

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

We can learn so much from animals.
They give very clear signals without saying a word

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; $\pm$ = number of stalls expected]:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| W/e 3 rd & 4 th | Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) | in the <i>Foire d'Automne</i> . On route de Bagnoles, 6h-18h, $\pm$ 300 – The Big One! |
| Sun. 4 th | Mayenne (53) | v-g & <i>bourse du cycle</i> (cycle sale) in the Salle Polyvalente, 330 rue d Grinhard. 8h-17h, $\pm$ 75, Food available on site. |
| Sun. 11 th | Bellou-en-Houlme (61) | at 'Le Chevalerie', 7h-18h, $\pm$ 150. Food on site. |
| Sun. 18 th | Tinchebray (61) | Giant 'v-g de Saint-Luc', <i>centre-ville</i> , 7h-18h, $\pm$ 300. Food available on site |
| Sun. 25 th | Bellou-en-Houlme (61) | at 'Le Chevalerie', 7h-18h, $\pm$ 150. Food on site. |

Vide-maisons (house clearances)

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| Sat. 3 rd | Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53) | at 3 La Croix des Gardes, 10h-18h |
| W/e 3 rd & 4 th | Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) | at 1 Allée de la Grande Prise, 8h-18h |

Vide-dressing (2nd-hand clothes and accessories)

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| Sat. 10 th | Flers (61) | at 'Le Forum', 3 rue du Collège. 10h-17h, $\pm$ 50 |
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Eating out - *Au Cafe du Village Fleuri*

This village restaurant at 2 Place de la Mairie in Juvigné (53) offers a very extensive menu (a choice of 6 items for each course) and the meals are tasty and very well presented. For a *midi*: 3 courses for 18€, 2 courses 15,50€ and just one main dish for 9,90€. Open daily (except Mondays) - 7h30 to 18h in the week, just the mornings at weekends. Very popular, so it's a good idea to book your table! Tel: 06 58 12 28 07.

Plantes en Fête' - annual plant fair

On Sat. 10th & Sun. 11th from 10h-18h at the *Camping Municipal*, rue du Champ Passais in Domfront (61) is the 29th edition of this popular annual Plant Fair. Over 40 specialist exhibitors will be there with a great selection of plants, bushes, herbs and other vegetation. There is also garden decor and some great gardening inspiration. Also, 'Guess the weight of the pumpkin' (results at 17h30). Help with a wheelbarrow is offered to take your purchases to your car! Food trucks, a grill and tea-room on site. Entry this year is 2€ (which includes a free games ticket). Free parking. Sorry, no dogs. More info at plantesenfete.fr or ot-domfront.com

Harvest Festival service

On Sun. 11th at 10h30 in the church in Saint-Siméon – Orne Christian Fellowship invite everyone to a joyful celebration of harvest with seasonal hymns, readings and a short Christian message, followed by refreshments. For more info, contact Pastor Tim Peagam (timpeagam@gmail.com)

[Advance notice: there will also be a Christmas Carol Service on Sun. 13th December at 11h in the church in Passais. Again, there will be refreshments after the service]

'Festi Rose'

On Sun. 18th, 10h to 16h30 in Place des Halles (near the Tourist Office) in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) there will be a performance of dances and choreography and a concert with local singers, brought to you by the *Bagnol Troupe Dance* and local artistes. Free. Duration: 1h 30 mins. For more information, visit the tourist website (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

Visit to discover the Fougères cinema '*Le Club*'

Fridays 23rd & 30th at 9h to 10h30, as part of the Economic Tourism & Know How Weeks, you can visit the backstage of the independent cinema '*Le Club*' at Esplanade des Chaussonnières in Fougères (35). Whether you are a film buff or simply curious, discover what goes on behind the scenes: programming, technical organisation and, of course, the screening room. Immerse yourself in the magic of cinema! Tickets: 2,50€ (free for students, unemployed and carers of disabled persons). Booking required via the Fougères Tourist Office (destination-fougères.bzh / [agenda](#)).

Visit the Abbey in Lonlay l'Abbaye – "between stone and biscuits"

On Wed. 21st, 14h30 to 16h, you can discover the Abbey of Notre-Dame in Lonlay l'Abbaye – a jewel of Romanesque architecture founded at the beginning of the 11th century by the Comte de Bellême. Guided by members of the Tourist Office (in French, but some English may be spoken) let yourself be carried away by the history of a monument that has withstood the test of time and retained its strength and beauty. The visit continues with a delicious break at the famous Lonlay-l'Abbaye Biscuit Factory, where you can also discover the museum retracing its family history. A complete experience at the crossroads of cultural heritage and local flavours. Entry: 5€ – reservations and tickets available at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66). Accessible for people with reduced mobility.

