

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Being a male is a matter of birth;
 Being a man is a matter of age;
 Being a gentleman is a matter of choice

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

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Sat. 6 th | Olivet (53) | v-g in the grounds of the Abbaye de Clairmont. Food truck & buvette on site |
| Sun. 7 th | Avranches (50) | <i>brocante</i> in Place Valhubert, 8h-16h, ±50 |
| “ | La Ferrière-aux-Etangs (61) | v-g/ <i>brocante</i> in Place Henri Buron, 6h-18h, ±250. Refreshments on site |
| Sat. 13 th | Combours (35) | v-g in Salle Châtel car park, Avenue de Waldmunchen, 8h-18h, ±250. Food on site |
| Sun. 14 th | Changé (53) | v-g in Stade August Delibard (football stadium), 10 rue Esculape, 6h-18h, ±250 |
| “ | St Denis de Gastines (53) | v-g in the Salle des Sports, route de Gorrion, 8h-18h, ±70. Food available on site |
| Sat. 20 th | Villaines-la-Juhel (61) | v-g/ <i>braderie</i> /market during the <i>Fête de la Musique</i> , 9h-18h (music from 15h to 23h) |
| Sun. 21 st | La Dorée (53) | v-g in the Stadium from 6h, ±70. Food on site |
| “ | Louvigné (53) | v-g in Place Saint-Martin, 8h-18h, ±70, with entertainment and pony rides |

Vide-maisons (house clearances)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| W/e 6 th & 7 th | Domfront (61) – at Haut de Bois, 893 route du Grille Souris, 8h-17h |
| Sat. 6 th | La Ferté-Macé (61) – at 22 bis rue d'Argentan, 8h-17h |
| W/e 6 th & 7 th | Laval (53) – at 7 rue Roquet de Patience, 8h-17h |
| W/e 6 th & 7 th | Saint-James (50) – at 48 rue du Mont, 10h-19h |

Eating out - *Brasserie 'Le Conti'*

This restaurant/brasserie in the centre of Mayenne town serves simple meals with friendly service. [I haven't tried it yet, but friends have and they say it was good.]. Open Mons. to Sats. (closed Sundays) from 8h (for breakfast), serving lunches (*midi*) and evening meals until 23h, tel: 09 67 05 48 82.

Open Days at the Aerodrome in Rives d'Andaine (61)

On the weekend of 13th & 14th, 8h to 18h, at the Andaine Aero Club at Bruyères Aerodrome you can pass unforgettable hours at the airfield, discover the planes and take introductory flights in a friendly atmosphere. Free admission.

Le Hameau de Carole - a second life for furniture

From Mon. 8th to Sun. 14th, 10h-18h30, in the former Bagnoles de l'Orne railway station, there will be a temporary exhibition & sale where Carole Fleury exhibits items of small furniture that have been given a second life. You can buy items or attend workshops. For more info: carolefleury1@orange.fr

Open Gardens

* Angela Rowlands' garden at 23 rue de Javron in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53) is open for 'Open Gardens' on Sat. 6th. Entrance is 5€ for charity and there will be plants for sale and tea/ coffee & cakes, all in aid of charity. For more info contact Angela via WhatsApp (00 33 6 75 87 88 52).

* A private garden and museum: on Sat. 13th & Sun. 14th, 10h-18h, at 10 Impasse de Vieux Cimetière in Céaucé (61): a lovely quaint French garden, museum and craft stalls. Free entry and any donations going to charity.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

In these pretty gardens at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) you can enjoy the vibrant colours of the rhododendrons, azaleas, viburnums and the emerging acers, visit the *ecomusée* (a look at country life years ago) and you can even take a picnic to eat on the lawns. This month:

Sun. 7th – '*Rendez-vous aux Jardins*'. The theme this year is '*Les 5 sens au jardin: le vue*' ('The 5 senses in the garden: sight') – from the smallest to the widest perspectives, they will invite you to have a keen eye to discover the gardens in a different way, down to the smallest details. There will also be a farmer's & crafts market, music with David Lukas, afternoon pony rides, games and activities. On-site catering and picnic facilities. Entry: Adults: 4,50€; ages 5 to 16: 3€; under 5s free. jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Fête de la Saint-Médard

On Sat. 6th at 10h, the village fête in St-Mars-sur-Colmont (53) begins with a competition of palets (pucks) and at 22h30 there will be fireworks, followed by dancing.

