

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Growing old is like being increasingly penalised
for a crime you haven't committed!

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

Sun. 7th Sourdeval (50) monthly *brocante*- v-g, at 'A La Belle Epoque'
Sun. 14th Bellou-en-Houlme (61) v-g/*brocante* at La Chevalerie, ±150

Vide-maisons (house clearances)

Fri. 5th Rives d'Andaine (53) at 5707 rue d'Alençon, 10h-16h
Sun. 7th La Ferté-Macé (61) at 17 route de Bagnoles, 9h30 to 18h (weekly)
Sun. 14th " "
Sun. 21st " "
Sun. 28th " "

Christmas lights in this area

Each year many towns and villages are specially lit up at Christmas. From now until 3rd January you can enjoy the wonderful illuminations - the main ones nearby are Mantilly, St. Mars d'Egrenne, St. Roch-sur-Egrenne, Rouellé, La Michaudière, Céaucé, Beauchêne [once voted 4th best in the whole of France!], La Sauvagère. Ask at a Tourist Office (e.g.: Domfront: 02 33 38 53 97, some English spoken) for more info, and also of a possible guided coach trip in this area.

Foire Saint-Nicholas in Villaines-la-Juhel (53)

On Sat 6th, 9h–18h, in the Salle des Fêtes there will be many stalls selling music, linens, food, clothing, etc., with activities such a face-painting, a roller-skating horse race, a puppet show, donkey rides and funfair. (more info at villaines-la-juhel.fr)

Some Marchés de Noël (Christmas markets):

5th to 7 th	Mayenne (53) on the river bank ('La Cale', near the Tourist Office), organised by the Lions-Club
Sat. 6 th	La Chapelle-au-Riboul (53) 9h–18h, in the Salle des Fêtes, rue du Stade
“	St Berthevin-la-Tannière (53): 16h–23h at the Salle des Fêtes. 30 stalls & visit by Père Noël, tombola, horse & buggy rides, music with group Duo Mayic. Food & drink on site.
“	Frênes (61): 14h30–19h, in Cour de Pôle Culturel, place de l'Eglise. Stalls with perfumes, Xmas decorations, gift ideas, candles. Père Noël arrives at 17h and the lights will be switched on.
“	Saint-Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53) from 18h on the <i>terrain de loisirs</i> . Many stalls with jewellery, herbal teas, honey, cheese, vegetables, bread, soaps, greetings cards, wooden decorations, etc.
Sun. 7 th	Louverné (53) in the Salle des Plaiades, 10h–18h; around 70 stalls
”	Lassay-les-Châteaux (61): 10h–17h30 in the Salle Omnisports, 70 stalls. Meals available on site - reservation required (06 66 36 91 82)
“	Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53), 9h30–17h in the Salle des Fêtes, 25 stalls with tombola, horse & buggy rides. Food on site.
“	Montsûrs-St-Céneré (53) in the Halles de la Jouanne, 9h–18h, ±70
“	Gorron (53) 10h–18h, in Espace Colmont with 30 stalls: artisan products, gift ideas, oyster bar, carol concert, tombola and meeting with Père Noël.
Wed. 10 th	La Ferté-Macé (61): 10h–17h in the Salle d'Animation de l'Air du Temps, rue Soeur-Marie-Boitier: 12 stalls, with a visit from Père Noël
Fri. 12 th	Rives-d'Andaine (61) from 15h30 in the Salle Roland-Fléhard
Sat. 13 th	St Cornier-des-Landes (61): 10h–18h in the village hall. Crafts, local produce, children's craft workshop, Santa Claus, drawing competition, photographer, make-up workshop & Santa's Letter Box.
13 th & 14 th	La Sauvagère (61) [13 th at 14h–21h, 14 th at 10h–18h] in the Salle des Fêtes.
“	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): [Sat. 14h–20h; Sun. 10h–18h] in Communs du Château, Allée Aloïs Monnet (more info: baignoiesdelorne.com)
Sun. 14 th	Landivy (53): 10h–18h in the Salle Polyvalente, rue de Louvigné-du-Désert, 30 stalls.
Wed. 17 th	La Ferté-Macé (61): 14h–20h along the streets of <i>centre-ville</i> . 60 stalls
Fri. 19 th	Lonlay-l'Abbaye (61): 17h–19h30 in Place Saint-Sauveur
Sat. 20 th	Céaucé (61): 14h–21h in the town

Christmas Concerts

Sat. 6th, 17h–18h30 in St-Bomer-les-Forges (61, north of Domfront): *Chants traditionnel de Noël* (Traditional Christmas carols) in the Eglise de Saint-Bomer-les-Forges.

