

## Bulletin !

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

### Thought for the month:

Every year it gets harder to make ends meet –  
ends like hands and feet!

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area (but are subject to cancellation, so check with your Tourist Office, if possible). [ '50' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup>	St. Mars-sur-la-Futaie (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> , 9h30-18h30
Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Avranches (50)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> , 2 rue de General de Gaulle, ±30
“		
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Esplanade de la Halle, ±50
“		
Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Granville (50)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> , Cours Jonville, ±50
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in ‘ <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> ’, ±50
Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Perrou (61)	v-g in car park of bar / restaurant ‘ <i>La Belle Arrivée</i> ’, ±50
Fri. 28 <sup>th</sup> )		<i>Foire des Andaines</i> , route St Michel
Sat. 29 <sup>th</sup> & ) --	Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)	(The Big One!), ±350 stalls
Sun. 30 <sup>th</sup> )		(2kms!)
Sun. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Montsûrs-St-Cénére (53)	v-g, rue de la Jouanna, ±70

On Thursdays: Rennes (35) *Les Puces du Jeudi, brocante*, around the *Marché Central*, La Criée, ±30

On Tuesdays: Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) *Flâneries / vide-greniers*, ±50

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

### Special dates / public holidays:

Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> *Assomption* – the celebration of the Virgin Mary ascending bodily into Heaven. Normally, traditional parades would be held in France, often with dances and fireworks, but this may not be happening this year.

## Eating out - *Le Lion d'Or*

*Le Lion d'Or* bar/restaurant in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53) has completed the building/extension work after being closed for some time. Thierry and Nina are now opening on Saturday evenings and possibly Sunday lunchtimes for a 'banquet' menu (by advance reservation only: 02 43 05 53 76) offering a choice of 2 *entrées* and 2 main courses. Thierry is a superb chef, as seen by his private catering and also these Saturday evening menus. Vegetarians can be catered for – advance notice required. They are opening most afternoons / evenings now – and the new terrace is a lovely place to sit.

## *Les Jardins des Renaudies (53)*

Events at these pretty gardens at Colombiers-du-Plessis ([www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr](http://www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr)):  
Sun. 23<sup>rd</sup>: *Fête du Miel & Marché Gourmand* (honey fête & gourmet market), 10h to 18h, with pony rides, maize maze, *Salon de Thé* (Tea Room). Entry: 6€ (6-16s: 2€, under 6s free). During August, in the foyer is an exhibition of paintings by members of Art'Bo.

## *Grand Fête de la Moisson (Harvest Fête)*

On Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> from 11h in St Denis de Gastines (53, look for signs) you can see farming life as it was years ago – with ancient skills, working animals, draft horses, donkeys, vintage tractors. Food available on site, mid-day and evening. Entry 6€. Masks to be worn and social distancing observed.

## Cancer Support France Nord

During the Covid-19 emergency, CSF Nord are supporting ANY English speaker in France who feels isolated or vulnerable, and who would like someone to talk to over the phone or via email, whether or not they have cancer. For more info, contact them on the helpline email: [helpline:cancersupportfrance.org](mailto:helpline:cancersupportfrance.org); [www.cancersupportfrance.org](http://www.cancersupportfrance.org).

## Litter fines rise

Fines for littering – including dropping face masks and cigarettes – rise from 68€ to 135€ in France this summer. A government decree is being prepared. The fines will start at 135€, rising to 375€ if they are not paid on time. They could even rise to 750€ if the issue escalates to court proceedings. These fines are being increased because of new kinds of waste linked to the health crisis, such as masks, plastic gloves and disposable wipes.

## Demonstration of *hydromodélisme* in La Ferté-Macé (61)

On Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 14h at the *base de loisirs* (lake), this demonstration of model boats is organised by the *Club Hydromodélisme Fertois*. Free

## *Les Flâneries d'Eté* in La Ferté-Macé (61)

(Please check with the Tourist Office nearer the time in case of cancellation)

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> and each Sat. in August, from 9h to 18h in Place Hotel de Ville in the heart of La Ferté-Macé, you will find all types of items on sale. To book a stall: 3€ per metre, 06 71 12 77 47. [*flânerie* = browsing/strolling]

## Something for all the family - outdoor leisure centre

In La Ferté-Macé (61) there is a huge outdoor leisure area (*base de loisirs 'Ferté Plage'*) with a lake and lots of activities during the summer months: swimming (with lifeguard cover in July & August); children's games on the beach; *pétanque*; field volleyball; a climbing wall; radio-controlled power boats; radio-controlled car track; picnic and rest areas; pedal boats, canoes & kayaks; mini-golf, archery and barbecues. There is a beach-side cafeteria open during the summer, and you can enjoy a 2.5km walk around the lake all through the year. Free parking.

