

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Autumn is a second spring
where each leaf is a flower

Albert Camus

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

Sun. 1 st	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g in <i>Foire d'Automne</i> , route de Saint-Michel des Andaines, 7h-18h, a Big One! ±300
“	Dinard (35)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place du Marché, ±30
“	Mayenne (53)	v-g in Salle Polyvalente, rue Volney (see p.2)
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
“	Neau (53)	v-g & Salon d'Automne (see page 3)
“	Hamelin (50)	v-g in the village, ±70
“	Landéan (35)	v-g in the Salle des Sports, 8h-18h, ±70
Sun. 8 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 15 th	Tinchebray (61)	Giant v-g Saint Luc, <i>centre-ville</i> , 7h-18h, +300
Sun. 22 nd	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. 29 th	Pontorson (50)	v-g in Salle Polyvalente, 8h-17h, ±70

'Plantes en Fête' – plant sale & exchange

On Sat. 7th & Sun. 8th from 10h-18h at the *Camping Municipal*, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront (61) is the 26th edition of this popular annual Plant Fair. Over 50 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. There is 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 - *Le Rajasthan*

This Indian restaurant is located beneath the hotel '*Le Tour des Anglais*', 13 place Juhel, near the cinema in Mayenne town (53). It has had its ups & down since opening about 8 years ago, but it is now again very good. The food is excellent and the staff attentive and friendly. Open: Tues. to Suns.: 11h30 – 14h30 & 18h – 23h. Also seating on the terrace overlooking the river. Some English spoken. Reservation advised: 09 84 34 08 32.

“Cars & Coffee” in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

Sun. 22nd, 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.

Bee-keeping in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

On Mon. 23rd, 14h15 to 15h30 you can visit “*Le Rucher de la forêt d’Andaines*”, a small local enterprise. The guided visit (in French) will show you the lives of bees and their impact on the environment, with also a tasting of the produce from the beehive. Reservation up to 11h30 on the day (min. 4 people, max. 15) at the Tourist Office. Tickets: 3€, under 12s free.

Cancer Support France Nord events

Quiz Night: Fri. 6th 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 problem, do take part. Price: 3€ per person. Quiz starts at 20h.

Brunch: Wed. 11th at the Salle des Fêtes, Notre-Dame du Touchet. Doors open at 10h, last order at 12h30. A vegetarian option is available.

[Advance notice of Quiz Curry Night on 4th November – see page 6]

Vide-garage in Mayenne (53)

Sun. 1st, 8h to 17h, in the Salle Polyvalents, rue Volney, organised by *L'Etoile Cycliste Mayennaise*: a *vide-garage* with sales of parts for cars, motorbikes & cycles (and sales of cycles) and a *vide-greniers*. Also a gathering of vintage vehicles. Food available on site. More info: 06 31 72 50 12 or 06 78 39 83 00.

Water-colour exhibition

Jane Bicknell's art class are having an exhibition of their paintings on Sun. 8th, 11h to 16h, at '*Le Viking*' bar/restaurant in Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50). Free entry. Food and drink can be purchased from the bar. For more info: jane.bicknell.art@gmail.com

Salon des Arts in Domfront (61)

From Thurs. 5th to Sun. 8th – an exhibition of paintings and sculptures in *l'Espace André Rocton*, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront, organised by the Lions Club of Domfront. Free entry.

Salon d'Automne in Neau (53)

This is on Sun. 1st: the *vide-greniers* on the banks of the lake in Neau, with a *Salon d'Automne* (local produce market) in the *Salle des Fêtes*. There will be entertainment from 14h50, children's face painting, bouncy castle, accordion music, and food will be available on site.

Marché des Thermes in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Tues. 10th, 14h to 17h30, this annual market is held in the large salon of the *Etablissement Thermal*, rue des Thermes. Open to all, there will be many local produce stalls selling honey, cider, *poiré*, apple juice, rosé cider, jams, with many creative exhibitors: manicure, zen, etc.

