

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Silence is golden. But when you have kids
or grand-kids silence is suspicious!

Here are some *vide-greniers* (v-g), *brocantes* & *foires* in this area, but double-check beforehand, if possible, at www.brocabrac.fr in case of any last-minute cancellations ['61' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sat. 4 th	Alençon (61)	monthly <i>brocante de la Halle de Blé</i> , 10h-17h, ±50
W/e 4 th / 5 th	Laval (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> at 100 rue de Bretagne, 9h-18h
Sun. 5 th	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , Place Valhubert, ±30
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±150
“	Château-Gontier (53)	<i>bourse d'échanges auto moto</i> (sale & exchange of cars & bikes (see page 2)
“	Dinard (35)	<i>brocante</i> in Place du Marché, 9h-18h, ±50
Sun. 12 th	Rives d'Andaine (61)	<i>Foire d'Automne / brocante</i> (see page 3)
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g at La Belle Epoque, 7h-18h, ±50
“	Dol-de-Bretagne (35)	<i>braderie</i> in Salle Châteaubriand, 7h30-18h, ±70

Marchés de Noël - Christmas markets

Sat. 25 th	Aron (53)	14h to 21h (see page 5)
W/e 25 th , 26 th	Bouère (53)	At the farm 'La Préhouillère' (see page 4)

Special dates / public holidays

Wed. 1st - *Toussaint* (All Saints Day): a festival honouring the saints. It precedes the *Fête des Morts* on the 2nd, when people honour the dead and bring flowers, usually chrysanthemums and heather, to the graves of relations.

Sat. 11th - *l'Armistice* (Remembrance Day): the day when those killed in both WW1 and WW2 are remembered. Services take place across France - one of the most well-known being the Memorial Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris.

Eating out - '*Le Montaudin*' in Montaudin (53)

This is a very friendly bar/tabac/restaurant in the village of Montaudin that serves a very good *midi* with a buffet *entrée*. Run by a husband (chef) and wife (front of house) team, the husband recently worked for Disneyland Paris and is now, understandably, fulfilling a wish to work in a quieter environment! There is just one choice of main course, but if you contact them beforehand (with a few days' notice) and find out that, for some reason, you are unable to eat the proposed dish, they may be able to suggest an alternative. Open for lunch on Mondays to Fridays; the bar is open during the daytime (except Weds. and Sun. afternoons). Tel: 02 43 05 30 47. Some English spoken happily.

Remembrance Day – Thursday 11th November

Please ask at your local Mairie for details of the Ceremony and Service of Remembrance in your town/village.

In Fougerolles du Plessis (53): the Ceremony of Remembrance will be held at the Memorial on the 11th at 11h. The Service of Remembrance will be in the church at 10h.

Cancer Support France Nord Quiz Curry Night

Sat. 4th at the *Salle des Fêtes*, Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). Tickets: 18€ per person, must be ordered and paid for in advance. Please do not take your own drinks – a bar will be available on the evening. All food is home-made, vegetarian and non-curry available. Allergies are catered for – please advise at time of booking if you require an alternative to curry. Tables of 6 maximum for the quiz – if more or less you will be allocated a team or seated nearby. Doors open at 18h15, start time 19h. To book tickets please contact: nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Bourse d'Echanges Auto Moto

On Sun. 5th, 8h to 18h, this 32nd edition of the sale and exchange of car and bike parts will be held in Espace Saint Fiacre, avenue Georges Pompidou in Château-Gontier (53), 70 stalls are expected.