## Guided tours of Domfront in English

On Fri. 14<sup>th</sup> at 14h30 to 15h30 & 17h to 18h, organised once again by the Tourist Office, you can learn more about the history of the castle (3€), explore the secret mediæval town (3€) and/or climb to the top of the Saint Julien church (3€, adults only– approx. 200 steps & 45m in height). Payment by contact-less card only. Due to current security measures, limited to 6 people for each visit. Masks compulsory. Tickets & info from the Domfront Tourist Office, 12 Place de la Roirie, 02 33 38 53 97; [info@ot-domfront.com](mailto:info@ot-domfront.com) [Also on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept.]

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

In 1920, France created a national day for Jeanne d'Arc (Joan of Arc) on the second Sunday of May. It is not a bank holiday, nor a celebration of Saint Joan of Arc, which is marked by the Catholic Church at the end of May. Instead it is a day to honour Joan of Arc, known as 'the Maid of Orleans' and patriotism.

She became a national symbol during the Hundred Years' War, claiming that her mission was to liberate France from the English presence. Charles VII was crowned king thanks to her help. She was later captured and sold to the English, before being burnt to death at the stake in Rouen in 1431. A parade is organised each year in Paris, near her statue on the Place des Pyramides.

## Exhibition of sculptures in stone

Until 12th Sept., at the *mediathèque*, rue du Dr Barrabé in Domfront (61): sculptures by Fabienne Hanteville. Hours of opening available at the Domfront Tourist Office.

## Arts & Crafts shop in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

'Boutik Nomade' is an arts & craft shop that supports local artisans, selling jewellery, prints, cards, pottery, bags, metal sculpture, weaving. Open: Wed., Thurs. & Fri.: 10h15 - 12h15 & 15h - 18h; Sat. & Sun.: 10h15 - 12h15. For more info contact Geraldine: 06 82 90 59 87.

## *Marché de la Saint Gilles* in Flers (61)

Wed. 26<sup>th</sup>, 10h to 21h, in rue de Paris, Flers, this annual market / braderie has entertainment, with food and drink available (social distancing to be observed).

## Entertainment and Concerts

### *'Les Clés de Bagnoles' and 'Les Vendredis de l'Eté'*

In Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) in August there are free open-air concerts on most Sundays, and street entertainment on some Fridays. Reservation is recommended as places are limited. Info & reservations from the Tourist Office: 02 33 37 85 66, [www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com).

*Les Clés de Bagnoles on Sundays*, 17h to 17h45 in the Square de Contades (near the lake):  
 ♪ 2<sup>nd</sup>: 'Passion Coco' (latino music, born in Peru): electric guitars with clever multiple effects; ♪ 9<sup>th</sup>: 'Valery Dekowski (rock); ♪ 16<sup>th</sup>: 'Les Rustives de l'Ange (accordion); ♪ 23<sup>rd</sup>: 'Strange o'Clock' (2 musicians with blues/rock/Tuareg music)

*Les Vendredis de l'Eté on Fridays*, 21h to 21h45: ☺ 7<sup>th</sup>: in Place General de Gaulle: 'L'Herbe est plus rose ici' (5 entertainers – cartoon heroes, with exuberance & fun); ☺ 14<sup>th</sup>: in the Parc du Château (plenty of seating space on the grass): 'La Volonté des Cuisses' (piano with 4 circus acrobats and juggling).

### 3 Marching bands in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sat. 15<sup>th</sup> from 17h during the '*Fête du 15<sup>th</sup> Août*' in the Jardins du Lac: "Orquesta de la Calle" - Cuban music with 6 musicians (trumpet, guitar, trombone, drums); "Saxez 'l'Air Quartet" - jazz, and "La Chapelloise" - 30 musicians. Free.

