

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

If we're not supposed to eat at night,
why is there a light in the 'fridge?

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g), *brocantes* & *fêtes* in this area, with safety measures in place - but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any cancellations ['50' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Thurs. 4 th	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d'Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ± 30
Sun 7 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>Foire aux Antiquités et à la brocante</i> , Place du Marché, 2,50€ entry, 8h30–19h30. ±70
“	Montsûrs-Saint-Cénére (53)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> in rue de Saint-Cénére, 8h-18h, ±130
“	St Benoît-des-Ondes (35)	v-g, rue du Centre, 8h-19h, ±70
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
Sun. 14 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
Sun. 21 st	La Baroche-sous-Lucé (61)	v-g in <i>Fête de Saint Louis</i> (see p.3)
“	La Pellerine (53)	v-g in the <i>Stade</i> , ±70
W/e 27 th / 28 th	Lonlaye l'Abbaye (61)	v-g / <i>fête foraine</i> (look for signs)
Sun. 28 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	St Fraimbault-de-Prières (53)	grand v-g, <i>centre-ville</i> , 8h-17h30, ±250 [NB: S.E of La Haie-Traversaine - not Saint-Fraimbault in 61]

Special dates / public holidays

Mon. 15th *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 check with your *Mairie* if this will be happening this year.

[Late entries for the end of July](#) (see page 2):

'Fun in the Sun!' (30th July) & 'La Chorale Vivace' (31st July)

Note: Two events at the end of July :

Fun in the Sun: on Sat. 30th July, 13h to 20h, at the Château du Bailleul in Gorrion (near the old Lidl site) – hog roast, covered seating area, garden games, soft drinks & live music from 'Lost Weekend' & 'Turnpike Trader'. Free entry. For parking, look for signs.

La Chorale Vivace: on Sun. 31st July (postponed from Sun. 17th) at 16h in l'Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (61): the summer concert by Vivace Choir. Entry free, with collection at the end in aid of l'Eglise Saint Julien restoration fund. No need to reserve seats.

Eating out : *Le Saint-Berth*

The bar/restaurant '*Le Saint-Berth*', 1 rue de la Confrèrie in Saint Berthevin-la-Tannière (53) has re-opened after being closed for 18 months. The new owners, mother and son Isabelle and Jeffrey, come from Yvelines, near Paris and are keen to make this into a warm and welcoming venue again. The bar opens 8h-12h & 17h-19h (not Mondays). They also sell bread and papers. The restaurant, offering a *menu ouvrier*, opens Mon. to Fri.: 12h - 14h, and on weekends (on reservation) there will be a more *bistronomique* menu with proposed themed evenings (Asian, Indian, couscous). More info on facebook: Le Saint Berth.

And, on the subject of food:

A popular Chinese restaurant is on annual holidays

Le Jardin Mayenne, 2 rue Réaumur in Mayenne (53), with its copious buffet selection, will be closed for their *congés annuel* (holiday) from Mon. 8th until Tues. 23rd.

Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53) Fête

On 6th, 7th and 8th this popular annual fête has a packed programme including:-

On Sat. 6th: at 14h: family *pétanque* tournament, open to all; 17h: ramble (without reservation); 19h: meal in the marquee (8€, reservation required, see below for details). followed by fireworks. On Sun. 7th at 9h30: running races for all age groups; 12h: lunch in the marquee (13€, children: 7€, reservation required); 15h: *Landivy Ecole Cycliste* – road events. On Mon. 8th at 9h: junior cycle race '*Prix Roger Lestas*'; 12h: '*Challenge Mayennais*'. [This is a prestigious and serious cycling event which can possibly add points towards an entry into the Tour de France! There are regularly 70+ cyclists in teams representing several French regions, and the Landivy Cycling Club together with Fougerolles *Comite de Fêtes* steward the event - and even for non-cyclists it is an exciting spectacle, not to mention the race finish in the village square!]. 'Route 66' food wagon will be serving food and/or ice creams!

