

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Always laugh when you can.
It is cheap medicine

(Lord Byron)

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. ['53' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]

Tues 2 nd	Cancale (35)	Weekly <i>braderie</i> in rue des Ateliers, 10h-17h, ±30
Thurs. 4 th	Rennes (35)	Weekly <i>brocante</i> 'Puces de Jeudi', in Blvd de la Liberté, rue Jules Simon, 8h-13h, ±30
Sat. 6 th	Cancale (35)	Weekly <i>braderie</i> in rue des Ateliers, 10h-17h, ±30
Sun. 7 th	Avranches (50)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> in Place Valhubert, ±30
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Espl. de la Halle, 9h-19h, ±30
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g at Le Chevallerie, 7h-18h, ±150
Sat. 13 th)	Louvigné-du-	<i>vide-maison</i> at 6 Square Jean Moulin, 8h-18h
Sun 14 th)	Désert (35)	
Sun. 21 st	Granville (50)	monthly <i>Marché d'Antiquités, brocante</i> , in Cours Jonville, 8h-18h, ±30
Sun. 28 th	Désertines (53)	Christmas Fayre (see page 3)

Special dates / public holidays

Mon. 1st - *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.

Thurs. 11th - *l'Armistice* (Remembrance Day): the day when those killed in both WW1 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 - Kilikia

‘Kilikia’ is an Armenian restaurant, at 22 Place de la République in Fougères (35). Several people have recommended it – it is clean and fresh with great staff (sisters: one cooks, the other front of house) with simple, tasty food, beautifully presented. They also do a weekly *midi* for between 9,90€ and 15,90€. An example of their dishes: Tolma with Vine Leaves (Armenian tradition with beef stuffing); Roasted quail and seasonal vegetables; Caramelised pork ribs with cane sugar and seasonal vegetables; Patatann (crusted duck leg with Madeira sauce); Dorade Royale and its garnish; Razrani Xorovac – a typical Armenian dish, Sunik region (beef with plums and baked apples). Tel: 02 99 99 07 00.

Gathering of chestnuts near Domfront (61)

On Fri. 5th from 14h30 in the Tertre Sainte-Anne (near the lower Domfront church Notre-Dame-sur-l’Eau) is “*Escapade d’automne*” - a guide will show you how and where to search on this wooded hillside for the fruits of autumn – *les châtaignes*. Wear boots. Limited to 50 people. More info & tickets (3€) at the Domfront Tourist Office, 12 Place de la Roirie, Domfront (info@ot-domfront.com).

Bagnoles de l’Orne in 360°

On Sat. 13th, 14h30 to 15h30, organised by the Bagnoles de l’Orne Tourist Office (contact info page 3): a presentation of Bagnoles de l’Orne in 30 minutes, followed by a gentle walk through the town. Tickets 3€, reservation necessary at the Tourist Office on the same day.

Marché et jeux antiques at the *Musee de Jublains* (53):

On Sun. 7th, 10h to 17h at the *Musée Archéologique Départemental de Jublains* is a market with artisans showing their skills including pottery, bee-keeping, confectionery, dressmaking, felt-work and basket-weaving. There will also be an exhibition of vintage games. A food truck will be on site. For more info: museedejublains@lamayenne.fr

Telephone numbers

I have been asked to repeat, for people who have newly arrived in France, the following advice. When giving your phone number, the figures should be 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*.

An exhibition on Celtic folklore

During November, the *mediathèque* Victor Hugo, 7 Grande Rue in in Gorrion (53) will open its doors to the world of Brucéro with an exhibition entitled “*Magie Celtique*” (Celtic magic). Using watercolour, acrylic, pastels and metal impression, Breton illustrator Brucéro takes his inspiration from Arthurian legend and Breton folklore and you will see ‘*diverses créatures de la forêt*’ - sprites, elves, goblins, knights and princesses! For opening hours go to www.gorrion.fr/culture.

Salon d'artisanat et d'art in Flers (61)

On Sat 13th & Sun. 14th, 10h to 19h, at the Forum, rue du Collège in Flers (61) artisans will be giving demonstrations and share their experiences, including: *lunetier d'art* (optician), *dessin floral* (floral design), *créateur de luminaire* (lighting), *ceramiques* (pottery), *peintres sur meubles* (painting on furniture), *fourgeron coutelier* (cutlery maker), *marqueteur* (marquetry/inlaid wood), *vitrailliste* (leaded glass/windows), *dentelière aux fuseaux* (spindle lace-work), *creatrice des chapeaux et accessoires de mode* (hatmaker & fashion accessories), *travail de verre* (glass-blowing), *bijoux sculptés* (sculptured jewellery). Free.

LMQ Christmas Fayre.

On Sun. 28th, 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.

Watercolours for beginners

Every Monday, 14h to 16h: Tea, Coffee, Chat 'n Tuition, at Jane's Art Studio, La Hiboudais, Notre-Dame du Touchet (50 – between Saint-Hilaire du Harcouët and Mortain). Cost: 10€ per session (first session is free to see if you like it). Hand san' is always available and spaced seating. For more info please email: jane.bicknell.art@gmail.com

Cheeses of the Month : *Pavé d'Auge* & *Pavé Blésois*

[Pavé is the name given to the square cobblestones you see in old French market places, and is the shape of these cheeses]

Pavé d'Auge: this Normandy cow's milk cheese, also known as *Pavé de Moyaux*, is a piquant cheese with a long tradition. It is a semi-soft, mild & supple, creamy cheese with a reddish rind and a relatively high fat content. Good with champagne or cider.

