

# Bulletin !

An informal look at life in this part of France, with some snippets of local info and advice.

## Thought for the month:

Happiness is a way to travel, not a destination

[Roy M Goodman]

Some *vide-greniers*, *brocantes* & *foires* are being held, with all safety measures in place (masks to be worn, social distancing, hand gel) but double-check beforehand, if possible, in case of cancellation at [www.brocabrac.fr](http://www.brocabrac.fr). [ '53' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Louverné (53)	v-g at l'Ecole Sainte Marie; ±30
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> ; ±50
“	Barenton (50)	v-g in parking of the Salle des Fêtes; 405 rue de la Liberation, 8h to 18h, ±70
“	Dinard (35)	monthly <i>foire à la brocante</i> , Esplanade de la Halle, 9h-19h; ±50
Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie; ±120
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tinchebray (61)	v-g/ <i>Foire Saint-Luc</i> , centre ville, ±300
W/e 23/24 <sup>th</sup>	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>Salon d'Antiquités/Brocante</i> , in communs du Château, 10h-19h, entry 3,50€: ±50
W/e 23/24 <sup>th</sup>	Dol de Bretagne (35)	<i>braderie</i> in rue Châteaubriand, 10h-18h
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d'Antiquités/Brocante</i> ; ±30

Every Tues., & Sat. in Cancale (35): *braderie* in rue des Ateliers, 10h-17h; ±30

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

## Visitor information in Gorrion (53)

*La Maison du Bocage* (near the *Mairie*) has information on events & places of interest and can also sell tickets to events. For more events and things to do in the area you can also visit [www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com](http://www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com)

### Eating out - *La Camillane*

This hotel/restaurant in a lovely setting at 5 rue du Bocage, Saint-Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53), in the centre of the village, re-opened in 2020. It is a great place to enjoy a tasty lunch, or even a relaxing stay. I have not had the chance to try it out since it re-opened, but it is certainly on my 'to do' list! Tel: 02 43 05 32 37.

### *Les Jardins des Renaudies* : Pumpkin Fair

At these lovely English-style gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis is the *Fête des Citrouilles* (Pumpkin Fair) on Sun. 10<sup>th</sup>, 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, museum of vintage implements, also games & entertainment. Entry: adults 5€; 6-16s 2€; under 6s: free. Dogs are welcome on a lead. To check for any changes go to [www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr](http://www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr)

### '*Plantes en Fête*' – plant sale & exchange

On Sun 10<sup>th</sup> from 10h-18h at the *Campsite de Champ Passais* in Domfront (61) is the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of this popular annual Plant Fair, with over 40 specialist exhibitors with a great selection of plants, herbs and other vegetation. People can bring their plants and exchange, share and discover others. Also garden decor and some great gardening inspiration. Refreshments and tea-room on site. Free entry and parking. Sorry, no dogs. Covid security measures will be in place. Masks must be worn. More info at [www.plantesenfete.fr](http://www.plantesenfete.fr) or [www.ot-domfront.com](http://www.ot-domfront.com)

### *Atelier découverte* in La Ferté-Macé (61)

Morgan, a blacksmith artist, demonstrates his trade and knowledge of the forge, outside l'Espace Culturel du Grand Turc, at 10h and 14h30. Free.

### French/English Conversation Workshops

If you are a native English speaker living near Laval (53) and you would like to improve your knowledge of the French language, you are most welcome to join the French/English Conversation Workshops organised by the EuroMayenne Association at *Maison de Quartier des Fourches* in Laval. Contact: [president@euromayenne.org](mailto:president@euromayenne.org) or 06 73 71 96 52

### Art Exhibition - *Salon de Peinture* in Domfront (61)

From 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 10h to 18h in the Espace Rocton, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront, this annual art exhibition, with both paintings and sculptures, is organised by the Lion's Club of Domfront. Free entry.

### Plastic bottle tops - '*Les Bouchons d'Amour*'

You can give your plastic bottle tops into many Super Us. They are used to help towards the cost of materials for equipment for the comfort of the handicapped.

### *Addict o'tissus* – new fabric shop in Fougères (35)

Jessica Troussard has opened a dress-making material shop at 44 Boulevard Jean-Jaurès in Fougères, as she knows how difficult it is to find dress material in small villages around the area. She sells cotton (*coton*), velour (*minky*), jersey, etc., for making cushions, clothes and handbags. She is able to order items if necessary. On her facebook page she will have ideas for Christmas. [www.addictotissus.net](http://www.addictotissus.net); tel: 06 24 06 45 64 (not sure if English spoken)

### *Fête de la Pomme du Rouget de Dol*

This fête celebrates gastronomy, traditions and folklore and will be held in the Centre Culturel l'Odyssee, Allée de la Ville Nicault, in Dol de Bretagne (35). For more info go to [www.brittanytourism.com](http://www.brittanytourism.com)

### Exhibition 'Merveilleux' in Pontmain (53)

From 10<sup>th</sup> Oct. to 28<sup>th</sup> Nov., this exhibition is in the *Centre d'Art Contemporain*. 8 bis rue de la Grange. Visitors are encouraged to use their imagination with the 50 items on show from 11 artists – photographs, paintings, collages, etc., giving a sense of detail, anachronism, burlesque, kitsch . . . Open: Weds. to Fri.: 14h30 to 17h; Suns.: 14h30 to 17h30; closed Mons., Tues., & Sats.

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

The first known photograph was taken in Saint-Loup-de-Varennes in Saône-et-Loire by Joseph Nicéphore Niépce in 1826 or 1827. The Burgundy-born-and-bred Niépce used a *camera obscura* focused on to a thin pewter plat that was coated with light-sensitive bitumen of Judea to take the grainy image of his home.

