

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Children may forget your presents but
will always remember your presence

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 cancellations ['61' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sat. 2 nd	Alençon (61)	monthly <i>brocante</i> de la Halle de Blé, ±30
Sun. 10 th	Sourdeval (50)	<i>v-g de l'automne</i> in <i>La Belle Epoque</i> , Le Moulin Foulon, 7h-18h, ±50
Sun. 17 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	<i>v-g/brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, 7h-18h, ±150

Wishing you all very very Merry Christmas !!

Some *Marchés de Noël* (Christmas markets)

Fri. 1 st	Rives-d'Andaine (61)	in Salle Raymond-Ponot, from 16h
Sat. 2 nd	Colombiers-du-Plessis (53)	in the village, 13h - 18h, ±50
“	Magny-le-Désert (61)	<i>Marché de Noël gourmand et créatif</i> , 15h-21h, ±35
Sun. 3 rd	Louverné (53)	in the Salle des Pleiades, 8h - 18h30, ±30
“	Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)	see page 2
Sat. 9 th	Gratot (50)	in the Salle des Fêtes, 10h-19h, ±50
“	Domfront (61)	Christmas Fayre (see page 3)
“	Gorron (53)	see page 3
Wed. 13 th	La Ferté-Macé (61)	31st edition, from 14h, ±70
15 th to 17 th	Domfront (61)	[15 th : 15h-22h; 16 th : 10h-20h; 17 th : 10h-18h] in Place & rue Saint Julien
16 th & 17 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	[16 th : 15h-21h; 17 th : 10h-17h] in the Salle des Communs, Allée Aloïs Monnet
Sun. 17 th	Bourgneuf-le-Forêt (53)	10h-18h, in the Salle des Fêtes, ±70
Wed. 20 th	Briouze (61)	in the Salle du Rex

Eating out - ‘Annadata’ in Saint-Malo (35)

Green & zen in the privateer city! The name of this vegetarian & organic restaurant, at rue de la Corne du Cerf, means in Sanscrit “the one who gives food”. In Saint-Malo, within the city walls, the restaurant was born out of Myriam Domange’s love of fruits, vegetables, cereals and pulses. Open: Thurs. to Mons. 12h30 to 14h30 & 19h30 to 21h30 (closed Tues. & Weds.). For reservations: info@annadata.fr ; 09 50 93 32 06.

Towns and villages near Domfront - Christmas lights circuit

Each year several towns and villages in this area are specially lit up at Christmas. The main ones are: Mantilly, St Mars d’Egrenne, St-Roch-sur-Egrenne, Rouellé, Ceaucé, La Sauvagère, Beauchêne. Ask at the Domfront Tourist Office (info@ot-domfront.com, 02 33 38 53 97) and for details of a guided coach trip (with English speaking guide) at one near you).

Christmas Carol Service in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

A Christmas Carol Service will be held on Sunday 17th. at 15h (3pm) at the Church, Place de l’Eglise, in the centre of the village. The carols will include: Once in Royal David’s City; While Shepherds Watched . . . ; Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; O Come All Ye Faithful; Silent Night; Ding-Dong Merrily on High; *Il Est Né le Devin Enfant*, and the French equivalents where relevant. As before, all are encouraged to sing in their preferred language. Rev. John Young would be pleased to hear of anyone willing to do the Readings in French, English, or both. There will be 8 Readings, each in both languages.

Laval illuminations

You can enjoy a guided tour (in French) of the illuminated town of Laval (53) - with a ‘*vin chaud*’ at the end - on Fridays & Saturdays from 8th Dec. until 6th Jan. 2024 from 18h15 to 19h30, starting from in front of the *Hotel de Ville* (near the Square de Boston). Reservation advised. Tickets are 8€ per person from the Laval Tourist Office (02 43 49 45 26).

You can also enjoy a ride on the Big Wheel, which will be available from 2nd Dec. to 14th January. Tickets: 6€, under 10s: 4€. www.laval-tourisme.com

Christmas Market in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

On Sun. 3rd, 9h until 17h at the Salle des Fêtes: over 30 stalls with many ideas for Christmas presents plus traditional food and drink, Santa Claus with a horse drawn carriage & free rides and many other attractions. Contact e-mail: k8collins@hotmail.com

Cheese of the Month - *Morbier*

This semi-soft cow’s milk cheese, named after the small village of Morbier in the Alpine Jura region, is ivory coloured, soft & slightly elastic and is immediately recognisable by the distinctive thin black layer separating it horizontally in the middle. Legend has it, it was made on days when farmers didn’t have enough curd to make the region’s famous enormous wheels of *Comté*. Instead, they would cover what curd they had with ash to keep a rind from forming (and to keep insects from landing on it) and finish with more curd later, thus creating a cheese with a distinctive grey line down the middle. It is mild with a rich, creamy flavour.