Vente au Jardin in Passais Villages (61)

On Sat. 13th, 9h30 to 15h at *Le Presbytère Chambre d'Hotes*, 76 rue du Domfrontais in the town of Passais-Villages there will be a sale of second hand clothing, garden and various household items. For more information please contact Deborah Archer at passaispresbytere@gmail.com

Exposition artisanale de mode (fashion exhibition)

At the former Bagnoles de l'Orne railway station, fashion craftsmanship will be on show from Mon. 1st to Fri. 5th, 9h30 - 12h30 & 14h – 18h30 with elegance, creativity and unique designs. Solange Collas will be presenting her handcrafted collection of hats and fashion accessories. Unique pieces. Free entry.

Plants en Fête : Entre Ville et Jardin

The 16th edition of this popular Garden Festival, Art Exhibition & Sale takes place on the weekend of 6th & 7th, 10h – 18h in the park of the Château, Ave. Alloïs Monnet in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). The theme this year is 'A Plant Journey in Asia' and there will be 70 exhibitors with around 50 trees to introduce the public to this art form, including bonsai. There will be strolling musicians & children's activities. Free entry. For more information: bagnolesdelorne.com

"Clairmont Abbey in a painting"

Artists, both amateur and professional, are invited to spend a day creating their masterpieces in the lovely setting of the grounds of Clairmont Abbey in Olivet (53) on Sun. 28th, 9h to 17h30. Set up time: 9h; 10h30: open to the public; 17h30 closure of the public & jury vote. Take all materials with you (easels, tables, chairs, etc.) and a packed lunch (soft drinks are available to buy on site). Tickets: 10€ (children 5€). For more information go to www.abbaye-de-clairmont.com

Puces des couturiers (Clothing & accessories sale)

Sun. 7th in the Salle des Fêtes, rue de l'Afrique in Vautorte (53) you will find material, wool and accessories for dressmaking or creative leisure. Cakes and soft drinks on sale.

Fête de la Pêche in Colombiers-du-Plessis (53)

Sat. 6th, 8h to 14h, at the Graffardièrre pond (not far from the church), with this fishing festival you can discover pond fishing in a beautiful setting. All equipment is provided and, accompanied by volunteers, you can learn about the aquatic environment and its protection, how to prepare bait and all the tips & tricks to get you started or improve your skills. Free.

Pop rock concert in Saint-Fraimbault (61)

Fri. 12th, 20h30 to 22h30 in the church in this pretty village – guitar, vocals and a warm atmosphere for a friendly concert with Zoë and Louise in their group "*Enchantée*". Soft drinks will be available during the intermission. No reservation necessary. Free admission (donations welcome).

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat 6th, 18h-22h at the *Manoir de Chaslerie*, La Haute Chapelle (61, near Domfront): an evening with guitarist Guillaume Gibert, a classical and Iberian guitarist renowned for his exceptional talent and ability to interpret both early and contemporary music - guitar playing with sensitivity, virtuosity and emotion. The performance is followed by a friendly buffet. Tickets, 22€, are on sale via the HelloAsso website (helloasso.com), chaslerie.fr/amis, or at the Domfront Tourist Office (02 33 38 53 97)

Sun. 7th, 17h–18h15, an organ recital in l’Eglise Sainte-Madeleine, 9 place de l’Eglise in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) with Olivier Thuault, head organist at Coutances Cathedral, playing music by Marchand, Bach, Bruhns. Free with voluntary contribution.