### *Festival Cité en Musique* in Domfront (61)

Free outside music – On Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> at 20h30 in Place de Gaulle (near the church): "Chanson d'Occasion" (swing); On Wed. 12<sup>th</sup> at 22h in the Parc du Château: "La Melodie" (comedy with Kad Merad). Take a picnic to enjoy – plenty of space to sit on the grass nearby].

### Recital of French songs in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> at 15h to 16h30 in *l'Eglise du Sacré-Coeur*: 'Manuela en duo avec Stéphane', with a selection from Charles Aznavour, Edith Piaf, Serge Gainsbourg, Yves Montand, Michel Legrand. No reservation required. Masks to be worn. Free, with a collection.

### Open-air concert with Emma Mory

Tues. 4<sup>th</sup>, 20h30 to 22h30 in the Camping at the Parc de Vaux, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53): 'Duo Acoustique' with guitar, drums, voices. Free.

### Organ recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

Wed. 5<sup>th</sup> at 17h30 *l'Eglise Sainte-Madeleine*, Place de l'Eglise (near the château): Emmanuel Hocde, head organist at Laval Cathedral, accompanied by violin, cello & trumpet. Free. Masks to be worn, hand gel available, distancing is organised.

### *La Musique en Fête* with David Luka

Tues. 11<sup>th</sup>, 20h30 to 22h30 at the Camping Parc de Vaux, Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) – free concert with David Luka: songs in French & English. Food (snacks, pizzas, ices, drinks) available on site. [www.parcdevaux.com](http://www.parcdevaux.com)

## Exhibition of sculptures: 'Félin' by Patrick Villas

Until 27<sup>th</sup> Sept., this free exhibition can be seen in the Centre d'Animation et de Congrès, 8 rue Professeur Jacques Louvel in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). Patrick Villas is a Belgian sculptor with great international acclaim for his subject of '*le monde félin*' (the feline world). Elegance and nobility, with natural clay, raw and textured. More info and hours of opening at the Tourist Office ([www.bagnolesdelorne.com](http://www.bagnolesdelorne.com))

## Visit Saint Céneri-le-Gérei (61)

On Sats. & Suns. in August, at 15h & 16h30, a guided walk (in French) will help you discover the history of this village - classed a '*Petite Cité de Caractère*' - from its founding until the present day. Tickets: 5€, under 18s: 2,50€; under 10s free, available from '*Point Info*' in the village. Contact: [info@visitsaintceneri.com](mailto:info@visitsaintceneri.com)

## Nocturnal guided walk - "*Au Royaume des Nocturnes*"

On Fri. 21<sup>st</sup>, 20h30 to 22h30 at *la Fosse Arthour* (near St. Georges de Rouelley, 61). this walk is organised by the Parc Regional Normandie Maine. At nightfall, numerous species venture out under the stars: insects, mammals, birds – any nocturnal species can be seen. Meet at the parking of the *Auberge de la Fosse Arthour*. Take a torch and walking shoes. Minimum age 6 years. Free.

## Guided visit of Fontaine-Daniel (53)

Fri. 21<sup>st</sup>, 14h to 15h30, you can hear about the history of this pretty village sandwiched between an abbey, forest and lake. The Abbey was founded in 1204 by Cistercian monks but destroyed during the Revolution. Learn about (in French) the houses, mill, communal washing area, and the famous '*Toiles de Mayenne*' fabrics. 6€, under 12s free.. Meet in front of the *Epicerie*

## House clearance sale, Saint-Simeon (61)

Derrick and Lynda are holding a clearance sale at their house - La Riturière, Saint-Siméon - by appointment, on Sun. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mon. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tues. 4<sup>th</sup>. For an appointment, and location info if needed, phone 02 33 37 22 62 or email: [ardgarten@live.com](mailto:ardgarten@live.com)

## Garden Party at the Château du Bailleul, Gorrion (53)

On Sun. 30<sup>th</sup>, 12h to 20h, you will find live music, stands, bar, tea & cakes, food available (including roast pork). Entry: 1€, under 13s free. [www.chateaudubailleul.com](http://www.chateaudubailleul.com) and on facebook.

## Mistletoe and thistle

A seasonal reminder that the removal and destruction of mistletoe (*le gui*) from all poplars and fruit trees is compulsory. Also, all landowners, especially those absent for part of the year, must remove - and/or arrange to destroy - any thistle (*le chardon*) on their land before it flowers, including any in the areas along the borders.

