

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 best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes

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

W/e 6 th / 7 th	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g, braderie & <i>marche d'art et vins</i> (wine and art market) in Place Leclerc, 9h-18h, ±70 (see also p. 5)
Sun. 7 th	Ernée (53)	v-g at the <i>Mairie</i> , 7h-18h, ±70
"	Laval (53)	v-g in 164 avenue de Mayenne, 8h-18h, ±70
"	Heussé (50)	v-g in the village, 6h-18h, ±50, food available on site
"	St Geo. Buttavent (53)	v-g on rue de Guinefolle & 12 Place de l'Eglise, 8h-18h, ±70, food available on site
"	St Michel-Tuboeuf (61)	v-g in <i>fete communale</i> , 7h-18h, ±70, food on site
"	Sourdeval (50)	monthly v-g at <i>Le Moulin Foulon</i> , 7h-18h, ±50
"	Vitré (35)	v-g in historic town centre, 8h-17h, ±300
Sun. 14 th	Saint-Fraimbault (61)	v-g near the stadium Bellefontaine, 6h-18h, ±70
Sun. 28 th	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)	v-g in <i>centre-ville</i> , 8h-18h, ±300

Vide-maisons (house clearances):

W/e 6 th / 7 th	Lassay-les-Châteaux (53)	at 5 rue Claude Monet, 9h-18h
Sun. 14 th	Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)	at 30 rue de la Guesdonnière, 8h-18h
W/e 20 th / 21 st	Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)	at 39 rue des Acacias, 9h30-18h
26/27/28 th	St Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50)	at 21 Residence de la Rêterie, 9h-18h

Special dates:

W/e 20th/21st *Les Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days) all over France: (see p. 2)

Eating out : *Ohara Bistro*

The newly opened Franco-Polynesian '*Ohara Bistro*' at 4 rue du Prieuré in St-Ellier-du-Maine (53) offers a 3-course *plat du jour* for 14,90€ at mid-day during the week, and *à la carte* at the weekends. Open daily: 8h30 to 22h (Sundays 9h to 22h). For reservations: 06 88 03 86 04. On Sat. 6th there will be a '*Soirée Polynésienne*' with a 3-course tropical menu + free *apéro*, with music by the group 'Te Mann', for 30€. There will be a tombola, and you can dance during the evening. For reservations call the above phone number.

Les Journées du Patrimoine (European Heritage Days)

On the weekend of 20th & 21st: 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. 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.

A new stall in Gorron (53) Wednesday market

At '*La Vraquerie*' you will find a great selection of dried organic products '*en vrac*' (loose, in bulk) run by Sylvain Cordier, who used to work at Biocoop. There is pasta, rice, dried fruits, herbs, spices, nuts, olives, soap, etc. He will be there every 2 weeks – he was there on Wed. 27th August so his next visit will be on Wed. 10th Sept. and then 24th Sept.

Visit to the Château de Mausson in Landivy (53)

On Sat. 20th & Sun. 21st, 9h to 18h, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*, you can have a free visit to the grounds and exterior of this historic monument, which was built in the late 15th and 16th centuries.

Exhibition: When our first cars ran on steam!

On Sat. 20th, 10h to 17h30, on rue de Maine in Villaines-la-Juhel (53) you can look back at the creation of the first cars! To mark the *Journées du Patrimoine*, the village is hosting an exhibition of the history of the Buard factory – a little known but fascinating chapter in its industrial past. Discover the old model of the vehicle that is still running – it came out of the Buard factory in the early 1900s. The exhibition, with photos, drawings, panels, etc., will also take you back in time to the equipment used by our ancestors in the countryside during those years – tractors, seed drills, threshing machines, etc. Free.

Fête Communale in Landivy (53)

On the weekend of 20th & 21st: on Sat. from 9h is an all-day *vide-greniers* on the route de Louvigné; at 13h30 there will be board competitions in the *salle polyvalente*, with a *soirée festive* from 19h30. On the Sun.: bike races at 10h and *marché du terroir* (local produce market), followed by fireworks at 11h. Entertainment & activities for children throughout the day.

