

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

You can't turn back the clock -
but you can wind it up again!

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area [\pm = stalls expected], '35' = area

Sat 2 nd	Fougères (35)	bric-a-brac, at 35 avenue de Normandie, ± 50
Sun 3 rd	La Haie Traversaine (53)	v-g, ± 70
“	Pleurtuit (35, near Dinard)	v-g in Super U parking, ± 150
“	Dinard (35)	v-g in <i>Foire à la brocante</i> , ± 50
“	Louvigné-du-Désert (35)	v-g, ± 70
“	St Mère Eglise (50)	v-g in <i>marché couvert</i> , ± 100
«	Hambye (50)	v-g & braderie, ± 200
“	Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)	monthly brocante, place Valhubert, ± 50
“	Flers (61)	v-g, ± 70
Sun 10 th	Ernée (53)	v-g in Super U parking, ± 200
“	Gorron (53)	Exceptional event: <i>vide-maison</i> at Impasse du Pavé, Brimandière (near the château d'eau)
“	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g/brocante near the château, ± 150
“	St Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50)	v-g, ± 50
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g, ± 150
Sun 17 th	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g, ± 70
“	Landéan (35)	v-g, ± 70
“	Gavray (50)	v-g in Foire de Printemps, ± 50
“	La Ferrières-aux-Etangs (61)	v-g at Gué Plat, ± 70
Sat 23 rd	Mayenne (53)	v-g in Carrefour Mkt, rue de Bretagne, ± 70
Sun 24 th	St Jean-sur-Mayenne (53)	v-g, ± 50
“	Pleurtuit (35)	<i>Braderie nautique</i> & v-g, nr Super U, ± 150
“	Le Teilleul (50)	v-g, car & agricultural show + pig race, ± 100
“	Briouze (61)	v-g/ <i>foire à tout</i> , ± 70

Visit www.brocabrac.fr as it is constantly updated with brocantes / vide-greniers

Eating out

L'Escapade at 19 bis 'Les Domaines' in Javron-les-Chapelles (53) is open all year on Mondays to Fridays: 8h30 to 15h, Sats & Suns: 9h to 15h. They serve a good 3-course lunch for 11,50€. 02 43 30 13 53.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

Sat. 30th April and Sun. 1st May, 14h-18h at these pretty gardens in Colombiers-du-Plessis (53): 2 days in support of Neurodon, when 2€ from the 5€ entry price goes towards research into illnesses of the brain (Alzheimers, Parkinsons, epilepsy). www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Something for all the family – miniature railway

You can have a great day visiting the miniature railway in Clécy (14, rue d'Ermington) – one of the largest miniature railways in Europe, with over 450m of rail, 250 locomotives, 450 wagons, 650 houses, etc. All under cover, so no worries about the weather! Bouncy castle and children's play area. Open from 2nd April to end-September (see website below for opening days & hours). Adults 8,50€; age 3 to 12: 6,50€. You can also visit some ancient lime kilns. Good accessibility for wheelchairs and buggies; dogs accepted on a lead. For more info visit www.chemin-fer-miniature-clecy.com

A popular *pépinière* (garden centre) - change of ownership

Alain Lecomte had opened *les Pépinières Lecomte* near Le Teilleul (50, on the road to St Hilaire-du-Harcouët) 23 years ago, and developed it into the 10 hectare site it is today. He is now retiring, and the business has been bought by English couple Andrew and Katherine Glen, who spotted this business opportunity whilst searching for a property in this area. They are looking forward to adding many new ideas and products over the coming months.

'Yard Sale' near St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)

Jane Sharman is holding a Yard Sale on Sat. 2nd & Sun 3rd from 10h to 16h, at La Petite Dallionnière, St Mars-sur-la-Futaie (on the D116 Fougerolles-du-Plessis road). On sale will be books, plants, hand-knits, tools, etc., and free tea/coffee. Everyone is welcome.

Something you didn't know you didn't know . . .

A Normandy man invented the dustbin! Life today without recycling [*tri-selectif*, which apparently we should now be calling *tri-écologique*] is hard to imagine, or even life without dustbins! The domestic dustbin has been in existence for just over 100 years and its inventor, Eugene Poubelle, was born in Caen in 1831; he studied law at university and then became a highly regarded figure in public life. In 1884, as *préfet* in Paris he decreed that all Parisian landlords must provide receptacles for their tenants' rubbish. What's more, he specified that there must be 3 separate containers: one for biodegradables, one for paper & rags and one for glass, pottery & oyster shells. Despite some initial resistance, the scheme caught on and the word *poubelle* officially entered the French language in 1980.