We say, they say

'*Il fait un froid de canard*' - the speaker had not gone completely quackers here: describing the temperature as 'duck cold' simply implies extreme chilliness.

A new business - *prosthétiste onguulaire*

For that special occasion, you can have your nails lengthened, with semi-permanent varnish & gel, and special effects. With local French lady, Wendy Daubry, on just 2 days a week – Wednesdays & Saturdays, 9h30 to 18h, (on reservation) at the dress shop '*Madame à du Style*' in Gorrion (opposite the *Bar des Sports*). 06 76 02 90 45; facebook: 'Pixie nails'.

Cheese of the Month – *Le Champ Secret*

This locally made *camembert*, made at the farm of Patrick Mercier: '*La Novère*' in Champsecret (61), has been produced by the same family for 10 years. Using traditional methods, they avoid too much variation in temperature during the process – for example, pasteurisation would eventually kill bad bacteria but also good ones: they prefer to conserve the original conditions by regular testing. After the cheese is formed it rests for 14 days and then for 7 days after packaging. You can visit and see the different stages through a glass window looking onto the laboratory. The cheese is on sale at the farm daily, except Sundays, 8h to 20h, and the farm can be visited on Friday afternoons.

Les Jardins des Renaudies : Pumpkin Fair

On Sun. 8th, 10h-18h, at these lovely English-style gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) is the 28th *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. There is also a museum of vintage machinery, the maize maze, *salon de thé*, music, entertainment and children's games. A meal can be reserved for 12h30, with pumpkin soup, *jambon a l'os* and pumpkin tart. 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

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat 7th at 19h in the Salle Normande in Dompierre (61): Jazz Concert, organised by '*Les Trottoirs Mouillés*'. Tickets 5€, which includes entry, a slice of pizza and a soft drink. Other snacks are available on site. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office

Piaf l'Eternelle

Sat. 21st, 20h30 at the Casino, 6 rue Robert Cousin in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) – to mark the 60th anniversary of the passing of Edith Piaf, you can relive some moments of her life. A concert with Manuela and Solène Chevalier, on piano and accordion. Tickets: 15€ from www.joa.fr or the Tourist Office (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

Voix d'Eté concert

Voix d'Eté is giving a concert at the Abbey at Lonlay l'Abbaye (61) at 5pm on Sat. 28th. The programme of music is a rich tapestry and journey through Europe from the 13th century to today. It includes amongst many different composers Purcell, Bach, Schubert, Duruffe and Gjeilo. The concert is free with a retiring collection where all monies raised will go to *Restos du Coeur* - a French charity whose main activity is distributing food packages to the needy, targeting the homeless and those on low incomes.

Voix d'Eté is a mixed voice chamber choir of English, French and German singers that meets on Tuesdays in the small hall at Dompierre (61, 8km from Domfront). Rehearsal times are 14h30-16h30 with a cup of tea afterwards. They are under the excellent direction of Jim Percival and are always happy to welcome new members. The choir was originally formed in 2010 and moved to Dompierre in 2021 where it has been enthusiastically welcomed into the local community.

Organ recital

Sun. 8th in *l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine*, 9 Place de l'Eglise in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) organised by *Les Amis de l'Orgue*: recital by François Lamanissier, head organist at l'Eglise Notre-Dame in Saint-Lô, with works by J.S. Bach and Jean Langlais. Free, with a collection.

Next English (VO) film in Gorron cinema

Mon. 2nd - Equaliser 3, with Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning, David Denman.

Since giving up his life as a government assassin, Robert McCall (Denzel Washington) has struggled to reconcile the horrific things he's done in the past and finds a strange solace in serving justice on behalf of the oppressed. Finding himself surprisingly at home in Southern Italy, he discovers his new friends are under the control of local crime bosses.

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].

