

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

If you have a difficult task give it to a lazy man
- he will find an easier way to do it.

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

Sat. 5 th	Briouze (61)	<i>Braderie 'vente en kilo'</i> (see page 2)
Sun. 6 th	Mayenne (53)	Grand v-g in the car park of Leclerc, 582 rue du Prieuré de Berne, 7h-18h30, ± 50 . Food available on site.
W/e 5 th & 6 th	Pontorson (50)	v-g for camping at <i>Camping Seasonova Haliotus</i> , rue General Patton, 8h-18h, ± 50
Sun. 20 th	Granville (50)	Monthly <i>Marché d'Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ± 30
Sun. 27 th	Commer (53)	v-g at <i>La Gare</i> , rue de la Gare, ± 70
"	Ernée (53)	v-g in the Super U car park, 34 route de Laval, 9h-10h, ± 300
"	Landéan (35)	v-g in car park at Place de la Longue Noé, 9h-18h, ± 150

Vide-maisons (house clearances)

W/e 5 th & 6 th	Tinchebray (61)	v-g at ' <i>Beauchene</i> ' at 105 Le Bourg (in front of the church), 9h-18h
W/e 12 th /13 th	St Hil. du Harcouët (50)	v-m at 36 route de la Ricolais-Virey, 9h-18h

Special dates / public holidays:

Sun. 20 th	<i>Pâques</i> (Easter Day)
Mon. 21 st	<i>Lundi de Pâques</i> (Easter Monday)

Eating out - 'Le Quatre'

'Le Quatre' in *Gallerie Marchande E.Leclerc*, route de Bagnoles, ZI du Parc, La Ferté-Macé (61) is a '*restaurant bistronomique*', bar and *salon du thé*. Opened in 2024, their chef Aurelie Ganet and her team aim to provide their customers with an exceptional culinary experience, creating dishes that reflect the richness of the region and the knowledge of the local artisans. For menus: restaurantlequatre.fr & on facebook. They are open Mondays to Fridays: 8h15 to 19h. For reservations: 02 33 37 51 14.

Braderie 'en kilo' in Briouze (61)

On Sat. 5th from 10h to 17h in the *Halle aux Veaux*, Place Albert 1 in Briouze: for everything on sale (frames, bric-a-brac, crockery, toys, games, etc) you can fill a kilo sack for 1€! Also a toy exchange: bring one and take one away, plus sale of second-hand bikes.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

At this lovely 3.5 ha floral park at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53), as well as 400 rhododendrons & azaleas, 350 hydrangeas, 133 varieties of roses and many other plants & flowers, there is a museum showing life on a farm in the 1920s and vintage farm equipment. Plenty of areas for a picnic.

On Sun. 20th and Mon. 21st will be the *chasse aux oeufs* (Easter egg hunt), 14h to 18h, where children can hunt for Easter pictures hidden in around the gardens and they are given Easter eggs depending on how many pictures they find. A sachet of chocolate will be given to all children under 12. There will be face-painting, and sale of crêpes, hot chocolate & other drinks. Dogs are welcome on a lead. A special season- opening-day entry price: 4,50€, children 3–16s: 3€, under 3s free. More info at: www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

You can find out about other local Easter egg hunts at your nearest Tourist Office.

Cancer Support France Nord events

Their **Quiz** will be held early this month – on Thurs. 3rd at *Le Viking* bar in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Maximum of 6 people per team, but if you are unable to make up a team no problem, do go and take part. Price: 3€; quiz starts at 20h.

Spring fayre: on Sat. 5th at the *Salle* in *Notre-Dame du Touchet*. Doors open 10h until 16h with stall holders selling crafts, cards, gifts and lots more. Do go along to their tearoom where refreshments will be served all day. If you are able to make a donation of a cake for them that would be great, and if you are able to donate please let them know at the following e-mail address: nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Brunches: Wed. 9th and 23rd - go and join them at the *Salle des Fêtes* in Notre-Dame du Touchet. Doors open 10h, last orders 12h30. Vegetarian option available.

'Pages' – 15th Anniversary

On Tues. 1st it will be the 15th anniversary of the opening of 'Pages' bookshop in Passais-la-Conception (61). This is an Open Day with free tea/coffee and cake from 10h to 16h (no, this is not 'April Fools!'). Lots of stock of books, DVDs and Frenchic chalk paint in the shop. For further details please ring 06 84 74 72 70 or message suzymcg@hotmail.com.

Grande Daze Plant & Seed Sale

On Sat. 26th, 12h to 16h, at 'The Red Lion' in Désertines (53) will be a Plant & Seed Sale (and outdoor related items) in support of Grande Daze Animal Companion and Rescue Centre. Coffee and cakes will be available at the bar.

