
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 trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off!

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

Sun. 8th Saint-Berthevin, Laval (50) v/g in the underground parking of Leclerc, 62 Blvd Louis Armand), 9h-17h, ±150

Vide-maisons (house clearances)

W/e 7th & 8th Martigné-le-Brillant (53) at 12 Chemin de Pont Patry, 8h-19h, with furniture, décor, clothing, garden items.

W/e 7th & 8th Flers (61) at 19 Place Saint Jean, 9h30 to 18h;

W/e 14th & 15th Montsûrs-Saint-Cénére (53) at 49 Impasse du Parc, 9h30 to 18h

Plantes en fête & vide-grenier

Sun. 22nd, 9h to 13h at the Jardin d'Emilien (opposite the church) in Sainte-Marie-du-Bois, (53, north of Lassay-les-Châteaux) where you can buy and/or exchange plants and find garden tools, décor, etc.

Special dates:

Sun. 1st Saint David's Day in the UK

Tues. 17th Saint Patrick's Day in the UK

28th & 29th *Foire des Rameaux* (Palm Sunday Fair) in Domfront (see page 2)

Sun. 29th Summer Time begins – clocks go forward during the night.

Eating out - Smiles Café

This recently opened café / restaurant in Céaucé, at 10 Place du Marché, is a warm, family-run business serving themed dinner nights amongst curated antique finds. Closed on Mondays to Wednesdays, open Thursdays 10h-17h for drinks and snacks; Fridays: noon to 17h, as above, Saturdays: 9h to 15h – serving All Day Breakfast; Sundays: noon to 16h for a Sunday Roast (prior booking recommended). Tel: 06 02 24 04 28.

Salon Gourmand de Mayenne (Mayenne Gourmet Fair)

On Sat. 14th (10h to 20h) and Sun. 15th (10h to 18h) at the Salle Polyvalente, rue Volney in Mayenne (53) this Gourmet Fair has been running for over 20 years and welcomes between 3,000 and 3,500 visitors over the weekend. Around 60 exhibitors are present – 40 from the local region – and 20 winemakers. You can taste, buy, stroll through the aisles, chat to the producers and discover excellent French products in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. Entry 2€ (under 18s free).

Atelier jardinage - creation d'une haie sèche (Gardening workshop - creating a dry hedge)

Fri. 13th from 14h30 to 16h at the Jardin de la Perrine, in Laval (53), you can discover how to make a fence with green waste and branches from the garden. [In French, but some English may be spoken]. Learn how to make the most of your prunings while creating a natural shelter for biodiversity and structuring the space in a pleasing and functional way. You will need to take pruning shears and wear appropriate clothing (will be cancelled in the event of bad weather). Free. More info available from the Mayenne Tourist Office (see p.5).

Bourse aux vélos (bicycle sale & exchange)

This 2026 Bike Swap takes place on Sat. 28th from 10h to 16h at Building 13, Place Albert Jacquard, Quartier Ferrié in Laval (53) and will have many used bicycles on sale.

Sellers can drop off their bikes on Fri. 27th from 15h to 19h or on Sat. 28th from 8h to 10h (2€ per adult bike dropped off, 1€ per child's bike, with ID). The condition of the bikes will be checked by the team. The seller sets the selling price [a 10% commission will be deducted from the sale proceeds to cover organisational costs]. Registration for sellers at bourse.placeauvelo.org.

Buyers: on Sat. 28th from 10h to 16h (early arrival is recommended). Cash, cheque or card accepted).

Foire des Rameaux (Palm Sunday Fair)

On Sat. 28th & Sun. 29th in the Espace André Rocton, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront (61) – with a market, music and the Middle Ages! This traditional Domfront Palm Sunday Fair has more than 80 exhibitors, producers and artisans present, with entertainment (face painting for children, drawing competitions, photobooth, craft & combat demonstrations) with a theatrical procession. A funfair is there all weekend. Food is available on site: snacks, a rotisserie at mid-day, plus a food truck.

A virtual reality visit to the Temple of Jublains

On Sun. 22nd, 14h30 to 16h, you can visit the *Temple de Jublains* at the *Musée Archéologique Départemental* in Jublains (53), 13 rue de la Libération. This sanctuary is the sacred place where the inhabitants of Noviodonum (the Roman name for Jublains) gathered to pray and honour the gods. Located north of the ancient village, the sanctuary – built during the Roman era - succeeded a Gallic place of worship. Accompanied by your guide (French, but some English may be spoken) and with your tablet in hand, you can stroll along the sanctuary's colonnaded galleries and approach this temple of impressive proportions. You will be amazed by this monumental architecture with its faded colours.

Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather, as it is an exterior tour. Duration: 1 hour 30 min. Suitable for ages 7 and over. Tickets: Adults 6€, available from the Mayenne Tourist Office (*mayenne-tourisme.com*) or *patrimoine-lamayenne.fr*)

Something for all the family:

Expo p'tits curieux de nature (little nature enthusiasts exhibition)

Until Sun. 8th March, 14h to 17h30, in the Allée du Centre Aéré, Bldg A du Bois de l'Huisserie in Laval (53), this nature initiation centre opens its mysterious drawers to you, filled with amazing – sometimes bizarre, fascinating and magnificent – objects including insects with armour worthy of superheros, travelling seeds, carved wood, etc. A space where you can learn while having fun; where you can touch, compare, search, guess and discover secrets. There will also be a short film *Le revers de mon 'look'* (The other side of my 'look') – this playful and educational video unveils, in a simple and surprising way, the hidden side of fashion – its production, impact and secrets of everyday clothes. A visit for everyone – curious minds, families, teenagers and fashion enthusiasts. See your wardrobe in a new light! Free.

Marché du Terroir et de l'Artisanat in Brecé (53)

On Sun. 8th at 10h to 17h in the Salle Polyvalente, rue des Sports in Brecé (53), the village will host the traditional local produce market, organised by *l'Association Familles Rurales*. The day includes a parade and exhibition of vintage tractors and cars, and light snacks (*crêpes*, *saucisses*) are available from 11h, with a 3-course lunch available from 12h (15€, no reservation required).

Twilight at the top of the belltower (le clocher)

On Fri. 20th at 18h30 to 19h30 – a belltower, a sunset, a suspended moment: Domfront at the golden hour. In the heart of the medieval town of Domfront, the recently restored church of Saint Julien is a striking landmark. The visit begins with a tour of the church, followed by an exceptional climb to the belltower. Up there, at the hour when day and night are in perfect harmony, let yourself be captivated by a 360 degree panoramic view of Domfront and its surrounding landscape. An aperitif is served at the summit, inviting you to enjoy the magic of the place. Booking is required. Not accessible to people with reduced mobility. More info at the Domfront Tourist Office, near the Château (02 33 38 53 97).

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 21st at 18h to 19h50 in the Salle Polyvalente in Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61): a performance by the choir ‘Gospel Flowers’. Enter the energy of gospel – listen . . . or dare to sing along with the ‘Gospel Flowers’, a fun and friendly experience centred around choral singing. The event is followed by a ‘potluck’ dinner (everyone brings something to share). Places are limited – advanced booking via the *HelloAsso* link is strongly recommended.

'Fun Théâtre : "*Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*"

On Fri. 20th (at 20h), Sat. 21st (at 20h) & Sun. 22nd(at 15h), in the Salle Multicultural in Passais Villages (61), ‘Fun Théâtre’ will perform a ‘radio’ adaptation of one of Molière’s most famous plays, “*Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*”. Played for the first time in 1670, this is a very funny comedy in which the playwright mocks a man who tries to imitate the behaviour and lifestyle of the nobility. Monsieur Jourdain confuses appearance with character because, according to him, clothes make the man. “*Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*” is about a man who gradually loses his grip on reality and takes refuge in an artificial world. Unusually for **Fun Théâtre** this is a French language play only - but the humour and trajectory of the story are likely to be accessible to even those with just a smidgeon of French. Tickets are €8 for adults, and for children under 10 years just €2.

You can book online via the Q-code or the clickable link on their website: funtheatre.fr

Concert by "*Les Voix-ci, Les Voix-la*"

Tues. 17th, 20h30 to 21h45 at the Couterne (61) Theatre ‘*La Fraternelle*’: an eclectic repertoire with humour and poetry, by 8 singers of ‘*Les Voix-ci, Les Voix-la*’ (‘Voices here, Voices-there’) with unique and explosive voices. The group performs *a cappella*, sometimes accompanied by a guitar. Tickets: 10€. For reservations and more information: www.ccandainepassais.org, or saisonculturellepavage@gmail.com

Visit to the Château de Laval

This emblematic monument, on Place de la Trémouille in the centre of Laval (53), was built in the 11th century, with the later addition of a 12th century chapel and 13th century keep. Around 1020, Guy de Déneré established his motte-and-bailey château on the slopes of the hill overlooking the river Mayenne, near the ford crossed by an old Roman road linking the Paris Basin to Brittany. The 34-metre high cylindrical keep (built 1219-1221) is one of the oldest timber-framed structures in France. You can discover the history of this château and how it evolved over the centuries. It is beautifully floodlit at night.

For opening hours go to patrimoine.laval.fr. Entry: for a guided tour (in French), adults 6€; for a self-guided visit: 3€. Both free for under 26s and the disabled & their carers. Free on the first Sunday of every month.

Salon d'Art Contemporain

From 13th to 29th (weekdays 14h-18h, the weekend 10h-18h) in the 'Espace Colmont', ZA des Bernardières in Gorron (53), this 32nd edition of the popular Art Exhibition reunites 40 artists of universal styles, with paintings and sculptures – and some demonstrations by the artists. Free entry.

