

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it!

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. 3 rd	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g at La Chevalerie, ±250
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
“	Dol-de-Bretagne (35)	v-g in Allée des Platanes, ±50
“	Le Corps (53)	v-g, rue des Forges, route de Lassay, ±70
Sun. 10 th	Placé (53)	v-g, 8h-18h
13 th & 14 th	Domfront (61)	v-g / <i>braderie</i> with fireworks at nightfall
Thurs. 14 th	Rives d'Andaine (61)	v-g at La Chapelle d'Andaine, ±250
W/e 23/24 th	Chailland (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> at 5 Chemin du Closeau
Sun. 24 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g in the <i>Fête de la Ste-Madeleine</i> (see p.3)
“	Granville (50)	Monthly <i>Marché d'Antiquités / Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ±30
Sun. 31 st	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g at La Chevalerie, ±250
“	Vaiges (53)	v-g in rue des Ecoles, 6h-18h, ±250

Special dates

Thurs. 14th *Fête Nationale ('Pris de la Bastille 1789')*

Almost all towns/villages celebrate with music and fireworks. Your *Mairie* or the nearest Tourist Office will let you know what events are taking place near you.

Eating out : *Le Cygne*

The 3-star hotel/restaurant '*Le Cygne*' at 99 rue Waldeck Rousseau in Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50) has a modern, airy restaurant, with a pretty terrace for eating outside in good weather. As well as the *à la carte* gourmet menus for that 'special occasion' (from 21,50€ to 31,50€), there is also a mid-day 3-course menu, Mondays to Fridays, at 18€. For more info: www.hotellecygne.com

Les Jardins des Renaudies

At this lovely 3.5 ha floral park at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53), as well as 400 rhododendrons & azaleas, 350 hydrangeas and 133 varieties of roses, there are hundreds of varieties of flowering plants along pretty walkways. There is a museum showing life on a farm in the 1920s and vintage farm equipment. Plenty of areas for a picnic.

On Thurs. 14th will be the popular 'Garden Party' with musicians, games (including cricket, badminton and *boules*) and the *Salon de Thé*, serving teas, coffees & home-made cakes, will be open from 14h. On Weds. 14h-17h30, horse & buggy rides every half-hour along the small roads nearby: 3€, under 8: 2€, under 3s free. Reservation advised. From 14th July until 11th Oct., the 10,000m² *labyrinthe de maïs* (maize maze) will be open. Entry to the gardens: 6€, children 3€. www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Events in support of Cancer Support France Nord

Quiz Nights: on Fri. 1st & 29th, starting at 20h (8pm) at the bar/restaurant '*Le Viking*' in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Teams of 6 – if you are unable to make up a team, no problem - do go and take part. 3€ per person. To book a place please contact nord@cancersupportfrance.org or if you prefer you can just turn up.

Summer Fayre: on Sat. 23rd, 10h to 16h in the Salle des Fêtes in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50) - a variety of stalls: crafts, cakes, cards, gifts and lots more. Also a 'pop-up tearoom' where refreshments are available all day. Contact: nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Expo of vintage vehicles: "Cars & Coffee"

On Sun. 24th, 9h30 to 12h, near the Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) Tourist Office, organised by *l'Assoc. Bagnoles Moteurs Classiques* : another gathering of vintage vehicles - classics & sports models. Tickets: 2€ for non-members.

Les guinguettes au bord de l'eau – (music & dancing beside the lake)

From 1st July until 5th August, every Friday evening, 18h to 23h, you can enjoy dancing beside the lake in Saint Fraimbault (61) to the sound of an accordion. Tickets: 7€, which includes a crêpe and a bowl of cider. Food will also be available on site – *saucisse-frites et fromage* for 8€, no reservation necessary. While there, you can also see the preparations for *les Flories d'Antan* on 15th August - the annual floral fête in Saint-Fraimbault which celebrates bygone traditions.

