

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Wherever you go, no matter what the weather,
always bring your own sunshine

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g) & *brocantes* 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]:

Sun. 5 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/brocante at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Hambye (50)	42 nd v-g / braderie in the village, 6h-18h. 2km long with 280 stalls! Refreshments on site.
Sun. 12 th	Dol-de-Bretagne (35)	in Salle Châteaubriand, 9h-18h, ±50. Food on site
“	La Haie-Traversaine (53)	v-g / brocante in Place de l'Eglise, 9h-16h
“	La Pellerine (53)	v-g & <i>Marché de Printemps</i> (Spring Market), 8h-17h, ±70
“	Mayenne (53)	v-g in Leclerc car park, rue du Prieuré de Berne, 7h-18h, ±150
Sat. 18 th	St Hilaire du Harcouët (50)	v-g & Nonette Country Show, 139 Les Isles, 9h-19h, ±50
Sun. 26 th	Commer (53)	v-g at <i>La Gare</i> , 8h-18h, ±75
“	Ernée (53)	v-g in Super U car park, 9h-18h, ±300

Vide-hangar (shed clearance sale) -

Fri. 3rd, Sat. 4th & Sun. 5th in Surgon, Placé (53) – over 200 sq.m of items! (See page 3).

Special dates:

Sun. 5 th	<i>Pâques</i> (Easter Day)
Mon. 6 th	<i>Lundi de Pâques</i> (Easter Monday)

Eating out : *Hostellerie de la Juhel*

The *Hostellerie de la Juhel* is a hotel/restaurant at 27 rue Jules Doitteau, in the centre of Villaines-la-Juhel (53). It has recently changed ownership and it now has an oriental restaurant (not buffet style). The food is fresh, hot and full of flavour. They are open 7 days a week - 11h to 15h & 18h to 22h, tel: 02 43 03 23 24. Plenty of parking in the car park next to it. [For the hotel: double rooms are from 49€ to 54€, family rooms from 56€].

Clothes & accessories sale / *vide-dressing*

On Sun. 26th from 9h30 to 15h in the Salle des Fêtes in Saint-Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53). there will be stalls with clothes, shoes, handbags, accessories, etc. There will also be fashion-themed books and art for sale. Tea, coffee & cake will be available all day with the proceeds going to Cancer Support France Nord. Any enquiries please message Suzanne McGregor on suzymcg@hotmail.com

Chasse aux Oeufs (Easter Egg Hunt Race) in Larchamp (53)

On Sat. 4th at 14 rue des Poiriers. Meet at the Salle des Sports from 13h for registration, the race starts at 14h. A raffle will be held to win a large chocolate egg! (tickets 2€). Registration: 4€ per child (age 10 and under). More information at the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37).

Cancer Support France-Nord events

Quiz: this will be a week later this month due to Easter being early. Next quiz will be on Fri. 10th at the Viking Bar, Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50) with a maximum of six people per team. If you are unable to make up a team, no problem, do go and take part. Price: 3€ per person. Quiz starts at 20h

Brunch: on Weds. 8th & 22nd. Go and join them at the Salle des Fêtes, Notre-Dame-du-Touchet. Doors open at 10h; last order 12h30. Vegetarian option available.

Spring fayre: on Sat. 25th at the Salle des Fêtes in Notre-Dame-du-Touchet. Doors open at 10h until 16h, there will be many stallholders selling crafts, cards, gifts and more. Go along to their cafe where refreshments will be served all day. Also, if you are able to make a donation of a cake for them that would be great – please let them know at the following e-mail address: nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Chasse aux Oeufs pour Pâques (Easter Egg Hunt) in Montaudin (53)

Organised by the Montaudin Youth Association, on Sun. 12th you can join them at the Montaudin lake for their traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Search for the missing chocolates! Refreshments & snacks available on site. Tickets: 4€ per child (under 10).

