

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

100 years ago most people owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today, most people have a car and only the rich have horses

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g), *brocantes* & *fêtes* in this area, with safety measures in place - but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any cancellations ['61' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sun 5 th	La Ferrière-aux-Etangs (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> in the town, 6h-18h, ±250
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
7 th to 20 th	La Ferté-Macé (61)	<i>fête foraine</i> in Place Neustadt
Sun. 12 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Laval (53)	v-g around the <i>terrain de foot</i> , 39 Blvd Felix Grat, 8h – 18h, ±250
“	St Jacques-de-la-Lande (35)	v-g in rue du Manoir, 8h-18h, ±250
“	La Haie-Traversaine (53)	v-g by the <i>lac de Haute-Mayenne</i> , 8h-17h30
“	La Baconnière (53)	v-g in Fête de la St Saveur, Place de l'Eglise
Sun. 19 th	Louvigné (53)	v-g in the town, ±150
“	St Denis de Gastines (53)	v-g in Place des Tilleuls, ±30
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g at ' <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> ', ±30
“	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d'Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ±30
Sat. 25 th) & Sun. 26 th)	Sourdeval (50)	v-g and ' <i>Porte Ouverte de la Ville</i> ' in <i>centre ville</i> , 6h to 18h, ±250

Special dates in June:

Sun. 5 th	<i>Pentecôte</i> (Pentecostal Sunday)
Mon. 6 th	<i>Lundi de Pentecôte</i> (Pentecostal Monday)
Sun. 19 th	<i>Fête des Pères</i> (Father's Day)

Eating out - *L'Auberge Campagnarde*

L'Auberge Campagnarde is in Montreuil-Poulay (53, 30 mins. from Bagnoles de l'Orne, between Lassay-les-Châteaux and Mayenne) has very nice décor and there are 3 different rooms to eat in, plus a pleasant outside space. The lunch-time *menu du jour* offers 3 courses for 13,50€ and there is usually a good choice of around 4 starters, mains & desserts. There are also 2 other menus, at 25€ and 30€. Open 9h-14h15 in the week (closed on Weds., and in the evenings) but open morning & evening on Sats. (19h30-21h). Closed on Sundays. For more info: www.auberge-campagnarde.fr.

Les Jardins des Renaudies – events in June

In these pretty gardens at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) you can enjoy the vibrant colours and also enjoy 3 events this month:

Sun. 5th – *Rendez-vous aux Jardins*: the theme this year is 'The gardens facing climate changes'. Open 10h to 18h. In the afternoon you can meet some of the park gardeners, and there will be children's activities around small animals. *The Salon de Thé* will be open. Entry for this event: adults 4€; 6-16s: 3€; under 6s free.

Sun. 12th – *Chants dans les Jardins au Pays de la Loire* – concerts: at 16h30, the Gorrion choir '*La Chorale de Bocage Mayennais*'; at 19h-20h, a concert by '*Macadam Ensemble*'. Entry for gardens & concerts: 5€, under 18s & students: free.

Sun. 19th – *Peintres & photographes aux jardins* (painters & photographs in the gardens): You can watch (or take part) both amateurs and professionals painting around the gardens – oils, pastels, watercolours. Entry for artists at 9h, entry for the public at 10h. For reservations: contact@jardinsdesrenaudies.fr. More info: www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Events in aid of Cancer Support France Nord

Quiz Night: on Fri. 3rd, starting at 20h, in '*Le Viking*' bar/restaurant in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Teams of 6 – but if you are unable to make up a team no problem, do go and take part. Price: 3€ per person. To book your place, or if you require further info, please contact nord@cancersupportfrance.org, or you can just turn up without booking, if you prefer. They look forward to seeing you.

Afternoon Tea: on Sat. 18th from 15h you are invited to Afternoon Tea at the home of Stevie and Kerry Miller, 2 rue de la Voie Romaine, Orval-sur-Sienne (50, SW of Coutances). There will be tea, coffee, cakes, a Quiz and a Raffle. If you are going, please let them know at the following email address: padickle@gmail.com. If you need directions, please call Stevie on 02 33 46 90 74.

Fête champêtre in La Dorée (53)

On the weekend of 18th & 19th this annual country fête has events on the Sat. 18th, with fireworks after dark, and *vide-greniers* on Sunday 19th.

Fête 'Belle Epoque' in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

Each year - this year on 25th & 26th - in the *Jardins du Lac* and *Hippodrome*: Bagnoles de l'Orne celebrates the 1900s, known as '*la Belle Epoque*', exploring inventions – technology, industry, aviation. On the Sat. 15th from 16h: admire vehicles from the beginning of the century, followed by a dance lit by lanterns after nightfall. Sun. 26th: singing of songs from that era, and other activities from that time.

Ukrainian Resource Centre supporting local Ukrainian families

There will be a sale of second-hand items at the shop in the Centre (rue de Bretagne, Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53, behind *Inox du Bocage*), raising money for Ukrainian families. The shop will be open every Wed. afternoon, 14h to 17h and every Sat., 10h to 12h & 14h to 16h. Please go and support them.

