

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

Education is what you get from reading the fine print.
Experience is what you get from not reading it.

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* listed in this area ['50' = area; ± = stalls expected] – but these are subject to cancellation, so check on www.brocabrac.fr for up to date info.

Sun. 4 th	Avranches (50)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> at 2 rue du Général de Gaulle, ±50
“	St Hilaire du Harcouët (50)	v-g & <i>braderie</i> , in <i>marché couvert de Marly</i> , ±30
“	Sourdeval (50)	v-g at 8 place du Champ de Foire, ±50
Sun. 11 th	Perrou (61)	v-g in restaurant car park, ±50
W/e 10 / 11 th	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g at la Chevalerie, ±70
Sun. 18 th	Granville (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> in Cour Jonville, ±50
W/e 24/25 th	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	<i>Salon Antiquités, brocante, collections</i> , in <i>communs du Château</i> , Allée Alois Monnet, 10h-19h, entry 3,50€, ±50

Remember – Daylight Saving Time in France 2020: the CLOCKS GO BACK at 3 a.m. on Sun. 25th. An extra hour in bed – lovely!!

'Plantes en Fête' – plant sale & exchange

On Sun 11th from 10h-18h at the *Campsite de Champ Passais* in Domfront (61) is the 23rd edition of this popular annual Plant Fair, with over 40 specialist exhibitors with a great selection of plants, herbs and other vegetation. People can bring their plants and exchange, share and discover others. Also garden decor and some great gardening inspiration. Refreshments and tea-room on site. Free entry and parking. Sorry, no dogs. Covid security measures will be in place. Masks must be worn. More info at www.plantesenfete.fr or www.ot-domfront.com

Eating out - *Le Saint Georges*

The restaurant *Le Saint Georges* in St. Georges de Rouelley (50) is a traditional restaurant with a very good 3-course lunch – choices from 2 *entrées*, 2 *plats*, cheese or choice from 4 desserts, wine or cider (¼ ltr per person) & coffee, all for 12,50€. Open for weekday lunches and weekend evenings, on reservation. Also, they are happy to provide ‘doggy bags’ for any left-overs! 02 33 49 78 49, email: lesaintgeorges50@gmail.com Plenty of parking behind the restaurant.

Les Jardins des Renaudies

At these lovely English-style gardens near Colombiers-du-Plessis is the *Fête des Citrouilles* (Pumpkin Fair) on Sun. 11th, 10h-18h [although you need to double-check nearer the time if this is still going ahead]. You can discover the 80 varieties of pumpkin, in all shapes and sizes, grown here by their gardeners. There is a local produce market and sale of plants, a pumpkin cookery workshop, also games & entertainment. Entry: adults 8€; 6-16s 2€; under 6s: free. Dogs are welcome on a lead. www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr

Event in aid of Cancer Support France Nord

Curry & Quiz Night - Sat. 10th, 19h to 23h45 in the Salle in Notre-Dame du Touchet (50). More info and menu available from nord:@cancersupportfrance.org. Tickets: 15€ per person – places MUST be booked in advance. To buy tickets please contact them on nord@cancersupportfrance.org

Cancer Support France is now able to provide assistance to UK nationals currently resident in France who need to establish their residency and healthcare rights after Brexit. For people who are unsure about what they need to do by the end of June 2021, trained CSF volunteers can guide them towards sources of reliable information. Simply call 0800 240 200 or email helpline@cancersupportfrance.org

Salon de Peinture in Domfront (61)

This annual art exhibition, featuring works by local artists, takes place from 8th to 11th in the Espace Rocton.

Nature walk – *les champignons* (mushrooms)

On Fri. 9th is a guided walk (in French) in the forest by Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) to pick mushrooms. In autumn the forest is rich in *cèpes*, *bolets*, and more! Learn about the different species, both edible and dangerous. Min. age: 10 years. Duration: 2½ to 3 hours. Registration at the Tourist Office before 11h30. Wear stout walking shoes and take a bottle of water.

Exhibition in Ceaucé (61)

From Sat. 10th the exhibition “*Objets de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale*” (Objects from the Second World War) will be showing at the *mediathèque* in Ceaucé [open: Wed. & Fri.: 16h to 18h; Thurs. & Sat.: 10h30 to 12h30].

