

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 like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow

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

Sat. 1 st	Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> at 57 Lotissement du Plessis
Sun. 2 nd	Neuilly-le-Vendin (53)	v-g in the Stade, 8h-17h30, ±50
“	Dinard (35)	<i>brocante</i> in Place du Marché, 9h-18h, ±30
“	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in <i>Terrain de Belle Lande</i> , rue du Docteur Gringoire, 8h-18h, ±70
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
Mon. 3 rd	Sourdeval (50)	v-g & expo vintage cars, at <i>A La Belle Epoque</i> , Le Moulin Foulon, ±50
Sun. 9 th	Placé (53)	v-g in <i>Terrain des Sports</i> , 4 rue de la Perrière, 8h-18h, ±70
Fri. 14 th	Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)	v-g around the town, 8h-18h, ±150
“	Tinchebray (61)	v-g in the Champ de Foire, 8h-18h, 2€, ±70
Sun. 16 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g at <i>Etang de Carfantin</i> , 7h-18h, ±70
Sun. 23 rd	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d'Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ±30
“	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g Sainte-Madeleine in the Château grounds, 8h-18h, ±250

Special date:

Friday 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 Relais de l'Abbaye*

This is a welcoming restaurant at 16 place Jules Levée in the heart of Lonlay l'Abbaye (61). Behind the bar area there is a large dining room that can seat up to 35 people, and an outside terrace. They have an interesting, traditional French 3-course menu with several choices. The décor is relaxing and the waitresses are very cheerful and helpful. There is handicapped access to both the restaurant and the toilets. Open Mon. to Fri. 11h30 to 16h. For more info or to reserve a table: 02 33 37 89 65.

Big Charity British Book Sale

Sat. 22nd, 10am to 4pm at *Le Jardin* in Couesmes-Vaucé (53). All money raised to go to people suffering with Motor Neurone Disease. All books 1€, also loads of lush home made cakes to buy, & refreshments - Babs will have the bar open for tea/coffee/drinks, etc. There will also be a raffle, and a stall selling paintings. If you can donate some books for the sale – only fiction & biographies – could you either drop them off at *Le Jardin* in Couesmes-Vaucé, or e-mail janedalecaddick@gmail.com and Jane can arrange collection. Entry fee: 1€. Please go and support them.

Fête de la Sainte-Madeleine

On Sun. 23rd this all-day traditional fête on Allée Aloïs Monnet in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) has a *vide-greniers* (in Tessé), horse-racing, music and festivities, and ends with a firework display.

Vélo-rail en soirée (Evening trip on the *Vélo-rail*)

On Saturdays 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd, 20h to 21h, departing from the Hippodrome in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), this is an evening out with a difference! On the *Vélo-rail* (which is a *draisine* – moving platform - carrying 2 people peddling and seating for 3) you can pass a convivial hour where the trees form an alley through the Forêt des Andaines. Reservation is necessary at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office before 18h on the day. Tickets: 8€ per person, under 4s free (www.bagnolesdelorne.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 Fri. 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. 19th & 26th, 14h-17h30, will be horse & buggy rides every half-hour along the small roads nearby: (3€, under 8: 2€, under 3s free). Reservation advised. From 14th July until 8th Oct., the 10,000m² *labyrinthe de maïs* (maize maze) will be open. Entry to the gardens is 6€, children age 6 to 16: 3€, under 3s free. For more info and reservations go to www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

L'Instant'Ernée - 1ère guinguette estivale

On Fridays 7th, 14th & 21st at 19h to 23h30 in Place de l'Eglise in Ernée (53) this is a summer evening of fun with entertainment for children, wooden games, food-truck and drinks available. Free entry. More info on facebook.

Friday night market in Gorron (53)

From 18h to 21h in Place de la Houssaie (under the blue sail) will be around 20 stalls with artisans, artists and enterprises selling local produce, with musical entertainment. More info: www.gorron.org

Cruise on the river Mayenne with commentary

On several dates during the month (ask at the Mayenne Tourist Office) from 14h30 to 16h40, departing from Quai de Waiblingen in Mayenne town, you can board '*La Meduana*' for a 2-hour boat trip with commentary (in French, some English spoken), including passing through a lock. Tickets - 9€ (students & disabled: 8€), ages 3-11: 6,50€, under 3s free - are available from the Tourist Office (near the departure point).

'Endurathlon' in Saint-Denis de Gastines (53)

On 22nd and 23rd, 5th edition, organised by the *Vélo-Club* – there are 24 hours of races on foot and cycles. For more info: www.endurathlon.fr.

