

Bulletin !

An informal look at life in this part of France, with some snippets of local info and advice.

Thought for the month:

The trouble with doing something right the first time
is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* are being held, with all safety measures in place (masks to be worn, social distancing, limited numbers admitted, hand gel at entry, plus any further safety measures) but double-check beforehand in case of cancellation at www.brocabrac.fr. ['53' = area; ± = number of stalls expected]:

Sun 1 st	Neuilly-le-Vendin (53)	v-g in Stade de football, ±30
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , ±30
“	Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)	<i>fête communal</i> / v-g (see page 5)
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , in Esplanade de la Halle, ±30
Sun. 8 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	31 st <i>Foire aux antiquities, à la brocante et aux collections</i> , in Place du Marché, 8h30 to 19h30, entry 2,50€, under 16s free; ±70
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±100
Sun. 15 th	Sainte-Suzanne (53)	v-g around the town
Sun. 22 nd	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±100
“	Colombiers-du-Plessis (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> , 10h to 19h (see page 2)
Fri. 27 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>Foire des Andaines</i> , The Big One! ±300
Sun. 29 th	Dol de Bretagne (35)	v-g at the <i>piscine & Foirail</i> , 8h-18h, ±150

Special dates / public holidays:

Sun. 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 not sure if this will be happening again this year.

Eating out : ‘*La Rabine*’

With its new large glass-fronted conservatory-style dining area, this ‘*Routier*’ restaurant on the RN12 between Ernée (53) & Fougères (35) offers traditional 4-course meals for 13,50€, wine or cider included. Very popular, so arrival near noon advised! Open weekdays, with groups and weekends by reservation (02 43 13 03 29).

Les Jardins des Renaudies (53)

Events at these pretty gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53):

Wed. 4th: *Promenades en calèche* (horse & buggy rides) during the daytime, and from 19h: visit the ‘maize maze’ with lighting. On Sun. 22nd, 10h to 18h: *Fête du Miel* (honey festival) & *Marché Gourmand* (local produce market). www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Vide-maison near Colombiers-du-Plessis (53)

On Sun. 22nd, 10h to 19h, there will be a *vide-maison* at *la Cretouffière* (53) with English books, music, plants, clothes, bric-a-brac, kitchen-ware, vintage gifts, cards, pottery, etc. It is on the route between Colombiers-du-Plessis and Les Jardins des Renaudies, on the left hand side coming from Colombiers-du-Plessis at the bottom of a small hill, opposite the sign for *Chambres d’Hôtes*. The map is on the *broc-a-brac* website if needed.

Update on the General Knowledge Quiz in Torcé-Viviers (53)

The General Knowledge Quiz held fortnightly at the restaurant/bar ‘*Le Restaurant Charnie*’ in Torcé-Viviers (near Sainte-Suzanne) will not be starting again due to holidays and work on the kitchens. Please contact Kathryn Williams on 09 75 78 60 24, kath.dekinfrance@gmail.com for the re-starting date.

Discover the history of Gorrion – 5000 BC to 1939 AD

Until 31st Aug., at the *mediathèque* in Gorrion, there is an exhibition where you can discover Gorrion from 5000 BC (the age of the famous *menhir* [standing stone]) up to WW2 - the *Maires* through the ages, the construction of the town, the methods of communication, the monuments, the industrial development (shoes, culinary traditions).

Le petit train touristique in Laval (53)

Once again this little blue and white tourist train will meander through the streets of Laval showing you the history of the town throughout the ages, including the old château, *Basilique d’Avesnières*, *Palais de Justice*, old *lavoir*. Lasting one hour, tickets are on sale on the train. Departures at 14h, 15h & 16h from *la Gare Routier*, rue de Verdun. More info from the Laval Tourist Office (02 43 49 46 46).

Something for all the family – *découverts à l’Aerodrome*

On the weekend of 28th & 29th, 10h to 18h, at the *Aerodrome des Bruyères* at Rives d’Andaines (61), organised by *l’Aeroclub d’Andaines*, you can see, and learn more about, small planes, gliders and autogiros in action. Snacks are available on site. Reservations & info: 02 33 37 91 84.