Fête de la Sainte-Madeleine in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sun. 24th is the annual *Fête de la Sainte-Madeleine*, where there will be a *vide-greniers* (in Allée Aloïs Monnet, near Bagnoles Château), pony rides, entertainment and music, with a pyrotechnic display (fireworks) at nightfall (usually near the lake). For more info, ask at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66)

Exhibition '*Entre Amis*' at *La Galerie Enchantée*

This exhibition is being held at '*La Galerie Enchantée*' in Passais-la-Conception (61) and will be open until Sunday 3rd July. 8 artists present their *oeuvres* – sculptors, a ceramist, furniture restoration & decoration, paintings, garden déco. You can visit the gallery on Fri. 1st, Sat.. 2nd & Sun. 3rd, 10h-12h & 14h-18h. Contact details: Sue Riley: 06 73 00 66 21, and suerileybeauxarts@yahoo.fr.

Charity clothes & book sale

On Sat. 30th, 10h to 15h at '*Le Jardin*' bar/restaurant in Couesmes-Vaucé: a huge clothes and book sale, all proceeds in aid of Mayenne53 Ukraine Assistance. There will be some incredible bargains, beautiful clothes and books galore. Also amazing raffle, cake stall, gifts to buy and refreshments. What more could you want?! Please go and support them.

Velo-rail in the evening from Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sats. 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th, 20h to 21h, this tree-covered 5km route through the Forêt des Andaines (61) is a great way to spend active time with your friends &/or family! Tickets (necessary before 18h on the day) from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office: 8€ (which includes 2 to 5 people per *draisine* (original track inspection rail-car). Departure from Place de la Gare in Bagnoles. www.bagnolesdelorne.com

Cheese of the Month - *Picandou*

This soft goat cheese from Burgundy is a variation of *cabecou* cheese (see last month's Bulletin). It is dipped in plum *eau de vie* and sprinkled in coarse black pepper, double-wrapped in chestnut, walnut or plane leaves and stored in an airtight container. The aromas penetrate the cheese giving an almost crispy, pleasant sensation in the mouth. It gets creamier the more it ripens. Ideal wines to enjoy with it: red - Pinot Noir, Gaillac, Shiraz; white - Jurançon, Vouvray; liqueur - plum *eau de vie*.

Lunch on board a riverboat in Mayenne (53)

On Sun. 10th, 11h30 to 15h30, this river trip includes lunch at the riverside restaurant '*Beau Rivage*' (kir + 5 set courses, children's menu available). Reservation required at the Mayenne Tourist Office. Tel: 02 43 04 19 37.

Fête communale in Vautorte (53)

Sun. 17th, from 12h, there will be a hog-roast at mid-day, tickets available from the bar '*Le Bretagne*' in Vautorte. During the afternoon: a procession of floats, exhibition of horsemanship and driving. At 18h-19h: a concert by the group '*Generation*' in Place de l'Eglise. Firework display at nightfall.

Entertainment & Concerts:

On Sun. 3rd, 17h to 18h15 in Eglise du Sacre-Coeur, Blvd Albert Christople, Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): classical music by *l'Ensemble Improvisation*, organised by the *Association Musiques Originales de la Grande Europe*, with the duo Nathalie Blin (cello) and Eric Blin (composer and accordionist). Works by Beethoven, Massenet, Dvořák, Bach, Schubert, Vivaldi and Rossini. Free.

Organ recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Wed. 13th at 17h–18h15 in the church at 9 Place de l'Eglise, Bagnoles de l'Orne, organised by the Association '*l'Amis de l'Orgue de Sainte-Madeleine de Bagnoles*': a recital by Emmanuel Hocdé, head organist at Laval Cathedral, with Christophe Hocdé (violin) and Camille Hocdé (trumpet). Program: Bach, Handel, Haydn, Schubert, Saint-Saëns. Free, with a collection. No need to reserve your places.

La Chorale Vivace – concert d'été (summer concert)

On Sun. 17th at 16h (4pm) in l'Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (61): the summer concert by Vivace Choir. Entry free, with collection at the end in aid of l'Eglise Saint Julien restoration fund. No need to reserve your seats.

'Les Clés de Bagnoles' and 'Les Vendredis de l'Eté'

In Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) in July & August there are free open-air concerts on Sundays, and street entertainment on Fridays. Reservation is recommended as places are limited. Info & reservations from the Tourist Office: 02 33 37 85 66, www.bagnolesdelorne.com

Les Clés de Bagnoles (music) on Sundays, 17h to 18h in the Square de Contades (near the lake) or Parc du Château: ♪ 17th: '*Vincent Duo*', multi-instrumentalists (folk, jazz, music from around the world); ♪ 24th: '*Il était une feuille*' (musical show with piano and violin).