Balades sur les grèves (Walks on the seashore)

There are many guided walks across the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel and these are continuing, with safety measures in place. Note: shorts/short trousers should be worn, beach shoes (boots in October), warm clothing and waterproofs. For more details, lists of dates and other walks, go to www.decouvertebaie.com

Daily, and at different times, are guided walks (with French guides) on the seashore around Mont-Saint-Michel. Ideal for those with limited time or who are not great walkers, this is a great way to see Mont-Saint-Michel and its abbey, village & ramparts from a different angle. Tickets: 5,50€. Reservation necessary at 02 33 70 83 49 (9h-12h30 & 13h30-18h) or info@decouvertebaie.com

As a point of interest: 'la grève' has 2 meanings - (sea)shore, sandy beach, strand; also, in this context, as it was the open space on the banks of the river Seine where dissatisfied workmen assembled, it became the word for a strike (of workmen). *Faire grève* is to strike, to be on strike. (Just thought you might be interested!)

New Gorrion (53) & Le Teilleul (50) *brocante* dates

Arielle and Pascal are now opening *Arielle Brocante* in Gorrion twice a month - on the 2nd and also 4th weekends. From 1st October at their *brocante* in Le Teilleul they will be open from Weds. to Sundays at 14h30 to 18h30.

Musée de Poiré in Barenton (50),

Installed during 1983 in the buildings of a typical farm of the Normandy *bocage* (farmland criss-crossed by hedges/trees) this museum is the only one of its kind dedicated to this sparkling and tasty drink, emblematic of the Mortain and Domfront areas. You will learn about the amazing collection of equipment and the 100 varieties of pears and apples. Open until 31st October, 10h-13h & 14h-18h. museedupoire@parc.normandie-maine.fr

2 new businesses at Gorrion (53) weekly market

At the Wednesday market, there are 2 new faces: Franco-Polish Magdalena Zakrzewska has a mobile *épicerie* with Polish products – *charcuterie*, cooked specialities, sauces, many flavoured gherkins, fruit juices, beers and, of course, vodka! Also, with his sharpening machine, Stéphane Bouteloup can bring a new life to your tools – knives, scissors, chain-saw chains, chisels, drills, etc., which will save them from being discarded.

French cheeses

October is a good time to eat the first cheeses matured from spring and summer milk when the cows, goats and sheep were on pastureland, as well as young cheeses produced with the new rich grass which comes with the autumn rains after a dry summer.

Like fruit and vegetables, cheeses are seasonal as they depend on the quality of the grass and the time it takes the cheeses to ripen. In winter the milk from an animal fed on hay will differ from milk from the summer when it is out to pasture and the cheese will be different. The time a cheese is left to mature will also affect its taste. Goats' cheeses, especially, are eaten young so most are best eaten in spring, summer and early autumn when the animals are eating grass in the fields, not hay in a barn.

Something for all the family

Fri. 6th at 20h30 in the Salle Polyvalente in Landivy (53): ‘*Extrêmités*’ - a fun evening of crazy acrobats defying gravity. Minimum age 6 years. Entry: 10€

Murder Mystery in Passais – a message from Graham Follett

“ As many of you know, the murder mystery [*Passais Villages a un Incroyable Talent*] was cancelled at the last minute in March, but was billed as a postponement until 6, 7 & 8 November. People were at that time asked to either retain their tickets for use in November or return them for a refund. Many held on to them.

However, with the continuing uncertainty over Covid-19, and following a poll of our cast members and much consideration by the officers of the association, it has been decided that we cannot continue with the intended November production. This is for reasons of practicality and safety. We are now asking all ticket holders to return their tickets for a refund. Instructions for doing this, or for donating all or part of their ticket price to the association *Fun Théâtre Communautaire*, are on our web site: www.funtheatre.fr ”

La Rotisserie Normande in Buais (50)

Sadly, this now empty restaurant, on the main crossroads in Buais, is in the process of being pulled down. The building was becoming unsafe and the owner was unable to insure it. The original building on this site dates from 1876 and the ‘*Rotisserie Normande*’ has been run by the same family for 40 years. Through the years the restaurant had many special moments - welcoming Brigitte Bardot, Frank Fernandel, the president of the Republic of Japan, amongst many other well known people. The space will become a parking area.