All meals must be reserved – tickets from *Duval Boulanger*, Place de l'Eglise, or the 'Route 66' food wagon.

Fête de la Moisson in Saint Denis de Gastines (53)

On Mon. 15th from 11h: in this harvest fête you will see demonstrations of farming activities such as threshing, and can taste local produce. Meals are available *midi* and *soir*. At 21h: you can dance to music from the 60s and 80s. Entry 6€. For the venue look for local signs.

Flories d'Antan in Saint-Fraimbault (61)

After being cancelled for the past 2 years due to Covid, this popular event is back. On Mon. 15th from 9h-19h, this annual floral fête celebrates life in the early 1900s - 50 stalls with local produce and crafts, including lace-making & spinning; demos of milking cows by hand, butter-making, wheat harvesting & threshing; watch the washer-women at work, the blacksmith in the forge. Also a parade of classic cars & tractors, horse & buggy rides, 'forgotten' games for both children and adults, and free concerts. Entry 6€, under 12s free. www.saint-fraimbault.com

Be careful in some forests at this time of year

As every year (although mainly in July) walkers, and sometimes joggers, in the forests are advised to be vigilant as they may be attacked by *une buse* (a buzzard). Several families of buzzard living there consider the area as theirs and do not take kindly to being disturbed. They nest normally on the edge of a forest, not in the middle. Their nesting period, often between April and June, is followed by a period of 45 days to hatch the eggs and they see humans as a threat to their eggs. We are advised, if we disturb a buzzard, to slowly retreat – not run – but better yet to avoid the edges of forests during this critical time.

Grande Daze Purple Van Bric-a-brac Sale

By kind permission of the team at '*Manges-tu?*' in Gorron (53), the Grande Daze Animal Rescue Centre will be holding their bric-a-brac sale in the car park on Sats. 6th & 27th between 10h & 15h. All proceeds will go to feeding and providing medical treatment for all of the animals when needed. Please go along and support this worthy cause.

Fête de St Louis in La Baroche-sous-Lucé

On Sun. 21st *la Fête de St Louis* is being celebrated in La Baroche-sous-Lucé (61, S.E of Domfront). As well as a *vide-grenier* there will be artisans, a *salon de thé* with a variety of home made cakes and bakes, pony rides for the children and a *buvette* (drinks stand).

Learn French with EuroMayenne

Spaces are available on EuroMayenne Beginners' French Course, with classes starting in September. If you have ever considered taking a more structured course in French, now might be the perfect time to give it a go. The class is limited to 12 students and the lessons are taught by a qualified French teacher, who is also a native French speaker. More info and contact details at: www.euromayenne.org/french-lessons or you can contact Simon King, the French Course Coordinator on 07 83 68 94 70; frenchlessons@euromayenne.org

Les Médiévales de Domfront (61)

On 5th, 6th & 7th, the town of Domfront is full during this popular medieval fête, with activities, street entertainment, market stalls, music & fun, with medieval events (jousting, horsemanship, etc) for a real taste of those times. More info from the Domfront Tourist Office (02 33 38 56 66.)

Entertainment & Concerts

Tues. 9th at 20h30 in l'Eglise Saint Sulpice, rue la Bouteiller, Fougères (35): concert of harp and songs from 2 Breton harpists. Tickets: 10€ (under 12s free) from the Tourist Office (www.ot-fougères.fr)

Organ recital in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Wed. 3rd at 17h–18h15 in the church at 9 Place de l'Eglise, Bagnoles de l'Orne, organised by the Association '*l'Amis de l'Orgue de Sainte-Madeleine de Bagnoles*': a recital by František Vaniček, organ teacher at the University of Hradec Kralové in the Republic of Czechoslovakia. Program: Muffat, Buxtehude, Bach, Cernohorsky, Young. Free, with a collection. No need to reserve your places.