Chorale Vivace concerts

Go and join *Chorale Vivace* from Passais Villages at their summer concerts around the area: ♪ Sat. 13th at 20h (8pm) in l’Eglise Notre-Dame de l’Assomption in Barenton (50); ♪ Sat. 20th at 20h (8pm) in l’Eglise Notre-Dame in Brecé (53); [There will also be one on Wed. 8th July at 20h (8pm) in l’Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (61)].

All concerts are free with a collection for local charities. 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. For more information please contact Lesley Thomson at les.paul@wanadoo.fr .

Voix d’Eté summer concerts

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 through to the present time.

This year’s summer concerts will be in 2 parts: the first part will be “Gems of Classical Music” including pieces by Byrd, Rachmaninov, Fauré and many others. The second part will be “Folk and National Music” including very early music from England, Spain and France, as well as folk-based songs from many countries.

Their three concerts are on: ♪ Sun. 28th at 16h (4pm) in l’Église Notre-Dame-sur-l’Eau in Domfront (61). Then, in July: ♪ Sat. 4th July at 4pm in l’Église Saint-Pierre in Dompierre (61) and ♪ Sun. 5th July at 4pm in l’Eglise de Saint-Patrice in Saint-Patrice du Désert (61).

The choir gives concerts in the summer and at Christmas. They are seeking to recruit new members, especially tenors. Why not go along and give them a try? Singing is good for the soul and is something that soothes stress as well as being enjoyable. They raise money for charities through voluntary collections taken at their concerts.

They practice every Tuesday afternoon 14h30 – 16h30 in the community hall in Dompierre (61). The practices are followed by tea and delicious homemade cake. For more information, please contact françoise.brison@icloud.com, tel. 06 41 39 89 43.

[Advance Notice for Christmas concerts – see page 6]

Rendez-vous au Jardin.

From Thurs. 4th until Sat. 6th in Juvigny-Val d'Andaine (61) you can enjoy a self-guided tour of the ethno-botanical garden of the *Tour de Bonvouloir* and discover the links between plants and traditions of Lower Normandy. The garden illustrates the relationship between Normandy society and its plant environment, to transmit – particularly to the younger generation – knowledge of plants and the wisdom associated with them, and to highlight plants used in folk medicine, whether cultivated or gathered in the wild. There are 4 themes: the Saint John's Garden; the Garden of Beliefs, the Bocage Garden and the Garden of Remedies. Free entry. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (*ot-domfront.com*)

Concert with the choirs 'Cantare' & 'Vivace'

Sat. 6th at 16h30 in the church in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53) is the annual concert by *La Chorale du Bocage Mayennais*, this year being joined by the 'Vivace' choir from Passais, singing a selection of songs from gospel to French chanson.

Croisière dégustation vins et fromage **(Wine & cheese tasting cruise)**

On Fri. 26th, 19h to 20h30 on the Mayenne river in Laval (53) you can embark on a unique sensory experience while sailing down the river – expert Anthony Aulnette from *La Cave du Château* will guide you (in French) through an introduction of oenology and a testing of 3 wines. To complete this pairing of flavours, *Fromagerie Desrues* will offer a selection of 3 cheeses. Depart from Quai André Pincon. Tickets: 22€ (reservation needed 10 days in advance). More info from 02 43 49 45 26 or the Laval Tourist Office (02 43 49 46 46 - some English spoken)

Oriental dance and Flamenco with 'Les Muses'

On Wed. 3rd, 20h to 22h in the Salle Polyvalente, Place de Hercé in Laval (53) you will be taken in the footsteps of the Flamenco dancers of Andalusia; their inspiration will also lead you to the Eastern lands to discover Oriental dance as you have never seen it before. A spectacular show of Oriental dance, Flamenco and a fusion of the two, featuring 40 inspired and enthusiastic dancers who will share their passion with you. Tickets: 10€; disabled 5€, children 8€. Bookings taken at the Laval Tourist Office (*laval-tourisme.com*)

Exhibition of paintings and sculptures

On Wednesdays and Saturdays in June, 10h to 12h, in the former flower shop opposite the Mairie in Gorron (53), the amateur artists of Art Bo exhibit their paintings, sculptures and cardboard art. Free entry.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Randonnée du mardi in Saint-Berthevin-la-Tannière (53)