Lest We Forget

In 2013, Joachim Gauck became the first German president to visit Oradour-sur-Glane in Haute-Vienne – site of one of the biggest WW2 massacres on French soil. Accompanied by French president François Hollande and Robert Hébras, last survivor of the atrocity, he visited the church where, in June 1944, nearly 400 women and children were killed by the SS as punishment for resistance in the area. Men were herded into barns, shot and doused with petrol. A total of 642 people died. Gauck said “We can today only understand with difficulty how ‘totally normal men’ became unscrupulous murderers. Hébras, who died earlier this year, said the visit came at the right time: “Any earlier would have been too soon.”

Wine and cheese cruise on the river Mayenne

On Thursdays 5th and 12th, 19h to 20h30, departing from *La Halte Fluviale* (boat anchorage) at 100 rue du Vieux Saint-Louis in Laval - during this relaxing cruise you will taste 3 wines and several cheeses and learn about them (in French). Tickets: 21€, available from the Laval Tourist Office (www.laval-tourisme.com; 02 43 49 46 46). Sorry, no dogs admitted.

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

On Oct. 14th 1922, a French crew made up of Lucien Bossoutrot and Robert Drouhin broke the world record for the longest flight. They were in the air for 34 hours and 19 mins in a Farman-Goliath that took off from Le Bourget, Paris. Bossoutrot, who served as a pilot in WW1 and later became an MP, broke several other records, including the first international commercial flight in history when he took 12 passengers from Paris to London in 1919. That same year he negotiated his own release, and his crew's, after an emergency landing saw him taken prisoner in Mauritania.

Feedback from the Paris-Brest-Paris cycle challenge:

This event, which took place from 20th to 24th August, was successfully completed by 2 local men, members of the Le Horps cycling club ‘*La Pédale Horpéenne*’, who together completed the 1,220 km of the Paris-Brest-Paris in 50h 24 min., finishing in 56th place out of 6,810 participants. The president of the club states that the pair – both known as ‘*le binôme*’ as they always cycled as a pair – were hardly out of breath when they crossed the finishing line, and remounted their bikes without any pain the following day!

Clocks go back this month

Remember - at 3 a.m. on Sun. 29th 'British Summer Time' ends and the CLOCKS GO BACK! So, an extra hour in bed!!

ADVANCE NOTICE: Cancer Support France Nord Quiz Curry Night:

Sat. 4th November at the *Salle des Fêtes*, Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Tickets: 18€ per person, must be ordered and paid for in advance. Please do not take your own drinks – a bar will be available on the evening. All food is home-made, vegetarian and non-curry available. Allergies are catered for – please advise at time of booking if you require an alternative to curry. Tables of 6 maximum for the quiz – if more or less you will be allocated a team or seated nearby. Tickets will be available at their Brunch day. Doors open at 18h15, start time 19h. To book tickets please contact: nord@cancersupportfrance.org

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And finally,

You know you're a grown up when you actually pick up the fallen ice cube instead of kicking it under the fridge!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

That's all for this month. Some outdoor events to enjoy before winter arrives!! I hope you have a great October.

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

October 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sun. 1 st	<i>Salon d'Automne</i>	Neau	3
Mon. 2 nd	Film: Equaliser 3	Gorron	4
Fri. 6 th	CSF-N Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
5 th to 8 th	<i>Salon des Arts</i>	Domfront	2
Sat. 7 th	Jazz concert	Dompierre	4
W/e 7 th & 8 th	<i>Plantes en fête</i>	Domfront	1
Sun. 8 th	Water-colour exhibition	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
“	Pumpkin Fair	Colombies-du-Plessis	3
“	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Tues. 10 th	<i>Marché des Thermes</i>	Bagnoles-de-l'Orne	3
Wed. 11 th	CSF-N Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Sat. 21 st	<i>Piaf l'Eternelle</i>	Bagnoles-de-l'Orne	4
Sun. 22 nd	Cars & Coffee	Bagnoles-de-l'Orne	2
Mon. 23 rd	Learn about bee-keeping	Bagnoles-de-l'Orne	2
Sat. 28 th	Concert by <i>Voix d'Eté</i>	Dompierre	4