

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour!

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g), *vide-maisons* (house clearances) & *brocantes* in this area, but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any last-minute cancellations ['50' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

W/e 1 st /2 nd	Ger (50)	<i>vide-maison & vide-dressing</i> , 6 rue des Ruisseaux, 9h - 17h
Sun. 2 ⁿ	St.Mars-sur-Colmont (53)	v-g in the <i>fête St Médard</i> , 8h–18h.
“	Vautorte (53)	<i>puces des couturieres et des loisirs creatifs</i> (+ p.2)
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , 2 rue du Gén'l de Gaulle; ±30
“	Colombiers du Plessis (53)	v-g in <i>Stade de foot & Les Bruyères</i> , 7h-17h30; ±70
“	La Ferrière-aux-Etangs (61)	<i>brocante/v-g, centre-ville</i> , 6h-18h; ±150
“	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>vide-maison</i> at 35 allée de la Massue, 9h-16h (outside, so cancelled if raining)
W/e 8 th /9 th	Meslay-du-Maine (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> , 2 rue du Maine, 8h30-18h
“	Rives d'Andaine (61)	<i>vide-maison</i> at 35 rue de Domfront
“	St Hilaire du Harc.(50)	<i>vide-maison</i> at Le Grand Chemin, 8h-19h
Sun. 9 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Sourdeval (50)	monthly v-g at Le Moulin Foulon, 8h-18h; ±70
Sun. 16 th	Changé (53)	v-g in <i>Stade Dallbard</i> , rue Esculape, 6h-18h; ±300
“	La Dorée (53)	v-g & <i>fête communale</i> in the <i>Stade</i> , 9h-18h; ±70
Sun. 23 rd	Mayenne (53)	v-g at l'Ecole Pierre et Marie Curie, 53 rue Lamartine; ±30
“	St James (50)	v-g in the village of Villiers-le-Pré, 7h-18h, ±70
W/e 29/30 th	Sourdeval (50)	v-g & <i>porte ouverte de la ville</i> , 6h-18h; ±250

Eating out - ‘Aux Casse-Graines’

This excellent restaurant is located at the *Parc Botanique de Haute-Bretagne* (‘La Folletière’, Le Chatelier, 35 – NW of Fougeres, in the St James direction – which is also WELL worth a visit). You will find classic French dishes, delicious salads, omelettes, and also vegetarian dishes. There is outside, covered seating, good access for the disabled and plenty of parking. Open: Mondays to Thursdays: 11h–15h; Fri., Sat. & Sun.: 11h–15h & 19h30–21h. A lovely meal can be followed by a stroll around the beautifully set out floral *parc* and there is also a *Salon de Thé*. 06 20 98 53 33. www.restaurant-fougeres.com

Fête ‘Belle Epoque

On Sun. 30th, during the day you can go back in time to the 1900s – the period called the ‘Belle Epoque’ around the *Jardins du Lac* in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61). This year’s theme: Sport!

Les Jardins des Renaudies

In these pretty gardens at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) you can enjoy the vibrant colours of the rhododendrons, azaleas, viburnums and also the emerging acers, visit the *ecomusée* (a look at country life years ago), see an exhibition of paintings and you can even take a picnic to eat on the lawns. The main events this month:

Sun. 2nd – *Rendez-vous aux Jardins*: the theme this year is ‘*Le 5 sens du jardin*’ (‘The 5 senses of the garden’) - sight, hearing, smell, taste & touch . . . plants amaze us and tickle our taste buds. The Gardens invite us to touch, contemplate, listen & taste. You can take a 2-part sensory walk to discover nature through your senses from 14h30. Also the ‘Todos’ exhibition by José Rodriguez – singular and spontaneous creations made from recycled iron and crushed & welded concrete/iron – meet the artist at 15h30 & 17h. There will be a concert at 16h30 by *Chorales du Bocage*. *The Salon de Thé* will be open in the afternoon. Open from 10h to 18h. Entry for this event: adults 4€; 6-16s: 3€; under 6s free.

