

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Life is a moderately good play, with a
badly written third act

(Truman Capote, writer)

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g) & *brocantes* in this area, with safety measures in place - but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any cancellations ['53' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sun 4 th	Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53)	v-g du Basket Club, in car park of Salle des Sports, ±25
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
“	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> / <i>braderie</i> , ±400 (see page 5)
Sun. 11 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Bayeux (14)	<i>Marché aux Puces</i> (flea market) in Place Saint-Patrice, ±30
“	Louvigné-du-Désert (35)	v-g & sale of cars, 2 rue du Maine, Place du 8 mai 1945, 7h-18h, ±50
Sun 18 th	Granville (50)	Monthly <i>Marché d'Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ±30
“	Laval (53)	v-g de l'AVAG, in car park of Carrefour Drive, ave. du M'al de Lattre, 8h30 to 18h; ±250
“	Montenay (53)	v-g in <i>Stade de Foot</i> , rue de l'Asnerie, ±150
“	Landivy (53)	v-g in the <i>Fête Communale</i> (see p.6)
Sun. 25 th	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)	v-g around the town, 8h-18h, ±300
“	Gorron (53)	<i>braderie</i> /v-g around the town. ± 60

Special dates

W/e 17th & 18th : *Les Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days): (see page 2)

Eating out : *Chez Véro* in Lesbois (53)

This bar/restaurant, on the crossroads in Lesbois, is now run by a lovely couple, and their week-day *midis* are very good (a choice of 2 *entrées*, 2 *plats*, cheese and several desserts, wine or cider included, for 13,90€) with locally sourced or home-grown produce. The bar is open daily 7h30 to 15h, with also 17h30 to 20h on Tues., Weds., & Fridays (with pizzas on Fri. & Sat. eves). Very popular so for lunches you need to get there as near to mid-day as possible!

Les Journées du Patrimoine (Heritage Days)

W/e 17th & 18th: all over France the *Journées du Patrimoine* present an opportunity to take a look behind the doors of over 14,000 participating local heritage sites that are not usually open to the public. You could find yourself able to visit a private house or château, and many museums will throw open their doors for free or at a reduced price. Since 1991 the scheme has spread across Europe and the event now takes place in over 50 countries. For more info: www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr or ask at a Tourist Office.

‘Open Gardens/*Jardins Ouvert*’ in La Dorée (53)

On the weekend of 10th & 11th, from 10h to 17h, Paul Edwards will be opening their garden at ‘*La Bayette*’ in La Dorée for the charity ‘Open Gardens/*Jardins Ouvert*’. The charity supports a range of charities in France, most are connected to supporting disabled and seriously ill children. More info can be found on their website at opengardens.eu.

There will be a Tea Room, plants for sale and also second-hand books. Entry: 5€, children free. Directions: travelling from La Dorée, take the Landivy road. About 200 metres after the crossroads for Fougerolles-du-Plessis or Saint-Mars-sur-la-Futaie, take the first turning right, signposted for ‘*La Bayette*’ - they are the first property on the left.

Cancer Support France Nord event

On Fri. 2nd, starting at 20h, CSFN are holding their usual Quiz Night at the bar ‘*Le Viking*’ in Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50). Teams of 6, but if you are unable to make up a team, no problems, do go and take part. 3€ per person.

Wed. 28th from 10h: Brunch in the Salle Notre-Dame in Notre-Dame-du-Touchet. Last orders taken at 12h30.

[Also, advanced notice of their Quiz & Curry Night on 15th October in the *Salle des Fêtes*, Notre-Dame-du-Touchet. Doors open at 18h30, start time 19h. Tickets - 18€ per person - must be purchased in advance. Tickets and further info can be obtained by contacting nord@cancersupportfrance.org]

Nice end to Tour?

For the first time, the Tour de France cycle race could finish out of Paris and in Nice in 2024. This is due to a clash with the Paris Olympics, leaving little time between the events. There is also speculation that it will start in Florence – if so, it would be the third consecutive time it has begun abroad after Copenhagen and the Basque Country.

Fête Champêtre in Le Pas (53)

On the 3rd & 4th, this annual fête offers open-air concerts and fireworks on the Sat., and on Sun: pedal-car racing (warm-up at 11h, race at 14h). Food is available (by reservation). A bouncy castle is on site for the children on both days. Free entry.