Les Vendredis de l'Eté (festival of street arts) on Fridays, 21h to 21h45: ☺ 22nd on Square de Contades: '*Les Butors*' (7m high acrobatics); ☺ 29th in Place du Charles de Gaulle; '*La Motivation*' (burlesque / comedy show).

Walk: "*Dans les coulisses de Festid'Al*" in Gorron (53)

On Wed. 6th, 20h15 to 21h45, meet at the parking area by l'Espace Colmont to discover "*Festid'Al*" and learn how, in a few days' time, this event – which sees the population in Gorron increase 3-fold – is organised! Free.

Le Festid'Al in Gorron (53)

On Fri. 8th to Sun. 10th – over 2 days there will be 14 concerts plus other events, with fireworks at 23h on Friday night. 5,000 '*festivaliers*' are expected at this popular annual event. Free activities for all the family at *l'Espace Familiale*. Food & drink available on site. More info: associationlesamisdalfontcent.wordpress.com

Fête de la Madeleine in Mayenne (53)

From 22nd to 24th, 10h30 to 21h, at the Parc d'Expo, rue Volney in Mayenne town, this annual agricultural fair will have around 200 exhibitors and stands in over 4 hectares. There will also be a fun-fair on site.

Fun weekend at Château Jasmine

On 9th and 10th, 15h to 22h, at the Château Jasmine in Passais-la-Conception (61) there will be live music by international touring artists (who have won many awards for their new album) plus local hip-hop teams & some cool jazz. With a bbq – and, of course, Prosecco Time! Entry: 5€. The Château Jasmine is in the centre of Passais, plenty of parking nearby. For more info: chateaujasmine61350@gmail.com

Horse racing in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Thurs. 14th at the Hippodrome, as part of the *Fête Nationale*. Tickets 3€, under 18s free). At 15h; singing by Princess Doudou in Place Méliodon. More info from the Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66).

Music Quiz Night at 'Le Jardin' in Couesmes-Vaucé (53)

On Sat 2nd at 7.30 pm: the Music Quiz (questions through the decades), followed by karaoke. Free entry this month. Bar menu available from 6pm (reservation required). For more info contact Barbara on 02 43 00 93 79 or lejardindefroulay@gmail.com

Blessing of cars and motorbikes in Pontmain (53)

Sun. 10th at 15h, at the foot of the *Basilique*, the village of Pontmain welcomes car and motorbike drivers for a blessing of their vehicles, followed by a Mass at 17h. www.sanctuaire-pontmain.com

Summer markets & entertainment in Gorron (53)

On Fridays 1st and 8th in Place de la Houssaie (near *Groupama*, under the blue 'sail') there will be a market with artisan produce, with free concerts - on 1st July at 20h30: *l'Harmonie de la Lyre Gorronnaise*; on Fri. 8th at 19h: *Le Festid'Al*.

Festival "Au Foin de la Rue"

On Fri. 1st & Sat. 2nd, 18h to 04h (4am) in Saint-Denis de Gastines (53), this is a full weekend of concerts. More info & tickets: www.aufoindelarue.com, (02 43 08 84 48)

Mediæval Banquet in the Château de Fougères (35)

On Fri. 15th at 18h30, is a mediæval banquet at the Château de Fougères, Place Pierre Symon. Discover the daily life in the Middle Ages, including the cooking! Take your own knives, forks & spoons. Tickets: adults 20€, 6s-12s: 15€, under 6s: 5€. Places are limited, so you need to book at the Fougères Tourist Office (www.ot-fougeres.fr) ‘

Activity lake at La Haie-Traversaine (53)

Located between Mayenne and Ambrières-les-Vallées, this lake is open to all. There is a beach, games areas, volley-ball, tennis, hire of pedalos & canoes, also a snack bar with a terrace and view over the lake. Suitable for people with reduced mobility. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)

Dancing and fireworks in Pontmain (53)

On Wed. 13th at 20h in the Salle des Loisirs: dancing accompanied by live music from Jim Even, followed by fireworks at nightfall. Entry: 18€ (children: 7€). Tickets from the Mayenne Tourist office (www.mayenne-tourisme.com)

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, Gorron, 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 Orne (61) department.

