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## Bulletin !

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

### Thought for the month:

Fantasy writing is an exercise for the mind. It might not take us anywhere but it can tone up the muscles that can

(Terry Pratchett)

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area [ '61' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	<i>v-g/brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Esp. de la Halle, ±30
“	Sourdeval (50)	<i>v-g</i> at 9, place du Champ de Foire, ±50
W/e 8 <sup>th</sup> /9 <sup>th</sup>	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>brocante / v-g des Anciens</i> in Salle Omnisports, ±30
Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Rennes (35)	<i>Les Puces de Rennes</i> , Mail François Mitterand, ±30
Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Granville (50)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> , Cours Jonville, ±60
“	Laval (53)	<i>v-g</i> in Salle Polyvalente, Place de Hercé, ±150
Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	<i>v-g / brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±30

[NB: every Thursday in Rennes (35) *Marché à la brocante*, around the *Halles Centrales*, ±30]

Visit [www.brocabrac.fr](http://www.brocabrac.fr) which is constantly updated with *brocantes / vide-greniers*, including any changes.

### Special dates:

Shrove Tuesday is on 25<sup>th</sup> February, so get those pancakes tossed (and try not to hit the ceiling!)

Also, 2020 is a Leap Year, so there will be a 29<sup>th</sup> February, on the Saturday!

### Eating out - *La Cuisine de Bubba*

'*La Cuisine de Bubba* is an English family-run wood-fired pizzeria at 1, Place de la Mairie in Gorron (53). You will find a friendly atmosphere and freshly made pizzas, eat in or take-away, catering for meat eaters and vegetarians (with also gluten-free pizzas, but only on pre-order as they buy the bases in and keep them in the freezer), with a weekly 'special' changed each week. They have an extensive range of beers, the majority being English ales with the rest from France, Belgium and other parts of Europe. They are now offering a weekly curry, which includes poppadums, chutney, curry, rice & naan for 12€. They are not a fast-food restaurant – all food is fresh and cooked to order. Open Weds. to Sats. 18h to 22h. For more info see their Facebook page.

### *Le Carnaval de Granville* (Granville Carnival)

This famous carnival in Granville (50) - one of the oldest in France [this will be the 146<sup>th</sup> year] - is from Fri. 21<sup>st</sup> to Tues. 25<sup>th</sup>. The first musical procession is on Sat. 22<sup>nd</sup> departing at 10h from Cours Jonville, with the children's cavalcade at 14h15. At 18h is a concert with 'Jet Blast' and a brass band will be playing through the town from 21h. On Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup> is the main carnival procession at 13h30, setting off from 3 different points - Port, Casino and rue des Juifs, with the illuminated cavalcade at 21h. In the afternoon of Mon. 24<sup>th</sup> are various events. On Tues. 25<sup>th</sup> at 13h30 will be the final cavalcade, followed by the judging of the floats at 16h30, and other entertainment – with the Battle of Confetti at 18h! The humour and terrific atmosphere is enjoyed by everyone and helps to welcome in the coming year. More info: [www.carnaval-de-granville.fr](http://www.carnaval-de-granville.fr) or your nearest Tourist Office.

### *Les Jardins du Val Nançon*, Fougères (35)

These peaceful and colourful gardens, covering 2ha., are in the town of Fougères at the foot of the château, along the river Nançon. As well as a botanical garden you will see the remains of an old monastery, and there is a contemporary glass sculpture "*l'Oeuvre à la Vie*" symbolising peace and the meeting of world cultures. Dogs are welcome on a lead.