Salon multi-collection in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)

On Sun. 5th, 9h to 18h, the Association '*Les Collectionneurs d'Andaine*' organises this event in Allée Aloïs Monnet, near the Château, where collectable items can be bought, sold or exchanged. A commemorative postcard will be given to each paying entrant. (Entry 1€, under 18s free). To reserve a table (5€ per table metre): 06 15 95 32 71.

l'Eglise Saint-Martin in Gorrion - restoration

50 tonnes of steel scaffolding is being erected on the exterior of the church, the work being to repair the spire. It will take about 30 days to erect the 40 metre high scaffolding – the total height of the church being 43 metres – and the work is expected to take between 6 and 8 months. The church will remain in use, although burials will take place in nearby churchyards and the bells will not ring. The badly damaged spire is to be rebuilt stone by stone. The cost could be in the region of 700,000€, and will be covered between the *Région* (217,000€), the *Département* (66,000€) and subsidies.

Mediæval Dinner in Mayenne (53)

On Thurs. 23rd at 12h15 at the *Musée* (Museum) of the Château de Mayenne in Place Juhel, Mayenne, you can enjoy a mediæval meal inspired by the Middle Ages, in atmospheric surroundings. For more info & tickets: www.museeduchateaudemayenne.fr

Brocante in the *Foire d'Automne*

On Sun. 12th in the Salle Roland Flechard, 21 rue de Domfront, Rives d'Andaine (61): *Foire d'Automne* (Autumn Fair) and a *brocante* with 150 stalls expected.

Exhibition in Mortain (50)

From 4th Nov., until 2nd Dec., in the *mediathèque* in Mortain, is an exhibition of paintings by a group of local artists. The *invité d'honneur* (guest of honour) is Arnaud de Mézerac, a professional artist whose works (often signed 'Mez') can be found in various art galleries and in his own gallery workshop in Cabourg.

Sale of roses by the Lions Club of Domfront.

On Fri 3rd & Sat. 4th, the sale of roses on behalf of the Lions Club will be outside the Domfront Intermarché, Carrefour Market, the Domfront market, the Mortain Carrefour Market and in front of the churches in Domfront and Passais-Villages. All money raised will go to the Baclesse Cancer Centre and Lions' Alzheimer.

Marché au Musée (Market at the Museum)

On Sun. 5th, 9h30 to 17h30, at the *Musée Archéologique Départemental*, 13 rue de la Libération in Jublains (53) will be a market where 15 mainly local artisans will display their crafts – leatherwork, pottery, mosaic, glassware - with other stands also giving great Christmas present ideas.

We say, they say

'*Tomber dans les pommes*' – (*lit.* 'to fall into the apples') – actually means to pass out, with or without some fruit to catch your fall.

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

Did you know that by replacing your potato chips with grapefruit as a snack you can lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life

Cheese of the Month - *Chaource*

Chaource cheese has been made since the early 14th century in the small town of Chaource in the Champagne region. Made from cow's milk, it is still a traditional cheese. It smells slightly of mushrooms and has a rich, fruity and creamy flavour, similar to Camembert but with a creamier texture. When young, *Chaource* is very smooth and 'melts in the mouth like light snow'; when aged it is nutty and a little bit salty. Good as an aperitif and with *Champagne rosé*, or a red wine such as *Coteaux Champenois*, or white wine such as Sancerre or Chablis.

Entertainment & Concerts

Sat. 11th & Sun. 12th: to celebrate the centenary of the organ at *l'Eglise Saint-Martin*, rue Guimond des Riveries in Mayenne (53) special events will be taking place, including a concert on Sat. by renowned English organist David Flood at 17h on Sat., and also an organ & brass concert at 16h on Sun., by David Flood with pupils & teachers of the *Conservatoire de Mayenne*. Free.