Les Foulées Frambaldéennes - race

This annual race around Saint-Fraimbault (61) will, at the moment, be taking place on Sat. 10th. The 10km race is open to all from 10 years of age. The race starts at 14h, masks and runners’ numbers will be distributed at 13h30. Registrations are limited to 200 and registration only accepted on line at www.normandie-courseapied.com, www.saint-fraimbault.com or on facebook. More info on the websites.

Musée du Jouets in La Ferté-Macé (61)

On rue de la Victoire, this Museum of Toys is open until 31st October, on Weds. & Sats. (14h to 17h). Entry: 3€, students & under 6s: 1,50€, under 6s free.

Sortie Nature (Nature outing)

On Fri. 23rd is a walk to discover *les rapaces nocturnes* (nocturnal birds of prey). Meet at 20h at the Mairie in St. Mars d’Egrenne (61). More info from the Domfront Tourist Office.

Elliott’s Boucherie in Gorron (53)

Lorraine and Darren will be closing for 2 weeks from Tues 6th until Tues. 20th. They are having a well-earned break!

Saint-Fraimbault – *ville fleuri* ‘4 fleurs’

How did the village of Saint-Fraimbault win its ‘4 fleurs’, the highest accolade for a town/village? In the 5th century, Saint Fraimbault was a monk who travelled here from the Auvergne to convert people in this area. Before the end of the 19th century the town was large - with over 2,000 inhabitants. However, as a result of the 2 World Wars the village lost many inhabitants - in 1950 there were only 1,000, many of whom were elderly. Three local women decided to liven up the village by decorating the outsides of their houses with flowers.. In 1965, the village of Saint-Fraimbault received the Grand Prix of the department: one ‘flower’. Two ‘flowers’ were awarded in 1974, three in 1983, with four ‘flowers’ being awarded in 1987. They have achieved 4 f’lowers’ every year since.

Walking

On Sun. 18th: a walk in the *Foret d’Andaine* organised by the Domfront Tourist Office. Depart from Ceaucé (61). For more info contact the Domfront Tourist Office (see below)

le Parc Botanique de Haute Bretagne at Le Chatellier (35)

Here you will find 25 themed gardens in 25 hectares of land around the *Château de la Follière* (near Saint-Germain-en-Coglès). It is one of the most popular floral parks in this part of Brittany, and it is adapted for people of all ages, where each can find a reason to marvel or get inspiration from over 100,000 types of vegetation. It was closed until May due to the confinement, but is open daily until 15th November from 14h to 17h30. Entry price in October: 8,90€, 5-17s: 6,90€. www.jardinbretagne.com

Contact details for some local Tourist Offices

There is a lot of information, including booking info, at the Tourist Offices and here are a few in this area:-

Bagnoles de l’Orne (61)	www.bagnolesdelorne.com	02 33 37 85 66
Domfront (61)	www.ot-domfront.com	02 33 38 53 97
Flers (61)	www.ornetourisme.com	02 33 65 06 75
Fougères (35)	www.ot-fougeres.fr	02 99 94 12 20
La Ferté-Macé (61)	www.lafertemace.fr	02 33 37 10 97

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And finally:

Q: What do you call a sheep with no legs?

A: A cloud

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Events by the day (not including *vide-greniers*):

October 2020

Date	Event	Place	Page
Fri. 6 th	' <i>Extrémités</i> ' acrobatics and humour show	Landivy	4
8 th to 11 th	<i>Salon de Peinture</i> (art exhibition)	Domfront	2
Fri. 9 th	Guided nature walk - mushrooms	Bagnoles de l'Orne	2
Sat. 10 th	CSF Nord 'Curry & Quiz Night'	Notre-Dame du Touchet	2
''	<i>Foulées Frambaldéennes</i> (race)	Saint Fraimbault	4
Sun. 11 th	<i>Fête des Citrouilles</i> (Pumpkin Fair)	Colombiers-du-Plessis	2
''	<i>Plants en Fête</i>	Domfront	1
Sun. 18 th	Walk in the <i>Forêt d'Andaines</i> (monthly)	Domfront	5
Fri. 23 rd	'Walk to discover nocturnal birds of prey	St Mars d'Egrenne	5