

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

What if my dog brings back the ball because he thinks I like throwing it?

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 [‘50’ = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sun. 2 nd	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 9 th	Sourdeval (50)	v-g at ‘ <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> ’, 455 Le Moulin Foulon, 7h-18h, ±50
Sun. 16 th	Tinchebray (61)	v-g de Saint Luc, 90 Grande rue, 8h-20h, ±300
W/e 22 nd /23 rd	Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)	<i>Salon des Antiquitaires: antiquités – brocante – collections</i> . Entry 3,50€ (see p.2)
Sun. 23 rd	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d’Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ±30

‘Plantes en Fête’ – plant sale & exchange

On for 2 days this year – Sat. 8th & Sun. 9th from 10h-18h at the *Camping de Domfront*, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront (61) – is the 25th edition of this popular annual Plant Fair. Over 40 specialist exhibitors will be there 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. Food trucks and tea-room on site. Free entry and parking. Sorry, no dogs. More info at www.plantesenfete.fr or www.ot-domfront.com

Eating out - 'La Joie'

'La Joie' at 2 rue de Bretagne in La Pellerine (53) is a gem of a restaurant! Kevin Byrne and Leanne Wright offer a *midi* on Tues. to Fridays (*entrée, plat & dessert*) for 14,50€. On Thurs. evenings and weekends there is a more specialised menu. Friendly and efficient service and lovely décor. For reservations (advised, as they are popular): 09 75 40 52 33

Les Jardins des Renaudies : Pumpkin Fair

On Sun. 9th, 10h-18h, at these lovely English-style gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) is the 27th *Fête des Citrouilles* (Pumpkin Fair) where 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, pumpkins and gourds, pumpkin decorating workshop, cooking workshop. There is also a museum of vintage machinery, the maize maze, pony rides, *salon de thé*, music (with David Luka at 11h & 15h), entertainment and games. 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

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 info on things to do in the area you can also visit www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com

Salon des Antiquaires : antiquités – brocante – collections

On Sat 22nd & Sun. 23rd, 10h-19h on both days, at Communs du Château, Allée Aloïs Monnet, Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): French and English furniture, crystal, table deco, vintage linens, jewellery, lighting, paintings, postcards, stamps, etc. Entry: 3,50€ (www.damya.fr)

Cancer Support France Nord event

Quiz Curry Night on Sat. 15th in the Salle des Fêtes in Notre-Dame du Touchet. Drinks are available at the bar – PLEASE DO NOT TAKE YOUR OWN SUPPLY. The doors open at 18h30, start time 19h. Ticket price: 18€ per person. Tickets must be booked and paid for in advance of the evening. There will be an alternative meal for non-curry eaters.

For more info or to book your tickets please contact nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Les Toiles de Mayenne - guided visit

On Thurs. 27th (9h-11h30 & 14h-16h30) and Fri. 28th (9h-11h30), you can have a guided visit (in French) of this famous material manufacturer in Fontaine-Daniel (near Mayenne, 53) and learn about the making of the material for clothing and furniture. Tickets: 12€, from the Mayenne Tourist Office (www.mayenne-tourisme.com).

Fête de l'Automne (Autumn Fair)

This is on Sun. 9th, 9h-18h, in Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53) at the Salle des Fêtes and you will find a local produce market, sale of plants including pumpkins, gourds & marrows, with an exhibition of artisanal works. Free entry.

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

Had you imagined there would be a guild of master ice cream makers in France? Well, there is, as part of *Les Maitres Patissiers de France*, and you can find them in most towns and villages of any size, displaying their badge on the window. Each has his or her specialities.

'Retrobélia' expanding to *Domfront Brocante*

On Sun. 9th, 14h–18h, is the launch day – with 20% discount – of Ann Taylor's 'Retrobélia' (60s & 70s) in *Domfront Brocante*, rue du Mont Saint Michel, Domfront (61). Open every day 14h to 18h. (www.retrobelia.fr).