Something for all the family – Easter Egg Hunt

Chasse aux oeufs – a very chocolatey adventure for children ages 2 to 12 (accompanied by an adult). On Sat. 19th, 10h30 to 11h30 in the park of the Château de Bagnoles-de-l'Orne, Allée Aloïs Monnet: armed with your basket and your gourmet detective flair, your mission for the day will be to find all the coloured eggs hidden in the chateau grounds by the mischevious rabbit! Keep your eyes open, search every corner! For older children, the mischevious rabbit has scattered pieces of paper eggs along an orienteering course. It's up to them to find them and re-construct the egg to win their prize of chocolates! Tickets: 3€. Registration required before 18h the day before. More info from the Bagnoles Tourist Office. (bagnolesdelorne.com)

Atelier Gourmand du Printemps in the *Cité du Lait*

On Thurs. 17th at 14h, 15h30 & 17h, these Spring Workshops are being held in the *Cité du Lait* at 18 rue Adolphe Beck in Laval (53). Go and play laboratory technician and try your luck at making a mysterious material with your family to create objects related to Easter. Register now on-line (lacitedulait/atelier-gourmand-du-printemps/) to reserve your place in this culinary and craft experience. It is a 30-minute workshop (tickets: 5€ per family) and there is also an optional self-guided tour of this fascinating milk museum (tickets: 7€, 12 to 17s: 5€).

Marché de Printemps (Spring Fair) in St Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53)

Sun. 13th, 10h to 18h, this Spring Fair takes place at the *terrain de loisirs* on the edge of the village. There will be an exhibition of vintage vehicles, and a market with many stalls. Food and drink will be available on site.

Rallye Porsches'Color

Sat. 26th at 8h30 to 12h, organised by *l'Amicale Porschistes Normandie*. Founded in 2011 by a group of enthusiastic friends and owners to share a common passion, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, and to organise sightseeing trips and tours for Porsche enthusiasts. For this 7th edition, superb models will be on display at the foot of Bagnoles château from where departures will be staggered throughout the morning. More info available from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66) or amicaleporschistesnormandie.org

Archery (*tir a l'arc*) lessons for youngsters

On Wed. 9th, 15h to 16h at the tennis complex *Maxime Merlin Complexe Tennistique* on *rue Plassard* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), a qualified instructor will introduce the youngsters to this age-old discipline in complete safety. Ages 6 to 7 years (adapted equipment provided). Try to hit the target like modern Robin Hoods! From 9€. Reservation required at the Tourist Office before 11h30 on the day.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 5th at 18h to 19h: free piano concert by advanced students of the *Conservatoire*. The Haute Mayenne Valley Tourist Office offers a unique experience - an intimate concert in the magnificent home of Robert Trickey – “*La Maison d’Hercule*” guest house in Mayenne. More info at mayenne-tourisme.com

Advance Notice:

‘*Voix d’Eté*’ concert on Sun. 22nd June in Dompierre church (61)

This ‘*Voix d’Eté*’ concert will be held on Sun. 22nd June at 15h at Dompierre church in aid of major repair work needed to the church in nearby Champsecret.

Voix d’Eté is a small friendly four-part choir of English, French and German singers. The choir started in 2010 and they sing a varied programme of choral music (secular and sacred) ranging from the Renaissance (16th c), Baroque (17th / early 18th c), Romantic era (late 18th & 19th c) and 20th century. They also sing popular songs by, for example: the Beatles, Simon & Garfunkel and others, and sing folk songs from around the world.

They are, however, now very short of sopranos, altos and tenors and are urgently seeking to recruit new members; additional basses would be welcome too. Go along and give them a try. Singing is good for the soul and is something that soothes stress as well as being enjoyable. The choir gives concerts in the summer (in the choir’s name) and also at Christmas. They raise money for charities through voluntary collections taken at their concerts. They practice every Tuesday afternoon, 14h30 to 16h30, at the community hall at Dompierre and the practices are followed by tea and delicious home-made cake.

For more information please contact either francoise.brison@cloud.com, tel. 06 41 39 89 43, or fj.dartmann@gmail.com, tel. 06 27 04 92 78.

The ballet ‘Romeo and Juliet’ by direct transmission

At the cinema ‘*Le Vox*’ in Mayenne (53) on Sun. 27th : The Royal Ballet ‘Romeo and Juliet’ will be transmitted live from Covent Garden. Tickets: 15€ on sale at the cinema.

