

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

When a clown moves into a palace he doesn't become a king.
The palace becomes a circus.

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

Sat. 5 th	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g, <i>Foire aux Vins, Marché aux Terroir</i> , 11 Place du General Leclerc, 9h-18h, ±70
Sun. 6 th	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> / <i>braderie/foire aux vins</i> around the town, 7h-18h, ±350, food available on site
“	Mayenne (53)	v-g <i>des Restos du Coeur de la Mayenne</i> , in car park du Grand Nord, rue Volney, 8h-17h, ±150
“	Passais-Villages (61)	v-g on route de Passais l'Epinay, 9h-18h, ±70
“	St Geo.-Buttavent (53)	v-g in rue de Guinefolle, 8h-18h, ±70, food on site
Sun. 13 th	Laval (53)	v-g de Grenoux in Carrefour car park, 46 avenue du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, 8h30-18h, ±250
“	Montflours (53)	v-g behind the church, Place de la Sergenterie, 9h-18h, ±50
“	Perrou (61)	v-g in the town & Parc de la Mairie, 6h to 19h
Sun. 20 th	Juvigny-Val-d'Andaine (61)	v-g & <i>fête foraine</i> (see page 2)

Vide-maisons (house clearances)

Fri. 4 th	Javron-les-Chapelles (53)	at 30 Cité des Tilleuls
W/e 5 th & 6 th	Ste-Marie-du-Bois (53)	at 36 rue Jean-François Dujarié, 9h-17h

Special dates:

W/e 19 th /20 th	<i>Les Journées du Patrimoine</i> (Heritage Days) all over France (see page 2)
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Eating out - '*Aux Bocaux du Château*'

'*Aux Bocaux du Château*' is at 1 Place de la Liberté in Domfront (61) up in the old town, near the *Poste*. Opened recently, the food is home-made and the daily specials are made up in small kilner jars. The salad bar is extensive and you can choose any ingredients yourself. A wonderful dessert choice also! The lady serving is cheerful and efficient – and speaks English! Menu choices are for 12€, 14€ or 16€. They are open Mon. to Fri. 12h to 14h30 (closed at weekends). Parking nearby.

Les Journées du Patrimoine (European Heritage Days)

On the weekend of 19th & 20st 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. More info: www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr or ask at a Tourist Office.

'*Arts et Jardin*' in Ceaucé (61)

The 27th edition of this garden fair takes place on Sun. 27th, 10h to 18h, by the *plan d'eau* (lake), La Veillotière in Ceaucé. At this popular event there will be plant nurseries, creative arts, metalwork, textiles, local and wellness products – something for everyone. There will be apple pressing demos, a culinary workshop by Franck Quinton (Michelin-starred chef) and open air music. Food and drink will be available on site. Free entry.

Medieval market in Domfront (61)

Step back in time on Sat. 26th (10h to midnight) & Sun. 27th (10h to 18h) at a medieval market within the grounds of Domfront Château. Be transported back to the time of William the Conqueror at a significant time of year in the life of a village: the end of the harvest (*la fin des récoltes*). There will be a large craft market where you can discover the activities of local artisans and watch the men-at-arms. Between axe-throws you can enjoy food and drinks. Children will find a special area just for them. Entry: 3€.

Fête Foraine des Angevins (Angevin Country fair)

On the weekend of 5th & 6th in Fougères (35): on Sat. at 20h45 join the night-time parade, featuring around 10 floats and just as many dance groups, departing from Place Gambetta, along rue du Tribunal, rue des Feuteries and back to Place Gambetta. On the Sun.: 8h-19h the *braderie* (second-hand goods sale) along the streets. Also on Mon. 7th at 22h: *feu artificiel* (fireworks – pyrotechnic spectacle) in Place de la Communauté-de-Rillé. Free.

Fête de la Saint-Michel in Juvigny-Val-d'Andaine (61)

On Sun. 20th, all day, is a *vide-grenier* and funfair, with wooden games, assembly of old tractors and vehicles, with music along the streets, a marching band and 2 Breton entertainers.