Dinner Dance in La Baroche-sous-Lucé (61)

On Sat. 10th 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 phone 06 04 15 57 43 or to purchase tickets contact *Le Bar'Oche* in the village.

Art Exhibition

The annual *Salon des Arts Domfrontais* will be taking place from 8th to 10th, 10h to 18h, in the Espace André Rocton, rue du Champ Passais, Domfront (61) with paintings, sculptures and photography. This Domfront Arts Fair brings together talents from western France, Paris and elsewhere and features over 50 exhibitors, including 5 sculptors. The Guest of Honour is Jean-Pierre Chagniaud, a pastel artist. He is a hyper-realist painter working in a style akin to *trompe-l'oeil*. Free entry.

"Gorron Rose"

On Sun. 4th, 8h to 18h, in the Parc de Loisirs de la Colmont (near the orange & red tent) in Gorron (53), you can take part in this 5th edition of "*Gorron Rose*" races in aid of the fight against all cancers. [Last year's event raised 9,688€ in support of *la Ligue Contre le Cancer* in Laval]. For walking or running: 4, 5 or 10kms; for bikes or VTT: 27 or 34 kms. Meet at 9h for a warm-up with a starting time of 9h30. Fees: 6€ per person (under 5s free). There will be family activities in the same place: entertainment, wooden games, info on well-being, etc. Food stalls on site. For registration see details on local posters.

Salon des Antiquaires de Bagnoles-de-l'Orne

On Fri. 30th, 9h to 18h, in the Communs du Château, Allée Aloïs Monnet in Bagnoles-de-l'Orne (61). Entry is 3€ (under 16s free). ±50 stalls. Refreshments are available on site.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 3rd, 18h-20h, at the *Manoir de la Chaslerie* in La Haute Chapelle (61, near Domfront). Pianist Camille Jauvion and cellist Caroline Boitas play Beethoven's Sonata No.2 in G minor. This is followed by a friendly buffet. Ticket: 22€, available from the Domfront Tourist Office) or on www.helloasso.com.

Sun. 4th at 17h to 18h15 in l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine, Place de l'Eglise in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): Liesbeth Schlumberger (organist at the *Temple de l'Etoile* in Paris) will play the organ with the choir from the *Etoile*. Free (donations welcome). No reservation required.

Phono-concert of Vincent Valente

Tues. 6th, 20h30 to 21h30, at 2 Esplanade des Chaussonnières (mediathèque) in Fougères (35) you will be plunged into semi-darkness. You will hear an owl hooting, the wild boar frolicking in its lair. Your mind wanders. At this moment an accordion arrives and takes you on a tour of these sound-scapes – the experience being tenfold. Free, but booking is needed via the mediathèque (library) website (mediatheque.fougeres-agglo.bzh)

Festival d'Automne in Fougères (35)

On Sat. 17th at 12h in Place du Théâtre in Fougères, you can be carried away by a musical interlude, where virtuosity, emotion and discovery converge. The Autumn Festival invites the public to enjoy a rich and accessible experience through concerts that show-case great composers as well as original creations, in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Tickets: 10€ (children free) can be bought via the Fougères Tourist Office or by calling 06 87 77 14 01 (French spoken).

English films in Gorron (53) cinema

The first 2 English (Version Original) films in Gorron cinema in October will be:

Monday 5th at 20h: 'Practical Magic 2' (French title: '*Les Ensorceleuses 2*')

with Sandra Bullock, Nicole Kidman

Monday 12th at 20h: 'The Weight' (historical drama)

with Ethan Hawke, Russell Crowe, Julia Jones, Austin Amelio

The films start at 8pm and tickets (5,80€) are available at the cinema (beside the church) from 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€. [It might be advisable to check on www.gorron-cinemas.fr before setting off in case of any last-minute changes to the films].

Randonnée du dimanche (Sunday walk)

On Sun. 11th, this walk departs at 14h from the car park of the *Auberge at la Fosse Arthour* (between Barenton and Domfront). No need to register.

Visit a glass-making business

On Tues. 20th and Wed. 28th at 14h at 11 Chemin du Picrot, Laignelet (35, near Fougères) you can discover the glassmakers' workshop and be introduced to the history of glassmaking in this area. Enjoy a guided tour (in French, but some English spoken) of the glassmaking process and a demo of lampwork bead-making, engraving on a unique recycled glass tray and sand-blasting on glass. Note: no photography allowed. Tickets: 2,50€ (free for students, unemployed and carers of disabled persons). Booking required via the Fougères Tourist Office (*destination-fougeres.bzh / agenda*).

Fashion Exhibition

From 5th to 11th, 9h30 to 12h & 14h to 19h: fashion craftsmanship takes place in the former railway station in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) with elegance, creativity and unique designs. Solange Collas will be presenting her hand-crafted collection of hats and fashion accessories, with unique prices.