Sun. 23rd – discover the subtle art of Ikebana, Japanese floral arranging. See the website for more info and registration details. www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Fête des Plantes : Entre Ville et Jardin

On Sat. 1st & Sun. 2nd, the 14th edition of this popular Plant Festival takes place at the foot of the Château/Town Hall in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61). This year’s theme: “*les plantes volubiles : les plantes font le mur*” (twining plants : plants make the wall’). Located in the centre of the arboretum, you will find 70 exhibitors, nursery collectors, artisans, sale of plants and garden arts. There will also be a strolling musical show and activities for children with prize giving. Entry: 5€, 13s to 18s: 3€.

Puces des couturieres et des loisirs creatifs

Sun. 2nd from 9h30 to 18h in the Salle Polyvalente in Vautorte (53) everything you may need for dressmaking, repairs, etc – this *puces* (flea market) will be full of items for dressmakers and creative leisure activities. Free entry.

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 (for dates go to their website, below) 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 until mid-October, 11h–18h most days. Tickets: adults 16€; children age 5-12: 6€; under 5s free – price includes the show, visit to the Scarecrows in their 'Sunday Best', meeting the horses and a 'farewell drink'. English spoken. (www.lamichaudiere.fr)

Fête de la Bière et de la Musique (Festival of beer and music)

On Sun. 23rd, 10h–20h in the *Château de la Bière Le Fay* in Lonlay l'Abbaye (61) there will be 5 brewers and you can taste their beers. Also some local artisans. Food available on site. 02 33 37 85 66

Day ticket at *Etang de Launay*

Anglers looking for a decent coarse-fishing day ticket will be pleased to know about the *Etang de Launay*, which is situated on the D5 between Gorrion (53) and Chatillon-sur-Colmont (53) and is easily visible from the D5. The lake contains carp to 20lbs+, tench, pike & roach, is not deep and the carp respond really well to sweetcorn fished over depth on the bottom.

The Fishery is open daily from 8h to 20h and a day ticket is 5€ per rod (4€ per rod for children under 12 – who must be accompanied by an adult). A half-day ticket is 4€ per rod. Tickets are available at the lakeside from the Fishery owner, who will be there several times during the day. Fishing must be by rod & line with a single barb-less hook. Spinners, lures and treble hooks are not permitted. Further information is available from the Fishery owner, Jack PetitHomme, on 06 81 69 88 22 (please note: Jack does not speak English).

Cider farm in Mantilly (61)

On Tues. 11th, 15h30 to 17h30, you can visit the *Ferme Poirécole des Grimaux*. The Pacory family will show you the apple and pear trees that are all around us and explain how they make their Calvados, Poiré, Pommeau and Cider. Entry: 5€ (under 15s free). More info from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office – 02 33 37 85 66

Guided tour: Cars of the Liberation

On Thurs. 6th, 14h30–16h30, is a guided tour (in French) that traces the history of Bagnoles de l'Orne (nicknamed Red Cross City) during the period 1939 to 1944 – from Occupation to Liberation. Duration of walking tour: 2 hours. Registration before 11h on the day at the Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66).

Guinguettes à bord de l'eau (music & dancing beside the water)

Until 2nd August, each Friday evening by the lake in Saint-Fraimbault (61) you can dance to uplifting accordion music. 7€ per person, and drinks are available on site. A fun evening.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 1st at 20h30 in l'Espace Colmont in Gorrion (53): *Une Soirée Celtique* (a Celtic evening): '*Traversées Celtique*' ('Celtic crossings'), organised by ASFA53 (*Assoc. de Soutien à France Alzheimer 53*). Hosted by the vocal ensemble 'Musica' with 10 musicians. A journey through the different Celtic regions through their music. Tickets 15€. The profits made will be entirely donated to the France Alzheimer Association of Mayenne.

Sun. 2nd at 11h45: '*Festival Regards*' – an *apéro* concert in Cour Marie du Rocher in Domfront (61) with Skugga, Duo Niseis, *Duo des cordes sensible*. Free

'Chorale du Bocage'

On Sun. 2nd at the Jardins des Renaudies, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) the *Chorale du Bocage* (Gorrion/Fougerolles) will be singing in the *parc* at 16h. They will also be singing at the *Fête de la Musique* in Gorrion on Sat. 22nd June.