Vide-hangar (shed clearance sale)

On Fri. 3rd to Sun. 5th, 8h to 19h each day, at Surgon, Placé (SE of Ernée) – over 200 sq.m of space has been set up for this event. You'll find crockery, decoration, appliances, tools, games, antiques, collectables, paintings, furniture, instruments . . . and all at a bargain price. For more info go to their facebook event page

Migratory birds : the Return

On Sun. 26th, 9h to 12h at *Bel Air*, Hardanges (53), you can join the group to search for migratory birds on the hills of Hardanges, including *tariers des prés* (whinchats), *traquets motteux* (northern wheatears) & *hirondelles* (swallows). Take along binoculars, a camera and good walking shoes. Free, but registration is required as places are limited. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Something for all the family:

Fête de Printemps 2026 (Spring Festival 2026)

This takes place at the Parc du Château, Place Juhel in Mayenne (53) on Wed. 22nd from 14h to 19h. Celebrate the return of Spring with a day of fun! Giant games, bouncy castles, face painting, and more. A free family event presented by the *Ville de Mayenne*

Cheese of the Month & visit to the *Fromagerie Vaubernier*

On Tues. 14th at 9h30 to 11h30, another chance to visit the *Fromagerie Vaubernier* at Le Bois Belleray, Martigné-sur-Mayenne (53). This cheese factory has been producing the famous '*Bons Mayennais*' cheeses for over 100 years, following the original recipe. During the visit you can discover all the steps involved in this unique expertise, an iconic brand of this region. Reservation required (as limited places are available) at the Mayenne Tourist Office, 2 Quai Waiblingen, by the river in Mayenne town, or 02 43 04 19 37.

Something more for all the family

A reminder that until 25th May, at the *mediathèque* Victor Hugo, 7 Grande rue in Gorron (53) there is the Interactive Virtual Adventure Exhibition. Between immersive experiences, interactive artworks and virtual reality, this exhibition will thrill you. (It is mainly in French, but some English may be spoken). Free. For ages 12 and upwards for VR headset. No reservation is required during opening hours:- Mon: 16h–18h; Tues: 16h–18h30; Wed. & Thurs: 10h–12h & 14h–18h; Fri: 15h–18h; Sat: 10h–12h30).

The *Vikings Normand* Choir

On Sat. 11th, 20h-21h, in the Domfront *Théâtre Municipal*, 5 place de Burgwedel in Domfront (61), this is an all-male ensemble that explores songs from around the world. Tickets: 15€ and reservations can be made at the Domfront Tourist Office (02 33 38 53 97, English spoken).

Concert: Homage to Johnny Halliday

Thurs. 9th at 20h30 in the Espace Colmont in Gorrion (53) featuring all of Johnny Hallyday's greatest hits! Treat yourself or someone special to a pure moment of powerful and authentic rock. Performed by Pierre Benvenuti (Garou's successor in the musical 'Notre-Dame de Paris') accompanied with guitar by Norbert Krief, Johnny Hallyday's iconic guitarist and founder of the legendary band 'Trust'. Limited seating available. Tickets 29€, available at ticketmaster.fr or at Carrefour & FNAC.

16th Concours International de Piano

This prestigious event offers a 3-day piano marathon, from 23rd to 26th, in the *Théâtre Municipal*, Place Juhel in Mayenne (53). The Competition is a "small corner of the world" that gathers at the Theatre of Mayenne around pianists of all nationalities, with an internationally renowned jury composed of concert pianists and educators. For more info go to concourspianomayenne.fr or ask at the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37).

Some weekly markets in the *Ille et Vilaine*(35)

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Combourg, Vitré
Tuesdays	Antrain, Dinard
Wednesdays	Tinténiac
Thursdays	Bazouges-la-Pérouse, Dinard
Fridays	Pleurtuit, St Malo (Intra-Muros)
Saturdays	Dinard, Dol de Bretagne, Fougères
Sundays	Cancale, La Richardais