30th *Marathon des écluses de Mayenne* (53)

On Sun. 28th this Marathon is run alongside the river on the *halage* (tow-path; *écluses* means lock-gates). There are 3 different races: the Marathon departing from Martigné-sur-Mayenne; the Semi-Marathon departing from Montgiroux, and a 10km race departing from from Changé. All races finish in the Square de Boston in Laval (53). For more info: marathondesecluses.org

A day at the farm and falconry show

On Sat. 13th at 16h at the *Ferme du Petit Coin de Paradis*, La Chapelle-au-Grain in St Georges-Buttavent (53) you can watch the *aigles de Gascogne* (Gascony eagles), buzzards, owls, etc., as they perform. At 17h you can visit the farm and local producers' market. From 18h30 there will be a concert by 'Harvest Folk' and also on-site catering. Prior booking is required for the falconry shows, from La Papinière in St-Georges-Buttavent. Tickets: 12€; children 2 to 12: 8€, under 2s free. More info: mayenne-tourisme.com

Journée de Peintres in Fontaine-Daniel (53)

On Sun. 7th from 8h30 to 17h30, the village of Fontaine-Daniel is transformed into an open-air gallery for a festive, friendly day of art. Organised by the Saint-Georges-Buttavent painter's collective, the event is open to all, children and adults. It is free to set up between 9h and 17h.

There are 3 adult categories: pastel, oil and acrylic; 2 children's categories: 3 to 9 years and 10 to 14 years. Registration can be made on site from 9h, or in advance at *l'Epicerie* (06 14 75 11 84). Lunch is offered to all participants.

There will also be workshops for basket-making (10h to 16h) on the terrace of *l'Epicerie*: 30 minute sessions at 10€ per person. Also many other workshops on site, and a concert at *l'Epicerie* at lunchtime. More info at www.lepicerie.org

Fête Communale in Le Pas (53)

On the weekend of 6th & 7th, the streets of Le Pas will be busy for 2 days, with a funfair all weekend and lots of entertainment:

Sat. from 19h: *apéritif* concert; from 20h to 23h: music with '*Les Valdingues*'; at 10h15: torchlight procession and fireworks at the lake; from 23h: music with DJ Ma Ri.

Sun. from 12h: Meal (*moules frites* or *saucisses* - reservations: 06 04 49 67 89); 14h to 16h: exhibition on the two World Wars in the Salle des Fêtes. Vintage vehicles (cars, 2-wheelers, sidecars, tractors, etc) will be on display in the streets.

Fête des Angevines in Fougères (35)

During Mon. 1st in Place de la Communauté-de-Rillé will be a *fête foraine* (fun-fair) and at 23h a *spectacle pyrotechnique* (fireworks display). Free. On Tues. 2nd on Boulevard Jean Jaurès and Avenue de Gaulle will be a *braderie des commerçants*, with stalls selling local produce.

'Feria' - Street Festival in Mayenne (53)

Sat. 6th from 10h to midnight at *La Cale* (on the riverside in Mayenne town) this will be a day of festivities, conviviality and good humour, with red & white clothing and a crazy atmosphere! Get out your red scarves and your best red & white outfits – the *Feria* atmosphere will have Mayenne buzzing!

There will be a mechanical bull, Charantais (shoe) throwing, human table football, jousting on an inflatable structure. There are inflatables for children, and a refreshment stall & food court will be set up. In many nearby bars there will be darts and table football competitions, waiter races, etc. In the evening, DJ SAX will keep you dancing until midnight! More info: jci-hautemayenne.fr

Motorbike rally

On Sat. 6th at the Parc Saint-Fiacre in Château-Gontier (53), two rides are proposed:

* depart at 13h30 for a 90km ride; * depart at 21h for a 20km night ride. Tickets: 5€ per helmet. During the day the Exhibitors' Village is open from 10h. Free entry. There will be a tombola and refreshments on site. More info: motoevasion53@gmail.com

English films in Gorron (53) cinema

Here are the first English (VO) films in Gorron cinema in September. [It might be advisable to check on www.gorron-cinemas.fr before setting off in case of any last-minute changes].

Mon. 1st: 'Dracula' with Caleb Landry Jones, Christophe Waltz, Zoe Bleu.

Mon. 8th: 'Freaky Friday 2' with Jamie Lee Curtis, Lindsay Cohan, Julia Butters.

The films start at 20h (8pm) and tickets (5,50€) are available at the cinema (beside the church) from 19h30 (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€.