Introduction to Acrylics

If you would like a fun afternoon using acrylics, this is for you! On Tues. 14th from 14h to 17h - tea, coffee, chat and tuition, including all materials. Cost: 25€ per person, limited number. Please contact Jane at her studio in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50) - email: jane.bicknell.art@gmail.com . She is looking forward to meeting you.

Fête des Plantes – plant exhibition/sale in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On 4th & 5th, this popular annual event is organised by the Association '*Entre Ville et Jardin*'. The theme this year is '*Les Vivaces et Arbustes à feuillage remarquable*' (perennials and bushes with remarkable greenery). Held near the Thermal Station or near the château (look for signs), there will be around 60 stands, with artisans and moving musical shows, also children's games. Entry: adults: 5€; 13s to 18s: 3€; under 12s free. More info from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (see page 6).

Fête du Centre Equestre in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

On Sun. 19th at the *Centre Equestre* on the D23, there will be displays of horsemanship, show-jumping competitions & pony rides. More info at the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Boat trips on the river Mayenne (53)

On Sat. 4th and Sun. 5th, 15h-17h, this 2-hour boat trip on '*La Meduana*' takes you down the river Mayenne with some of its locks, with a commentary (in French, but some English may be spoken). Tickets: adults 8,70€; children 6,20€, from the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Also, on Sun 12th: '*Aux origines de Mayenne*', 16h-17h30, a boat trip with commentary (as above). Tickets: adults 8,20€; children 5,70€; under 3s free.

Expo of vintage vehicles: "Cars & Coffee"

On Sun. 26th, 9h30 to 12h, near Place du Marché & the Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) Tourist Office, organised by *l'Assoc. Bagnoles Moteurs Classiques* – a gathering of vintage vehicles, classics & sports models. Tickets: 2€ for non-members. (Also on Sundays 24th July, 28th Aug. & 25th Sept.)

Entertainment & Concerts

On Sat. 11th (from 20h30) and Sun. 12th (from 15h): *Gorron Danse* presents its Gala “*Souvenirs d’Antan*” (“Memories of Yesteryear”) at *l’Espace Colmont* in Gorron (53) For tickets go to: www.helloasso.com/associations/gorron-danse/evenements/gala-2022-sam-11-06-2022

Choeur de Chambre Voix d’Eté

Choeur de Chambre Voix d’Eté will be giving a concert at St Martin's church, Avrilly (61, south of Domfront) on Sun. 12th at 16h. Free entry.

The chamber choir was formed in 2011 in Joué du Bois (61) and is now based in Dompierre (61) and consists of French and English singers. The repertoire is quite varied, with works (secular and sacred) from the Renaissance to the present and this concert is no exception. Please do go and enjoy a musical Sunday with them. If you would like further info or directions, you can contact Jim Hooper on myemailaddressjhooper@yahoo.com.

‘Back Home Festival’ in La Baconnière (53)

On 17th & 18th, this 4th edition offers a weekend of activities near Laval. On Sat., from 12h, *pétanque* and *palets*, climbing, a tournament of ‘spikeball’ and other new games. Plus 2 evenings of concerts by local and national groups. Tickets: 12€ (2-day pass 20€) available on-line on their internet site, and at the bar ‘*Le Baconnerien*’

Organ recitals in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

Wed, 1st at 17h to 18h15 in *l’Eglise Sainte-Madelaine*: recital with organ and violin, works by Pachelbel, Handel, Bach, Guilain, Young. Free, with a collection. No need to reserve your seats.

Wed. 22nd: recital by Alain Bouvet, head organist at St Etienne Abbey in Caen. Programme: Bach, Franck, Fauré. Info as above. Free with a collection.

Something for all the family in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)

On 11th & 12th: ‘*Lassay – une histoire vivante*’ (Lassay – a living history). Discover the life in the Château in 1469 – you will see soldiers, farmers, artisans, nobles & horsemen, and presentations of various aspects of life in those times: martial arts, horsemanship, education, family life, small trades and children’s games. Reservation necessary for allotted times: 10h to 12h30 / 13h to 15h30 / 15h30 to 18h. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Cheese of the Month - *Cabecou*

This is a soft goat’s milk cheese originating from the Périgord. It derives its name from the words ‘*cabre*’ and ‘*cou*’ meaning, in the *langue d’oc* (the old language of the south) ‘little goat’. The cheese is dipped in plum brandy and sprinkled with coarse black pepper before being wrapped in chestnut leaves for maturation. It has a smooth creamy texture and creamy colour and can be used in recipes. Ideal wines to go with it: Bergerac, Gaillac.

