

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Bread is like the sun: it rises in the yeast
and sets in the waist

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area ['50' = area; '±' = stalls expected]

W/e 6 th & 7 th	Lessay (50)	<i>brocante & puces mécaniques</i> on Circuit Rallycross, route de l'Aérodrome, ±50
Sun. 7 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g in Place du Marché, Quartier Château, free entry, ±100
“	St Hilaire du Harcouët (61)	v-g in <i>marché couvert</i> , ± 150
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in 'A la Belle Epoque', ±70
“	Flers (61)	v-g in parking of Complexe Sportif du Hariel, 7h-18h20, ±50
“	Ernée (53)	v-g in car park of Super U, ±300
“	Moulay (53)	v-g in parking de l'Ecole, ±70
“	St Jean-de-Mayenne (53)	v-g in <i>Salle Aquarelle</i> , ±70
“	Pleurtuit (35)	v-g in <i>Salle Omnisports</i> , ±50
W/e 13 th & 14 th	Domfront (61)	v-g in <i>Fête des Rameaux</i> , ±100
Sun. 14 th	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in Place du Champ de Foire, ±30
Sun. 21 st	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Cours Jonville, ±30
Mon. 22 nd	La Frenais (35)	<i>braderie</i> in the Salle des Sports, ±70
Sun. 28 th	St. Fraimbault (61)	v-g in Place de la Mairie, ±100
“	La Ferté-Macé (61)	v-g in Ecole Paul Souvray, ±30

Visit www.brocabrac.fr which is constantly updated with *brocantes* / *vide-greniers*, including any changes.

Special dates / public holidays:

Sun. 21 st	Easter Sunday
Mon. 22 nd	Easter Monday

Eating out : *Auberge de l'Abbaye*, Le Neufbourg (50)

This popular English-run restaurant, at 8 rue de la Gare in Neufbourg (near Mortain), offers French and European dishes, with a *midi plat du jour* (+ *a la carte*) on Weds., Thurs., & Fridays, 12h-14h. Also, an English Sunday roast, 12h to 14h. Vegetarians are welcome. For reservations: 02 33 51 21 63

Les Jardins des Renaudies

The season begins at these lovely gardens at 'Le Mézerai', Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) on Sun. 7th, 14h-18h, opening Tues. to Suns. & fête days, 14h to 18h (in July & Aug. 11h-18h). Entry: 6€; ages 6-16: 2€, under 6s free. Dogs are accepted on a lead.

Easter event: on Sun. 21st & Mon. 22nd: *Chasse aux oeufs* (Easter Egg Hunt): children can search for Easter pictures around the gardens and they will then be given chocolate. Meanwhile, the adults can enjoy the other attractions and wonderful floral surroundings. Special entry price: 3€ for everyone.

Les Poiriers en Fleurs in Mantilly (61)

On Sun. 21st, as every year, the village of Mantilly encourages everyone to come and see their magnificent Normandy pear trees in flower, on a circuit for walking, cycling or driving. Free. Also, a 10km race is organised during the day,

Vintage 'Triumph' vehicles in Domfront (61)

On Wed. 24th from 15h to 17h in the rue des Fossés Plisson, Domfront, there will be a dozen 'Triumph' vehicles on show. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (see below).

Fête de Pâques (Easter fête) in Champsecret (61)

This is on the Sun. 21st & Mon. 22nd. For more info, contact the Domfront Tourist Office (02 33 38 56 66) [some English spoken]

Brexit – France, useful websites

[With thanks to Nicholas P for this info.] The following websites may be useful especially to the British people permanently resident in France. (most of the info is in French):

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/united-kingdom/brexit/>

<https://brexit.gouv.fr/sites/brexit/accueil.html>

Event in support of Grande-Daze Animal Companion Centre

On Sat 27th from 19h in the Salle des Fêtes, 2 rue de la Bigottière in Saint-Germain-le-Guillaume (53) in support of Grande Daze Animal Companion Centre: 'Bingo & Bangers (and mash)!' Tickets: 18€ which includes 6 bingo games (18 prizes), bangers & mash, 1 drink and a dessert. Entry by ticket only – call Grande Daze on 02 43 90 75 83. [Full details, rules & prizes on their website: grandedaze.com/bingo-bangers-and-mash; also an event on Facebook: www.facebook.com/events/592584124525705/]. They will also be drawing the winner of their raffle: 5€ per ticket to win 2 nights in Camping la Fortinière's Safari Tent and a bottle of Saumur wine to sip in it!

