

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Time is precious – waste it wisely

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

Sun. 4 th	Le Horps (53)	v-g, 8h-18h; on route de Lassay, ±50
“	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , 11 Le Quesnoy, 8h-18h, ±50
“	La Ferr. a/Etangs (50)	v-g/ <i>brocante</i> , centre bourg, ±200
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> (monthly) in Esplanade de la Halle, 9h-19h; ±50
Sun. 11 th	St Cyr du Bailleul (50)	v-g in the village, 7h-18h. Food and drink available in the village
Wed. 14 th	Sourdeval (50)	v-g in ' <i>A la Belle Epoque</i> ', ±20
“	La Bigottière (53)	v-g in the Salle des Fêtes, ±20
17 th / 18 th	Bagnoles de l'O (61)	26 th <i>Foire / vide-greniers de la Sainte-Madeleine</i> , Allée Aloïs Monnet, 8h-20h. Free. [to book a table, 3€/m for one day, 06 71 12 77 47]
Sun. 18 th	Granville (50)	monthly <i>Marché d'Antiquités / brocante</i> in Cours Jonville, 8h-18h ±50
“	Dol-de-Bretagne (35)	v-g, Carfantin, 8h-18h; ±50

Special dates / public holidays:

Tues. 14th *Fête Nationale ('Pris de la Bastille 1789')*

Normally all towns/villages celebrate with music and fireworks. Your *Mairie* will let you know what events are taking place during these cautious times. Venues possible:

On Mon. 13th at the *plan d'eau* (lake) at La Ferté-Macé at nightfall there may be a candle-lit procession and fireworks. Free

Eating out

Le Bistrot de la Varenne, near the bridge in Ambrières-les-Vallées, overlooking the river, used to be called *Le Relais de la Varenne*. After many months of refurbishment it has just re-opened with a new name and new look. Outside, the terrace has been extended, and inside the large dining area trellis screens have been added to create a more intimate feel. A large mirror shows the menu and biodegradable place mats, made in Mayenne, are on the tables. There are new menus with a *plat du jour*, burgers, pizzas and a cabinet of desserts. There is extra parking in front of the church. Open: 12h to 14h30 on Mondays to Fridays, evenings Wed. to Fridays. Family or business meals can be served on Saturdays by reservation. Take-away is also available. Contact: 02 43 04 90 54

Les Jardins des Renaudies

At this lovely 3.5 ha floral park at Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53), as well as 400 rhododendrons & azaleas, 350 hydrangeas and 133 varieties of roses, there are hundreds of varieties of flowering plants along pretty walkways. There is a museum of life on a farm from 1900 to 1920 and vintage farm equipment. Plenty of areas for a picnic. The *Salon du Thé* will be opening on Sunday afternoons from 14h to 18h, with teas, coffees, & home-made cakes. On Tues. 14th will be the popular 'Garden Party', with musicians, games and picnic areas. From 14th July until 11th Oct., the 10,000 m² *labyrinthe de maïs* (maize maze) will be open. Entry to the gardens: 6€ children 3€. www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Le Tour de Bon Vouloir

Le Tour de Bon Vouloir, near Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61) is a place well worth a visit. It has been open to visitors a long time but the whole site has recently undergone a refurb and is now rejuvenated (like the legend that caused it to be created)!

The site houses the same buildings but the old house has been converted to a wonderful licenced *crêperie*, open every day (except Tuesdays) from 9h to 21h. It is immaculately run by two very pleasant young men who, apart from being very attentive hosts, speak English. They serve drinks, galettes, crêpes and ice creams in a beautiful and very relaxing setting. A designated car park is just a short distance away, suitable for disabled people. A formal style garden has been created behind the stone walls with shaded seating areas, displaying an interesting array of many plants including medicinal. Walks are possible from the *crêperie* down into the orchard of pear trees and beyond. It links also with the long-distance footpath, the GR22.

Cancer Support France Quiz Night

These popular Quiz Nights are starting again, on the first Friday of every month, at *Le Viking*' bar/restaurant in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50), at 20h, with teams of up to 6, cost of 3€ per person. A raffle will be held on the night, and in preparation for this they are looking for raffle prize donations. Please contact Jean if you have anything that would be suitable. More info from nord-secretary@cancersupportfrance.org

Les Flâneries d'Ete in Bagnoles e l'Orne (61)

On Tues. 6th, 8h to 18h, in Place du Marché, is the *Marché à la Brocante : les flâneries d'ete*, organised by *Avenir Espoir 2000*. Entry free. [*flâner* is to stroll]

The Red Coats - Normandy Re-enactors

On Sunday 11th, 10h to 15h at the Château Montgommery in Ducey (50) you can watch the Normandy Napoleon's Re-enactors representing the 51st [2nd Yorkshire West Riding] Light Infantry Regiment on their Living History Encampment Training and Recruitment Day. There will be authentic uniforms, weapons and drill. More info on their facebook page.

Evening trip on the *vélo-rail*

On Sat. 10th, 20h to 21h, departing from Place de la Gare, Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): during a lovely summer evening, you can go on a trip on the *vélo-rail* – a perfect occasion to pass a convivial moment. The trees form a covered tunnel on a route of 5km on the border of the *Forêt des Andaines*. Duration: 1 hour. Reservation before 18h on the day at the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (see p.4). Each *draisine* holds 2 to 5 people, with 2 cycling. Tickets: 8€, children: 4€.

General Knowledge Quiz

A General Knowledge Quiz is held fortnightly at the restaurant/bar '*Le Restaurant Charnie*' in Torcé-Viviers (53, near Sainte-Suzanne). Dates for July: Fridays 2nd, 16th and 30th, starting at 20h (8pm); teams of up to 4 people. Cost: 4€ to include chips. Other food is available if ordered in advance. For more info and to reserve food, please contact Kathryn Williams: 09 75 78 60 24, kath.dekinfrance@gmail.com.

