

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

When older people say “Enjoy them while they are young”, they are talking about your knees and hips, not your children!

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g), *brocantes* & *fêtes* in this area, but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any last-minute cancellations [‘35’ = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sat. 6 th	Combourg (35)	v-g de l’Assoc. Basket Club de Combourg in Espace Sportif de Chatel, 9h-18h, ±70
“	Saint-Malo (35)	v-g in rue de la Chaussée, 9h30h-17h, ±50
Sun. 7 th	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g in rue du Docteur Gringoire, 8h-18h, ±70
“	Neuilly-le-Vendin (53)	v-g in the <i>terrain de foot</i> , 8h-17h30, ±70
Sun. 7 th ,) 21 st & 28 th)	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 14 th	Sourdeval (50)	monthly v-g at <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> , 7h-18h, ±70
Sun. 21 st	Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)	v-g Ste-Madeleine, by the Château, 9h-18h, ±250
“	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d’Antiquités/Brocante</i> , Cour Jonville, ±30
Sun. 28 th	Combourg (35)	<i>Grande braderie d’été, centre-ville</i> , 8h-18h, ±300

Vide-maisons (house clearances) :

Sat. 13 th	16 rue Saint-Michel de la Forêt, Saint-Michel-Tuboeuf (61), 9h30-17h30.
W/e 13 th /14 th	6 place de la Mairie, Domfront (61), 8h-18h

Special date:

Sunday 14th *Fête Nationale* (‘*Pris de la Bastille 1789*’)

Almost all towns/villages celebrate with music and fireworks (this year they will celebrate on the Saturday night). Your *Mairie* or the nearest Tourist Office will let you know what events are taking place near you.

Eating out - *Le Grand Cerf*

The hotel/restaurant '*Le Grand Cerf*' at 17-19 Ave Aristide Briand in Ernée (53) is great for that 'special occasion' at mid-day or evening. With regional French cooking, there is a choice of menus from 15€ to 40€, and the food is excellent. Open daily (not Sundays) 11h30–14h & 19h–22h. For reservations (advised): 02 43 05 13 09.

International Festival of Folklore

From 4th to 9th July in and around Domfront (61) there will be shows, concerts, a parade (on Sat. afternoon), and on Sun. 7th at 14h in the Salle André Rocton: a large folk gathering show – '*Carrefour du Monde*' (Crossroads of the World). For other events see local posters or go to the Tourist Office website: www.ot-domfront.com

Marché Nocturne Médiéval (Medieval Night Market)

Wed. 24th, 16h to 23h, this annual night market takes place in the courtyard and park of the Château de Mayenne. There will be stalls and food, costume competition & more. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (see contact details below).

Les Jardins des Renaudies

At this lovely 3.5 ha floral park at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53), as well as 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 Sun. 14th will be the popular 'Garden Party' with musician David Luka, games (including cricket, badminton and *boules*) - and the *Salon de Thé* serving teas, coffees & home-made cakes will be open from 14h. On each Wed., 14h-18h, will be horse & buggy rides every 45 mins., along the small roads nearby (adults 5€; ages 6 to 15: 4€; 3 to 5 years: 3€; under 3s free). Reservation advised. From 14th July until 13th 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

New this year – you can order a picnic box prepared by the restaurant *Ô Village* in the nearby village of Colombiers-du-Plessis; reservations: 02 43 32 33 40 (for menu choices visit the *Jardins des Renaudies* website).

Cruise on the river Mayenne

On Wednesdays to Saturdays in July, the Mayenne Tourist Office (53) invites you to sail aboard the '*Meduana*' for a 2-hour relaxing trip along the river, departing from the Quai Waiblingen in Mayenne town. Tickets: 10,50€; 12-18s/disabled/students: 9€; 3-11s: 7€; under 3s free. More info from the Tourist Office (www.mayenne-tourisme.com) located nearby at the edge of the river.'

Fête Sainte-Madeleine in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

Sun. 21st, this annual festival is a day dedicated to horse racing enthusiasts and people curious about the equestrian world. There are musical and festive activities, ending with a pyromelodic (musical fireworks) show at sun-down. Free. More info from the Tourist Office (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

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

On Thursdays 4th & 25th, at 10h–11h30 & 15h–16h30, there are guided tours (in French with some English spoken) that will show you this private garden at 14 Avenue Robert Cousin (near the Casino) in Bagnoles de l'Orne. Started 20 years ago and created over time, it combines charm, gentleness and a certain art of living with nature, with decorative objects (arches, fountains, statues, etc). Duration of visit: 1h to 1h30. Tickets 6€. Reservations required before 18h the day before at the Tourist Office (min. 5 people, max. 9 people). More info from the Tourist Office (see contact details above).

Vélo-rail in the evening

On Sats. 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th, 20h–22h30, you can enjoy a beautiful summer evening on a rail-bike trip (2 to 5 people per 'bike') and you can have some friendly time (and exercise!). The trees form a covered path on a 5km disused rail route on the edge of the Andaines forest. Departing from the Bagnoles de l'Orne racecourse (behind the stands), tickets are 8€, available from the Tourist Office before 6pm on the evening.

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

A reminder that each Friday evening in July 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 in a lovely setting.

Exhibition of paintings and sculptures

From 6th July to 24th August (Wed. to Sats. 11h-12h30 & 14h-17h) at the *Point Information Tourisme*, 5 rue de la Grange in Pontmain (53), this exhibition is organised by the Art'Bo Association of Lesbois.

