

# Bulletin !

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

## Thought for the month:

You're not losing your memory . . . you're just really good at letting go of the past!

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

Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	La Ferté-Macé (61)	<i>braderie/brocante</i> /v-g in <i>centre-ville</i> , ±300
“	Le Pas (53)	Clothing sale in tennis terrain, 11h-16h
“	Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53)	v-g in <i>Complexe Sportif</i> car park, ±70
“	Vitré (53)	v-g de Vitré, <i>centre-ville</i> , 8h-17h, ±300
“	Loré (61)	v-g in the morning.
Sat. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)	in <i>Fête Communale</i> (see page 4)
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mont-Dol (35)	v-g Le Tertre, ±70
“	Montflours (53)	v-g, Place de la Sergenterie, 9h-18h
“	Rennes (35)	Retro bric a brac/vintage, Halle Martenot, ±70
“	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d'Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ±30
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Barenton (50)	v-g in the <i>Salle des Fêtes</i> car park, ±70
“	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g in Collège Jacques Brel, 8h-17h, ±70
“	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)	v-g in <i>Fête Communale</i> , ±500 (the Big One!)
“	Jublains (53)	v-g in the <i>stade municipal</i> , ±150
“	Louverné (53)	v-g in <i>Ecole Ste-Marie</i> yard, ±70

## *Vide-maisons* (house clearances)

W/e 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup>	St-Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50)	at 173 rue Lucien Lelievre
W/e 16 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup>	Ernée (53)	at 7 rue du Pont de Carelles, 10h-19h

## Special dates:

W/e 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> : *Les Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days): (see page 2)

### Eating out – *Le Bruyère*

'*Le Bruyère*', 1 rue de la Vée in Saint-Michel-des-Andaines (61, at the crossroads for Domfront / La Ferté-Macé and La Sauvagère / Bagnoles de l'Orne) is to re-open after being closed for six years. The 200m<sup>2</sup> of space holds a bar and restaurant seating 20 people with a traditional menu at midday (with evenings on reservation), a corner with an *épicerie* and *depôt de pain*, and a 40-space car park across the road. There is also a 100m<sup>2</sup> room for hire for special occasions, and six B&B rooms above. Open daily, 6h to 21h, meals at mid-day 12h-14h30.

### *Les Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days)

On the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>: 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](http://www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr) or ask at a Tourist Office.

### *Bagnoles en 360°*

On Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> (10h to 10h45) and Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> (10h30 to 11h15) at 1 rue des Casinos (*La Potinière du Lac*) this is a 45 minute presentation of a 360° view of Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), followed by an optional walk around the town. Reservation required before 11h30 on the day at the Tourist Office (for contact details, see page 5). Free.

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

50 years ago on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1973, Martin Cooper, engineer with Motorola, switched on a mobile phone for the first time. It weighed 1 kilo and the battery allowed 25 minutes of telephone use. It would not be on commercial sale for another 10 years, and then at the price of \$4,000. One of the first users of the Dynatac 8000 was President Ronald Reagan.

### *Pétanque* competitions in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Mons. 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> at 13h30 in Blvd Lemvel (behind the tennis courts): 4 teams of doubles, seniors & mixed, organised by *La Pétanque Bagnolaise*. Open to all. Entry 5€

### 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 most days until mid-October, 11h-18h. Tickets: Adults 16€; children age 5-12: 6€; under 5s free (price includes the show, visit to the miniature farm and meeting the horses, with a leaving drink offered at the end). English spoken. For more info and opening times: [www.lamichaudiere.fr](http://www.lamichaudiere.fr)

### *Le Jardin de la Pellerine*

This pretty garden (named '*un jardin remarquable*' since 2004) is at La Pellerine (53) and is a series of small gardens covering 2.5 hectares, set around a lake. There are several themed gardens, including a *jardin à l'anglaise* and *jardin contemporain*. Open until 30<sup>th</sup> October on Thurs. & Fri. 10h-18h30, Sats. & Suns. 14h-18h30. Tickets: 7€, under 15s free. More info: [www.lejardindelapellerine.com](http://www.lejardindelapellerine.com)

The village of La Pellerine is also the point of departure for 2 walking circuits: one around la Larderie (8.9km, 2h 15min) and one between Maine and Brittany (12km, 3h). It is also on the GR37, which links Mont-Saint-Michel (*Manche*) and Camaret-sur-Mer (*Finistère*). The GR37 (*grande randonnée 37*) also passes by the statue of Notre-Dame de Bel Amour, built beside the RN12 in 1956

### Obstacle Course "*l'Incendiaire*"

On Sat. 16<sup>th</sup> this fun event takes place 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 a vast obstacle course (last year 4,000 people took part in either a 8km course with 30 obstacles, or a 12km course with 60 obstacles) with this year the new giant inflatable 'Iceberg' and also an 11m high water slide! 40 departments join in, from western Brittany to Paris. Great fun to take part in – or just to watch and cheer them on. For more info on facebook (*L'Incendiaire*) and [lincendiaire@gmail.com](mailto:lincendiaire@gmail.com)