Abbaye Saint-Vigor de Cerisy-la-Forêt (50)

A jewel of Romanesque art in Basse-Normandie, this abbey in rue Sangles, Cerisy-la-Forêt, was founded in 1032 by Robert le Magnifique. The nave, with 7 semi-circular bays, was built between 1035 and 1087. Completed in 1110 the apse, with its 3 levels of windows, is unique. Since the end of the 12th century its use declined and it has suffered the tribulations of time and men. Open 1st April to 15th November, 11h - 18h (closed Mondays except in July & August). Unaccompanied visit: 4€, guided visit: 6€

Bourse aux vélos in Granville (50)

On Sun. 24th in the Salle St Nicholas in Granville, you can pick up a bargain bike and accessories. More info: www.ville-granville.fr

'Flower Basket' - English Garden Plants, in Rânes (61)

Andrew Howard and his wife have over 23 years' experience in gardens and gardening, and offer a good selection of plants for decorating your house or as gifts. On the weekend of 23rd & 24th, 10h-18h, at 'Champvert', Launay Samson, Rânes, they are holding a '*Portes Ouvertes*' and you will find many frost-resistant plants for balconies and hanging baskets, also clematis and some new varieties of English Roses. There will also be a *salon de thé* and tombola. For more info. tel 02 33 35 74 51, email at contact@flowerbasket.fr, or www.flowerbasket.fr

Emmaüs sale in Granville (50)

This will be held on Fri. 29th & Sat. 30th in the Salle de Hérel in Granville. More info from www.ville-granville.fr

Château de Crosville-sur-Douve (50)

This château near Carentan was abandoned by the owners and stayed empty for 250 years - only the farmer's quarters have always been occupied. The architecture dates from the 16th & 17th centuries and there are gardens, a *salon de thé*, plant sales, restaurant and a shop selling decor for the house and garden. Open daily, Easter to November, 14h to 18h. On the weekend of 16th & 17th will be the annual *Journée des Plantes Franco-Britanniques*. Entry: 6€, accompanied children: free. www.chateau-crosville.fr

'Pages' English bookshop – holiday closure dates

Suzanne McGregor would like to let her customers know that 'Pages' bookshop in Passais-la-Conception (61) will be closed for the school holidays from Tues. 5th until Fri. 15th April.

Events at the Jardin de Froulay in Couesmes-Vaucé (53)

Fri. 1st April: Fish & Chip night – this is not a '*poisson d'avril*' (April Fool)! For more info on this and other events, go to their facebook page.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 2nd at 20h30 in l'Espace Colmont in Gorrion (53): "Coup d'Chœur". Wonderful harmony from 150 singers. Tickets: 15€, children 10€, from *Maison du Bocage* in Gorrion

Sat. 2nd at 20h30 in the Salle Communale in St Laurent de Terregatte (50) - concert: "Brass Band". Free, open to all. More info: www.saintjamestourisme.fr

Sat. 2nd from 14h to 17h in the streets of La Ferté-Macé: 'Kiltaclou' with a spectacle of burlesque percussion. Free

Sun. 3rd at 15h in the Salle G Chrétien in Saint Denis de Gastines (53): '*Le vent dans les saules*' (Wind in the Willows) - *Concert et Conte* by l'Orchestre d'Harmonie de Saint Denis de Gastines. Tickets: 5€ (under 18s free) in support of the Association '*Un bel avenir pour Lucas*'.

Wed. 6th at 20h30 at '6PAR4', 177 rue du Vieux Louis, Laval (53): Alys, also Seb Zerah (pop folk) and Ramones Project (punk rock). More info from www.6par4.com.

Sat. 9th at 17h in Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61) – Festival d'Andain'ries: '*Panier Piano*' – international pianist Léonor Stirman with works from Chopin to Dalida. More info from Domfront Tourist Office: www.ot-domfront.com

Fri. 15th at 20h30 in the Théâtre Municipal de Mayenne (53, near the château): 9th *Concours International de Piano* with Ruben Micieli. www.kiosque-mayenne.org

Fri. 29th at 18h30 in l'Archipel in Granville (50): "Niet Popov" with David Sire. Tickets 9,50€, children 3,50€. 50 min. with intermission. www.ville-granville.fr

Organ recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

The first organ recital of the season in l'Eglise Sainte Madeleine in Bagnoles de l'Orne is on Sun. 10th at 17h, when they welcome back English organist David Shippey. Free entry, with a collection. www.bagnolesdelorne.com

St George's Day Fête & *vide-grenier*

On Sun 24th at La Rouardière (53, SW of Laval), this starts at 9h with games and amusements all day, English folk dancing, an exhibition of vehicles and an art exhibition. Food and drink available on site – including bacon sandwiches and teas! Free entry.

English film night in Gorrion cinema

The only English film I know about in Gorrion cinema at the moment is on Monday 4th: 'Hail, Caesar', a comedy with George Clooney, Josh Brolin, Ralph Fiennes, Scarlett Johansson, etc. Something to cheer us all up during these wintry days, perhaps?!