They say, we say – and why

"Myope comme une taupe" (lit. "blind as a mole") - English equivalent: "blind as a bat". French is close to the truth here – a mole isn't blind but it has a poor sense of vision: it relies on its sense of smell and touch.

Corso Chorégraphique Musical Dansant (Carelles Carnival)

On Sun. 9th this popular annual Carnival has a parade of brightly decorated vehicles and a dozen groups of musicians and dancers – in the presence of Miss France 2023. Entry: 8€. Parking organised nearby – look for signs. [Advice – take something to sit on while watching the procession as there is no seating along the route].

Guided visit of *Le Jardin Retiré* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Thursdays 6th & 27th, 10h to 11h30 & 15h to 16h30, a guided tour (in French) will show you this 2,500m² private garden at 14 Avenue Robert Cousin (near the Casino), Bagnoles de l'Orne, which is full of inspiration, colour and harmony, with many decorative features. Reservations required before 18h on the day before, at the Tourist Office (min. 5 people, max. 9 people). More info from the Tourist Office.

Mistletoe and thistle

A seasonal reminder that the removal and destruction of mistletoe (*le gui*) from all poplars and fruit trees is compulsory. Also, all landowners, especially those absent for part of the year, must remove - and/or arrange to destroy - any thistle (*le chardon*) on their land before it flowers, including any in the areas along the borders.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun. 2nd, 17h to 18h15 at l'Eglise du Sacré-Coeur, Blvd Albert Christophle, Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) a classical concert by '*Les Musiques Originales de la Grande Europe*'. Cello and accordion, playing works by Beethoven, Massenet, Dvořák, Schubert, Vivaldi, Rossini. More info: www.bagnolesdelorne.com. Free, with retiring collection.

Wed. 12th at 17h to 18h15 in l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine, 9 Place de l'Eglise in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): a concert organised by *les Amis de l'orgue de Sainte-Madeleine*, with violin, cello, trumpet and organ, with works by Bach, Handel, Schubert, Saint-Saëns, Fauré. Free, with retiring collection.

Voix d'Eté summer concerts: 'Chorale Music Through The Ages'

Voix d'Eté is a small chamber choir based in Dompierre (61) consisting of French and English singers. As the title implies, the concerts cover music from as early as the 13th century to the present time. The concerts include music from Janequin, Victoria, Byrd, Dowland, Bach, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninov, Vaughan Williams, Duruflé, Gjeilo and others. The choir is holding two concerts during the first weekend of July.

The first concert is at 20h30 on Sat. 1st at l'Eglise St Gerbold, Bernières-le-Patry (14, north of Tinchebray). The second concert is at 16h on Sun. 2nd at l'Eglise St Martin in Avrilly (61)

Admission free to both concerts is free with a voluntary retiring collection.

'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, ♪ 9th: '*A l'Ouest, je te plumerai*', a fun show of music & song with a Western flavour! (in Jardins du Lac); ♪ 16th: '*Trad progressif de Caen*': music from Europe & the East - 4 singers with cello, guitar, accordion, flute & drums (in Jardins du Lac); ♪ 23rd: 'Latin fanfare' with Enrico Gracias & his band: '*Los Frissa Papa*' – a quartet moving through the town: jazz, calypso, hot rock, starting from the Parc du Château. ♪ 30th: Irish music and song with 'Poppy Seeds' – this band, well-known for over 10 years, with songs from Ireland & Brittany. Guitar, violin, clarinette (in Jardins du Lac).

Les Vendredis de l'Eté (festival of street arts in Bagnoles de l'Orne) on Fridays: ☺ Friday 14th at 15h to 16h30: fun musical show: '*l'Agence Turlututu*' – with yukelele, guitar, trumpet, tambourine. in Square Jeanne Leveille. ☺ Friday 28th, 21h to 21h45 in Parc du Château: Male Majorettes 'Queen-A-Man' with a tribute to Freddie Mercury, led by their Breton captain, who created this show in Freddie's honour.

Concert by '*Vivace Chorale*'

The next concert by '*Vivace Chorale*' will be on Sat. 22nd at 20h in l'Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (62). Entry is free, and there may be a retiring collection.

‘Garden Party’ in Gorron (53)

Sun. 9th, 10h30 to 18h, at the *Parc de Loisirs*, Avenue de la Colmont, Gorron (just off the by-pass): a day of music and fun organised by the Committee of the Gorron-Hayling Island Twinning Association. Games for all ages (prizes to be won!), children’s face painting, Entry: 5€ (family ticket: 10€)

David Luka – musical entertainment

On Mon. 20th, 19h30 to 22h at the campsite at Camping Le Parc de Vaux, 35 rue des Colverts, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53): popular musician David Luka will be entertaining us. Free, open to all visitors. There will be other events here also on other Monday evenings. Food available on site.