'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 Sundays, and street entertainment on Fridays, in Square de Contades or Parc du Château. Reservation is recommended as places are limited. Info & reservations from the Tourist Office: 02 33 37 85 66, www.bagnolesdelorne.com

Les Clés de Bagnoles (music) on Sundays, 17h to 18h: ♪ 7th: 'One Rusty Band', multi-instrumentalists (rock/blues); ♪ 14th: 'FLOK' - 8 musicians with a new slant on music and effects; ♪ 21st: 'La Raymonde' (folk/rock) duo in Square de Contades.

Les Vendredis de l'Eté (festival of street arts) on Fridays, 21h to 21h45: ☺ 5th on Square de Contades: 'Que Bardo' (acrobatics with humour and imagination); ☺ 12th: 'Molière' - theatre (min. age 15) to mark the 400th anniversary of his birth; ☺ 19th: 'L'Etrange cas du Dr Jekyll et de Mr Hyde' - a modern version of the story with humour and imagination.

Fête du 15 août in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Mon. 15th this popular event starts with horse racing at the Hippodrome (3€ entry, under 18s free); at 14h-18h: discover archery; at 15h in Square de Contades: French songs by the MikMak Sisters (free); with a *pyromélodique* display (fireworks to music) at 22h45. More info from the Bagnoles Tourist Office.

Revivre la Moyen-Age (re-live the Middle Ages)

On 6th & 7th in Place Pierre Synon in Fougères (35): *chevaliers* (horsemen), men of arms, artisans and gentlefolk from those days will help you discover the secrets of the times. Free. More info from www.ot-fougères.fr

La Boutique du Forum in Jublains is open.

The boutique of the *Forum des Metiers d'Art de Jublains* (53) is open until 1st Sept. 20 artisans will be showing their original creations, including leather goods, ceramics (for use or decoration), marquetry – something for everyone. Open: Tues., Wed. & Thurs. 14h-18h, Fri. & Sat.: 10h-12h30 & 14h-18h30. While there, you can visit the museum and the well-preserved Roman remains.

Exhibition : *Salon International des Pastels en Bretagne*

From Sat. 13th to 28th in the Centre Culturel Juliette Drouet, rue du Gué Mahou in Fougères (35) this renowned exhibition of pastels is open daily: 14h-19h (on Sundays: 10h-12h & 14h-19h). Free entry. More info at www.saloninternationaldupastelenbretagne.com.

Summer evening markets in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

On Thursdays, until 25th August, from 17h to 20h in the car park of the camping site at the Parc de Vaux (south of Ambrières). Many artisanal products will be on sale, also locally made glassware and beer. For info contact 02 43 04 90 25.

For more info on Ambrières and its surroundings, the Tourist Office at 9 rue de la Chaussée (near the bridge) will be open until 27th August - Mon. to Thurs: 10h-12h30 & 14h-18h; Fri.: 14h-18h, Sats.: 10h-12h30.

Photo competition: '*Destination Forêt*'

Until 4th Sept., the ONF (*Office National des Forêts*) organises a photo competition, open to all. There are 3 categories, including your visits to the forest, and wild animals of the forests, and 1 photo from each category can be submitted. For more info, registration details and rules go to www.onf.fr

New skateboard park at the *base de loisirs* in La Ferté-Macé (61)

This 600m² skatepark is due to be installed soon near the *plan d'eau* (lake) for use with roller skates and skateboards. More info on the *base de loisirs* can be found at the Tourist Office (02 33 37 10 97)

Something for all the family – swimming at the *base de loisirs*

At the *base de loisirs de la Haie-Traversaine* in La Haie-Traversaine (53) there are lifeguards on duty daily (11h30-20h, but on Mons: 14h-20h). You will also find a children's games area, sports (volleyball, tennis), kayaks & pedalos for hire, and a new aquatic bouncy structure 'Wibit' (for ages over 7 and must be able to swim). More info: www.maynloisirs.com

Accident in Gorron (53)

At 16h30 on 12th July, a 53 year old lady lost control of her car, coming from rue LeDauphin Blinière and continuing straight on into the window of *La Presse*. Luckily no-one was near the window when it happened so there were no serious injuries, the driver just suffered a sprain. Police and pompiers were quickly on the scene and kept the traffic moving along the main road.

