. The cheese-maker Vaubernier (*SA Vaubernier fromagerie du Bois Belleray*) is well known for their cow's milk cheese *'Bons Mayennais'* (see above). The Romanesque church of Saint-Georges contains an 18<sup>th</sup> century feature classed as a *Monument Historique*, and the *presbytère* dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Near the *Mairie* you can see the public fountain which was fed by underground streams and used by the villagers up until the arrival of piped water in 1965.

### Day ticket at *Etang de Launay*

Anglers looking for a decent coarse fishing day ticket will be pleased to learn about the *Etang de Launay*, which has now re-opened as part of the *déconfinement*. The lake is situated just before the village of Chatillon-sur-Colmont (53) on the D5 route between Gorrion and St Georges Buttavent, and is easily visible from the D5. The lake contains carp to 20lbs+, tench, pike & roach, is not deep and the carp respond really well to sweetcorn fished over depth on the bottom.

The Fishery is open daily from 8h to 20h and a day ticket is 5€ per rod (4€ per rod for children under 12 – who must be accompanied by an adult). A half-day ticket is 4€ per rod. Tickets are available at the lakeside from the Fishery owner, who will be there several times during the day. Fishing must be by rod & line with a single barb-less hook. Spinners, lures and treble hooks are not permitted. Further information is available from the Fishery owner, Jack PetitHomme, on 06 81 69 88 22 (please note: Jack does not speak English!)

### A new shop in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

From mid-March and in the following weeks by *rendez-vous* (06 64 26 53 15) Philippe Roger, with his passion for all things pertaining to the cinema, has re-opened his shop *'La Quinquallerie du Cinema'* at 10 rue de Normandie. In the shop he has for sale almost 10,000 DVDs and film posters, both rare and well-known. Safety restrictions will be in place – disinfectant gel, gloves and antiseptic towels. If his customers wear masks, that would be ideal also.

### Domfront Tourist Office (61)

For details of more places to visit, the Domfront Tourist Office will be re-opening. Their hours are: Mon. to Sat. 10h-12h30 & 14h-18h. There will be hand gel at entry and departure, one-way circulation and all possible safety measures. For more info go to [www.ot-domfront.com](http://www.ot-domfront.com).

### ‘Le Mans 24’ race - re-scheduled

The organisers of this popular event, which was due to have been held in April, hope to be able to run it in September. Keep an eye on their website for any updates.

### A reminder for road users in France

I have been asked to remind people, and inform newcomers, that for the towns and villages that have ‘*Priority à droite en agglomération*’ (and most of them do now) it must be strictly taken notice of. If a *gendarme* spots anyone not slowing down and visibly checking that the road coming in from the right is clear - even if it is - they will issue a fine of 22€ with 3 licence points. Also, it is a fine-able offence to not stop completely at a ‘Stop’ sign – even if the road ahead is clear. The rule is to stop for about 3 seconds before continuing.

### The château in Lassay-les-Châteaux (61) – now open

The owners of this lovely mediæval fortress château are welcoming visitors again. It will be necessary to pre-book the visit at [chateaudelassay@free.fr](mailto:chateaudelassay@free.fr), or phone 02 43 04 05 47 for booking and ticket payment info. You will have a guided tour of the 15<sup>th</sup> century garrison, also some furnished family rooms including sleeping quarters, and the kitchen. There is a limit of 9 people for each guided visit. Masks must be worn. Hours in June: Tues – Sat 14h30 to 18h40. For more info go to [www.chateaudelassay.com](http://www.chateaudelassay.com)

### Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . .

If you’ve ever used the phrase “I’ll be there in a jiffy” (of which the French equivalent is ‘*en un clin d’oeil*’) then you had better be quick! A jiffy is an informal unit of time sometimes used in the computer industry. One jiffy equals 1/100th of a second, or ten milliseconds. So now you know!

And finally:

Archaeologists digging in a pyramid in Egypt have found a mummy covered in chocolate and hazelnuts, and believe it to be ‘Pharaoh Rocher’.

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That’s all for this month. Places of interest and events are beginning to re-open, hopefully, so we can look forward to getting out and about again soon. Stay safe.

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