Illuminated cruise on the river in Laval

On Weds. to Suns. through December (not 24th or 31st) this boat trip on the *Vallis Guidonis* will show you the illuminations of the town. Departing at 17h (boarding at 16h45) at Quai Andre Pinçon (near *Cineville*). Tickets: 11,50€ (disabled or unemployed: 10,50€) from the Laval Tourist Office

Marché de Noël at Une Tasse de Bonheur, Gorron (53)

On Sat. 9th & Sun. 10th, 9h to 18h at 1 rue Corbeau Paris, Gorron – there will be artisan stands, an ‘elves corner’ for children, and the Tearoom will be serving hot meals, drinks & cakes. For stand enquiries contact: stephaniegirdler79@gmail.com

Christmas Fayre in Domfront (61)

The *Brocantes - La Galerie Brocante, Rue des Antiquaires* and *Le Bon Coin* are having a Christmas Fayre on Sat. 9th, 10h to 18h. There will be lots of local Artisans and Crafts people selling their creations alongside over 20 *brocanteurs* within the 3 buildings. Mulled wine and mince pies will be available. All this is happening at Rue du Mont St Michel, Domfront-en-Poiraie. Do go along and support local small businesses.

Cancer Support France Nord - December events

Their annual Christmas Fayre will take place on Sat. 2nd at the Salle des Fêtes in Notre-Dame du Touchet, from 10h to 16h. There will be 15 stallholders taking part.

Fri. 8th at the bar ‘*Le Viking*’ in Notre-Dame du Touchet is their Christmas Quiz Night. Teams of six - if you are unable to make up a team no problem, do take part. Price: €3 per person. The quiz starts at 20h - as this will be Christmas-themed night there will be mince pies, crackers and other items on the tables; also a prize for the best outfit.

Wed. 13th will be their last Brunch of the year, held in the Salle des Fêtes, Notre-Dame du Touchet. Doors open 10h, last order 12h30. Vegetarian option is available.

[Their events will start again with a Quiz Night on Fri. 5th Jan. 2024, and their Brunches will start again Wed. 10th Jan. 2024].

They would like to thank you for all your support in 2023 and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

We say, they say

“*Se noyer dans un verre d’eau*” – (*lit.* ‘to drown in a glass of water’) – is used to describe someone making a big fuss about nothing (‘a mountain out of a molehill’)

Winter Sales in France

The period of sales in France is from Wednesday 10th January until Tuesday. 6th February.

Christmas Concerts

Voix d'Eté Christmas Concert in Dompierre (61)

Voix d'Eté are giving a concert in the Salle Normande in Dompierre at 16h on Sat. 9th. The concert will include well known French carols as well as some English carols. There will be light refreshments afterwards. A good way to get into the Christmas mood. The concert has free entry with retiring collection for charity. For more info you can find them on facebook.

Concert in Fougères (35)

On Sun. 3rd at 15h in l'Eglise Saint-Léonard, 19 rue Nationale, Fougères, '*La Maitrise Saint-Leonard*' celebrates their 130 year history with a concert featuring the 'Magnificat' by J S Bach, together with the *Choeurs d'Opéras Célèbres* with works by Puccini, Mascagni, Rossini and Verdi. Tickets are available from the Fougères Tourist Office: 18€ (or 25€ for allocated seats – a plan of the church is available on their website: www.maitrise-saint-leonard.org); under 12s free.

OSHM Christmas concerts, Mayenne (53)

On Sat. 16th, at 14h and 20h, will be the 18th edition of the Christmas concerts by the *Orchestre Symphonique de la Haute Mayenne*, at the Salle Polyvalente, rue Volney in Mayenne town. A piano, 60 musicians and 50 dancers will enchant you during this 90 minutes of delight for eyes and ears! Tickets: 10€ (under 12s free) on the day from 11h to 12h30, or in advance on Weds. 6th & 13th in the hall of the *Pole Culturel le Grand Nord* in Mayenne, or 1 hour before the start of the concert.

Choral Vivace Christmas concerts

There will be several Christmas concerts by this popular choir. The concerts are free, with a retiring collection. Their repertoire includes: The Cowboy Carol; The Angels' Carol; O Holy Night; Jul Jul (a Swedish Carol); The Virgin Mary.

Fri. 8 th	at 15h in Vaucé (53) church (small and not heated)
Mon. 11 th	at 15h in l'Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (61)
Thurs. 14 th	at 16h in the church in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50)
Sat. 16 th	at 16h in the church in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)
Sun. 17 th	at 15h in the church in Saint-Jean du Corail (50)

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And finally:

His wife just stopped and said "You weren't listening, were you?"
He thought: "That's a pretty strange way to start a conversation!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

December 2023

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Wed. 13 th	CSFN Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
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