Next Grande Daze Purple Van Bric-a-brac Sale

By kind permission of the team at ‘*Manges-tu?*’ in Gorron (53), the Grande Daze Animal Rescue Centre will be holding another bric-a-brac sale in the car park on Sats. 10th & 24th between 10h & 15h. All proceeds will go to feeding and providing medical treatment for all of the animals when needed. Please go along and support this worthy cause.

Exhibition ‘*Destins brisées – Itinéraires du Juifs in Mayenne 1939-1945*’

Until 4th – at this exhibition at 23 rue Ambroise du Loré in Mayenne town (53) we remember the 76 Jews who were arrested and deported from Mayenne. They were not from this area but were seeking refuge and were captured during the war, the majority taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Only 2 survived. There are documents, family photos, and rare written witness. Open daily: 14h-18h. www.memorial-des-deportes-mayenne.fr

Discover an automated farm near Bagnoles de l’Orne (53)

On Thurs. 1st & 22nd you can visit his unusual farm specialising in raising dairy cows. It is called “the spa of beautiful Normandy cows’ and is a real curiosity! Here, the cows have complete independence and can choose when to go for milking or brushing, both of which are done while listening to music to relax them! The visit lasts 2 hours, 15h to 17h. Tickets: 8€ (children 4€) from the Tourist Office - reservation required before 11h30 on the day.

Musée du Cidre near Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)

Wed. 7th: discover this cider museum where, after a guided visit (in French) to the orchard, cider-making equipment and the cellars, you can see how they make apple juice, cider and Calvados. There are also tools of the trade from years gone by. Meet at 15h at ‘La Duretierre’, route de Chantrigné, Lassay-les-Châteaux. Tickets: 5€ (children 3€) - res. necessary, before 11h30 on the day, at the Bagnoles Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66)

Something for all the family – Amazing horse show at *La Michaudière*

At *la Ferme du Cheval de Trait* (farm of the draught horse) ‘*La Michaudière*’ in Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61), at 15h15 you can watch 30 powerful horses: Percherons, Cobs (Normand, Breton & Ardennais) and an English Shire, in the fascinating hour-long show ‘*De la Terre à la Scène*’. Open until mid-October, 11h-18h most days. Tickets: Adults 14,5€; children age 5-12: 6€; under 5s free (price includes the show, visit to the miniature farm and scarecrows in their ‘Sunday Best’ and meeting the horses). English spoken. For more info and opening times: www.lamichaudiere.fr,

Marché Art et Terroir in La Ferté-Macé (61)

On Sat. 3rd in Place Leclerc, 9h to 17h, this is also a *Foire aux Vins* (wine fair) and also has an exhibition of vintage vehicles. www.ornetourisme.com

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 4th at 15h at ‘*La Cale*’ on Quai Waiblingen (by the river in Mayenne): ‘*Les Coniques*’ Brass Band - 30 musicians with music that will knock your socks off! Free.

Fri. 9th at 20h in l’Eglise Saint-Patrice in Le Teilleul (50) : a concert in the church in support of the church renovations. Tickets: 10€, under 10s free. A free dessert and a drink are offered. Reservations at *La Poste* or at 06 70 28 53 64.

Lyre Gorronnaise - join the choir in Gorrion (53)

The choir *Lyre Gorronnaise* are looking for more choir members. They sing mostly traditional French songs, but with some English and also Italian. The Autumn term starts Mon. 5th Sept. They meet on Mondays, 6 to 8 pm at the School of Music, rue Jacques Prévert (white/grey building next to ring road). For more info contact André Guerin: am.guerin53@orange.fr

Septembre Musical de l’Orne

Sun. 25th at 17h in the Centre d’Animation, rue du Professeur Louvet in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): Trio Paul Lay. Jazzman Paul Lay is one of the most brilliant pianists of his generation. Prog: popular American songs – Gospel to Nina Simone. Tickets: 26€ (unemployed & students: 23€). More info at www.septembre-musical.com

Organ recital in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

Sun. 18th 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 Marie-Flore Outin, organist from the Abbaye St-Etienne in Caen, and soprano Marie-Aimée Flipo. A varied programme from the baroque period. Free, with a collection. No need to reserve your places. www.bagnolesdelorne.com

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

The French place with the most characters in its name (45 including hyphens) is Saint-Remy-en-Bouzemont-Saint-Genest-et-Isson, a commune in the Marne *département* of Grand Est (51). The shortest place name in France is ‘Y’ in the Somme, Hauts-de-France (80). Its residents are Ypsiloniens (from the Greek for ‘Y’).