Pavé Blésois: made with goat's milk, this is produced in the *Blésois* region near Blois on the river Loire. Square or rectangular in shape, its rind has a dry surface covered with a silvery blue mould. The cheese is fine-textured and it tingles on the tongue. Wines to drink with it (both white): Sancerre or Pouilly Fumé

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

In the 1950s, multi-talented French inventor, electrical technician, toymaker and kite designer Andre Cassagnes developed one of the most popular toys ever made. It has been on continuous sale since 1960. In France it is known as *le Télécran*. In England: Etch-a-Sketch.

Some Tourist Office info:

Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	www.bagnolesdelorne.com	02 33 37 85 66
Domfront (61):	www.ot-domfront.com	02 33 38 53 97
Mayenne (53)	www.mayenne-tourisme.com	02 43 04 19 37

Entertainment & Concerts

Tues. 16th, 20h30 to 22h30 in the Salle Multiculturelle, 15 rue de Bretagne, Passais-la-Conception (61): concert with singer/comedian Chloë Lacan and multi-instrumentalist Nicholas Cloche, with a programme as a tribute to Nina Simone. For more info & tickets (5€ to 10€): www.culture-orne.fr

Fri. 19th, 20h30 to 21h30 at rue du Professeur Louvel in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): *Spectacle Jazz Orne Danse*: 'Master Class Nijinsky'. 4 dancers in a tribute to Vaslav Nijinsky with music by Stravinsky, Schubert, Debussy. Organised by Ballet Plaschaert. Info at www.jazzornedanse.fr/billetterie-programmation/spectacle. Tickets (from 25€ to 9€, under 15s: 6€) also available from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (info on page 3)

Sat. 20th (20h30 to 21h15) & Sun. 21st (16h to 17h15) at the Théâtre, 7 Place Juhel in Mayenne (53, *centre ville*): *Concert de la Sainte-Cecile par l'OHPM [Orchestre d'harmonie du Pays de Mayenne]*. With 5 musicians. Free. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (see page 3)

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

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	Cherbourg, Coutances, Ger, Le Teilleul
Fridays	Brécey, Les Pieux, Saint-Lô, Valognes
Saturdays	Avranches, Barneville-Carteret, Cherbourg, Granville, Mortain, Saint-Lô, Saint-Saveur-le-Vicomte
Sundays	Barenton, Pirou, Hauteville-sur-Mer

(It is wise to double check before going, as these can change without notice)

Next month: the weekly markets in the *Ille et Vilaine* (35) *département* (Brittany).

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And finally: when on holiday, my friend went to this horrible bar called 'The Fiddle' It really was a vile inn.

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Judy Skinner

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Advance notice for 3 events in December

Vivace Christmas Choir :

Vivace Choir, based in Passais-la-Conception, are performing two concerts at Christmas, to which everyone is welcome:

On Fri. 10th December they are singing at 19h15 at the CSF (Cancer Support France) Carol Concert at l'Eglise Notre Dame du Touchet, 18 le Bourg. Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50). Entry is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of CSF. *Pass Sanitaires* or a negative test are required to enter the church. They would love you all to join them for drinks afterwards at '*Le Viking*' bar just across the road from the church.

On Sun, 12th they will be singing at l'Eglise St. Julien in Domfront, 5 Place du Commerce, Domfront-en-Poiraie (61). The concert starts at 15h30. Masks are required to enter the church. Again entry is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of the church.

'Relive The Music' Cabaret Evcning

Cabaret evening on Sat. 4th December at 8pm in '*Le Viking*' bar/restaurant in Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50): The Gemini Association will be doing a Cabaret Evening: 'RELIVE THE MUSIC' featuring songs from their productions of "Sounds of the Sixties" and "Rock 'n' Roll Years". Entry is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance from normandymusic@yahoo.com, at the bar '*Le Viking*' or 02 33 59 20 11.

Fun Theatre Communautaire with 'The Sunshine Boys'

Fun Théâtre Communautaire (FTC) is producing a 'radio broadcast' style presentation of 'The Sunshine Boys' on Fri. 3rd and Sat. 4th December at 7.45pm in the theatre (*salle multiculturelle*) in Passais-la-Conception. This is an FTC English-language presentation. It is Neil Simon's incredibly funny Broadway and West End play about an ageing Vaudeville comedy duo and their reluctant reunion after 11 years apart. More information can be found on www.funtheatre.fr

Tickets are 7€ each. Numbers will be strictly limited, providing their audiences with a better viewing/listening experience, and ensuring good social distancing. *Pass sanitaires* will be required. Sales are online only – available from www.thelittleboxoffice.com/funtheatre. Doors will open at 7 pm, with a bar prior to the performance, during the interval, and following the performance. Performance time will be approximately 2 hours including the interval.

Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)
November 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Fri. 5th	Gathering of chestnuts	Domfront	2
Sun. 7th	Market and vintage games	Jublains	2
Sat. 13th	Presentation in 360°	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
13th & 14th	Salon of Artisans and Art	Flers	3
Tues. 16th	Concert with Chloë Lacan	Passais-la-Conception	4
Fri. 19th	<i>Spectacle Jazz Orne Danse</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Sat. 20th	<i>Concert de la Sainte Cecile</i>	Mayenne	4
Sun 28th	LMQ Christmas Fayre	Désertines	3

Preview of some events in December :

Fri. 3 & Sat. 4th	'The Sunshine Boys' play	Passais-la-Conception	5
Sat. 4th	Caberet Evening	Notre-Dame du Touchet	5
Fri. 10th	Vivace Christmas Concert	Notre-Dame du Touchet	5