Concerts by 'Chorale Vivace'

There will be three concerts by this popular choir in June. The concerts are free, with a retiring collection: Sat. 15th at 20h in l'Eglise in Vaucé (53); Sat. 22nd at 20h in l'Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (61); Wed. 26th at 19h45 in l'Eglise in Saint Siméon (61).

Organ recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

Organised by *Les Amis de l'Orgue de Sainte Madeleine de Bagnoles de l'Orne*, this recital at 9 Place de l'Eglise in Bagnoles de l'Orne is on Sun. 16th, 17h to 18h15. Olivier Thuault, head organist at Coutances Cathedral, plays a selection from Grigny, Bruna, Buxtehude, Bach. Free, with a retiring collection.

Open Gardens in Ceaucé (61)

On Sat. 8th & Sun. 9th at 10 Impasse de Vieux Cimitière in Ceaucé (past the old *lavoire*), this is an interesting garden and wonderful traditional *potager* to amble around. It is owned by a French couple who open it up to the public a couple times a year. The husband has created a fabulous museum of rural artefacts & agriculture to look around. They also invite about 10 people to come to sell plants, crafts and pottery. Entry is free, with any donations going to a local children's charity.

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

On 26th & 27th May 1923 the world's oldest endurance car race, *24 Heures du Mans* (24 Hours of Le Mans) held it's first race. It was held on public roads around Le Mans, with 20 manufacturers taking part – all French, apart from a Bentley and 2 Belgian Excelsiors. Some 33 vehicles finished the event, a number not equalled until 1993. The *24 Heures du Mans* is won by the car that covers the greatest distance in 24 hours, so teams need to balance speed with mechanical reliability.

'La Joie' restaurant in La Pellerine – 2-year anniversary

On Sun. 30th, 14h to 18h, you can join Leanne and Kevin in celebrating with a barbecue and live music (they will be closed for lunch that day). For more info: 09 75 40 52 33.

Cheese of the Month – *Carré Mirabelle*

This square-shaped artisanal cheese is slightly spicy and has fruity aromas – this is because it is dipped 5 times in plum brandy as it ripens! It has a similar texture to Brie, and it is made at the Abbaye de Vergaville, a Benedictine Abbey in the Lorraine, which dates back to the 10th century and where they have been making this cheese since 1938. It is made from raw cow's milk and goes well with a dark beer.

Discovery of the Apiary of the Andaine forest

Le Rucher de la forêt d'Andaine is a small farm in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) – they produce honey and *pain d'épices* (gingerbread). On Mondays 3rd and 17th are guided tours (in French) which allow you to learn about the life of bees and their benefits for the environment. They also have produce for tasting. Tickets: 3€. Registration possible before 11h30 on the day, at the Tourist Office (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

Something for all the family – *Lassay - A living history*

On Sat. 8th & Sun. 9th, 10h to 18h, at the Château in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) you can learn more about life at the Château in the Middle Ages. Lassay Château was built at the end of the 14th century – today it is a rare example of military architecture from this period. You can enjoy this historical re-enactment of life at the Château in the middle of the 15th century, with 40 participants in costume, jousting shows, equestrian games and combat on foot. Entry price: 12€; students, disabled & unemployed: 10€; children 7 to 16: 6€. www.chateaudelassay.fr

'SwimRun de Mayenne'

On Sun. 9th at 14h30 at the *Cale de Mayenne* (the river bank in Mayenne town, near the Tourist Office) will be the 1st edition of SwimRun de Mayenne., organised by the Maytriathlon Club. There are 2 SwimRun events – 'XS' of 5km and 'S' of 10km. Each event can be run in pairs or solo. More info at www.maytriathlon-mayenne.fr

Peintres dans la Cité (Artists in the City)

On Sun. 2nd in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) is a traditional artist competition in the streets. Amateurs, experienced, with family, alone or with friends. Fans of acrylic, watercolour or other, they (and maybe you?) are going to paint in Lassay! Free. For more info: 02 43 04 71 53, www.mayenne-tourisme.com