Something for all the family – *les Grottes de Saulges*

Discover the magic and splendour of an underground world over 100,000 years old in some of the 22 caves at 50 Chemin de la Roche Brault, Thorigné-en-Charnie (53, SE of Laval). Artefacts found in the Margot and Rochefort caves show that man has been there for more than 35,000 years. There are stalagmites and stalagmites, a troglodyte cave, prehistoric wall paintings & engravings. Above ground is the *Musée de Préhistoire* which describes the life of that time, with virtual reality helmets and activities for all the family. Open daily, Feb. to 14th November. For opening hours and ticket info: www.grottes-musee-de-saulges.com. You can also take a walk in the valley above ground.

Cheese of the Month – *Sainte-Maure de Touraine*

This goat's cheese is made with whole raw goat's milk in the *Centre Val de Loire* and has a piece of rye straw (also grown locally) running through it in order to maintain its shape. It has a sweet, fresh hazelnut taste with hints of dried fruit, plus a natural rind with a light dusting of ash. The cheese is said to have been a particular favourite of the writer Balzac.

Weekly markets in the *Calvados (14) département*

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Pont l'Eveque
Tuesdays	Caen, Ouistreham, Thury-Harcourt
Wednesdays	Bayeux, Villers-Bocage
Thursdays	Condé-sur-Noireau, Le Beny-Bocage
Fridays	Deauville, Ouistreham, Vire
Saturdays	Bayeux, Ouistreham, Luc-sur-Mer
Sundays	Caen, Trouville-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)

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 9th, 17h–18h15 in l’Eglise Sainte-Madeleine, 9 place de l’Eglise, Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): a concert of organ and voice, with Renaissance pieces, Bach and contemporary works. Free, with a collection. More info at the Tourist Office (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

Sat. 22nd, 21h–22h30 at the *Centre d’Animation et du Congrès*, 8 rue du Professeur Louvel, Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): concert by ‘Who is Who’. Twins Daisy and Emilie Cadeau give a fresh and original performance of music (folk/pop) and tap dancing. Tickets: 12€ (under 12s and unemployed: 10€) available at the Tourist Office.

Sun. 23rd, 15h–16h in l’Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Boulevard Albert Christophle in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): Concert: *Creations Vocales Jazz – chansons francaises et oeuvres spirituelles*, with singer Alexandra Dufeu. (www.alexandradufeu.com). Free, with a collection.

Voix d’Eté concert

The chamber choir, *Voix d’Eté*, is giving a concert in the church of St Julien in Domfront (61) on Sat. 15th at 4pm. Entrance is free, and there will be a collection as the concert is in aid of the restoration of this magnificent church. The choir will be singing a varied programme of sacred and secular music ranging from the 16th to 21st centuries. One piece in the programme has particular significance at this time - the short anthem ‘O Taste and See’ by Vaughan Williams was written for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and will be a fitting tribute in her memory.

Hallowe’en ‘Fright Night’ at *Le Jardin*

On Sat. 29th, 19h till late, is the Hallowe’en ‘Fright Night’ in *Le Jardin* bar & restaurant, 41, rue du 6 Août 1944, Couesmes-Vaucé (53). Disco from 8pm with Musicnights on Vinyl, Ann and Les. Food from 7 pm till 8.30 p.m. Families welcome. For more info, contact Ann Taylor on 07 86 81 80 95, or (00 44) 7808 726822 (Soulnites.fr)

Coup d’Choeur in Ernée (53)

This brilliant show, with 150 singers and great harmony & humour, is on Fri. 14th at 20h45 in *l’Espace Clair de Lune* in Ernée. A wonderful evening, not to be missed! Tickets: 18€, available at the *Point Info Tourisme d’Ernée*, 42 Place R. Morlière (02 43 05 09 27) or on internet ‘Helloasso’. www.coupdchoeur.org or on facebook: Coup d’Choeur Laval

Journée propre - volunteer for a clean-up!