Parc Botanique de Haute-Bretagne (35)

This 25 hectare park, at Le Chatellier (35, north of Fougères) is an ideal location for a romantic escapade, a solo walk or an exploration with the family. You will find millions of species of vegetation from 5 continents. [You can telecharge the app. ‘Hortus Botanica’ to discover all the plants of the park]. For the children, there is a prehistoric garden, a suspension bridge, an educational beehive and carnivorous plants! Open March to mid-November – in September: daily, 11h-18h. For ticket info go to www.jardinbretagne.com

Riverboat trip along the river Mayenne

On Sun. 11th, 16h to 17h30, you can enjoy a relaxing glide along the river Mayenne (53) on the riverboat ‘*La Méduana*’, with a commentary (in French) and passing through one lock. Tickets: 8,20€ (students: 7,20€) available from the Mayenne Tourist Office. Boarding will be up to 15 minutes before the sailing. (www.mayenne-tourisme.com)

Fête de la Terre in Fontaine-Daniel (53)

On the weekend of 3rd & 4th, this 19th edition of the *fête* begins at 14h on the Saturday. Beside the lake you will see ‘Land Art’ by Qiang MA; a photo exhibition “Utopia USA”; a local produce market; workshops and pony rides for old & young. On the Sunday, you can walk around the cloisters of the Cistercian Abbey, and there are other events to enjoy. www.fetedelaterre.fr

Cheese of the Month : *Brillat-Savarin*

This triple cream cow’s milk cheese from Normandy, named after the 19th century *gastronome* and *épiqueur* Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin, is lightly covered with a white bloomy rind and is buttery–white inside. Rich and silky on the palate, it can be eaten fresh, when there is a bright lactic tang to the taste, but with a little maturing the texture becomes more dense and earthier in flavour, with hints of mushroom, nuts and truffles. A perfect partnering for a crisp champagne, a rosé, or even Pale Ale!

Obstacle Course Race “*l’Incendiaire*”

On Sat. 10th this annual fun event is back again (after being cancelled for 2 years due to Covid) at the *plan d’eau* (lake) in La Ferté-Macé (61) and is in support of the Orphans of Firemen. Organised by *les pompiers*, the *plan d’eau* is transformed into an 8km race with 40 obstacles. 40 departments join in, from western Brittany to Paris. Great fun to take part in (but you need to be fit!) or just to watch and cheer them on. For more info: www.Lincendiaire.fr

Fête Communale in St Denis–de-Gastines (53)

On the weekend of 10th/11th: on the Sat., from 19h, near the Salle des Fêtes, is the *Soirée Moules Frites*. On the Sun., from 15h: a folklore procession through the village. Entry: 2€.

Visit the famous *Biscuiterie* in Lonlay-l’Abbaye (61)

On Sat. 17th, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*, between 9h & 16h you can join a guided visit (in French, but some English spoken) to learn how the biscuits are made and packaged, and you can buy discounted biscuits in their shop.

Also, while in Lonlay-l’Abbaye on that day, at 11h there will be a guided visit of the Abbey. Meet outside the Abbey.

53rd *braderie / brocante / v-g* in La Ferté-Macé (61)

On Sun. 4th, 7h to 18h, this huge *vide-greniers / brocante* is along the streets through the town. 400 stalls are expected! Free entry.

Fête Communale in Landivy (53)

On the weekend of 17th & 18th: on Sat: a mid-day meal is available under canvas; at 14h30 is the cycle race, followed by a concert by “*l’Harmonie de Landivy*” and fireworks at night. On Sunday there will be the *vide-greniers*, street entertainment and demos of harnessing of horses.

Musée des Tisserands (Museum of the Weavers)

On Sun. 18th, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*, this interesting museum at Place Billard de Veaux in Ambrières.-les-Vallées (53) charts the living and working conditions of weavers in the 18th century, including 3 authentic weavers’ houses. Open between 10h and 18h30 on this day for a free visit.