Wed. 22nd at *l'Espace Mayenne*, 2 rue Joséphine Baker, Mayenne (53): 'The Dire Straits Experience', with Chris White (member of the original group) also on stage. Tickets: 41€. More info at www.espace-mayenne.fr

Sat. 25th at 21h in the *Centre d'Animation et de Congrès*, 12 Ave des Thermes, Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): Jazz with Paolo Freso (one of today's best trumpet players) and Daniele di Bonaventura. Organised by '*Trottoirs Mouillés*'. Tickets: 25€, available from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

Marché de Noël at '*La Préhouillère*' in Bouère (SE of Laval)

Sat. 25th (15h-21h) & Sun. 26th (10h-18h) - a magical 2 days to start the Christmas festivities! Over 30 stands with local produce to taste and also learn how it is made. Entertainment throughout the days. Sat. evening: *feu artificiel* (fireworks) from 18h; at 19h30: *Soirée Tartiflette* (a meal, by reservation: 07 87 87 41 96). Tickets: 14,50€, and more info from the Laval Tourist Office (02 43 49 46 46, www.laval-tourisme.com)

"Bagnoles de Pom"

Sat. 18th, 15h to 17h, you can visit an organic cider farm, *La Noë Plaine* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) and discover the environmental particularities of a tall tree orchard, the making of cider, *poiré*, *jus de fruits*, vinegar, *calvados* and *pommeau*, ending with a tasting. Reservations needed before 11h30 on the day. Tickets (4,50€, under 12s free) from the Bagnoles Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66; www.bagnolesdelorne.com)

Exhibition of vintage vehicles

Sun. 12th, 10h to 12h30 in front of *l'Espace Saint-Fiacre*, Quai Docteur Georges Lefèvre, Château-Gontier (53) will be an assembly of vintage vehicles organised by *Club Phares Jaunes Castrogontériens*. Free.

635,266 km/h !

NASA has revealed that the Parker Solar Probe, launched in August 2008, to approach and study the corona of the sun, had achieved a speed of 635,266 km/h, arriving at just 7.26 million km from the sun. The calculation was achieved on 27th September during its seventh orbit around the sun. In comparison: a commercial plane flies at 900 km/h and a bullet from a gun at 1,500 km/h.

Exhibition: History of the Printer in Mayenne

At the weekend of 4th & 5th, 9h to 18h in the Salle Polyvalente, rue Volney in Mayenne (53) there will be photos and documents covering printing from 1990 to 2023. Free.

Lest We Forget

A new study room at *Collège Sacré-Coeur* in Domfront has been inaugurated and named ‘*Salle Annette Lajon*’ after the youngest member of the French *Résistance*. Annette joined the *Résistance* in 1942, at the age of 11, to help her parents hide documents and other material from the Germans. Annette, the last remaining member of the *Orne Résistance*, passed away on 16th August 2023, after having spent some years giving talks to youngsters about her experiences during the War. She received many medals for her acts of bravery, including the *Légion d’Honneur*.

Les Lumières de Laval (Laval Christmas lights)

This year these wonderful Christmas lights have a theme of *l’Amour* with the warm colours of red and gold. From Tues. 7th the town of Laval will unveil a programme of ‘*Lumières dans les Quartiers*’ with shops and businesses decorating their windows.

From 2nd Dec., for the 5 weeks of the illuminations, around a million visitors are expected - although, as last year, the lights will only be lit from 17h to 22h each day but not in the mornings. *La grande roue* (the big wheel) will be accessible from 2nd Dec. until 7th Jan. 2024. At a height of 32 metres it can welcome up to 138 passengers in 24 gondolas. The *Marché de Noël* (Christmas market) will take place from Wed. 13 to Sun. 17th Dec., with 49 stands and, of course, a visit from *Père Noël*!

Christmas market in Aron (53)

On Sat 11th, 14h to 21h in the Salle des Sports, at la Filature, Aron – this *Marché de Noël* will have local produce, Christmas gifts, Father Christmas and a children’s play area. Food will be available on site.

Something for all the family – *La Bourbansais*

In this *Parc Zoologique* and *Château* (built in the 16th & 17th centuries) at Pleugeuneuc (35, between St Malo and Rennes) you will find over 400 animals – 60 species, from 5 continents – including ‘Hector’ the anteater, lemurs, giraffe, monkeys, llamas, lynx, zebra, flamingos, exotic birds, etc. The aim of this zoological park is to save animals threatened with extinction in their natural habitat. Open: end-Sept to end-March (but not every day): 13h30 to 17h30 (in school holidays: 10h30 to 17h30); April to end-Sept: daily 10h to 19h. www.labourbansais.com for opening times.