### Cancer Support France Nord events

Cancer Support France Nord is a voluntary, not for profit organisation founded in 2008 and is part of the Cancer Support France network of affiliated non-profit associations. They support people who live in Brittany, Normandy and the Mayenne, their friends and families that have been affected in some way by cancer, providing information, translations, emotional and practical support. On Weds. 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 10h (last orders 12h30) will be their Brunch in the Salle in Notre-Dame du Touchet, They serve a full English style breakfast that includes bacon, sausage, egg, hash browns, tomato & beans, toast & marmalade, with tea or coffee, for 7,50€. Also bacon sandwiches at 3€, or beans on toast 3€, both served with tea or coffee. Toast and marmalade with a tea or coffee: 2€. For more info please contact them on [nord@cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:nord@cancersupportfrance.org)

## *Basilique de Pontmain (53)*

This year is the 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apparition in Pontmain of the Virgin Mary, and they welcomed around 1,400 pilgrims in January. Preparations are under way for next year's celebrations, which may be attended by an emissary of the Pope. The Basilica is a very impressive building with beautiful stained-glass windows, and the 2 steeples hold 39 bells. Visitors can learn how, on 17<sup>th</sup> January 1871, 4 children under 13 years of age saw, in the starry sky, the Virgin Mary who pronounced hope for the end of a major conflict at the time. The barn from where the children saw the Apparition can be visited and a free short explanatory film seen.

### Phoenix Singles Group

If you find yourself on your own for whatever reason, life in rural France can be very lonely and isolating. Help is at hand ! A new Group has been formed to help. "Phoenix Singles Group" aims to bring people together through organising social events and get-togethers. The rest is up to you! There is no joining fee, only the costs of any meetings etc. Please bear in mind this group is not a social club, it is intended to bring people together and see what happens!. So, sign up for the chance to bring joy back into your life! If this appeals to you, please send your age, gender and nearest large town to [phoenixsingles55@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixsingles55@gmail.com) or find them on Facebook.

### New 'Pages' bookshop opening in Gorrion (53)

Suzanne McGregor is opening a new bookshop in Gorrion for six months which will be running alongside 'Pages' (in Passais-la-Conception, 61). It will be called 'Page 2' and is located at 6 Place de la Houssaye (next door to Elliotts Butchers). She will be opening on Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> from 9h to 17h. There will be free tea, coffee & cake all that day. The hours for 'Page 2' will be Weds. 9h to 17h; Thurs. 12h to 17h30, and Fri. 9h to 17h. Suzanne will still be open at 'Pages' in Passais on Tues. & Sats from 9h30 to 16h. Please contact her by email on [suzymcg@hotmail.com](mailto:suzymcg@hotmail.com) or by telephone on 06 84 74 72 70 for any further information.

### Cycle racks installed under the Mayenne (53) Tourist Office

3 cycle racks have been installed for use by cyclists visiting the area, either passing through, eating or sleeping overnight. Also, inside the Tourist Office (which is located at the edge of the river in the town) are electric points and a tyre-pump station. Supported by *Vélo Francette*, it aims to improve the amenities available for visitors.

### Kebab shop in Gorrion re-opening

*May'Kebab*, 22 rue de la Mairie in Gorrion (53) - where KGB Kebabs used to be – opens on 31<sup>st</sup> January. They will be serving kebabs, burgers, salads, galettes & paninis and have a children's menu. Open: Mon. to Thurs. 11h-14h & 17h30-22h; Fri. to Sun.: 11h-14h & 17h30-23h. More info on Facebook: May'Kebab Gorrion.

## Entertainment & Concerts

Tues. 4<sup>th</sup> at 20h in the *Théâtre Victor Hugo* in Fougères (35), pupils of the *Conservatoire de Musique* propose a ‘concert polychrome’ to help illustrate the large instrumental quality and variety. Under the direction of Christophe Brandilly, Kevin Brosse and Quentin Meunier. More info from the Fougères Tourist Office: [www.ot-fougeres.fr](http://www.ot-fougeres.fr)

Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> at 20h in the *Centre Madeleine Louaintier* in Flers (61): *Jazz Manouche* with the ‘*Trio Mazarski*’. Tickets 8€, children 5€, under 12s free. [www.orne-tourisme.com](http://www.orne-tourisme.com)

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> at 16h in the *Auditorium Jean Langlais* in Fougères (35): a concert ‘*Musiques du Monde*’ by the pupils of the flute and guitar classes of the *Conservatoire*, under the direction of Maël Fauvy. Free

Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> at 17h in *l’Espace Culturel Colmont*, Gorrion (53): ‘DDT’, a duo with tuba and a guitar. Between melodies and improvisation, François Thuillier (tubiste) and Marc Drouard (guitarist with rhythmic acrobatics) carry us in a musical spiral with their amazing technique and mastership. Duration: 1hr 20. Free