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

Art Exhibition in the *Gallerie Phenix*

As the seasons turn, the landscape quietly changes – and so do we. From 1st to 8th, there will be an art exhibition at Gallerie Phenix at Café Corbeau, 1, rue Corbeau-Paris in Gorrion (53). This series of paintings follows trees and meadows through the shifting year, capturing small moments of light, stillness and renewal. Created slowly and intuitively, these works invite you to pause, breathe and notice the comfort found in change. A gentle reminder that every season has its own beauty. The artist is Amanda E Brake, amandaelainebrake.com

Chasse aux Oeufs pour Pâques (Easter Egg Hunt)

Sat. 4th, 10h30 to 11h30, in the park of the Château de Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), Allée Aloïs Monnet. For children ages 2 to 12, accompanied by an adult: armed with a basket and your inner gourmet detective, your mission for the day is to find all the coloured eggs hidden in the château grounds by the mischievous rabbit. For older children, the rabbit has scattered pieces of egg along an orienteering course – you must find them and put the whole egg back together to win your prize of chocolates. Registration is required before 18h the day before (*boutiquebagnolesdelorne.com*) or at the Bagnoles Tourist Office. More info at: *bagnolesdelorne / mon sejour / agenda*

Visit to a Tinchebray prison

On Wednesdays 8th & 29th, 15h30 to 17h, you can experience history from the inside! Few old prisons are open to the public. Tinchebray Royal Prison, at 4 rue de la Prison, is steeped in over 400 years of history and offers a striking glimpse into the justice system of yesteryear. Cells, dungeons, chapels and courtrooms reveal the daily lives of prisoners and 'suspects' during the turbulent era of the French Revolution. The guided tour (in French but some English may be spoken) is 6€, reservation is required by 18h the day before at the Domfront or Bagnoles Tourist Offices. Minimum group = 5 adults; maximum = 20 adults.

Soirée Fish & Chips and Rock & Roll

Sat. 4th, 18h30 to 02h30 at the Salle André Rocton, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront (61). A rock band and fish & chips are on the menu for the evening, courtesy of J Prévart Collège Parent's Association (*APE du collège*). You are invited to the 7th edition of their famous 'fish & chips' evening. Menu: fish & chips (or crispy chicken burger), mushy peas, tartare with caramel sauce. Take away orders available. Music by 'Tiger Bloom'. Tickets 16€, reservations at *helloasso.com* or tel: 06 60 85 30 06.

Musée Venjean, 89 rue Maréchal Foch, Domfront (61)

On Thurs. 23rd, 14h to 15h30: this is a museum unlike any other, for curious minds and travellers of the imagination. The Venjean Museum moved to Domfront in 2021 – it was the first French museum dedicated to Science Fiction and Visionary Art. The painter Daniel Venjean explored Psychodelia and Dark Fantasy in the 1960s in what he now calls Sideralism. There are more than 300 fascinating paintings, sculptures and installations. The guided tour is 8€ (in French, but some English may be spoken). Reservations can be made at the Domfront or Bagnoles Tourist Offices. No accessibility for the disabled at this venue.

Concours de Pétanque (Pétanque competitions)

These mixed doubles and senior doubles competitions take place every other Monday at La *Pétanque Bagnolaise*, Boulevard Lemuet (behind the tennis courts) in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). This month they are on 6th and 20th, starting at 13h30. Open to all. Registration is from 13h30 to 14h25 with the first throw at 14h30. Tickets: 10€. More info from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66)

Sport & Leisure Activities

8th Rando de la Futaie (8th Hike of the Futaie)

Sun. 19th at 20 rue de Bretagne, St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53): calling all sports enthusiasts! Whether you prefer mountain biking, trail running or walking, there's something here for everyone! Starting any time between 8h and 10h. A breakdown service will be on site.