Fête des Potiers at the *Musée de la Ceramique* in Ger (50)

On Sat. 27th (14h-18h) & Sun. 28th (10h-18h) at La Placître, Ger (50), this exhibition/sale welcomes 30 ceramists to show their works & demonstrate their trade. Free. More info at www.normandie-tourisme.fr

Musée de l'Evolution Agricole

At this agricultural museum in Juvigné (53) there are 2 exhibitions showing rural life during the past 2 centuries. Open until 6th Sept., daily (not Mons.) 14h-18h. Entry 6€ (under 10s free). More info on facebook: *Vivre à Juvigné*

Cheese of the Month : Crottin de Chavignol

Also known as just Chavignol, this is probably the most famous cheese of the Loire Valley and has been produced since the 16th century in the village of Chavignol, near Sancerre. It has a natural rind which ranges from pale ivory to almost black. Made exclusively from goats milk, it can be eaten at various stages of the maturing process – after 8 days it has a strong nutty taste, after 5 weeks it becomes dry with a richer flavour. 16 million cheeses are made annually. Great as a starter (grilled in a salad with wine vinegar) and on the cheese-board. Recommended accompanying wine: a white Sancerre

Weekly markets - in the Orne (61)

By popular request, repeated here are the weekly markets:-

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Briouze, Remalard, Vimoutiers (afternoon)
Tuesdays	Alençon, Athis de l'Orne, Bagnoles de l'Orne, Couterne, Argentan, l'Aigle, Passais-la-Conception.
Wednesdays	Bagnoles de l'Orne, Carrouges, Flers, Le Mêle-sur-Sarthe, Le Theil-sur-Huisne, Longny-au-Perche
Thursdays	Alençon, Ceaucé, La Ferté-Macé, Putanges-Pont-Ecrepin, Bellême, Bretoncelles, Trun, La Ferté-Fresnel
Fridays	Argentan, Domfront, Bagnoles de l'Orne, La Chapelle d'Andaine, Ecouché, Condé-sur-Huisne, Courtomer
Saturdays	Bagnoles de l'Orne, Flers, Gacé (afternoon), Tinchebray, Bretoncelles, Mortagne-au-Perche, Rânes
Sundays	Alençon, Argentan, Ceton, Courtomer, Mortrée

Next month: weekly markets in the Manche (50) region

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And finally - I think it is pretty cool how the Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos.

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)
August 2022

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Late entries for July:			
Sat. 30 th July	'Fun in the Sun'	Gorron	2
Sun. 31 st July	Vivace choir` summer concert	Domfront	2
August:			
Wed. 3 rd	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
5 th , 6 th & 7 th	<i>Les Médiévales</i>	Domfront	3
Sat 6 th	Grande Daze Purple Van bric-a-brac sale	Gorron	3
6 th & 7 th	Re-live the Middle Ages	Fougères	4
6 th , 7 th , 8 th	Annual fête	Fougerolles du Plessis	2
Tues. 9 th	Concert with 2 harpists	Fougères	4
13 th to 28 th	<i>Salon Int'l du Pastels en Bretagne</i>	Fougères	5
Mon. 15 th	<i>Les Flories d'Antan</i> (floral fête)	Saint-Fraimbault	3
“	<i>Fête du 15 août</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
“	<i>Fête de la Moisson</i> (harvest fête)	St Denis de Gastines	2
Sun. 21 st	<i>Fête de Saint Louis</i>	La Baroche-sous-Lucé	3
Sat. 27 th	Grande Daze Purple Van bric-a-brac sale	Gorron	3
W/e 27/28 th	<i>Fête des Potiers</i> at the Museum	Ger	5