Lest We Forget

In May 1944, 20 members the *Résistance* in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) were arrested, and 7 never returned. They had gathered for an evening meeting on the 1st floor of a house in rue du Château, where Emile Champin kept carrier pigeons that were sent to England for information and where many *Résistance* members were hidden. Sadly, they had been betrayed and at dawn on 10th May, many arrests were made by the Gestapo Sipo-SD of Angers - also in the communes of Couesmes-Froulay (now Couesmes-Vaucé), Le Pas and Sainte-Marie-du-Bois. Among those arrested was Emile Champin, father of 6 children. Many were taken to a prison in Angers, and then on to a concentration camp, where many died. Each year in May a memorial procession stops in front of the houses of the brave people who died for their country.

Fête de la Pêche in Colombiers-du-Plessis (53)

On Sat. 4th you can discover fishing at *l'Etang de la Graffardière* (accessible from near the church). Free. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (see page 6).

Visit the *Manoir de Durcet* in Magny-le-Désert (61)

On Mondays 6th, 13th & 20th, 15h to 18h, you can visit the orchards and old cellars of this cider-making farm in the Orne *bocage*, exploring its different aspects – methanisation (biogaz – production of electricity from effluent), and learn about the production of cider and poiré, ending with a tasting in the boutique. Tickets: 4€, under 12s free. Reservation possible up to 11h30 on the day at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (see page 6).

Mediæval meal at *Le Bois Thibault*

On Fri. 17th, 20h to 23h, you can enjoy a mediæval meal and flavours under the majestic vaults of the remains of one of the 3 châteaux in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53). Tickets: 20€, from the Mayenne Tourist Office (see page 6).

Discover golf ! - in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

Several chances to try your hand at the sport of golf! Thurs. 2nd: “*Découverte du golf – After Work*” (organised by *l'AS Andaines Golf Club*: you can be introduced to golf with a professional and members of the club. A unique opportunity to tap the balls and maybe share a convivial moment around a drink! Tickets: 7€ plus green fees. All material is provided.

Sat. 4th: “*Découverte du golf – Coupe des Laboureurs*” - this competition allows non-golfers to play (in doubles) on the green with a confirmed player. 8h30 to 19h. More info: www.asgolfbagnoles.fr.

Re-opening of *l'Auberge de la Source* in St Cyr du Bailleul (50)

This restaurant has been closed since 2021. Louise & Hippolyte Achard de la Vente are the new owners and both are experienced in the restaurant industry. The restaurant will have an alcohol licence so it will also be operating as a bar. It will be great if this village once again has a restaurant to be proud of.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Evening walks on Thursdays

On Thursdays 2nd, 16th & 30th, 18h-19h30, organised by the Tourist Office, you can join others for a walks around Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) - a moment of conviviality and a good way to decompress at the end of the day. Take good shoes and a bottle of water. Minimum age 10. Reserve your place with the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office by 11h on the day – tickets: 6,50€, children (over 10): 4,50€.

Motocross Grand Prix de France

On 4th & 5th, 8h to 18h on both days, in the Circuit Raymond Deny (near Ernée, 53). Tickets from 35€. More info from www.motoclubernee.com

Some Tourist Office contact details:-

Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	www.bagnolesdelorne.com	02 33 37 85 66
Domfront (61)	www.ot-domfront.com	02 33 38 53 97
Fougeres (35)	www.ot-fougeres.fr	02 99 94 12 20
Gorron (53)	www.gorron.fr	02 43 30 10 50
Mayenne (53)	www.mayenne-tourisme.com	02 43 04 19 37

And finally:

Before my surgery the anaesthetist offered to knock me out with a choice of gas or a boat paddle. It was an ether/oar situation

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That's all for this month. Plenty of things going on to help us enjoy exploring this lovely part of France. Have fun!

Judy Skinner

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

June 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Wed. 1 st	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Thurs. 2 nd	Discover Golf !	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
Fri. 3 rd	CSF Nord Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Sat. 4 th	<i>Fête du Pêche</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	5
“	Discover Golf ! - competition	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
W/e 4 th & 5 th	<i>Fête des Plantes</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
“	Boat trip on river Mayenne	Mayenne	3
“	<i>Motocross Grand Prix de Fr.</i>	Ernée	6
Sun. 5 th	<i>Rendez-vous aux Jardins</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
W/e 11 th /12 th	‘Gorron Danse’ Gala	Gorron	4
“	Lassay – A Living History	Lassay-les-Châteaux	4
Sun. 12 th	Boat trip on the river Mayenne	Mayenne	3
“	Concert by <i>Voix d'Été</i>	Domfront	4
“	Singing in the gardens	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
Tues. 14 th	Introduction to Acrylics	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
Fri. 17 th	Mediæval meal	Lassay-les-Châteaux	5
17 th & 18 th	‘Back Home Festival’	La Baconnière	4
Sat. 18 th	CSF Nord Afternoon Tea	Orval-sur-Sienne	2
W/e 18/19 th	Country fête	La Dorée	2
Sun. 19 th	<i>Fête du Centre Equestre</i>	Ambrières-les-Vallées	3
“	Painting and photographs	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
Wed. 22 nd	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
W/e 25/26 th	<i>Fête ‘Belle Époque’</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Sun. 26 th	Expo of vintage vehicles	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3