

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Laughter is the best medicine. Or wine.
It might be wine.

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g), *vide-maisons* (house clearance) & *brocantes* in this area, but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any cancellations [³⁵ = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sun 5 th	Dinard (35)	<i>brocante</i> , Place du Marché, 9h-18h, ±50
3 rd / 4 th / 5 th	Ernée (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> at 3 rue d'Alsace, 14h-17h
4 th / 5 th / +)	Ernée (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> at 7 Boulevard de Belle
11 th / 12 th)		Plante, 8h-18h
Sun. 19 th	St Meloir des Ondes (35)	v-g in <i>Complete Sportif Salle No. 1</i> , rue de de la Vallée Verte, 9h-17h, ±70
Sun. 19 th	La Bigottière (53)	Grand Spring Sale by Grand Daze Animal Rescue, in the <i>Salle des Fêtes</i> , 10h-16h.
Sun 19 th	Granville (50)	<i>Marché d'Antiquités Brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, 8h-18h, ±50
Sun.26 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150

Special dates

Wed. 1 st	Saint David's Day (Patron Saint of Wales)
Fri. 17 th	Saint Patrick's Day – celebrated in France in many areas. Put on something green and commemorate this patron saint. In Paris there will be music, street theatre, dancing and food trucks. Sometimes the <i>Moulin Rouge</i> , <i>Sacré Coeur</i> and Paris Disneyland are lit up green at night - a very unique sight!

Discover Domfront (61)

The app “Discover Domfront” invites you to relive the highlights of the history of the castle and medieval town of Domfront. On the tour of the castle (1 hour), which is accessible to disabled guests, you will encounter characters that will immerse you in the past. From the top of the château, enjoy a breathtaking panorama. More info available from the Domfront Tourist Office: www.ot-domfront.com

Exhibition of photographs: ‘*Métro Parisien*’

Until 1st April, these black & white photographs by Andréas Dandoy are on show on Tues. to Sats., 15h30 to 18h30, at the *Atelier/Galerie* at 104 rue Couraye in Granville (50). For more info go to www.normandie-tourisme.fr

Fun Theatre Pantomime - Cinderella

Fun Théâtre is back with another huge pantomime in French and English: Cinderella / *Cendrillon*. This unique production, performed at the Salle Multiculturelle in Passais Villages (61), has a wealth of characters - some you would expect and some that you may not. With a cast of 36, live music, and dance troupes from *Gorron Danse* and *Danse Moderne Domfrontaise*, this will be a big, bouncy and bountiful show. One for all the family, whatever your age or language.

Tickets are available online or from vendors in Passais and at the Domfront Tourist Office. Evening performances are at 19h45 on Fri. 24th & Sat. 25th (entry from 19h), with a matinée at 15h on Sun. 26th (entry from 14h15). Tickets are 8€ for adults and 5€ for children. Full details can be found at www.funtheatre.fr

Cancer Support France Nord - events

Quiz Night: on Fri. 3rd at the bar ‘*Le Viking*’; in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Teams of 6, but if you are unable to make up a team, no problem, do go and take part. Price: 3€ per person. Quiz starts at 20h. They look forward to seeing you.

Monthly Brunches: On Weds. 8th & 22nd at the *Salle des Fêtes* in Notre-Dame du Touchet. Doors open at 10h, last orders at 12h30.

WW2 hand-grenade discovered

In February a hand-grenade, complete with its igniter cap, was discovered in an Emmaüs container at the *déchetterie* (rubbish tip) in Pré-en-Pail (61). The *Gendarmerie* were immediately alerted and they closed the site. A team from the *centre de déminage de la sécurité civile de Nantes* proceeded to neutralise and destroy the grenade. An enquiry was set up to try and find the owner, and the president of the *Cdc des Mont des Avaloirs* stated that guns, explosives and ammunition must not be deposited at the *déchetterie* as these, even 80-year-old ones, can explode at any moment.