On Sat. 15th, 8h30 to 12h & 13h30 to 17h, the town of Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) organises an operation of collection of rubbish in the territory, called ‘*Journée propre*’. This is to bring to people’s attention the cleanliness of the area and the system of sorting the rubbish. Everyone is invited to take part (you will need to wear clothing that covers the arms and legs & strong shoes). All participants will be given details and collection materials. There are 2 sectors: 8h30-12h: *quartier lac* and St Michel des Andaines (meet at 8h30 in front of the *piscine*); 13h30-17h: *quartier Château* (meet at 13h30 in Salle Sequoia, Allée Aloïs Monnet. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Badminton tournament in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sat. 15th & Sun. 16th, 9h to 19h at the *Complexe Sportif*, Allée Aloïs Monnet, there will be matches for singles, doubles and mixed. All proceeds from the drinks stand will go to *la Ligue Contre le Cancer du Sein* (the League Against Breast Cancer). More info from *la Ligue de Normandie de Badminton* or *Bagnoles Badminton Club*. Free.

Walks around Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Thursdays 6th, 13th & 20th, 16h30 to 17h, will be a gentle guided walk to discover nature in the surrounding area of Bagnoles de l'Orne. Wear walking shoes and take a bottle of water. Reservation necessary at the Tourist Office before 11h on the day, as there will be a minimum of 6 people, maximum of 16. Tickets: 6,40€, children (min. age 6 yrs) 4,50€. More info from the Tourist Office, Place du Marché (02 33 37 85 66)

English film in Gorrion cinema

On Monday 3rd at 20h in the Gorrion Cinema (beside the church) will be the film "Three Thousand Years of Longing" directed by George Miller, with Idris Elba & Tilda Swinton (go to 'Allo-ciné' or others for resumé). A film that should give us all a 'lift'! Tickets (5,50€) are on sale at the cinema on the night from 19h30. Pre-film food and refreshments can be purchased at the bottom of the hill (at the *Bar de la Mairie* or at Bubba's Pizza).

Advance notice :

Fougerolles du Plessis Christmas Market: This year's Xmas market will be on Sun. 4th December in the Salle des Fêtes between 10h and 17h. If you would like to reserve a space as a stall holder please email your application to one of the following addresses. joseph.morgan@sfr.fr or k8collins@aol.com. One space (2.4m) is 12€.

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And finally,

Who hates speeding tickets? Raise your right foot.

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That's all for this month. A shorter version, traditionally, at this time of year, but hopefully there is something in here for everyone to enjoy.

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

October 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Mon. 3 rd	English film	Gorron	5
W/e 8 th & 9 th	<i>Plantes en fête</i>	Domfront	1
Sun. 9 th	Concert of organ and voice	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	<i>Fête des Citrouilles</i> (Pumpkin Fair)	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	<i>Fête de l'Automne</i> (Autumn Fair)	Martigné-sur-Mayenne	2
“	Retrobelia expansion launch day	Domfront	3
Fri. 14 th	Concert: <i>Coup d'Choeur</i>	Ernée	4
Sat. 15 th	Concert by <i>Voix d'Eté</i>	Domfront	4
“	CSFN Quiz Curry Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
“	<i>Journée propre</i> (clean-up)	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
W/e 15 th / 16 th	Badminton tournament	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
Sat. 22 nd	Concert: 'WhO is WhO'	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
W/e 22 nd & 23 rd	<i>Salon des Antiquitaires</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Sun. 23 rd	Concert: 'Creations Vocales Jazz'	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Thurs. 27 th	Visit the <i>Toiles de Mayenne</i>	Fontaine-Daniel	2
Sat. 29 th	Hallowe'en 'Fright Night'	Couesmes-Vaucé	4
Multiple dates:			
Thurs. 6 th , 13 th , 20 th	Gentle guided nature walks	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
<u>Advance Notice:</u>			
Sun. 4 th December	Christmas Market	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	5