Festival des Lutins (Festival of the Elves)

On Sat. 6th from 11h to midnight, the village of Couptrain (53, on the D176, SE of Domfront) will be holding a music festival, with 11 bands throughout the evening. There will be hot food (hot dogs & quiches) and gateaux, etc. Drinks will be available, supplied by the 'Famous Knight' pub nearby. There will be a children's area and '*jeux en bois*' (wooden games). Look out for the signposts.

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

Festid'Al in Gorrion (53)

On Fri. 12th (18h30 to 02h) & Sat. 13th from 15h30 to 02h [yes, 2am!] near the Espace Culturel Colmont, Z.A. les Besnardières in Gorrion – at this popular annual event you can enjoy entertainment and 14 concerts, with fireworks from 23h on the Sat. Food will be available on site. Entry – on Fri.: free until 22h, then 6€; on Sat.: 14€ in advance, 18€ at the gate (under 12s free). More info at www.gorrion.org

Concerts by ‘*Chorale Vivace*’

There will be 2 concerts by this popular choir in July. The concerts are free, with a retiring collection: Sat. 6th at 15h in l’Eglise Saint-Léonard in Fougères (35); Sat. 20th at 20h in l’Eglise Saint-Jean du Corail (50)

Organ recitals in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

Organised by *Les Amis de l’Orgue de Sainte Madeleine de Bagnoles de l’Orne*, these recitals are at 9 Place de l’Eglise in Bagnoles de l’Orne. Free with a retiring collection.

♪ Wed. 10th at 17h to 18h15 – an organ recital with 2 and 4 hands. Medieval music, Sweelinck, Couperin, Bach.

♪ Wed. 31st at 17h to 18h15 – concert with organ and voice. Programme includes: Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart, Mendelsohn.

‘Les Clés de Bagnoles’

In Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) in July & August there are free open-air concerts on Sundays. 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: ♪ 7th July – ‘Song with Large Lyrics’ by “The Red Pianist”: a moving journey on a grand piano, in the *Jardins du Lac*. ♪ 21st July – ‘Philly’s Hot Loaders’: music, dance and humour: ‘an extravagant cabaret’, in the Parc du Château.

Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . . about Muscadet

If you enjoy a glass of chilled Muscadet with your seafood platter, then you have the Dutch to thank for this delicate accompaniment. It was wine traders near Nantes in the 17th century who introduced a new variety into the region after a severe frost obliterated existing crops. Today, a common means of giving greater depth of flavour and fuller body is to make the wine ‘*sur lie*’ – these words can be found on the bottle. This ageing technique sees the wine stay in contact with the left over dead yeast cells after fermentation has finished (the lees).

A question on the same subject: (The answer is on page 5)

Which grape is Muscadet made from? (A) Pinot Gris; (B) Sauvignon Blanc; (C) Melon de Bourgogne; or (D) Chardonnay

Sport & Leisure Activities

A short nature walk (5km) near Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Thurs. 11th, 14h to 15h30, this short walk will help you immerse yourself with nature, near the Andaines forest, Saint-Ortaire Priory and the Hippolyte Oak. 5€. More info and registration details from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office.

Randonnée pédestre (hiking)

On Thurs. 11th at 20h, meet at the Place de la Mairie in Pontmain (53) for an 8km to 10km evening hike along the paths of Pontmain (53). 2€ per walker.

Road bike ride

On Sun. 7th you can discover (or re-discover) the joys of cycling in Saint-Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53). 3 routes, open to all: 17km family; 23km or 29km. A welcome at 9h in the Salle des Fêtes, departure at 10h. Snacks & drinks available half-way. 4€ per cyclist.

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Answer to the question on page 4 is: (C) - Muscadet is made from the *Melon de Bourgogne* grape.

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And finally:

Remember, before the internet, that people thought the cause of stupidity was the lack of access to information? No, it wasn't that.

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That's all for this month. You will find many more ideas waiting for you in your local Tourist Office. Have a great July!

Judy Skinner

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

July 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
4 th to 9 th	International Festival of Folklore	Domfront	2
Thurs. 4 th	Visit to <i>Le Jardin Retiré</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Sat. 6 th	Evening <i>Vélo-rail</i> ride	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
“	<i>Festival des Lutins</i>	Couptrain	3
“	Concert by ‘ <i>Chorale Vivace</i> ’	Fougères	4
Sun. 7 th	Open-air music	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	Road bike ride	St Aubin-fosse-Louvain	5
Wed. 10 th	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Thurs. 11 th	Short nature walk	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
“	8km – 10km hike	Pontmain	5
12 th & 13 th	<i>Festid'Al</i>	Gorron	4
Sat. 13 th	Evening <i>Vélo-rail</i> ride	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Sun. 14 th	Jardin des Renaudies ‘Garden Party’	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
Sat. 20 th	Evening <i>Vélo-rail</i> ride	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
“	Concert by ‘ <i>Chorale Vivace</i> ’	St Jean-du-Corail	4
Sun. 21 st	<i>Fête Sainte-Madeleine</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
“	Open air music	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Wed. 24 th	Medieval Night Market	Mayenne	2
Thurs. 25 th	Visit to <i>Le Jardin Retiré</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Sat. 27 th	Evening <i>Vélo-rail</i> ride	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3
Wed. 31 st	Concert with organ and voice	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4