Still finding bombs - in Sourdeval (61?)

An American bomb dating from WW2 was discovered on 10th June in Sourdeval. Whilst working on an embankment, the owner of the land came across an unexploded 260 kg bomb. The bomb clearance experts were called from Caen. It was found embedded in the ground with a thin layer of earth above it – at first the owner's son thought it was just a piece of metal but then realised it was a bomb. The bomb disposal team removed it from the hole under controlled conditions and it was taken away to be destroyed.

The Museum *Le Mémorial des Déportés de la Mayenne*

This Museum at 23 rue Ambroise de Loré, Mayenne town (53) is holding a temporary exhibition "*Destins brisés – itinéraires de Juifs en Mayenne, 1939-1945*" which follows the route of several Jewish people arrested and deported from Mayenne. Open Tues. to Sats. 14h to 18h (and follows all sanitary guidelines).

Something you didn't know you didn't know . . . about the French language in England

It started with food . . . when the Normans invaded England in 1066, they brought with them both their cooking skills and their language. So, to the Old English words cow, calf, swine and sheep, the new rulers added *boeuf* (beef), *veau* (veal), *porc* (pork) and *mouton* (mutton). The Saxon peasants soon got used to using English words for the live animal and the French words for the slaughtered meat.

Entertainment & Concerts

Wed. 14th, 17h to 18h15 in l'Eglise Sainte Marie-Madeleine, Place de l'Eglise, Bagnoles de l'Orne (61): organ solo by Olivier Thuault, head organist at Coutances Cathedral. German baroque music: Buxtehude, Brahms, Bach. Free, with collection. Social distancing / masks to be worn / hand gel.

Des concerts en terrasse (concerts on the terraces)

After the success of the open air concerts in Sourdeval (50) last year – to help bars and restaurants heavily impacted by the pandemic, which will cost the commune 6,000€ but is important to support their local businesses – they will be continuing this year on each Friday, 19h to 21h until 10th September. The 4 bar/restaurants taking part in Sourdeval will each host 3 concerts. In July: 2nd: *Les Niglots Trio* at the *Bar Saint-Lys*; 9th: *Pascal Alavoine* at the *Bar de la Poste*; 16th: *Le Chinois* at *JC Brasserie*; 23rd: *Mika* at *Saint-Lys*; 30th: *Enomystic* at *Les Voyageurs*. These concerts are free and open to all, and range from English pop, gypsy jazz guitar (*Le Chinois*), French songs and rock.

Fête de la Musique – one town moved it forward to July

The *Fête de la Musique* in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61), that was cancelled in June due to Covid restrictions, will be held on Sun. 4 July with a series of concerts that launch the summer festivities. On the programme: Pram's, The Cubaners, Richard Lovene, Summertime Trio. More info from the Bagnoles de l'Orne Tourist Office (see below).

Illuminated Abbey in Lonlay l'Abbaye (61)

Until 19th September you can see this impressive Abbey illuminated until 21h: '*Le Tour d'un Monde*', and view the external photo exhibition of Nicholas Henry in and around the car park. Free.

Visit to a favourite dolmen: '*Table du Diable*'

On 9th July, 11h to 12h, at Les Plardières (near Passais-la-Conception) organised by the Domfront Tourist Office, you can trace the oldest occupation of this territory by the people. Megaliths are numerous in the *bocage* and this covered alley is one of the most beautiful. There is a presentation of the site and the archaeology by the guide from the Tourist Office (in French, but some English spoken). Reservation necessary, tickets 4€ from the Tourist Office.

Some Tourist Office contact details:

Avranches (50)	www.avranches.fr
Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	www.bagnolesdelorne.com
Gorron (53)	www.gorron.fr
Laval (53)	www.laval-tourisme.com
La Ferté-Macé (61)	www.lafertemace.fr
Mayenne (53)	www.hautemayenne-tourisme.com
Rennes (35)	www.brittanytourism.com

Sport & Leisure Activities

Initiation of youngsters to *tir à l'arc* (archery)

On Sat. 3rd, 15h to 16h at the Complexe Tennistique Maxime Merlin in Bagnoles de l'Orne (61) ages 5 to 9 yrs can learn the sport of archery. Adapted equipment is provided. Outside or inside, depending on the weather. Sports clothes to be worn. 8€ for 1 hour. More info from the Tourist Officer, and reservation necessary before 11h 30 on the day

Activity lake in La Haie-Traversaine (53)

Located between Mayenne and Ambrières-les-Vallées, this lake is open to all. There is a beach, games areas, volley ball, tennis, hire of pedalos & canoes, also a snack bar with a terrace and view over the lake. Suitable for people with reduced mobility. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office (see p.4).

End of the need for French doctor's OK to do most sport

Parents no longer need to book an appointment with their GP to complete a health form allowing their children to take part in extracurricular sporting activities. A questionnaire will suffice instead for most sports – though some, such as mountaineering, rugby, combat sports and parachuting, still require GP approval.

Surviv'Orne – Triathlon of the Lake

On 3rd July at the *plan d'eau* in La Ferté-Macé (61) is the 8th edition of this event, which will include swimming, VTT and racing. Open to members and non-members. More info from the Tourist Office in La Ferté-Macé (see p.4)

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And finally, to possibly raise a smile? . . .

I went to the doctors with a hearing problem. He said “Can you describe the symptoms?” I said “Homer's a fat bloke and Marge has blue hair”..

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That's all for this month. I hope you find something in here to keep you busy, now that summer is here.

Judy Skinner

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