Fitness with Val in Saint-Fraimbault (61)

On Tuesday mornings at 10h30, for one hour in the Salle Polyvalente in Saint-Fraimbault (on the road across from the little tourist information kiosk) is a fitness class with Val: Fun Motivation Exercise for all abilities. Val can be contacted on 02 33 14 40 69 and valskeepfit@outlook.com. The price is 5€, and in certain cases a medical certificate may be required.

Fête de l'oiseau, la fleur et le potager in Domfront (61)

On Sun. 28th in Domfront (for the venue look for local signs) this fête will also have an exhibition of vintage vehicles and bikes. Free.

Exhibition: '*Peintures d'Andre Helluin*'

Until 14th April in the Salle Rousseau, Cour du Grand Turc in La Ferté-Macé (61): a retrospective exhibition organized by the artist's widow.

Chasse aux oeufs (Easter egg hunt) in Flers (61)

On Sun. 21st in the Parc du Château de Flers, children can hunt for eggs and those who find 3 eggs of different colours will be given a sachet of chocolates. Free entry. More info from the Flers Tourist Office (www.ornetourisme.com).

29th *Salon d'Art* in Gorron (53)

From 1st until 16th April, 14h-19h, this exhibition of paintings and sculptures will be held in *l'Espace Colmont* in Gorron. Free entry.

Les Journées Européennes des Métiers d'Art

This event is held on 5th to 7th, 14h-18h in the *Forum Métiers d'Art* in Jublains (53). You can discover unusual trades from artisans from around France and Europe. Free entry.

Foire Expo des Rameaux in Domfront (61)

On the weekend of 13th & 14th the 71st edition of this annual event takes place from 10h to 19h in rue du Champ Passais. Organised by the *Mairie* of Domfront, there will be around 100 stalls with craftsmen from all around France, in 2 halls; also a *fête foraine* (fun fair) and *vide-grenier* outside. Free access. More info at the Domfront Tourist Office.

Cheese of the month - *Coulommiers*

Pronounced 'koo-lom-yay' and named after the town of the same name, it belongs to the Brie family - and is also known as "*Brie de petit moule*" (Brie from a small mould) but has a nuttier taste, a thicker crust, an extra rich & creamy body and a sweet & melting taste. It has a white rind with some red stains and is best eaten at room temperature, when it becomes a gooey delight – perfect for smearing onto a crusty baguette. It comes in 3 sizes: large, medium & small.

A great *hors d'oeuvre* cheese or with apples, pears or fresh berries. Recommended accompanying wines: A good red from Bordeaux, Côtes de Rhône or Languedoc, or a white: Sauvignon Blanc.

Entertainment & Concerts

Fri. 12th, 20h30 to 21h45, in the *Théâtre Municipal* of Mayenne (53, near the Château) is a piano recital by Xiaolu Zang, the winner of last year's *Concours International de Piano à Mayenne*. (see below). This 19-year-old pianist gave his first recital at the age of 10 and has played the piano in China and the USA, while also studying with grand master Arie Vardi in Hamburg. Entry: 15€, under 18s: 10€.

12th *Concours International Piano à Mayenne*

On 11th to 14th April, this is held in the Auditorium du Grand Nord, or the *Théâtre Municipal* in Mayenne (53). Since 2008, dozens of young pianists from around the world have taken part in this prestigious competition. Tickets: 15€, children 10€. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)

'Tales of Hoffman' (*Les Contes d'Hoffman*) in La Ferté-Macé (61)

On Sun. 21st at the cinema in La Ferté-Macé, this opera by Jacques Offenbach will be transmitted direct from Paris to the cinema screen. More info from the Tourist Office (www.lafertemace.fr/office-de-tourisme)

Guided walk around Saint-Céneri-le-Gérei (61)

On Sun. 28th from 9h, a guided walk (mostly in French) around one of the most beautiful villages of France. Animals accepted. More info: www.normandie-tourisme.fr

Foire Fleuri in Gorrion (53)

On the weekend of 6th & 7th, this traditional annual fête celebrates the arrival of Spring. On Sat. 6th is a race: '*Parcours du Coeur*' to promote a healthy heart. Meet at the stand on rue Magenta to enter the event – either walking, jogging or running, according to your abilities. Circuits of 2, 4 or 6 km are possible through Gorrion between 16h45 and 18h. Open to all, and participation is free. On Sun. 7th from 10h30, up on the 1st floor of the *Mairie* during the day there will be demonstrations of floral art by renowned florists. There is also a funfair, a marching brass band, flower-decorated cycles, an artisan market, and many businesses will be open.