Advance Notice for 6th August (as tickets need to be bought as soon as possible):

‘Spotlight on Broadway’

The new production, SPOTLIGHT ON BROADWAY will be in the beautiful setting of the *Théâtre Municipal*, Mayenne (53) - in the grounds of the Château de Mayenne - on Sat. 6th August 2022 at 19h.15. It will feature major songs from the popular Broadway Musicals of the last century. The group is non profit making – all profits from the show will go to the charities of Cancer Support France and When You Wish Upon A Star. So why not dress up and treat yourself to a night at the theatre? Tickets are now available - to buy tickets, simply email the address: normandymusic@yahoo.com and they will organise your tickets for you. The theatre only seats 240, so get your tickets booked SOON. Refreshments will be available during the evening, and there will be an opportunity after the show to meet the cast.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Endurathlon in St Denis-de-Gastines (53)

On Sat. 23rd and Sun 24th from 11h - a non-stop competition, alternating a 9km road race and a 26km bike race. Individuals or teams of 2 to 6. Free. Reservation necessary, more info at www.endurathlon.fr

Gentle walk near Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Thursdays in July (7th, 14th, & 21st), 15h30 to 17h, this short walk, of medium difficulty, is a good chance to discover nature peacefully and enjoy a moment of conviviality. Wear sensible shoes and take a bottle of water. Min. age: 6 yrs. Tickets: 6€, children 4,50€. Reservation necessary before 11h on the day at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office.

Randonnée pedestre (walk)

On Tues. 5th at 9h30, is an 8-10km walk around Landivy. Depart from Place de l'Eglise in Landivy.

Balade nocturne (evening walk)

On Sat. 16th, 19h30 to 22h30: after sunset enter the woods and discover the nocturnal life of the forest. An unusual walk for those who are curious about nature! Wear stout shoes & covering clothes, take a bottle of water and a picnic if you wish, and – if possible – a headlamp. Min. age: 12 yrs. Tickets: 20€, from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office–reservation necessary before 11h on the day.

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And finally: If you are going to try cross-country skiing – start with a small country.

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That's all for this month. If, for some reason, you don't receive the Bulletins, please email me, as I am not always informed if they are undelivered. Also, as I mention from time to time, if I don't hear from a reader for over a year (i.e. after 12 issues) then I am not sure if they are still receiving (or even still want) the Bulletins and I may take the name off my list. So do keep in touch!

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

July 2022

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1 st & 2 nd	Festival ' <i>Au Foin de la Rue</i> '	St Denis de Gastines	5
Sat. 2 nd	Music Quiz Night	Couesmes-Vauce	5
Sun. 3 rd	Classical concert	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Tues. 5 th	8 – 10km walk	Landivy	7
Wed. 6 th	Learn about ' <i>Festid'Al</i> '	Gorron	4
8 th to 10 th	<i>Festid'Al</i>	Gorron	4
9 th & 10 th	Music and fun at Château Jasmine	Passais-la-Conception	5
Sun. 10 th	River cruise with lunch	Mayenne	3
Sun. 10 th	Blessing of cars & motorbikes	Pontmain	5
Wed. 13 th	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	Dancing and fireworks	Pontmain	6
Thurs. 14 th	'Garden Party' at Renaudies	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	Horse racing	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
Fri. 15 th	Mediæval banquet at the Château	Fougères	5
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Sun. 17 th	Vivace Choir summer concert	Domfront	4
“	<i>Fête communale</i>	Vautorte	3
22 nd to 24 th	<i>Fête de la Madeleine</i> / Agricultural Fair	Mayenne	5
Sat. 23 rd	CSFN Summer Fayre	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
23 rd & 24 th	<i>Endurathlon</i>	St Denis de Gastines	7
Sun. 24 th	<i>Fête de la Sainte-Madeleine</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
“	Expo of vintage vehicles	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Fri. 29 th	CSFN Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
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