Tues. 2nd at 14h you can enjoy a 11km walk along trails around this village, following sunken lanes though pretty scenery. Departure is at 14h from the *Salle des Fêtes* car park. A 2€ participation fee is requested for non-members of the *Association Randonneurs du Bocage 53*. In case of any last minute changes (weather, etc) consult their blog randobocage.blogspot.com

Pétanque competitions

Relaxation, precision and good humour guaranteed! On Mondays 1st, 15th & 29th at *La Pétanque Bagnolaise*, Boulevard Lemuet (behind the tennis courts) in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): Mixed Doubles & Senior Doubles tournaments. Open to all. Registration from 13h30 to 14h25, 1st throw at 14h30. Entry: 10€.

ADVANCE NOTICE for your diaries (see page 4)

Voix d'Été will have 3 Christmas concerts: December 5th, 6th & 13th, in La Ferté Macé Church. The concerts are an opportunity for listening to and singing many traditional French and English carols. A good start to the Christmas festivities!

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And finally: A sign over a business:

“We offer 3 kinds of service: GOOD; CHEAP; FAST. You can pick any two:

GOOD service CHEAP won't be FAST

GOOD service FAST won't be CHEAP

FAST service CHEAP won't be GOOD “

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

That's all for this month. Many outside activities, gardens and concerts to enjoy. Have fun!

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

June 2026

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|---|--|--------------------------|-------------|
| Mon. 1st | Pétanque competition | Bagnoles de l'Orne | 6 |
| 1st to 5th | Fashion accessories exhibition | Bagnoles de l'Orne | 3 |
| Tues. 2nd | <i>Randonnée du mardi</i> (Tuesday walk) | St Berthevin-la-Tannière | 6 |
| Wed. 3rd | Flamenco and Oriental Dance | Laval | 5 |
| 4th to 6th | <i>Rendez-vous au jardin</i> | Juvigny-Val d'Andaine | 5 |
| Sat. 6th | 'Open Gardens' visit | Lassay-les-Châteaux | 2 |
| “ | Guitar concert | La Haute Chapelle | 4 |
| “ | <i>Fête de la Pêche</i> (Fishing festival) | Colombiers-du-Plessis | 3 |
| “ | <i>Fête de la Saint-Médard</i> | St Mars-sur-Colmont | 2 |
| “ | <i>Cantare & Vivace</i> choirs | Fougerolles-du-Plessis | 5 |
| W/e 6th & 7th | <i>Plantes en Fête</i> (Plant festival) | Bagnoles de l'Orne | 3 |
| Sun. 7th | <i>Les Jardins des Renaudies</i> | Colombiers-du-Plessis | 2 |
| “ | Organ recital | Bagnoles de l'Orne | 4 |
| “ | Clothing & accessories sale | Vautorte | 3 |
| 8th – 14th | Second life for furniture | Bagnoles de l'Orne | 2 |
| Fri. 12th | Pop rock concert | Saint-Fraimbault | 3 |
| Sat. 13th | <i>Vente au Jardin</i> | Passais Villages | 3 |
| “ | <i>Chorale Vivace</i> concert | Barenton | 4 |
| W/e 13 th , 14 th | 'Open Garden' – garden & museum | Céaucé | 2 |
| “ | Open Day at Bruyères Aerodrome | Rives d'Andaine | 2 |
| Mon. 15th | Pétanque tournaments | Bagnoles de l'Orne | 6 |
| Sat. 20th | <i>Chorale Vivace</i> concert | Brecé | 4 |
| Fri. 26th | Wine & cheese tasting cruise | Laval | 5 |
| Sun. 28th | <i>Voix d'Eté</i> summer concert | Domfront | 4 |
| “ | 'Clairmont Abbey in a painting' | Olivet | 3 |
| Mon. 29th | Pétanque tournaments | Bagnoles de l'Orne | 6 |