## Sport & Leisure Activities

### Fitness classes in Brecé (53)

Alex Beech is re-starting her outdoor fitness classes in August at the *Terrain de Sport*, Brecé (behind the Salle Polyvalente). On Mondays: 11h to 12h, and Thursdays: 19h to 20h. For further info go to [facebook.com/brecefit](https://facebook.com/brecefit).

### Awaken your senses in the forest - family nature walk

On Sat. 1<sup>st</sup>, 10h to 12h and Wed. 5<sup>th</sup>, 14h30 to 16h30, organised by the Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) Tourist Office (in French). Children - do you really know the forest? Thanks to little games, you can learn to recognise the sounds, smells and tastes which surround the senses. Registration needed at the Bagnoles Tourist Office before 11h30 on the day, as between 4 & 9 people only on each walk. Tickets: 3€ for accompanying adult, child (under 14): 5€. Info: [tourisme@bagnolesdelorne.com](mailto:tourisme@bagnolesdelorne.com) / 02 33 37 85 66.

### *Balade matinale* (morning walk) – *Le Petit Tour*

Thurs. 6<sup>th</sup>, 9h45 to 11h45, an easy 4km guided walk (minimum age 10) with a pretty tour of the forest of Bagnoles de l'Orne (61). Discover 3 ancient oak trees in the Forêt des Andaines: – Roi Arthur, Lancelot and Hippolyte. Re-connect with nature and recharge your batteries! 2hr duration. Wear walking shoes. Tickets: 5€ (ages 10-14 free), available from the Bagnoles Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66). [Next one on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.]

### An informative stroll around Gorrion (53)

On Tues. 25<sup>th</sup> at 20h you can enjoy a walk around Gorrion, learning about its history, in English, and see some of the town's interesting features. Everybody welcome, especially people who are new to the area. Meet outside the Gorrion *Mairie* from 19h45.



And finally,

One of my friends mentioned that work colleagues had nicknamed him “the computer”. I asked if this was due to his prodigious brainpower and impressive multi-tasking skills. “No,” he admitted. “It’s because someone is always swearing at me and trying to get me to work.”



That’s all for this month. During these uncertain times, the Tourist Offices also have gone all-out to provide outdoor entertainment and activities and many are listed here – and hopefully the weather will be good to us! However, due to the virus events may be cancelled without notice, so please be prepared to change your plans.

*Judy Skinner*

*e-mail: [judithsk@free.fr](mailto:judithsk@free.fr)*

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

## August 2020

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Page</u>
Sat. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Family nature walk	Bagnoles de l'Orne	6
''	<i>Les Flâneries d'Été</i>	La Ferté-Macé	2
''	French songs in the church	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Sun. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Demo of <i>hydromodélisme</i> (model boats)	La Ferté-Macé	2
''	Free open-air live music	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	House clearance sale (by appointment)	Saint-Siméon	5
Tues. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Outside music with Emma Mory	Ambrières-les-Vallées	4
Wed. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Organ recital in the church	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
''	Free outside music	Domfront	4
''	Family nature walk	Bagnoles de l'Orne	6
Thurs. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Morning walk ' <i>Le Petit Tour</i> '	Bagnoles de l'Orne	6
Fri. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Free outside entertainment	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Sun. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Free open-air live music	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Tues. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor music with David Luka	Ambrières-les-Vallées	4
Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Free outside live music & comedy	Domfront	4
Fri. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Guided tours in English	Domfront	3
''	Free outside entertainment	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Grand Fête de la Moisson</i> (Harvest Fête)	St Denis de Gastines	2
''	3 marching bands around the town	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Free open-air live music	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Fri. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Nocturnal guided walk	La Fosse Arthour	5
''	Guided visit of the village	Fontaine-Daniel	5
Sun. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<i>Fête du Miel et Marché Gourmand</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
''	Free open-air live music	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Tues. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Informative stroll around the town	Gorron	6
Wed. 26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Marché de la Saint Gilles</i>	Flers	3
Sun. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Demo of <i>hydromodélisme</i> (model boats)	La Ferté-Macé	2
''	Garden Party at the <i>Château du Bailleul</i>	Gorron	5