### Temporary boutiques in Gorrion (53)

In an attempt to revitalise empty buildings in Gorrion, the *mairie* has launched a new idea. The old nurses station, at 18 rue Magenta in Gorrion (opposite Gorrion Immobilier), will be back in temporary use for a period of 6 months. Cindy Caverne will open *Caverne du Cindy*, with children's clothes, especially the Mickey brand which is very popular. (sorry, not sure of her days in the shop). Her cousin, Michaël Méline, will be selling old-fashioned sweets on Weds. & Sunday mornings and on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. Other empty shops may be similarly used in the future.

### *Dinard Festival du Film Britannique* (Festival of British Film)

From 29<sup>th</sup> Sept., to 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct., the question is: Who will win the Golden Hitchcock Award? Every autumn, a wave of suspense grips Dinard's version of the Cannes Film Festival. In this seaside town, autumn is never boring as the town attracts some of the biggest names in British and French cinema during festival week. Please Google it for more info!

### *Vide-maison* and Retrobelia Barn, Open Doors

On Sat. 16<sup>th</sup>, 12 noon to 18h, at 5 Grappay Charpentier, Brecé (53) – new local business Open Doors (Retro items 1950s, 60s, 70s) and Bargain Corner – donations to Grande Daze Animal Charity. For more info email [info@retrobelia.fr](mailto:info@retrobelia.fr); tel: 07 86 81 80 95.

## Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> at 21h, in the *Centre d'Animation et de Congrès* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): the concert 'Hot For More' with The Sassy Swingers – music from New Orleans. Six lady singers give a 'feel-good' show! Tickets: 15€ or 20€, available from the Tourist Office.

Fri. 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> in the *Palais du Grand Large*, Quai Duguey-Troulin in Saint-Malo (35): a series of classical concerts. For more info, ask at the Rennes Tourist Office, 1 rue Saint-Malo (08 91 67 35 35) and at [www.classiqueaularge.fr](http://www.classiqueaularge.fr)

## Butterflies in France

France has an astonishing 260 species of butterfly, not to mention a host of other fascinating insects, if you stop and look. Most butterflies live in the warmer south, roughly below a line drawn from Bordeaux to the Alps, and fly in early summer. You can see some great species just by standing still in a garden or roadside: some common ones are stunning (such as the swallowtail, now not so scarce) or fascinating to watch (the bee hawk-moth, which behaves like a humming-bird).

To see butterflies in profusion and learn about their lifestyles, go on a trip led by an expert guide. Greenwings ([greenwings.co](http://greenwings.co)) runs such trips to the Pyrenees, the Vercors or the Alps. For more info: [butterfly-conservation.org](http://butterfly-conservation.org)

## Weekly markets - in the Orne (61)

By popular request, repeated here are the weekly markets:-

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Briouze, Remalard, Tinchebray, Vimoutiers (a'noon)
Tuesdays	Alençon, Athis de l'Orne, Bagnoles de l'Orne, Couterne, Argentan, l'Aigle, Passais-la-Conception.
Wednesdays	Bagnoles de l'Orne, Carrouges, Flers, Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe, Le Theil-sur-Huisne, Longny-au-Perche
Thursdays	Alençon, Ceaucé, La Ferté-Macé, Putanges-Pont-Ecrepin, Bellême, Bretoncelles, Trun, La Ferté-Fresnel
Fridays	Argentan, Domfront, Bagnoles de l'Orne, La Chapelle d'Andaine, Ecouché, Condé-sur-Huisne, Courtomer
Saturdays	Bagnoles de l'Orne, Flers, Gacé (afternoon), Bretoncelles, Mortagne-au-Perche, Rânes, Trun
Sundays	Alençon, Argentan, Ceton, Courtomer, Mortrée

Next month: weekly markets in the Manche (50) region

## What items must you carry with you in your car?

When driving in France you must carry your driving licence, the car's registration document (commonly called a *carte grise*) and the car's insurance documents. You must have a safety jacket (*gilet de sécurité voiture*) inside the car and easily accessible, and a warning triangle (*triangle de présignalisation*) which can be in the boot. Without these you can be fined 135€. If you are stopped without your licence you could be fined up to 38€. In this case you would be given 5 days to produce the licence at a local police station. Failure to do so could mean a 750€ fine.

### Advance Notice for your diaries:

For November:- the LMQ Christmas Fayre on Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> Nov., 11h to 17h, at Le Moulin de la Quentinière, 8 La Quentinière, Désertines (53). Lots of gift ideas, Christmas cards, games, food truck on site, tombola, gifts by local artisans, competitions for children, and much more. Entry: 1€, under 16s free.

For December:- Call for stallholders - L'Epinay le Comte Xmas Market:

Jane Caddick is organising a Xmas Market for the 5th December in the *Salle des Fêtes* in L'Epinay-le-Comte. She has some spaces left for stallholders. Cost 10€ for a stall. Set-up day is on Sat. 4th Dec., the market on the 5th (10h to 16h). She has about 5 spaces left, so first come, first served. Must have a *pass sanitaire* and masks will be required. Please e-mail Jane if you are interested:- [janedalecaddick@gmail.com](mailto:janedalecaddick@gmail.com)

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And finally: To the thief who stole my glasses . . watch out! I will find you – I have contacts.

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That's all for this month. Yes, it's October already! The maize is being cut – so we have our horizons back – and the chestnuts and acorns are beginning to fall. Just where HAS the year gone?!

# *Judy Skinner*

*e-mail: [judithsk@free.fr](mailto:judithsk@free.fr)*