Ancient games and toys in Jublains (53)

Sun. 1st, 14h to 17h at the *Musée Archéologique*, 13 rue de la Liberation in Jublains, you can discover and play the games that were popular in Roman times. Tickets 4€, ages 7 to 12s: 3€ (not suitable for under 7s). More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office.

Boules competition in La Ferté-Macé (61)

On Sun. 8th at 14h at the *base de loisirs* (lake). Teams will be chosen at 13h30, equipment not supplied. 2€ on registration. Open to all.

Be careful in some forests at this time of year

As every year (although mainly in July) walkers, and sometimes joggers, in the Bois des Touches (between Lassay-les-Châteaux and Ambrières-les-Vallées) 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.

Garden centre in Ambrières-les-Vallées has expanded

La Jardinerie Guiard (on the roundabout before Ambrières-les-Vallées (53) from the Gorrion direction) has enlarged the shop & sales area by 70 sq.m, with also an extra 2.6 ha of flowers and plants. They have also developed the area dedicated to birds - grain, nesting boxes, etc. Open: Mon. to Sats. 9h to 12h15 & 14h to 19h. www.horticulteur-guiard.com

Exhibition: Fashion of the Middle Ages

Until 7th Nov., at the *Musée du Château* in Mayenne town (in the château), at this exhibition “*La Mode au Moyen Age*” there will be clothing, jewellery, and other fashion items of the day on loan from museums around France. Open daily 10h to 18h.

All packaging is recyclable - sorting instructions are changing

The yellow recycling containers take plastic bottles & flasks, juice cartons, aerosol cans, tin cans & foil containers, metal packaging (bottle and jar tops), papers & cardboard packaging. But now you can also put in there yoghurt & dessert pots, plastic wrapping (e.g. for packs of water), polystyrene meat/fish trays, aluminium foil, and pill wrappings. They don't need to be washed – just empty!

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

(Maybe check with the Tourist Office before going in case of cancellation – 02 33 37 10 97)

Sat. 7th and each Sat. in August, from 6h to 18h in rue de la Victoire and roads near the Tourist Office, you will find all types of items on sale. To book a stall: 3€ per metre, 06 71 12 77 47. [*flâner* = to browse/stroll]

Entertainment & Concerts

Tues. 3rd at 20h to 22h in the Château in Lassay-les-Châteaux (53): ‘*Le Souffle Gothique*’ - a concert by musicians ‘Into the Wild’ with *Hauts Instruments du Moyen Age*. Tickets: 16€, children: 8€. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)

Sun. 15th at 17h at l’église on Boulevard Albert Christophle in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61): *Les Cordes et Voix Magiques d’Ukraine*” - 6 ladies in costume with a traditional Ukrainian instrument: *la bandoura* (similar to a balalaika, with the sound of a harp). Classical music, orthodox religious and traditional songs. Reservation advised – tickets 15€ (under 12s free) from the Bagnoles Tourist Office (02 33 37 85 66), or at the church on the day from 16h.

‘*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. 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 on Sundays, 17h to 17h45 in the Square de Contades (near the lake):
 ♪ 1st: ‘Elefante’ (Brazilian music): clarinet, guitars & singer; ♪ 8th: ‘Robert Lenoir’ (pop folk); ♪ 15th: ‘Fanfare Big Joanna’ (drums) & ‘Brass Boys New Orleans’; ♪ 22nd: ‘Between the Beatones’ (pop rock – between the Beatles & Rolling Stones)

Les Vendredis de l’Eté on Fridays, 21h to 21h45 on Esplanade du Château: ☺ 6th: ‘Piti Peta Hofen Show’ (circus acts: jugglers with humour & skill); ☺ 13th: ‘Sandy et le vilain McCoy with Les Frères Ampoules’ (burlesque); ☺ 20th: ‘Isi et Là’ (comedy/burlesque); ☺ 27th: ‘Sacré Guillaume’ (a great show with objects, puppets & music).

Organ concerts in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)

Free concerts (with a collection) at *l’Eglise Sainte-Madeleine*, 9, Place de l’Eglise in Bagnoles de l’Orne. Masks to be worn, hand gel available, distancing is organised.