### Murder Mystery play in Passsais (61) in [March](#)

[[Advance notice for March](#)] *Passais Villages a un incroyable talent*. There will be a murder-mystery play in 3 acts by *Fun Theatre Communautaire*, and following the success of their dual-language pantomime last year, the dialogue will once again be in French and English. Tickets will be on sale in [February](#). You can register an interest now by emailing [mm2020@funtheatre.fr](mailto:mm2020@funtheatre.fr) - this will ensure that you get an email telling you when and where you can purchase tickets. You can also go to the website [www.funtheatre.fr](http://www.funtheatre.fr) where you will find updates as they become available.

Tickets numbers will be limited to 120 per performance. There will be tiered seating in the auditorium, with meals being served to your table. You will be encouraged to form teams to work out who the murderer is. The shows, which will be in the theatre space in Passais-la-Conception, will be on 3 days: Fri. 20<sup>th</sup> March at 19h30; Sat. 21<sup>st</sup> March at 19h30 and Sun. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12h30. Tickets will be 20€ which includes a ‘welcome’ apéritif and a 3-course meal (with a vegetarian option available). A reduced-price children’s option will be offered on the Sunday only (details to be confirmed).

### Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . . about *le déjeuner*

In France, up to the 19<sup>th</sup> century *le déjeuner* (lunch) was taken at the time of our breakfast (now known as *le petit déjeuner*). They had *le diner* (dinner) at lunch-time and, in the evenings was *le souper* (usually a bowl of soup or similar, which still remains in some rural areas). The movement of dinner to lunchtime came about mainly as a result of Paris custom: in the time of Louis XIV *le diner* took place between 11h & 12h, then between 14h & 15h under Louis XV, to 17h under Napoleon 1<sup>st</sup> and then towards 19h at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## French people whose names are immortalised in history . . . and language

This month: Guillotine. The execution machine most famously used in the French Revolution to behead Marie Antoinette was named after Doctor Joseph-Ignace Guillotin. The doctor served in the National Assembly and, although opposed to the death penalty, he proposed the tool as a humane alternative to beheading by sword or axe, which was often botched. In addition, beheading was reserved for the aristocracy and commoners were usually hanged. A law was later passed in 1789 which made decapitation by guillotine the only method of state execution. Dr. Guillotin did not invent the device - it was created in Yorkshire in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and called the Halifax Gibbet.

### Gorron VO film night - '1917'

Confirmed by Gorron Cinema, the film 1917 will be shown on Mon. 10<sup>th</sup> at 20h30. Tickets (5,50€) can be bought at the cinema on the night from 20h. As ever, the *Bar de la Mairie* can provide pre-film refreshments. [I've heard that the film is so good, people who have already seen it may come and see it again!]

### Weekly markets in the *Calvados* (14) *département*

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Pont l'Eveque
Tuesdays	Caen, Ouistreham, Thury-Harcourt
Wednesdays	Bayeux, Villers-Bocage
Thursdays	Condé-sur-Noireau, Le Beny-Bocage
Fridays	Deauville, Ouistreham, Vire
Saturdays	Bayeux, Ouistreham, Luc-sur-Mer
Sundays	Caen, Trouville-sur-Mer

(It is wise to double check before going, as these can change without notice). Next month: the weekly markets in the *Ille et Vilaine* (35)

And finally,

Did you hear about the fellow who went to the hospital with a serious complaint and had his entire left side cut off? He's all right now.

Enjoy!

*Judy Skinner*

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

## February 2020

Date	Event	Place	Page
Tues. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Concert	Fougères	4
Mon. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Film '1917' (Version Original)	Gorron	5
Tues. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Jazz manouche</i> concert	Flers	4
Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup>	CSF Nord Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Concert : <i>Musiques du Monde</i>	Fougères	4
Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Concert with tuba and guitar	Gorron	4
21st – 25 <sup>th</sup>	Granville Carnival	Granville	2
Tues. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Pancake Day!	-	1
Wed. 26 <sup>th</sup>	CSF Nord Brunch	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2