For those who can't get to Gorrion, here are details of other cinemas that show English films: Fougères (35): www.cinmafougeres.com; Mayenne (53): www.atmospherescinema.org, Tinchebray (61): email Claude Maze at maze.claude@orange.fr (English spoken)

Marché du Printemps in Saint-James (50)

On Sun. 10th from 9h to 13h, this *marché du terroir* takes place in Place de Gaulle in Saint-James. You will find artisanal products, also musical entertainment and pony rides. More info from www.saintjamestourisme.fr

Parc de loisirs de la Colmont in Gorrion (53)

Beside the river Colmont, this *parc de loisirs* offers physical activities suitable for everyone: *swin golf* (putting green), canoe-kayak, mini-rafting, VTT, cycling, acro-branching through the trees, orientation courses, paintball, beach volley and horse riding for beginners. Open from 2nd April to 31st October, every day from 14h to 18h, you can discover these and more activities by asking at the green *Accueil* hut near the putting green or from the *mediathèque* (library) near the *Mairie* in Gorrion. More info: www.gorrion.fr

Bourse aux vêtements (sale of clothing)

On Sat. 16th from 10h to 16h30 at *l'Espace Colmont* in Gorrion (53) : 'Printemps / Eté' - sale of bargain adult and children's clothing

Médiévalys - Cathédraloscope

In Dol-de-Bretagne (35, 20 minutes from St Malo and Mont-Saint-Michel) at the foot of the Cathédrale Saint-Samson, discover the secrets of the builders of the Middle Ages. Open from Easter to 1st Nov. In April, May & June: daily 10h-13h & 14h-18h; July, August: daily 10h-18h30; see other opening times on their website www.medievalys.fr.

Sale of *Tricots Saint-James 'Esprit Marin'*

On Sat. 23rd (9h-17h), Mon 25th (10h-12h30 & 14h30-17h30) and Wed. 27th (14h-17h30) this famous marine knitwear factory - at route d'Antrain, Saint James (50) - will be having an end-of-series sale. A chance to snap up a bargain item of this iconic brand.

Weekly markets in the *Ille et Vilaine* department (35)

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Combourg, Vitré
Tuesdays	Antrain, Dinard, Hedé, La Guerche-de-Bretagne, Pipriac
Wednesdays	Tinténiac
Thursdays	Chateaugiron, Dinard, St Aubin-de-Cormier
Fridays	Martigné-Ferchaud, St Malo, St Servan, Pleurtuit
Saturdays	Bécherel, Dinard, Dol-de-Bretagne, Fougères, Rennes
Sundays	Cancale, St Brice-en-Coglès (2 nd of each month), La Richardais

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

Sport & Leisure Activities

Randonneurs de la Colmont

On Sun. 3rd is a 10km walk around Hercé (53) as part of the Fête Communale, organised by *Les Randonneurs de la Colmont*. Depart from l'Eglise at 10h. Food available on site.

More walks

Two walks organised by *St James Randonne*. Depart at 14h from the Place du Champ de Foire in Saint-James (50), 1,50€ for non-members. More info: www.saintjamestourisme.fr:

☞ Sun. 10th – walk from Saint James to Chauvigné (35)

☞ Tues. 26th – walk from Saint James to Romagny (50)

[Remember, for all sporting activities, you need a current health certificate from your doctor]

Pastel classes

On Mon. 4th in the *Pepinière d'Enterprises de Saint-James*: pastel class with the theme 'les fleurs'. 50€ for the whole day. Contact Sandrine Berthe on 06 62 55 94 33.

[Future classes: Mon. 9th May: theme 'le portrait'; Sat. 25th June: theme 'la mer'].

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That's all for this month. A little shorter than usual but I have run out of time due to a very busy 4 weeks!!

If, at any time, you don't receive a Bulletin on or just before the 1st of each month, always let me know – as 2 people last month didn't receive one, due to some sort of 'hiccup'.

Also, a reminder that this is only a guide, so if setting out and travelling long distances to events / places of interest, please double-check opening times, etc., as these can sometimes change without notice.

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Events by the day (not including *vide-greniers*):

April 2016

Date	Event	Place	Page
Fri. 1 st	Fish & Chip evening	Couesmes-Vaucé	3
Sat. 2 nd	Coup d'Chœur - 150-strong choir	Gorron	4
“	Brass Band concert	St Laurent de Terregatte	4
“	'Kiltaclou' burlesque percussion	La Ferté-Macé	4
W/e 2 nd + 3 rd	Yard Sale at La Petite Dallionnière	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie	2
Sun. 3 rd	Music and stories	St Denis de Gastines	4
“	Walk around Hercé	Hercé	6
Mon. 4 th	English film in Gorron	Gorron	4
“	Pastels class	Saint-James	6
Wed. 6 th	Alys and Seb Zerah	Laval	4
Sat. 9 th	'Panier Piano'	Juvigny-sous-Andaine	4
Sun. 10 th	Organ recital with David Shippey	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	Marché de Printemps	Saint-James	5
“	Walk to Chauvigné	Saint-James	6
Fri. 15 th	Concours International de Piano	Mayenne	4
Sat. 16 th	Bourse aux vêtements	Gorron	5
Sat. 23 rd	Tricots Saint-James sale	Saint-James	5
W/e 23/24 th	'Flower Basket' open weekend	Rânes	3
Sun. 24 th	St George's Day Fête	La Rouardière	4
“	Bourse aux vélos	Granville	3
Mon. 25 th	Tricots Saint-James sale	Saint-James	5
Tues. 26 th	Walk to Romagny	Saint-James	6
Wed. 27 th	Tricots Saint-James sale	Saint-James	5
Fri. 29 th	'Niet Popov' with David Sire	Granville	4
29 th & 30 th	Emmaüs sale	Granville	3