### Replanting of hedges in the area

As over 23,500 km of hedges have been destroyed each year around the country, *le Parc Normandie-Maine* is organising the re-planting of 2,200 linear metres of hedges in Magny-le-Désert (61). comprising *sureaux* (elder), *fusains* (spindle), *saules* (willow), *noisetiers* (hazel), *merisiers* (cherry), *érables* (maple), *peupliers trembles* (poplar) & *hêtres communs* (beech), spaced at 1,50m apart - with the aim to define the boundaries, give shade to the animals, contribute to the diversity and prevent soil erosion. More programmes are being planned for next year.

### Cheese of the Month – *Le Carrouges*

Most of the cheeses in Normandie, the land of the Camembert, are soft, but one cheese – made by the Mercier family in Saint-Sauveur-de-Carrouges (61) since the 1987 – is a hard cheese. Still made by the family, the cheese is a round of 20kg or 24kg and they make 1,200 each year. The cheese is stored in cellars for between 3 months and 3 years – the longer the time, the stronger the cheese. During this time, the cheeses are turned twice a week and washed with salted water. Ideal for apéritifs (cut in squares with figs & grapes), it can also be used for *soufflés* and *gratins*. The cheese is sold by GAEC Mercier in markets in Alençon, Carrouges, Bagnoles de l'Orne, La Ferté-Macé and also in the *Calvados département*.

## Entertainment & Concerts

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> at 20h30 on Quai Waiblingen, Mayenne (beside the river near the Tourist Office): free concert as part of '*Les Soirées de la Cale*' with *Orchestre Generation*.

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> beside the sea in Cancale (35) - *Pibroch 'h* : music of the Scottish Highlands played by the Breton pipers. 9h15 to 12h30 at la Pointe des Crolles, & from 13h30 at the Port Picain. More info from Fougères Tourist Office.

### *Septembre Musical de l'Orne*

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup> at 17h in the Centre d'Animation, 4 rue du Professeur Louvel in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61); Fiona Monbet with violin and her jazz quintet. Tickets: 24€. More info & tickets from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office.

### *La Festival du Chainon Manquant*

On Sat. 9<sup>th</sup>, 14h50-16h in Place Billard de Veaux, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53): street entertainment and dance, with a 70-strong group of dancers. As part of the *fête communale*, with cycle races, funfair, *vide-greniers*, bungee-jumping, waterball on the river and fireworks at nightfall. Entry: 5€.

### Organ recital

Sun. 17<sup>th</sup> in *l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine*, 9 Place de l'Eglise in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61):– organ recital by Liesbeth Schlumberger (head organist at l'Eglise de l'Etoile in Paris) with a selection from Bach, Jean-Adam Guilain, Gilbert Amy. Free, with a collection.

### Village fête in Loré (61)

After a 3-year moratorium due to Covid, etc., Loré (between Céaucé and Sept Forges) is once more holding its "annual" Fête. On Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> there is a dance from 21h30 in the village hall. Music will be provided by Régie 2000 playing 80's music. There will be a drinks tent on hand. Admission is 7€. On Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a *vide-greniers* in the morning from 07h, food and drink from 12h, followed by: *pétanque*, cycle races, musical theatre, and a concert. A bouncy castle will be available for the children.

### We say, they say . . . .

'*Faire la grasse matinée*' – 'Doing a fat morning' – is the French way of saying you are having a lie-in.

### 'Cars & Coffee'

Sun. 24<sup>th</sup>, 9h30 – 12h30, in Place du Marché Couvert in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), this is a gathering of vintage, sports and classic cars, organised by *l'Association Bagnolais Moteurs Classiques*'. Free.

### *Fête Champêtre* in Le Pas (53)

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> from 19h30 – an *apéro* concert (with 'Cover Live'), then fireworks at nightfall. On Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup> a mid-day meal is possible (on reservation), car and bike races and clothing sale (adults & children).