Something for all the family – *Petits Loups de la Mayenne*

This large adventure park, at rue de Bruxelles, Zone des Bozzés, Laval (53, near Leclerc, on the route de Tours) is under cover and air-conditioned. It is for children aged 6 months to 12 years, with their families. There are many climbing frames, slides and activities. For hygiene, socks must be worn on the structures. Tickets 9,50€ with free entry for accompanying adults. Snacks and drinks are available on site. Opening hours in school holidays – daily 10h to 19h (except on Mondays: 14h to 19h).

Cheese of the Month : *Pont l’Evêque (AOC)*

This is one of the world’s ancient cheeses and probably the oldest Norman cheese still in production. It dates back to the 13th century when it was called *Angelot* but it later took the name of the village near the coast in Normandy where it was mainly produced. *Pont l’Evêque* is a small square-shaped cheese of a pale yellow colour with a white/orange rind and is still made on small farms using rich, salty and almost pasteurised cow’s milk. It takes 3 litres of milk to make one 350-400g cheese. Best when eaten at room temperature, it goes well with Pinot Noir, Pomerol or Saint-Emilion wine, and also with cider.

Festid’Al in Gorron (53)

On 14th & 15th from 19h to 04h (4am!) at l’Espace Culturel Colmont, Z.A. les Besnardières in Gorron – at this popular annual event you can enjoy 14 concerts. Food will be available on site. Tickets: 14€ (under 12s free).

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

The oldest recorded sparkling wine is *Blanquette de Limoux*, which was invented by Benedictine Monks in the Abbey of Saint-Hilaire, near Carcassonne, in 1531. Over a century later, the English scientist and physician Christopher Merret documented the addition of sugar to a finished wine to create a second fermentation, six years before Dom Pérignon set foot in the Abbey of Hautvillers and almost 40 years before it was claimed that the famed Benedictine monk invented Champagne.

The ‘wire cage’ that stops champagne corks unexpectedly popping out before you want to enjoy the contents was invented in 1844 by Adolphe Jacquesson. - but what are they called?

(Go to following page for the answer)

English film in Gorron (53) cinema

The next English (VO) film in Gorron cinema will be:

Monday 3rd: The Improbable Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, directed by Hettie Macdonald, starring Jim Broadbent, Penelope Wilton, Linda Bassett.

– “A seemingly unremarkable man in his 60s named Harold Fry one day learns his old friend Queenie is dying. He goes to post a letter – only to keep on walking for 450 miles until he reaches Queenie’s hospice, much to the despair of his wife, Maureen.

The film starts at 8pm and tickets (5,50€) are available at the cinema (beside the church) from 7.30pm on the night. As always, the '*Bar de la Mairie*' at the bottom of the hill serves pre-film refreshments, including a platter of cheese and/or meat with a glass of wine/beer, for 8€. [It might be advisable to check on www.gorron-cinemas.fr before setting off in case of any last-minute changes].

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Answer to the question on page 5:

- the wire cage that stops champagne corks from popping out is called *un muselet* – from the French *museler*, to muzzle

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And finally,:

Q.:What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common?

A: They are both Paris sites.

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That’s all for this month. Have a great July!

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

July 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sat. 1 st	<i>Voix d'Eté</i> Summer concert	Bernières-le-Patry	4
Sun. 2 nd	<i>Voix d'Eté</i> summer concert	Avrilly	4
“	Classical concert	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Mon 3 rd	English film	Gorron	6
Thurs. 6 th	Guided visit to <i>le Jardin Retiré</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Sun. 9 th	'Garden Party'	Gorron	5
“	Carelles Carnival	Carelles	3
Wed. 12 th	Concert in the church	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Fri. 14 th	FETE NATIONALE	All over France	1
“	Garden Party at Les Renaudies	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
14 th & 15 th	<i>Festid'Al</i>	Gorron	5
Mon. 20 th	Music from David Luka	Ambrières-les-Vallées	5
Sat. 22 nd	Big Charity Book Sale	Couesmes-Vaucé	2
“	<i>Vivace Chorale</i> concert	Domfront	4
22 nd & 23 rd	'Endurathlon'	Saint Denis de Gastines	3
Sun. 23 rd	<i>Fête de la Sainte-Madeleine</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Thurs. 27 th	Guided visit to <i>le Jardin Retiré</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Weekly events:			
Fridays	Summer Entertainment	Ernée	3
“	Friday Night Markets	Gorron	3
“	<i>Les Vendredis de l'Ete</i> (street arts)	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Saturdays	Evening trip on the <i>Vélo-rail</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Sundays	Les Clés de Bagnoles (music)	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4