Expo d'Art Créatifs (Creative Arts Exhibition)

From 16th to 22nd, 10h-18h daily at the old railway station in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) you can discover the colourful world of antique linen and textile painting as Marion Peeters exhibits her works. Decorative home accessories, including hand-painted cushions and curtains on antique linens. Throughout the week textile painting workshops (in French) will be offered, open to everyone aged 8 and over with no prior drawing or other artistic knowledge required. A chance to discover an original technique and leave with your personalised creation. Tickets are 45€. Registration: by e-mail: marion.peeters@free.fr or phone 06 28 32 55 04.

Tea Dance in Lonlay l'Abbaye (61)

On Thurs. 19th, 14h to 19h, in the Salle Polyvalente in Lonlay l'Abbaye – this is for those who enjoy 'tripping the light fantastic'! Accompanied by music from 'Labal Dance'. Entry: 8€ which includes a hot drink (coffee or chocolate) and a bun/pastry at the interval.

Le Monde Agricole et du TP en miniature

(The World of Agriculture and Public Works in miniature)

On Sun. 8th, 9h to 18h in the Salle Polyvalente, Blvd Volney in Mayenne (53) – join them for the 8th annual miniature agricultural and construction equipment exhibition and sale. In this 2,000 sq.m. of exhibition and sales space, you can see various activities and also demonstrations of radio-controlled trucks. Admission: 3€ (under 12s free) to the benefit of the charity "*Le Souris d'Iris*".

Photography exhibition

From Mon. 9th to Sun. 15th, daily from 10h to 17h, at *Le Gare* (old railway station) in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) – an exhibition of photos by Anaïs Lacroix in collaboration with Bagnoles Turquoise. Free.

Some Tourist Office contact details:

Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	www.bagnolesdelorne.com	02 33 37 85 66
Domfront (61):	www.ot-domfront.com	02 33 38 53 97
Laval (53)	www.laval-tourisme.com	02 43 49 46 46
Mayenne (53)	www.mayenne-tourisme.com	02 43 04 19 37

Some weekly markets in the *Manche* (50) *département*

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Briquebec, Carentan, Saint-James, Torigni-sur-Vire
Tuesdays	Cherbourg, Ducey, Sourdeval, Villedieu-les-Poêles
Wednesdays	St Hilaire-du-Harcouët, La Haye Pesnel, Pontorson
Thursdays	Cherbourg, Coutances, Ger, Le Teilleul
Fridays	Brécey, Les Pieux, Saint-Lô, Valognes
Saturdays	Avranches, Barneville-Carteret, Cherbourg, Granville, Mortain, Saint-Lô, Saint-Saveur-le-Vicomte
Sundays	Barenton, Pirou, Hauteville-sur-Mer

(It is wise to double check before going, as these can change without notice)

Next month: the weekly markets in the *Ille et Vilaine* (35) *département* (Brittany).

Gorron cinema - the next 2 English films in March

Here are the next 2 English films in Gorron Cinema (you can find more info on them at *Allo'ciné*):

Mon. 2nd “**Nuremberg**”
with Russell Crowe, Rami Malek, Richard E Grant

Mon. 9th “**The Mastermind**”
with Josh O’Connor, Alana Haem, John Magaro

[On 1st January the film ticket price increased by a small amount, from 5,50€ to 5,80€, the first increase since 2015].

Tickets (5,80€) can be purchased in the foyer of the cinema (which is beside the church) from 19h30 (7.30pm) on the night of the film. The films start at 20h (8pm). 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€.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Road race - Trail des 3 clochers (Trail of the 3 belltowers)

This race departs on Sun. 22nd at 07h30 from the Parc de Loisirs de Vaux, rue des Colverts, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53). So, lace up your sneakers for this new edition! Get set! Go!

This is the perfect time to confirm your participation in these magnificent races where you can re-discover the paths and trails of North Mayenne. For racers: several distances - 10km, 16km, 21km, 37km, also the new 50km! For hikers/walkers: 3 routes - 10km, 16km & 21km. Tickets are from 5€. For on-line registration: <https://www.strayde.com/trail-des-3-clochers>. More info from mayenne-tourisme.com

Randonnées des Mardis (Tuesday walks)

Tues. 3rd, 14h to 17h. Walk, discover, breathe! Tuesday hikes are your nature rendez-vous with the Orne and its treasures. This month: Ger (61, north of Barenton). Depart at 14h from the church square. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office.

Randonnées des Dimanches (Sunday hikes)

On Sun. 8th, 11h to 17h. You can embark on an adventure in different villages every Sunday - this month is Perrou (61) - and explore the beautiful trails in good company. More information at randonneursdomfrontais.sportsregions.fr.

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And finally:

Papers become vital after they demonstrate their ability by moving from where you put them to where you can't find them.

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I hope there is something of interest in here for everyone. All we need is some sunshine! Have a great March.

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

.March 2026

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