‘Pages’ bookshop 13th anniversary

On Sat. 4th it will be the 13th anniversary of the opening for ‘Pages’ bookshop in Passais-la-Conception (61). There will be free tea, coffee & cake from 10h to 16h. Lots of stock of books, DVDs and French chalk paint in the shop. For further details you can ring 06 84 74 72 70 or message suzymcg@hotmail.com

14th century tomb found in Notre Dame repairs

A curious human-shaped lead sarcophagus containing a well-preserved body from the 14th century was found during renovation work at Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris. The work, part of checks of the ground before 100m scaffolding was installed for repairs on the main spire, revealed “important vestiges”, according to the cultural minister.

Mini-camera checks inside the sarcophagus revealed intact clothing and a carpet of leaves on top of the body’s head, which still had hair and was thought to be that of a 14th century dignitary. Studying it will help experts better understand medieval funeral rites.

Reconstruction is still under way after the fire in 2019. It is hoped Notre-Dame will reopen in 2024 in time for the Olympics. The fire’s cause is still uncertain but it was not thought to have been deliberate.

Manoir de la Chaslerie

Classed a ‘*Monument Historique*’ in 1995, here you will find a gathering of buildings dating from the 16th to 18th centuries, with their differing styles. Located in La Haute Chapelle (61), route de Lonley l’Abbaye (near Domfront) it is owned by M & Mme Fourcade, who have done considerable renovations over the years. Free external visits can be taken throughout the year, and guided tours are available on reservation (1,50€ per person). More info: www.chaslerie.fr

Cheese of the Month : *Cantal*

This is a firm, smooth-textured cheese produced in the Auvergne region of central France. One of the oldest cheeses in France, it came to prominence when Marshal Henri de la Ferté-Senneterre served it at the table of Louis XIV of France. [Senneterre is also responsible for the popularity of Saint-Nectaire cheese]. Made with cow’s milk, it is similar to Cheddar, with a strong, tangy butter taste. It is used in soups, *aligot*, fondue and *gratins*. Good with medium-bodied red wines.

Exhibition of design and paintings

Until 11th March at the *Salle d’Expositions Jacques Rousseau* in Espace Culturelle du Grand Turc, rue Saint-Denis in La Ferté-Macé (61) – design and paintings with the theme OV.N.I. [Objets Visuels Non Identifiés] (= UFOs). The designs recall the spontaneity of simple forms with purity of line and choice of colours. For more info: www.lafertemace.fr

Foire Fleuri in Gorrion (53)

On Sun. 26th, this popular annual event will have as its theme “*des cafés d’autrefois*” (cafés of the past) and will reconstruct the many cafés that were around the town years ago.

‘Musicnights’ March Party with Ann and Les

On Sat. 18th, this starts at 19h until late (in their Disco Barn!). Expect 60s/70s/80s Soul, Motown, Disco music - all played on delicious vinyl ! This is the first of what will be their regular monthly FREE events. Take your own drinks and snacks.

Venue: Enchante, 5 Grappay Charpentier, Brecé (53)

R.S.V.P.: ann@enchantefrance.fr or text: 07 86 81 80 95

Salon Gourmand de Mayenne (53)

On the weekend of 11th & 12th, the *Salon Gourmand*, organised by the *Epicuriens Mayennais*, returns after 3 years’ absence to the *Salle des Fêtes*, rue Volney (beside the *Hall des Expositions* which caught fire in 2019). There will be 60 exhibitors from all over France, with something for every taste. New this year – an area for children, with 18 students from the Lycée Rochefeuille keeping them occupied! Open from 10h to 18h, entry 2€, under 18s free.

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Advance notice : Swap Shop on 8th April

Ursula Benjamin is holding a Clothes Swap for charity at the ground floor of *Le Balcon* (next to *l’Epicerie*) in Fontaine-Daniel (53), 9h30 to 16h30. Ladies clothes and accessories. Recycle, reclaim, reuse. For 5€, contribute 5 items (or more) of clothing, bags or accessories you no longer use/want and swap them for 5 others. Or just go along and buy! A fun day, with free styling advice, refreshments, music and a smile! Make dressing-up fun again! For where to drop off contributions, email: ursula@ursulabenjamin.fr

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And finally:

Did you know ants never get sick?

It’s because they have little Anty Bodies . . . !

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Judy Skinner

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