* 5 mountain bike routes: 20, 30, 40, 52 & 69 kms. Tickets: 8€

* 3 hiking & trail running routes: 8, 14, & 21 kms. Tickets: 6€ (under 12s: 5€)

Free coffee at the start, and refreshments are available along the route. Free *galette saucisse* (sausage galette) & drinks. Tickets available on site or at *HelloAsso*

Pêche et Rando (Fishing and walking) in Colombiers-du-Plessis (53)

Sun. 19th, 8h to 17h at the *Etang de Graffardière* (the lake off the D107 from Gorrion to Colombiers du Plessis, or via a small road just past the church in the village) treat yourself to a relaxing day of fishing or hiking. Meals available on site. Fishing starts at 8h, hiking starts at 9h (a 7km loop starting at the lake). Tickets: fishing only (1 rod per person, max. 6 catches, pond refilled in the afternoon): 6€; fishing & meal: 13€; hiking: 5€; hiking & meal: 12€; meal alone (sausage sandwich, chips, crêpe & coffee): 8€.

Reservation required, contact Damien for fishing (06 23 96 67 16), Vanessa for the hike/meal (06 64 15 60 09). Organised by the Colombiers Festival Committee.

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And finally:

Teacher: Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

Donald: it's H I J K L M N O

Teacher: What are you talking about?

Donald: Yesterday you said it's H to O.

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That's all for this month. Lots to do outside, with 3 Easter Egg Hunts mentioned here, although Tourist Offices will have information on any others in the area. Have a great April.

Judy Skinner

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

Please keep these useful contact details handy

SOS Helpline (*www.soshelpline.org*)

SOS Helpline is focussed on helping English speakers deal with emergency problems, from emotional breakdowns to feeling homesick or isolated, or just a question about a mobile bill.

15 - SAMU : The French Emergency Medical Assistance Service

To call out a medical team for a medical emergency: the **SAMU** is the co-ordinated service to call in case of any serious medical emergency. A qualified doctor is always available to determine the type of response that best fits your situation.

17 - Emergency Police Number

To report a crime requiring an immediate police response, this number puts you in contact with the appropriate emergency police services nearest to you, whether National Police or National Gendarmerie.

18 - Fire Brigade (the '*sapeurs pompiers*')

The *sapeurs pompiers* are always available in cases of medical emergency such as traffic and domestic accidents. They work closely with **SAMU** and employ professional, health, medical and volunteer brigades.

112 - European Emergency number

This is the number you can dial free of charge from fixed and mobile phones everywhere in the EU. It will get you straight through to the emergency services – police, ambulance, fire brigade.

Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

April 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
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3rd, 4th & 5th	<i>Vide-hangar</i> (shed clearance sale)	Placé	3
Sat. 4th	Easter Egg Hunt Race	Larchamp	2
“	<i>Soirée</i> Fish & Chips & Rock ‘n’Roll	Domfront	5
“	Easter Egg Hunt	Bagnoles de l’Orne	5
Mon. 6th	Pétanque competitions	Bagnoles de l’Orne	5
Wed. 8th	Cancer Support France-Nord: Brunch	Notre-Dame-du-Touchet	2
“	Visit the old Royal Prison	Tinchebray	5
Thurs. 9th	Concert : Homage to Johnny Halliday	Gorron	4
Fri. 10th	Cancer Support France-Nord: Quiz	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Sat. 11th	<i>Vikings Normand</i> Choir	Domfront	4
Sun. 12th	Easter Egg Hunt	Montaudin	2
Tues. 14th	Visit to the Vaubernier cheese factory	Martigné-sur-Mayenne	3
Sun. 19th	Fishing & hiking day	Colombiers-du-Plessis	6
“	Hiking and biking	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie	6
Mon. 20th	Pétanque competitions	Bagnoles de l’Orne	5
Wed. 22nd	<i>Fête de Printemps</i> (Spring festival)	Mayenne	3
“	Cancer Support France-Nord: Brunch	Notre-Dame-du-Touchet	2
Thurs. 23rd	Visit the <i>Musée Venjean</i>	Domfront	5
23rd to 26th	<i>Concours de Piano</i>	Mayenne	4
Sat. 25th	Cancer Support France-Nord: Spring Fayre	Notre-Dame-du-Touchet	2
Sun. 26th	Clothes & accessories sale	St Aubin-fosse-Louvain	2
“	Search for migratory birds	Hardanges	3
Wed. 29th	Visit the old Royal Prison	Tinchebray	5