Journées Nationales Tourisme et Handicap

On Sat. 5th & Sun. 6th (from 10h30 on Sat. until 15h30 on Sun.) at the *Musée du Château* (château museum), Place Juhel in Mayenne town (53): a multi-sensory and family visit. Discover the castle with your senses! Experience the smells from the Middle Ages, taste the food that was eaten in the Carolingian Reception Room and touch different materials from 1,100 years of history in the château. Accessible to visual, motor and mental disabilities. Also family games and a sensory workshop. Free. museeduchateaudemayenne.fr

Creation of paper flowers in Domfront

On Sat. 5th, 10h to 11h30 at the *mediathèque* (library) at 36 rue du Docteur Barrabé in Domfront (61) you can learn to make flowers from recycled paper. Free. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (ot-domfront.com)

Cavern d'Ali Baba (Ali Baba's Cave) in Domfront (61)

Fri. 11th, 11h to 12h, at the first floor in Place de la Roirie. Welcome to a room where history and art say "I do!" because it is in the Wedding Room (*la salle des mariages*) of the Domfront *mairie* (town hall). Treasures from distant horizons rub shoulders with local history: oriental objects, ceramics, corals – and even a sumptuous Annamite emperor's throne in red & gold lacquered wood donated by Mr Rheinart, Resident General of Annam. All items have been generously donated by Domfrontais notables who love their town. A 1-hour visit. Meet at the Domfront Tourist Office 10 minutes before the visit.

Fête du Printemps (Spring Fair) in Mayenne (53)

A free family event on Wed. 16th at the *Parc du Château de Mayenne* (Mayenne Château park). A day full of entertainment with bouncy castles, large games and children's make-up. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (*mayenne-tourisme.com*)

Foire Fleuri in Gorron (53)

On the weekend of 5th & 6th: the flower fête with funfair, grand musical parade and parade of floats. Also, a little history:- at 2, Grand Rue, from 10h to 18h, you can discover the 150-year history of *l'Eglise Saint Martin* (Saint Martin's church) with an exhibition through photos and objects that have survived the years.

The 'Art Bo' association and the Paticien will be offering you an art exhibition – paintings, sculptures and other works will be on display in the former Amaryllis flower shop near the *mairie*. On Sat. 14th: an energetic race through the town. On Sunday, all day, enjoy the mini-farm and the little train on rue de Normandie. At 14h30 will be the grand parade of floats and the children will be dressed as gardeners. The Gorron shops will be open all day and food & refreshments are available in the town.

Foire des Rameaux (Palm Sunday Fair) in Domfront

At this traditional Domfront *Foire des Rameaux* on Sat. 12th & Sun. 13th at the Salle André Rocton, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront (61) there will be more than 30 stalls with artisans and their produce; concert by 'The Jack' – tribute to AC/DC; funfair; entertainment; and exhibition of 11th century crafts with a medieval village atmosphere. Free entry. On the Sat. evening will be an optional dinner/dance with dress code of red & black (with a free drink given to those who wear this). More info from the Domfront Tourist Office.

Marché /exposition des createurs et artisans

On Tuesdays 1st and 22nd in the Reception Hall and large lounge of the *Residence des Thermes* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) at 13h to 18h – this twice monthly market has many exhibitors and artisans with costume jewellery, wellness jewellery, paintings, home décor, beauty products, clothing, etc. Also, regional produce (honey, cider, *poire*, *pommeau*, rosé cider, jam, biscuits, chocolates). Crêpes are on sale in the main lounge. Free entry.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Randonnée pédestre du mois (Walk of the month)

Tues. 1st at 14h – meet at *l'église* (church) in the lower town of Ambrières-les-Vallées (53). A 9km walk around the byways of Ambrières. 1€ is requested from non-members. Info at *randobocage.blogspot.com*

Initiation to 'disc golf'

Wed. 16th from 15h to 16h at the shooting range (*pas de tir*) behind the tennis complex in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). An arm for a club, a frisbee for a ball, a basket for a hole – this fun activity, derived from golf, amuses both young and old (ages 6 to 99!) with games suitable for all. Duration: 1 hour. Info and registration at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office, ave. de la Ferté-Macé in Bagnoles de l'Orne. Tickets: 6€.

Some more Tourist Office details in this area:

La Ferté-Macé (61):	www.lafertemace.fr	02 33 37 10 97
Flers (61):	www.ornetourisme.com	02 33 65 06 75
Laval (53):	www.laval-tourisme.com	02 43 49 46 46
Rennes (35):	www.brittanytourism.com`	08 91 67 35 35

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And finally:

- Whenever I try and eat healthily, a chocolate bar looks at me and Snickers.

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

April 2025

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Advance Notice:

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