Cancer Support France-Nord events

Brunches: on Weds. 9th & 23rd. Please go and join them at the Salle des Fêtes, Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50). Doors open at 10h; last order 12h30. Vegetarian option available.

Quiz: the next Quiz will be on Fri. 11th at the Viking Bar, Notre-Dame-du-Touchet (50). A fun and friendly evening of quiz questions and good company. Teams can include up to 6 people – but if you are unable to make up a team they will happily find you a place. Go along, test your knowledge and enjoy the evening. Entry is just 3€ per person and the quiz starts promptly at 20h.

Coffee afternoon: On Thurs. 17th, 14h30 to 17h. Go along for a friendly afternoon at ‘Le Patis’ in Landivy with drinks, home-made cakes and good company. A raffle will also be held on the day. For more info on all these events: nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Grand Comice du Pays de Tinchebray (61)

This Tinchebray Country Fair is on Sat. 5th (10h–18h) and Sun. 6th (14h–23h) throughout the town. On Sat. from 11h30 there will be cattle competitions (with over 100 cattle), farmers’ market, horse jumping show, a petting zoo and bouncy castle. On Sun. 6th from 14h will be the Grand Cavalcade of 13 floats on the theme of “cinema” with nearly 800 participants. At 21h is the Night Parade, and at 23h a laser show and fireworks in the fairground. Free entry.

Visit the bell-tower of l'Eglise Saint-Léonard in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 19th you can visit the bell-tower of the church of Saint-Léonard on rue Porte Saint-Léonard. As part of the Heritage Days you can discover one of the most beautiful panoramas of the town of Fougères. Climb the steps to the bell-tower and enjoy the view. Free.

Rétro Classic 53 in Laval (53)

On the weekend of 12th & 13th at the Hippodrome in Laval, organised by the Lions Club Guy de Laval in support of ill and/or handicapped children - an exhibition of vintage vehicles (with the possibility of driving some of them), entertainment and a parade of cars on the Saturday evening. www.retroclassic.fr

Taxis in Gorron (53)

There are 2 excellent taxi companies in Gorron. I recommend them both:-

* **C2J (Autael Taxis)**, 9 rue Vincent Van Gogh in Gorron (02 43 08 64 23) and

* **the Ambulance Taxi (AS & N Daguerre)**, rue du Menhirs, Gorron: (02 43 08 61 82).

Both are great for hospital/medical visits and are equipped with a wheelchair if required. They have efficient, courteous and friendly drivers – and a little English is spoken. They will handle your paperwork and take you right up to the department where your rendez-vous is being held. Both are open 24h/7 although the offices may be closed on Sundays – but they may still answer your phone request.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sun 20th at 17h30 in the Eglise Saint-Madeleine, Place de l'Eglise in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), with Sandra Petitjean (piano) and Marie-Ange Wachter (cello). Free admission with a collection.

Sun. 20th at 16h in the Eglise Saint Front (61, east of Domfront town). '*Septembre Musical de l'Orne*' – songs of the Mediterranean. Directed by Catherine Simonpietri, the 'Sequencia 93' ensemble explores contemporary repertoires and musical traditions from around the world, revealing the full expressive richness of the human voice. (www.septembre-musical.com). Free admission with a collection.

Go and dance in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) !

Mon. 14th, 15h to 17h30 in the Salle des Communs Sud, Allée Alois Monnet in Bagnoles de l'Orne – music, Normandy snacks and a festive atmosphere! Not to be missed! Dance, laugh and share a convivial moment. Food is available on site. Accessible to people with reduced mobility. Tickets: 8€, available from the Tourist Office (02 33 30 72 72). One free afternoon tea is offered with each entry purchased.