Course caritative (charity race) 'La Fougèraise'

Sun. 4th from 8h45 to 12h30, departing from Allée des Fêtes, Jardin des Fêtes in Fougères (35) the Association '*La Fougèraise*' is organising another charity day dedicated to the fight against cancer, as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Participants are invited to get involved through a varied program of sporting and charitable events. Departures are: Nordic walking: 8h45; forest mountain bike ride: 9h10; 60km bike ride: 9h20; 13km walk: 9h30; 7km walk: 9h45; 5km run: 10h; 10km semi-nature trail: 10h15. Tickets: 10€. More info and booking from the Fougères Tourist Office (see earlier articles)

Visit to the *Centre Aquatique 'Aquatis'*

On Mondays 19th & 26th at 10h and 11h, at 16 Boulevard Nelson Mandela in Fougères (35), as part of the Economic Tourism and Know How Weeks, you can go behind the scenes of *Aquatis*, the aquatic sports complex in Fougères. Discover what happens beneath the pools – including an in-depth look at the facilities and machinery to understand how water quality and preservation are assured and how energy is optimised. Booking is required. Tickets: 2,50€ (free for students, unemployed and carers of disabled persons) via the Fougères Tourist Office (*destination-fougeres.bzh / agenda*).

Salon de train miniature de Laval (Laval model train show)

On the weekend of 3rd & 4th, 10h to 18h, at the Salle Polyvalente, Place de Hercé in Laval (53) will be an exhibition of miniature trains – 75 exhibitors are expected. The model train show brings together crafts people, retailers, leading modellers, etc., all involved in the creation and promotion of model railroading in France. A unique opportunity to admire the layouts from all over France. The construction of a LEGO Mosaic is also on the program and every visitor can participate. Entry: 5€ (under 10s free). There will be food available on site. More info from *amfm53.org*

'Les Roulées Roses' (The Pink Run)

Sun. 11th, 9h to 15h30, at 2 rue Joséphine Baker in Laval (53) – this annual event is to raise awareness and collect registrations for regional medical research on breast cancer. A bib number is required – register until Sat. 10th on-line, at the Laval Tourist Office or at Place du 11 Novembre in Laval from 9h to 16h. Registration: 10€ (5s to 15s: 2€) which will be donated to the Mayenne League Against Cancer (*la Ligue Contre le Cancer de Mayenne*). There will be a jazz concert at 15h and food will be available from 10h45.

A word of caution

After a spate in the area of break-ins to holiday homes and seldom-visited houses in remote areas, we are all asked to keep our eyes peeled for any suspicious behaviour in the area and to give any information to the *gendarmes* (tel. no. 17, or 112 from a mobile phone).

Season's feastings - for the wild boar (*les sangliers*)

October is a good time to be a boar. These wild pigs feast on fungi and fallen nuts & fruit, which are all plentiful during autumn. They even eat tannin-rich acorns, which are poisonous to cattle and sheep, their powerful neck muscles ploughing furrows through the ground in search of food. In Europe wild boar were hunted almost to extinction during the Middle Ages and current populations are feral rather than truly wild, having bred from captive animals that escaped or were illegally released. Boars are usually shy, avoiding contact with people, especially sows with young piglets (which are affectionately called 'humbugs' due to their striped coats). If a boar is encountered, the advice is to move away slowly.

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And finally: An expert is one who knows more and more about less and less until he knows absolutely everything about nothing!

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So, who says there's nothing much to do in this area?! I hope most of you will find something in here of interest. Have a great month.

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

October 2026–

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"	Charity race	Fougères	5
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5 th to 11 th	Fashion exhibition	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
Tues. 6 th	Phono-concert	Fougères	4
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Sat. 10 th	Dinner Dance	La Baroche-sous-Lucé	3
W/e 10 th & 11 th	<i>Plantes en Fête</i>	Domfront	2
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"	The Pink Run	Laval	6
Mon. 12 th	Film: 'The Weight'	Gorron	4
Sat. 17 th	<i>Festival d'Automne</i>	Fougères	4
Sun. 18 th	<i>'Festi Rose'</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Mon. 19 th	Visit to ' <i>Aquatiss</i> '	Fougères	5
Tues. 20 th	Visit to glass-makers	Laignelet	5
Wed. 21 st	Visit the Abbey	Lonlay-l'Abbaye	3
Fri. 23 rd	Visit to the cinema ' <i>Le Club</i> '	Fougères	2
Mon. 26 th	Visit to ' <i>Aquatiss</i> '	Fougères	5
Wed. 28 th	Visit to glass-makers	Laignelet	5
Fri. 30 th	Visit to the cinema ' <i>Le Club</i> '	Fougères	2
"	<i>Salon des Antiquaires</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	3