

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

The brain is the most amazing organ. It works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, from birth until you fall in love

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g), *brocantes* & *foires* in this area, but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any last-minute cancellations ['53' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sun. 1 st	Ernée (53)	v-g at the <i>Mairie</i> on RN12, 7h-18h, ±70
“	Loré (61)	v-g / <i>braderie</i> in the <i>fête communale</i> , 6h-23h, ±70
“	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g / <i>braderie</i> / <i>brocante</i> in the streets of the town, 7h to 18h, ±300! (a big one!)
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , rue Général de Gaulle, 8h-17h, ±30
“	Rennes (35)	<i>braderie</i> de Villejean, rue de Bourgogne, ±300
“	St Michel Tuboeuf (61)	v-g in the <i>salle des fêtes</i> , 7h-18h, ±150
Sun. 8 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Louverné (53)	v-g in the town, 8h-17h, ±250
“	St Geo. Buttevent (53)	v-g in rue de Guinefolle, 8h-18h, ±70
“	Sourdeval (61)	v-g at Le Moulin Foulon, 7h-18h, ±70
Sun. 15 th	Laval (53)	v-g in car park of Centre Commercial Carrefour Drive, 46 ave du Maréchal de Lattre de Tass., 8h-18h, ±250
Sun. 22 nd	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	in <i>Foire d'Automne</i> – the Big One! 7h-18h, ±300
Sun. 29 th	Louverné (53)	v-g in Ecole Ste Marie, 9h-17h, ±70

Vide-maisons (house clearances):

Sun. 1 st	St Mars d'Egrenne (61)	401 Impasse de Guinefolle, 9h-18h,
W/e 7 th / 8 th	Laval (53)	+ <i>vide-garage</i> , 12 rue de l'Oeil de Perdrix, 10h-18h

Special dates:

W/e 20th – 22nd: *Les Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days) all over France: (see p. 2)

Eating out - *Le Bistrot de Clem*

Le Bistrot de Clem is at 29 Avenue Maréchal Leclerc in Saint-Hilaire du Harcouët (50), opposite the *Mairie*. Friendly service, there is also outdoor seating and a children's menu. A good value 3-course lunch for 14,30€, or 2 courses for 12,50€, with a choice of 3 dishes. Open: Tues. to Sat. 9h to 20h (closed Suns. and Mons.). For reservations: 02 33 59 54 75, English spoken.

Les Journées du Patrimoine (Heritage Days)

On the weekend of 21st & 22nd: 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 (see also page 4). 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 or ask at a Tourist Office.

Grande Daze Animal Companion Centre event

On Sun. 8th, 10h to 16h, at La Grande Gaudinière, La Bigottière (53) they will be a sale of fabric remnants of all different lengths & widths; haberdashery, embroidery threads, trimmings, buttons, etc. Also re-look furniture, books and pictures. They will also be serving cream teas. For more info go to www.grandedaze.com

Cancer Support France Nord events

- * Sat. 7th at 20h – live music night at the bar '*Le Viking*' in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50);
- * Wed. 11th - Brunch at the Salle des Fêtes in N-D du Touchet; doors open at 10h, last orders 12h30;
- * Fri. 13th at 20h - Quiz Night at the bar '*Le Viking*'. 3€ per person;
- * Wed. 25th at 10h - Brunch at the Salle des Fêtes, Notre-Dame du Touchet (as above);
- * Thurs. 26th at 10h to 12h: a coffee morning at '*Le Patis*' tea room in Landivy (53);
- * Fri. 27th at 9h30 to 12h30: Mrs Wendy Butterfield is hosting this fund-raising event – coffee, tea & cakes. Donations to the raffle or a baked cake would be very welcome. Address: La Petite Mare Brindelle. La Haute Chapelle (61). (More info: 02 33 38 27 75)

'Cars & Coffee' : exhibition of vintage vehicles

On Sun. 22nd, 9h30 to 12h30, at Place du Marché Couvert in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61, by the Tourist Office) organised by *l'Assoc. Bagnoles Moteurs Classiques*: 'Cars & Coffee' presents a gathering of sports, prestige & vintage vehicles. Free entry.

Bagnoles de l'Orne at the time of the Liberation

On Sat. 21st at 15h to 16h30, during the *Journées du Patrimoine*, this guided visit (in French) retraces the history of Bagnoles de l'Orne (named Red Cross Town) during the period 1939-1944. Depart from the Tourist Office (Place du Marché) for a walk through the town. Tickets are available from the Tourist Office before 11h on the day. Free.

Fête de la Saint Gregoire in Ernée (53)

On Sun. 1st: *vide-grenier* and *braderie* of tradesmen, a parade of Percherons, exhibition of vehicles, ‘*garçon de cafe*’ race of waiters, pony rides and country fair More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (www.mayenne-tourisme.com)

31st Exhibition of Artists and Sculptors

From Sat. 7th until Sun. 15th at the Chapelle des Calvairiennes in Mayenne (53) this is an exhibition of works by artists of the Association ARFI. Open: Mon, to Sun.: 14h to 18h.