Flers Carnival

On Fri 19th at 15h to 16h will be the procession through Place Saint Germain, *centre ville* of Flers (61). There will be entertainment through the town from 13h30 to 17h30. More info from the Flers Tourist Office (www.ornetourisme.com)

English film in Gorrion cinema – 'Green Book'

This film, an American biographical comedy, will be shown on Mon. 8th at the cinema in Gorrion. The film starts at 20h30 and tickets (5,50€) are on sale at the cinema after 20h on the night. Refreshments can be purchased at the *Bar de la Mairie* down the hill.

A voyage across the years!

On Thurs. 11th and 25th at the Domfront Tourist Office, 12 place de la Roirie, Domfront (61) from 15h to 17h will be a selection of postcards showing Domfront as it was between the two World Wars and how much it has changed. Entry: 4€, under 10s free.

Horsemanship displays at *Le-Pin-au-Haras* (61)

At this ‘Versailles of the Horse’, on 2nd to 4th will be the Young Horse class. Open to all. Dogs are allowed on a leash. More info: www.haras-national-du-pin.com

Discovery walk in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

On 2nd from 15h to 17h30, will be a 6.5 km accompanied walk lasting around 2–2½ hours. Mainly forest trails. Adults and children from age 10. Inscription at the Tourist Office before 11h30 on the day (as more than 4 & max. 25 people required). 5€, under 14s free.

10.2 million visitors set a record for *Le Louvre*

Le Louvre museum in Paris broke its visitor numbers record in 2018, with 10.2 million over the year – a rise of 25% on 2017. Museum president, Jean-Luc Martinez, said that a music video of Beyoncé and Jay-Z shot at the museum, and the opening of the Louvre in Abu Dhabi, had boosted its reputation.

Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . .

After the Norman Conquest in 1066, for over 300 years French became the language used by aristocracy and administration in England. This led to English absorbing many words which were originally French – in fact, about 45% of modern English words are of French origin.

Restaurant ‘*La Camillane*’ in St-Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)

Sadly, ‘*La Camillane*’ appears to have closed permanently, which is a great shame as it was in a lovely setting, and a great place to enjoy a meal and socialise.

Feeding our garden birds

We are reminded that when using shop-bought fat-balls, it is very important to remove the green plastic netting and to place the balls in a fat-ball holder. The netting not only can trap the birds’ feet or beak, but it is also single-use and contributes to pollution.



And finally,

Today I ordered a chicken and an egg from Amazon.
I’ll let you know.

Judy Skinner

tel: 02 43 30 29 06

e-mail: judithsk@free.fr

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

April 2019

Date	Event	Place	Page
1 st to 16 th	29 th <i>Salon d'Art</i> (Art Exhibition)	Gorron	3
Tues. 2 nd	Discovery walk	Bagnoles de l'Orne	5
2 nd to 4 th	Horsemanship displays	Le Pin-au-Haras	5
5 th to 7 th	<i>Journées Européennes des Metiers d'Art</i>	Jublains	3
W/e 6 th & 7 th	<i>Foire Fleuri</i> (Floral Fair)	Gorron	4
Mon. 8 th	English film: 'Green Book'	Gorron	4
11 th – 14 th	<i>Concours International de Piano</i>	Mayenne	4
Fri. 12 th	Piano recital by Xiaolu Zang	Mayenne	4
13 th & 14 th	<i>Foire Expo des Rameaux</i>	Domfront	3
Fri. 19 th	Flers carnival	Flers	4
Sun. 21 st	Opera 'Tales of Hoffman' direct from Paris	La Ferté-Macé	4
“	Easter egg hunt at the Château	Flers	3
“	<i>Les Poiriers en fleurs</i>	Mantilly	2
21 st & 22 nd	<i>Chasse aux oeufs</i> (Easter Egg Hunt)	Colombiers du Plessis	2
“	<i>Fête de Pâques</i> (Easter fête)	Champsecret	2
Wed. 24 th	'Triumph' vehicles on show	Domfront	2
Sat. 27 th	Bingo & Bangers (and mash)	St-Germain-le-Guillaume	2
Sun. 28 th	<i>Fête de l'oiseau, la fleur et le potager</i>	Domfront	3
“	Guided walk around the village	Saint-Céneri-le-Gérei	4