Wed. 4th 17h to 17h45: classical music by the head organist of Nantes Cathedral;

Wed. 25th at 17h30: organ, violin, cello & trumpet, with a selection from Bach, Haydn, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns.

Something you didn’t know you didn’t know . . .

The concept of roundabouts may seem alien to some French motorists - but, in fact, there are more roundabouts in France than anywhere else in the world . . . even Milton Keynes! At the last count, there were more than 320,000 of them – and the first roundabouts in Europe were put in place by a French architect (Eugène Hénard, 1849-1923) to alleviate growing traffic congestion in Paris.

However, there are 2 types of roundabout: the *carrefours à sens giratoire*, (with road-markings) and the other is a *rond-point*, the small mound in the centre of an intersection (esp. in Paris) - and priority differs for each!

Liberation of Mayenne re-enactments in August

A ‘Ten-in-One Journey’ for a reconstruction of this living history on the 77th anniversary of the liberation of Mayenne. Ceremonies and sharing the passion will take place in many towns: Fougerolles-du-Plessis (Mon. 2nd or Tues. 3rd); St Denis-de-Gastines (Tues. 3rd); St-Jean-sur-Mayenne (Wed. 4th), Château de Bourgon (Thurs. 5th), Chammes (Fri. 6th), Sainte-Suzanne (Sat. 7th); St Jean-sur-Erve (Sun. 8th). For full details of the ceremonies, events, times and locations go to www.facebook.com/MayenneWW2/posts/273216107931543

Beach Handball Tournament

This will take place on Fri. 20th, 9h30 to 17h, at the *base de loisirs* (lake) in La Ferté-Macé (61). More info from the Tourist Office (02 33 37 10 97, www.lafertemace.fr)

Fête communal / vide-greniers in Fougerolles-du-Plessis (53)

On the weekend of Sat. 31/7 and Sun. 1/8, this annual fête will have the following activities:

Sat. 31/7 at 22h: fireworks at the *plan d'eau* (lake); Sun. 1/8: 7h to 19h, *vide-greniers* in the church square [for a stall: 5 metres free, 2€ per extra metre – to book one phone Joe Morgan on 06 22 35 91 20]. Masks obligatory. ‘Route 66’ food truck will be there on both days.

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 and produces seed, including any in the areas along the borders.

And finally:

The other day a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

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That’s all for this month. Do take care at public events by following all safety measures. Keep safe.

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Events by the day (not including vide-greniers)
August 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
[from July :			
Sat. 31 st	Fireworks by the lake	Fougerolles-du-Plessis	5
<u>August :</u>			
Sun. 1 st	Open air concert: ‘Elefante’	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
”	Discover ancient games & toys	Jublains	3
2 nd to 8 th	Re-enactment of the liberation of Mayenne	Several towns	5
Tues. 3 rd	Concert: <i>Le Souffle Gothique</i>	Lassay-les-Châteaux	4
Wed. 4 th	<i>Promenade en calèche</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
”	Organ recital	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Fri. 6 th	Open air show: Piti Peta Hofen	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Sat. 7 th	<i>Les Flâneries d’Eté</i>	La Ferté-Macé	3
Sun. 8 th	<i>Boules</i> competition	La Ferté-Macé	3
”	Open air concert: Robert Lenoir	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Fri. 13 th	Open air show: Sandy et McCoy	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Sat. 14 th	<i>Les Flâneries d’Eté</i>	La Ferté-Macé	3
Sun. 15 th	<i>Les Cordes et Voix Magiques d’Ukraine</i>	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
”	Open air concert: Drums & Brass Band	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Fri. 20 th	Open air show: Isi et Là	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
”	Beach handball tournament	La Ferté-Macé	6
Sat. 21 st	<i>Les Flâneries d’Eté</i>	La Ferté-Macé	3
Sun. 22 nd	<i>Fête du Miel et Marché Gourmand</i>	Colombiers-du-Plessis	3
”	Open air concert : Between the Beatones	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Wed. 25 th	Organ concert	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Fri. 27 th	Open air show: Sacré Guillaume	Bagnoles de l’Orne	4
Sat. 28 th	<i>Les Flâneries d’Eté</i>	La Ferté-Macé	3
W/e 28/29 th	Aerodrome visit	Rives d’Andaine	2