Rando et repas partagé (a walk and shared meal)

On Thurs. 9th, departing at 15h, an afternoon walk in the Mayenne area, followed by a convivial evening around a meal eaten amongst your fellow walkers. Chestnuts will be grilled and a free glass of cider will be offered – you just bring the rest! Don’t forget your glass and cutlery! Details of the departure point will be given on reservation – at CPIE: contact@cpie-mayenne.org (02 43 03 79 62). Free.

Advance notice for December:

Christmas Market in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

On Sun. 3rd Dec., 9h until 17h at the Salle des Fêtes: over 30 stalls with many ideas for Christmas presents, plus traditional food and drink, Santa Claus with a horse drawn carriage and free rides and many other attractions. Some stalls still available. Contact email: k8collins@hotmail.com

Christmas Carol Service in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

A Christmas Carol Service will be held on 17th Dec. at 15h (3pm) at the Church, Place de l'Eglise (in the centre of the village). The carols will include: Once in Royal David's City, While Shepherd's Watched . . . , Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, O Come All Ye Faithful, Silent Night, Ding-Dong Merrily on High, *Il Est Né le Devin Enfant* . . . and the French equivalents where relevant. As before, all are encouraged to sing in their preferred language. Rev. John Young is currently planning the details and would be pleased to hear of anyone willing to do the Readings in French, English, or both. There will be 8 Readings, each in both languages. You can contact John on 07 49 48 41 18.

Voix d'Eté Christmas Concert in Dompierre (61)

Voix d'Eté are giving a concert in the Salle Normande in Dompierre at 16h on Sat. 9 Dec. The concert will include well known French carols as well as some English carols. There will be light refreshments afterwards. A good way to get into a Christmas mood. The concert has free entry with a retiring collection for charity.

Marché de Noël at Une Tasse de Bonheur, Gorron (53)

On Sat. 9th & Sun. 10th, 9h to 18h at 1 rue Corbeau Paris, Gorron – there will be artisan stands, an 'elves corner' for children, and the Tearoom will be serving hot meals, drinks & cakes. For stand enquiries contact: stephaniegirdler79@gmail.com

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And finally,

I'm proud of myself. I finished a jigsaw in 6 months - and the box said 3 to 6 years!

(Sorry, they are definitely getting worse!)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Judy Skinner

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)

November 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Wed. 1 st	<i>Toussaint</i> (All Saint's Day)	All over Europe	1
3 rd & 4 th	Lions Club sale of roses	Several venues	3
Sat. 4 th	CSFN Quiz Curry Night	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
Sun. 5 th	Salon multicollections	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
“	<i>Marché</i> at the Museum	Jublains	3
“	<i>Bourse d'Echange Auto Moto</i>	Château-Gontier`	2
W/e 4 th & 5 th	Exhibition of printing	Mayenne	4
Thurs. 9 th	Walk and shared meal	Mayenne	5
Sat. 11 th	<i>Armistice</i> (Remembrance Day)	All over Europe	1
W/e 11 th & 12 th	Organ concerts with David Flood	Mayenne	4
Sun. 12 th	<i>Foire d'Automne & brocante</i>	Rives d'Andaine	3
“	Exhibition of vintage vehicles	Château-Gontier	4
Sat. 18 th	<i>Bagnoles de Pom`</i>	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
Wed. 22 nd	'The Dire Straits Experience'	Mayenne	4
Thurs. 23 rd	Mediæval Dinner	Mayenne	3
Sat. 25 th	Jazz concert with Palo Freso	Bagnoles de l'Orne	4
25 th & 26 th	<i>Marché de Noël</i> & fireworks	Bouère	4