Sun. 7th at 16h in the Abbey in Lonlay-l'Abbaye (61) : *Concert de Noël* (Christmas concert) with the choir 'Pro Arte' of Vire-Normande.

Sat. 13th in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), 20h30 –21h30: *Exceptionnel Concert de trompes de chasse* (Concert of hunting horns) in l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine, 9 Place de l'Eglise

Fri. 19th, 20h–21h: Christmas Concert in the church in Saint-Fraimbault (61)

Sun. 21st at 15h: 'Carols by Candlelight' in the Eglise Saint Céneré in Epinay-le-Comte (61) which will be led by Tim Peagam from Orne Christian Fellowship, followed by refreshments

'Vivace' Christmas concerts

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without a choral concert! *Chorale Vivace*, a well established choir in the region, can now call itself truly international as their members comprise British, French, Dutch, German and American singers. Their repertoire includes pieces in many languages which proves that music knows no boundaries and crosses all nationalities. In their Christmas concerts during December they will be singing in English, French, Latin, Swedish and in ancient Wendat. Their music ranges from traditional to modern, sacred to secular and truly reflects the preference of their singers and their personal choir experiences - in fact, something for everyone.

They look forward to seeing you and your friends at the following concerts:

Barenton (50): in Eglise Notre-Dame de l'Assomption on Fri. 5th at 20h (8pm)

Mantilly (61): in Eglise Notre-Dame de l'Assomption on Sun. 7th at 15h (3pm)

Passais Villages (61): in the Eglise, *centre-ville* on Wed. 10th at 20h (8pm)

Domfront (61) in l'Eglise Saint-Julien on Sat. 13th at 15h (3pm)

All concerts are free with a collection for local charities.

Voix d'Eté concerts

The choir *Voix d'Eté* have 2 Christmas concerts: Sat. 13th at 15h in the Salle Normand in Dompierre (61), and Sun. 14th at 15h in La Ferté Macé church (61). The concert in La Ferté Macé Church is an opportunity for listening and singing many traditional French and English carols - a good start to your Christmas festivities

Chants de Noël (Christmas carols) in English and French

Looking for some Christmas spirit? On Sat. 20th at 14h–17h at the Maison d'Hercule, 93 rue Charles de Gaulle in Mayenne town (53) you can drop in for a BILINGUAL sing-a-long! There will be *tartes de Noël* (mince pies), *brioche*, *vin chaud* (mulled wine) and hot drinks.

Fête de Noël (Christmas fête)

Sat. 6th, 16h–23h, in the Salle des Fêtes in La Haie-Traversaine, Place des Combattants Pour La Liberté. There will be games and entertainment.

Illuminated procession

Fri. 5th departing at 19h30 from Place Clémenceau in Mayenne town (near the château) you are invited to enjoy an unusual experience – a wondrous procession! An imaginary world unfolds as a illuminated herd of ‘stags and does’ engage in astounding dance like a tribute to nature. (*remue-menge.com*)

Gorron illuminated

Fri. 5th, 18h to 22h at the Place de la Mairie, there will be activities for children and adults accompanied by Père Noël for the switching on of the Christmas lights. There will be food on sale to the benefit of Telethon. A festive and charitable evening. A traditional parade at 18h30 with children dressed as elves will depart from Place de la Houssaie at 18h30. The food stalls will be selling hot *rillettes*, crepes, *vin chaud* (mulled wine) and hot chocolate.

Christmas 'Open Garden'

A French lady who lives at 10 Impasse de Vieux Cimitière in Céaucé (61) is opening her garden on Sun. 7th from 10h to 18h. There will be lovely crafts and gifts for sale.

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And finally:

It's never too late to start exercising. That's why I'm waiting until later.

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That's all for this month - a shorter version than usual but full of Christmas things to see and do, so I thought there was something here for everyone! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

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