Sightseeing cruise in Laval (53)

Embark on a scenic cruise along the Mayenne river. Every Sat. & Sun. (until 27th Sept.), from 16h30 to 18h, the Vallis Guidonis takes you to discover the charm of the Mayenne valley. The captain will be your guide (in French, but some English may be spoken) telling you about the history of the river, its flora & fauna, the tow-path, how the locks work. Tickets: 12,50€, children/unemployed/disabled: 10€. Reservations, in advance, at the Laval Tourist Office (02 43 49 46 46)

"May' Pin-Up" Festival

On Sun. 13th in Saint-Aubin-fosse-Louvain (53) there will be an exhibition of vintage and prestige vehicles (and a free meal is offered to all exhibitors). There will also be a market of local producers and artisans/crafts people. (For a stall: 2€/metre without electricity, 4€/metre with electricity). Reservation is needed: maypin-up_saintaubinfl@outlook.fr. Food is available on site.

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. 7th: 'Spiderman' with Tom Holland, Zendaya, Sadie Sink

Mon. 14th: 'One Night Only' with Monica Barbaro, Callum Turner, Maya Hawke

The films start at 20h (8pm) and tickets (5,80€) 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€.

Sport & Leisure Activities

Randonnée du mercredi (Wednesday ramble)

This walk in and around Lonlay l'Abbaye (61) takes place on Wed. 2nd from 14h to 17h. Meet at 14h at the church car park. Free, but reservation is needed at jeanne.arlette@wanadoo.fr. For more info: *2026_randos-asso_sportive_andaine*.

Randonnée citoyenne (citizen walk)

Join them on Sat. 12th, 9h30 to 11h, in Louverné (53) for a pleasant and worthwhile walk on marked trails. Litter pickers and bags will be provided, please take your own gloves. Together, let us pick up litter and take care of our environment. A friendly refreshment will conclude the morning. Meet at the Sports Hall car park by 9h30.

'Cars & Coffee'

This exhibition of vintage, sports & prestigious vehicles is held on Sun. 13th, 9h30–12h30, Place des Halles (near the Tourist Office) in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). Car passion is on display: classic, sporty, exceptional – some beautiful machines are put on show, organised by *l'Association Bagnoles Moteurs Classiques*. Open to all. Free.

[Advance notice: Dinner Dance in La Baroche-sous-Lucé (61)] :

On 10th October in the Salle des Fêtes at La Baroche-sous-Lucé (61) there will be a Dinner Dance, 19h30 to 24h, for the amazing price of just 18€ for adults and 15€ for children under 12. The menu consists of a kir, Poached Salmon, Roast Beef with a Courgette and Potato gratin, Crème Brûlée, Cheese & Coffee. This will be followed by dancing to the music of the celebrated musician Thierry. Go along and join in the fun! They'd love to see you there. For further info telephone 06 04 15 57 43 or to purchase tickets contact *Le Bar'Oche*. (Further details in the October issue)

And finally:

Kids today don't know how easy they have it. We had to walk 9 feet through shag-pile carpet to change the TV channel!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Have a great September.

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

September 2026

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Wed. 2 nd	Wednesday ramble	Lonlay l'Abbaye	5
W/end 5 th & 6 th	Country Fair	Tinchebray	3
“	<i>Fête Foraine des Angevins</i>	Fougères	2
Mon. 7 th	Film in English: Spiderman	Gorron	4
Wed. 9 th	CSF Nord: Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
Fri. 11 th	CSF Nord: Quiz Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
Sat. 12 th	Citizen Walk	Louvern�	5
W/end 12 th & 13 th	<i>Retro Classic 53</i>	Laval	3
Sun. 13 th	<i>May' Pin-up</i> & vintage vehicles	Saint-Aubin-fosse-Louvain	5
“	'Cars & Coffee'	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
Mon. 14 th	Dancing in the town	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	Film in English: One Night Only	Gorron	4
Thurs. 17 th	CSF Nord: Coffee Afternoon	Landivy	3
Sat. 19 th	Visit the bell-tower	Foug�res	3
Sun. 20 th	Concert with piano and cello	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	Music with 'Sequenca 93'	Domfront	4
“	<i>F�te de la Saint-Michel</i>	Juvigny-Val-d'Andaine	2
Wed. 23 rd	CSF Nord Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	3
W/end 26 th & 27 th	Medieval market	Domfront	2
Sun. 27 th	<i>Arts et Jardin</i> – garden fair	Ceauc�	2