History, sport and citizenship

Until 27th October: “History, sport and citizenship” – retrospective exhibition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, from the 1896 Athens Olympic Games to the 2024 Paris Olympic (30) and Paralympic (15) Games across the world. This exhibition travels the world, bringing together athletes who have achieved real feats, and highlights extraordinary stories of sportsmen & women who have marked contemporary history with their commitment. Free. More info from the Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66)

Cheese of the Month - *Reblochon*

In the Middle Ages farmers in the mountains of Haute Savoie used to pay their taxes with part of their milk production. Legend has it that when a visit from the tax officers was due, they did not fully milk their cows (of the *Abondance*, *Montbéliard* and *Tarine* breeds) so as to lower their level of production. The name of the cheese derives from the verb ‘*reblocher*’ (to pinch the cow’s udder again) and once the tax officers had gone after measuring the milk produced, the farmers milked the cows again and this milk was much richer and was used to make *Reblochon*. Aged in cellars or caves in the mountains, it has a creamy, softer-than-Brie texture, nutty after-taste, strong herbal aroma (that is not for the timid!) and a velvety rind, but can be bitter when over-ripe. As well as on the cheeseboard it is especially popular melted in jacket potatoes, pizzas, *crêpes* and *tartiflette*. Recommended wines : a Savoie (white) or a fruity red such as Beaujolais or Pommard.

Christian Dior – visionary couturier

From Granville to America via Paris and London, Christian Dior has left his mark on the places he has visited, just as much as they have shaped him. Until 3rd November, this exhibition of his collections, spread over 3 floors of the ‘*Villa Les Rhumbs*’ (rue d’Estouteville in Granville, 50) – his childhood home) – bear witness to his creativity. For more info and opening hours, go to www.musee-dior-granville.com

Organ concert in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

Organised by *Les Amis de l’Orgue de Sainte Madeleine de Bagnoles de l’Orne*, on Sun. 15th this recital at 9 Place de l’Eglise in Bagnoles de l’Orne: concert with violin, organ and recorder, with Liesbeth Schlumberger, organist at the *Temple de l’Etoile* in Paris, Sandrine Lejosne (violin) & Claudia Leibovitz (recorder) with selections from Quantz, Corelli, Telemann, Bach. Free, with a retiring collection.

Medieval Fête in Domfront (61)

On 21st & 22nd at the Château in Domfront, organised by ‘*Projet de Village Medieval à Domfront*’, you will find artisans (weavers, woodworkers, ceramists, stone carvers, etc), a Viking encampment and combat, wooden toys, axe-throwing competitions, workshops & musicians. On the Saturday evening will be a medieval banquet (25€ – reservation required at the Tourist Office). More info: www.ot-domfront.com

Next English (VO) film in Gorrion Cinema

On Mon. 2nd: ‘The Trouble with Jessica’ (in France, known as ‘*Diner à l’Anglaise*’), produced by Matt Winn, starring Rufus Sewell, Shirley Henderson, Olivia Williams.

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.gorrion-cinemas.fr before setting off in case of any last-minute changes].

Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . .

The epicentre of the French black pudding (*boudin noir*) world is Mortagne-au-Perche (61) also the home of those dignified giants of war and the furrow, the Percheron horses. On the first Sunday after mid-Lent (*mi-Carême*) the *Confrérie des Chevaliers du Goute-Boudin* (the Brotherhood of Pudding Tasters) organises an international *Concours du Meilleur Boudin*. Over 3 days, black puddings and their makers come from every district of France and most countries of western Europe. It is a serious business, with secret recipes guarded and new ideas paraded. The French win prizes, of course, but so do the Germans and the black pudding makers from Britain – Lancashire particularly. Over 6 tonnes of black pudding are eaten during the 3 days and there are black pudding eating competitions – in 1969 one person ate 1.25m of pudding in 15 minutes!

Fête champêtre (country fair) in Le Pas (53)

On 31st August and 1st Sept: on Sat. from 16h: pedal car race (sponsored by local businesses), carousel, refreshment bar. In the evening, an *apéro* concert by the lake with duo ‘Soulway’, with fireworks at 23h. On Sun. at 12h: a country meal with a choice of *moules frites* or *crêpes saucisse* (reservation required). 14h to 16h: wooden games for all, exhibition of vintage vehicles with the Mayenne association “*Les Toussamis du véhicule ancien*”. Free entry.

Journées du Patrimoine – visit to the *Chalet Suédois*

Sat. 21st at 11h30 to 12h30 – this is an exceptional visit of the interior and exterior of the Swedish Chalet, the real Swedish Pavilion built for the 1889 Universal Exhibition in Paris. Meet at 2 Boulevard Albert Christophle in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61). Free.

And finally:

If poison is past its expiry date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?!!!

And:

For most people, when you lose your 'khakis' you've lost your trousers. When you're from Boston, USA, and lose your 'khakis' you can't start your car.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

That's all for this month. Please note: there will be no Bulletin in October as I will be away spending time with family visiting from Australia! But I should be 'back in harness' for the November issue!! Please do use the Tourist Offices as they have many more ideas and information.

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

September 2024

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Sun. 22 nd	‘Cars & Coffee’	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Wed. 25 th	CSF-Nord Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Thurs. 26 th	CSF-Nord Coffee Morning	Landivy	2
Fri. 27 th	CSF-Nord fund-raising event	La Haute Chapelle	2