## Parc Botanique de Haute Bretagne

Well worth a visit - this 25 hectare landscaped park at 4 La Folletière, Le Chatelier (35, on the D155, NW of Fougères) with its artificial lake, was planted in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, at the time the castle was built (1836-1854) with species typical of the time. It now holds 24 thematic gardens (including Japanese inspired gardens) and is where thousands of plant and botanical species meet mythologies, religions and history in a sensory and spiritual quest in constant renewal. The great diversity of plants in the park creates a balance that protects itself from pests. There is a snack bar and nursery shop selling exceptional blooms. Open daily: 10h30 to 18h30. You can discover the secrets of their gardens by downloading the free application 'Hortus Botanica' on Apple store or Google Play. [www.jardinbretagne.com](http://www.jardinbretagne.com)

## EuroMayenne 'Open Day'

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10h to 17h at the '*Maison des Associations*', 130 rue de la Visitation in Mayenne (53100) – an 'Open Day' organised by the EuroMayenne Association. Free entry and open to all. Pop in at any time to get full details of all their activities and their NEW 2023-2024 Outings and Activities Programme! Tea/coffee & biscuits provided by the Association. More information: 06 73 71 96 52; [contact@euromayenne.org](mailto:contact@euromayenne.org)

## Demolition of a church in La Baconnière (53).

As mentioned in a previous Bulletin, l'Eglise Saint-Corneille et Saint-Cyprien had become so badly damaged over the years that it would be too costly to repair (around €450,000). So a decision was made to demolish it - but part of the walls will remain, including the belvedere and the base of the clock-tower, the ground around it grassed, subdued lighting of the remaining walls and ground, as an attractive addition to the town. Of the 6 stained glass windows, 3 were sold to a company specialising in renovating such windows with a view to replacing them in another building. The remaining 3 (with a value of €27,761) will be kept by the commune for possible future use.

## Visit the church and mill in Chailland (53)

On Sun. 17<sup>th</sup>, 14h to 18h, you can discover *l'Eglise* and *le Moulin* – free, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*. A guided visit (in French) is available on demand.

## Some Tourist Office contact info

Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<a href="http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com">www.bagnolesdelorne.com</a>	02 33 37 85 66
Domfront (61)	<a href="http://www.ot-domfront.com">www.ot-domfront.com</a>	02 33 38 53 97
La Ferté-Macé (61)	<a href="http://www.lafertemace.fr">www.lafertemace.fr</a>	02 33 37 10 97
Granville (50)	<a href="http://www.ville-granville.fr">www.ville-granville.fr</a>	02 33 91 30 03
Mayenne (53)	<a href="http://www.mayenne-tourisme.com">www.mayenne-tourisme.com</a>	02 43 04 19 37
Rennes (35)	<a href="http://www.brittanytourism.com">www.brittanytourism.com</a>	08 91 67 35 35
Vire (50)	<a href="http://www.normandie-tourisme.fr">www.normandie-tourisme.fr</a>	02 31 66 28 50

## Sport & Leisure Activities

### *Fête de l'Association Sportive Gorronnaise*

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup>, 9h30 to 21h30 at the *Parc de Loisirs* in Gorron – a day of introduction to the available sporting facilities. Also an optional 10km walk around this pretty area (5€).

### *Fête du Cheval* in Saint-Georges-Buttavent (53)

Sun. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10h30 to 17h30 at La Galesnerie, a chance to discover the equestrian centre “*l'Ecurie de Fiona*”, with demonstrations of dressage, and pony rides (also for beginners), pony games and a carousel.

### Boat trip on the river Mayenne (53)

Sun. 10<sup>th</sup>, 16h - 17h30, a 1.5 hr boat trip on ‘*La Meduana*’ with commentary (in French). Reservation required at the Tourist Office (nearby) up to 15 min. before departure from the *Halte Fluviale*. Tickets: adults 8,50€, children 6€, students & disabled 7,50€.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

And finally,

Heard at the Covid Testing Centre: Nurse: “Have you experienced a sudden loss of taste?”

Patient: “No, I’ve always dressed this way.”

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That’s all for this month. A lot to see and do still in this area. Have a great September.

*Judy Skinner*

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## Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

September 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sat. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Fête champêtre</i> (country fête)	Le Pas	4
“	<i>Les Soirées de la Cale</i> (music)	Mayenne	4
W/e 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Village fête with music and events	Loré	4
Sun. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Fête du Cheval</i> – Open Day	St Georges-Buttavent	6
Sat. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<i>La Festival du Chainon Marquant</i>	Ambrières-les-Vallées	4
“	Introduction to the sports facilities	Gorron	6
“	EuroMayenne Open Day	Mayenne	5
Sun. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Bagpipes with group <i>Pibroch</i>	Cancale	4
“	‘ <i>La Meduana</i> ’ boat trip	Mayenne	6
Mon. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Pétanque</i> competitions	Bagnoles de l’Orne	2
Sat. 16 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Bagnoles en 360°</i>	Bagnoles de l’Orne	2
“	<i>l’Incendiaire</i> (obstacle course)	La Ferté-Macé	3
W/e 16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Journées du Patrimoine</i>	All over France	2
Sun. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	Visit to a church and mill	Chailland	5
Sun. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Fiona Monbet & her jazz quintet	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
“	‘Cars & Coffee’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Mon. 25 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Pétanque</i> competitions	Bagnoles de l’Orne	2