Mushroom picking – advice and rules

Here in France there are abundant quantities of wild mushrooms at this time of year – if you know where to look. There are the ‘good, the bad and the ugly’ and they range in size from tiny to as big as footballs. But you need to be very careful, not just when you eat them but also when you pick them. There is also a ‘code of conduct’ among mushroom lovers to make sure we respect the area and to try not to damage the delicate mycorrhizal roots system which will lead to new mushroom growth:

- ◇ Never pick a mushroom you do not recognise; do not destroy any you think may be dangerous – they all have their part to play in nature.
- ◇ Follow the country code – close gates, don’t leave a mark, be quiet and respectful.
- ◇ Avoid moving dead wood around as it disturbs wildlife.
- ◇ Use a sharp knife to cut mushrooms at the base rather than rip them out of the ground to limit damage to the mushrooms’ roots and threads.
- ◇ Only collect a few from each troop – leave some for others and nature. Let’s learn from the cod fishing industry experiences!
- ◇ Wear bright clothing as you don’t want to be mistaken for a wild animal in case the local hunters are nearby.

Some weekly markets in the *Manche* (50)

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	Carteret, Coutances, Ger, Le Teilleul, Saint-Pois
Fridays	Brécey, Les Pieux, Pirou, Saint-Lô, Valognes
Saturdays	Avranches, Barneville-Carteret, Cherbourg, Granville, Mortain, Saint-Lô, Notre-Dame du Touchet
Sundays	Barenton, Pirou, Hauteville-sur-Mer, St Jean-le-Thomas

(It is wise to double-check before going, if possible, as these can change without notice).
Next month: the weekly markets in the Calvados (14) *département*.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Races: *Challenge 2022 du Bocage Mayennais*:

Sat. 3rd at 14h15 at Saint-Mars-sur-la-Colmont (53)

Sat. 10th at 17h in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

For more info and registration: 02 43 08 47 47 / 06 28 62 98 22.

Randonnée pedestre (walk)

Tues. 6th, an 8 – 9km walk around the roads of Pontmain (53). Depart Place Haute de la Mairie at 14h.

Randonnée de la Foire d'Automne (walk)

Sun. 11th, this walk departs from the *Terrain de Foot* in St-Berthevin-la-Tannière (53) at 9h15. Free.

Some Tourist Office contact details:

Bagnoles de l'Orne (61):	www.bagnolesdelorne.com	02 33 37 85 66
Fougères (35):	www.ot-fougeres.fr	02 99 94 12 20
La Ferté-Macé (61):	www.lafertemace.fr	02 33 37 10 97
Mayenne (53):	www.mayenne-tourisme.com	02 43 04 19 37

And finally,

The cashier told me: “strip down, facing me”. How was I to know she meant my debit card?

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That's all for this month. Lots of autumn events and chances to explore some heritage sites that are not always open to the public. But, as I always like to remind people, events / times of opening, etc., can change without notice, so it is wise to double-check on a Tourist Office website in advance, if possible, to avoid disappointment. Have fun!

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)
September 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Thurs. 1 st	Discover an automated farm	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Fri. 2 nd	CSFN Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Sat. 3 rd	<i>Marché Art et Terroir</i>	La Ferté-Macé	3
W/e 3 rd & 4 th	<i>Fête Champêtre</i>	Le Pas	3
“	<i>Fête de la Terre</i>	Fontaine-Daniel	5
Sun. 4 th	'Les Coniques' Brass Band	Mayenne	4
Tues. 6 th	A walk around Pontmain	Pontmain	7
Wed. 7 th	Visit the <i>Musée du Cidre</i>	Lassay-les-Châteaux	3
Fri. 9 th	Concert in the church	Le Teilleul	4
Sat. 10 th	<i>l'Incendiaire</i> obstacle race	La Ferté-Macé	5
W/e 10 th / 11 th	Grande Daze bric-a-brac sale	Gorron	3
“	Open Gardens / <i>Jardins Ouvert</i>	La Dorée	2
“	<i>Fête Communale</i>	St Denis-de-Gastines	5
Sun. 11 th	Boat trip on the river Mayenne	Mayenne	5
W/e 17 th /18 th	<i>Fête Communale</i>	Landivy	6
Sat. 17 th	Visit the <i>Biscuiterie</i> & Abbey	Lonlay-l'Abbaye	5
Sun. 18 th	Organ recital and soprano	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	<i>Musée des Tisserands</i> , free visit	Ambrières-les-Vallées	6
Thurs. 22 nd	Discover an automated farm	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Sun. 25 th	Trio Paul Lay	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Wed. 28 th	CSFN Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2