Retro Guinguette (vintage music & dance) cruise in Laval

On Sat. 15th, 19h to 21h, a festive cruise on the riverboat '*Vallis Guidonis*' – which is transformed into a tavern! Obligatory dress code: vintage outfit. A retro and festive evening on board with Antoine Richard and his guitar, accompanied by Mayenne beers and ciders to quench your thirst! Tickets: 28€. Board at the Mayenne river stop (Square de Boston, Laval) 15 minutes before departure. No animals on board. Reservation required 48 hrs in advance via Laval Tourism (84 avenue Robert Buron – 02 43 49 45 26)

Sport & Leisure Activities

Pétanque contest

On Mondays 3rd and 17th at 14h30, this competition – organised by *Pétanque Bagnolaise* – is held at *Le Pétanque Bagnolaise*, Blvd Lemuet (behind tennis courts). In 4 parts in doubles only. Open to everyone. Registration from 13h30 to 14h25 on the day. 5€. Tel: 06 34 56 92 44.

Balade Santé (health walk) in Saint Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53)

On Wed. 5th at 14h to 17h at ‘*La Chèvrerie de la Colmont*’, La Fourmondière, you can discover this goat farm, followed by a tasting of their goat’s cheese. and there will also be a market with local foods. You can enjoy an optional 4km walk to discover the benefits of walking. Free. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office: www.mayenne-tourisme.com, 02 43 04 19 37.

Randonnée pedestre (walk)

Tues 4th, departing from Place de l’Eglise in Landivy (53) at 9h30. Organised by ‘*Les Randonneurs du Bocage*’, this 7 to 9.5km walk is a circuit of the ruins of the Abbey. 1€ for non-members. Find more info on their blog: randobocage.blogspot.com

Fête Annuelle du Centre Equestre (Annual Equestrian Centre festival)

On Sun. 23rd at 9h in the *Parc des Loisirs de Vaux*, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) will be an equestrian show and demonstration, show jumping competition and many other activities. Access to all public. Free entry. centre-equestre-ambrieres.ffe.com

Next English film in Gorrion (53) cinema

On Mon. 3rd the film ‘The Fall Guy’ will be showing at 20h. An action/comedy, with Emily Blunt, Aaron Taylor-Johnson.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

And finally:

His teacher told him not to worry about spelling because there is autocorrect. For that he is eternally grapefruit.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Judy Skinner

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

Events by the day (not including vide-greniers) June 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sat. 1 st	<i>Une Soirée Celtique</i>	Gorron	4
W/e 1 st & 2 nd	<i>Fête des Plantes</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Sun. 2 nd	<i>Rendez-vous aux Jardins</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
“	Artists in the City	Lassay-les-Châteaux	5
“	<i>Chorale du Bocage</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	4
“	<i>Festival Regards</i>	Domfront	4
Mon. 3 rd	<i>Pétanque</i> contest	Bagnoles de l'Orne	6
“	Discover bee-keeping	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
“	English film 'The Fall Guy'	Gorron	6
Tues 4 th	Walk, 7 – 9.5km	Landivy	6
Wed. 5 th	Health walk	St Aubin-fosse-Louvain	6
Thurs. 6 th	Cars of the Liberation	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
W/e 8 th & 9 th	Lassay – A living history	Lassay-les-Châteaux	5
“	Open Garden	Ceaucé	4
Sun. 9 th	<i>SwimRun de Mayenne</i>	Mayenne	5
Tues. 11 th	Cider farm visit	Mantilly	3
Sat. 15 th	<i>Chorale Vivace</i> concert	Vaucé	4
“	Vintage music & dance bost trip	Laval	5
Sun. 16 th	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Mon. 17 th	<i>Pétanque</i> contest	Bagnoles de l'Orne	6
“	Discover bee-keeping	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
Sat. 22 nd	<i>Chorale Vivace</i> concert	Domfront	4
Sun. 23 rd	Annual Equestrian Centre festival	Ambrières-les-Vallées	6
“	Festival of beer & music	Lonlay l'Abbaye	3
“	Learn about Ikebana	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
Wed. 26 th	<i>Chorale Vivace</i> concert	Saint-Siméon	4
Sun. 30 th	<i>Fête Belle Epoque</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
“	'La Joie' 2-year anniversary	La Pellerine	4