Virtual visit of Fougères - from 1900 to 2025

On Sat. 20th from 9h to 12h30 (every 45 minutes) on rue du Beffroi in Fougères (35), with a virtual reality headset and accompanied by a cultural expert, you can discover the Fougères of 1900 until the present time. Some no-longer-existing monuments and buildings will re-appear before your eyes for a spectacular immersion into the past. Free.

Concert of Celtic harp and song

Sat. 6th, 16h to 17h on rue Volney, Mayenne town (53) – let your self be enchanted by a musical journey to the heart of Celtic lands. Celtic harp & voice join forces to transport you to Ireland and Scotland, through spellbinding ancestral melodies. A moment suspended, where the harp whispers and the voice enchants. www.legrandnord.fr. Free.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

In these pretty gardens at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) you can spend a peaceful day admiring the beautiful flowers, bushes & trees, see the *ecomusée* (a farmhouse from the 19th century & vintage equipment) and art exhibition. You can also try your luck in the Maize Maze! At 11h there will be a guided tour (in French) but you can walk around at liberty during the day and even bring a picnic to enjoy in these lovely surroundings. On Sat. 20th and Sun 21st, 10h to 18h, as part of the *Journées de Patrimoine*, there is a reduced entry price of 4,50€ for adults, children 3€.

Farmers' and artisans' market at the Château

At the Château du Bois-Thibault in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) on Sun. 21st there will be a local produce market, and there are guided tours and also self-guided tours to discover these fascinating historic Château remains. Free.

150 Years of the Church in Gorron (53)

On Sat. 20th & Sun. 21st, an exhibition looks back at l'Eglise Saint-Martin's past and its renovations, while a time-capsule invites young and old alike to leave a trace for future generations. Discover the church in a different way, with fun activities and a friendly picnic on the forecourt. On Sat.: a fun treasure-hunt with riddles (in French) to help you discover the history of the church, with prizes, and – every 2 hours – slide shows to see the work carried out to restore the spire. On Sun.: a giant picnic on the forecourt, with tables and chairs available. Everyone is invited to bring their own meal for a convivial moment. Free.

September Musical de l'Orne

On Fri. 19th at 20h in l'Eglise Notre-Dame de l'Assomption in La Ferté-Macé (61) a concert with works by Bach (*Quattro Stagioni*) and Handel. There will also be regular concerts until 24th September. Info: september-musical.com

Braderie in La Ferté-Macé (61)

On the weekend of 6th & 7th throughout the town. On Sat.: *vide-greniers* (9h-18h), local produce market; *foire aux vins* (wine fair); exhibition of vintage cars. On Sun.: *vide-greniers* (7h-18h), *braderie* and *brocante*.

Tour de l'Orne cycliste - cycle race

On Sat. 13th, 14h to 15h30, Stage 1 (Bagnoles de l'Orne to Sées) of the Tour de l'Orne will be passing through the commune (so some road diversions will be in place).

Soap-box ('caisses à savon') races

On Sun. 7th at 11h on rue des Avaloirs in Chatillon-sur-Colmont (53) the 'soap-boxes' are putting on a show full of thrills and spills! Go and cheer them on – or even have a go yourselves! (Info and registration, if you want to try it out, at 06 02 22 58 60). Free. Refreshments and catering on site.

New Indian restaurant in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

Open on 1st September, at 16 rue des Casinos, the restaurant 'La Terrasse' is now 'Taj Mahal' run by Osama Gulzar whose father runs 'Le Rajasthan' in Mayenne town (53). There is seating for 42 inside and 16 on the terrace. English is spoken and there is accessibility for the handicapped. A week-day *midi (plat & dessert)* is 16€ with *à la carte* at weekends. Open: Tues. to Sun.: 12h-14h30 & 19h-22h30. For reservations: 07 60 50 43 04.

Vélo-rail in Bagnoles-de-l'Orne (61)

Until December, daily between 10h & 17h, the *Vélo-rail* – a 2-5 seater *draisine* (track inspection rail-cycle) – departs from the old railway station. You can pass an enjoyable time cycling 5km on the disused rail, through tunnels of trees in the Forêt d'Andaine. Tickets: 8€, under 12s: 4€, under 4s free. For more info, ask at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (bagnolesdelorne.com)

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And finally:

I love bacon – sometimes I eat it twice a day. It helps take my mind off the terrible chest pains I keep getting!

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That's all for this month. You will find out more about interesting places to visit during the *Journées du Patrimoine* at a Tourist Office or, of course, on the internet.

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

September 2025

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