

## Bulletin !

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

### Thought for the month:

A smile is like a boomerang – you get it back straight away.

Some *vide-greniers/brocantes* in this area [ '61' = area; ± = stalls expected]

Thurs. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rennes (35)	<i>Les Puces de Jeudi, brocante</i> , around the <i>marché central</i> , ±50
W/e 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bagnoles de l'Orne (61)	v-g / vide-maison at 9 Blvd Albert Christophe 'Les Pervenches', 9h-18h
Sun. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Avranches (50)	Monthly <i>brocante</i> , 2 rue du General de Gaulle, 8h-18h, ±50
“	Bellou-en-Houlme (61)	v-g / <i>brocante</i> at La Chevalerie, ±100
“	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Esplanade de la Halle, 9h-18h, ±50

These are subject to change / cancellation, so visit [www.brocabrac.fr](http://www.brocabrac.fr) which is constantly updated with *brocantes / vide-greniers*, including any changes.

### Special dates:

W/e 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>      *Les Journées du Patrimoine:*

All over France, on the weekend of 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> the *Journées du Patrimoine* (Heritage Days) present an opportunity to take a look behind the doors of over 14,000 participating local heritage sites that are not usually open to the public. You could find yourself able to visit a private house or château, and many museums will throw open their doors for free or at a reduced price. Since 1991 the scheme has spread across Europe and the event now takes place in over 50 countries. For more info: [www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr](http://www.journeesdupatrimoine.culture.fr) or ask at a Tourist Office.

### Eating out - *Auberge de la Fosse Arthour*

After being closed for over 6 years, this pretty *auberge* near St Georges de Rouelley (61) has been re-opened by Lina Clouart, who was born nearby. The outside had been covered by undergrowth so there was a lot to be done to revive this hidden gem. The restaurant style is *semi-gastronomique* or *bistronomique*. There is also a *menu du jour* – 3 courses for 14,95€ with a choice of 2 dishes on each course, and as well as a bright and spacious restaurant there is also a pretty terrace with tables overlooking a small river. Reservations 09 7172 26 95.

### *Les Jardins des Renaudies*

At these lovely English-style gardens at ‘Les Mézerais, Colombiers-du-Plessis (53) to celebrate *les Journées du Patrimoine*: on Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> & Sun. 20<sup>th</sup>, 10h to 18h, you can visit the *ecomusée* which shows a typical farm from many years ago, also exhibits of several ancient trades. There will be games for children, an art exhibition in the foyer, *Salon de Thé*, maize maze, and plenty of space to enjoy a lovely day out. Special reduced entry price: 3€, 6-16s: 2€, under 6s free. For more info: [www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr](http://www.jardinsdesrenaudies.fr)

### Cancellation of the *Foire des Andaines*

This popular event in Bagnoles de l’Orne (61) was originally planned for mid-May, then postponed until the end of August due to Covid-19. It is now hoped to be held on the first weekend of October (Sat. 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun. 4<sup>th</sup>). Please check with your Tourist Office nearer the time.

### Secrets of the *Tour de Bonvouloir*

On the edge of the *Forêt d’Andaines*, Juvigny-Val-d’Andaines (61, near Bagnoles de l’Orne) this is the last vestige of the old *manoir* and attracts many visitors each year. Today all that remains is a tower, a dovecote and farm buildings. In the Middle Ages, two landowners had loaned money to Duc René d’Alençon, but as he was unable to repay the loan he offered them land in Passais and Juvigny, with the proviso that they must build a manor house on each of them – at Passais: ‘Loyauté’ (of which nothing remains) and in 1485 in Juvigny: ‘Bonvouloir’. More info from the Tourist Office in Bagnoles de l’Orne (02 33 37 85 66) .

### Event in aid of Cancer Support France Nord

On Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> from 15h at ‘La Renaissance Bar’ in Hercé (53): ‘The Special Reunion Gig’. An invitation to all to go to Anne and Sarah’s party and enjoy great music from their friends Erika Lobe-manga and ‘Missing Lynx’. Free entry. However, because of social distancing, numbers are limited so please contact the bar to reserve your place: 07 66 51 11 84.

### Art after lockdown in Fougerolles du Plessis (53)

The studio has reopened and we can again give vent to all sorts of creativity. Sessions are socially distanced and therefore limited in number of painters. Thursdays and Fridays - 10h to 12h and 14h to 16h. Call Joe on 02 43 13 06 72 for more info.

## Open weekend hosted by 'English Garden Plants'

On Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> & Sun. 6<sup>th</sup>, 10h to 12h30 & 14h to 18h, at this Garden Centre at l'Aunay Samson, Rânes (61), you can celebrate the re-opening for the autumn season in a lovely atmosphere, with wonderful exhibits, artists and local produce. Tea, cakes, beer and food available on site.

### Mushroom picking – advice and rules

Here in France there are abundant quantities of wild mushrooms at this time of year – if you know where to look. There are the 'good, the bad and the ugly' and they range in size from tiny to as big as footballs. But you need to be very careful, not just when you eat them but also when you pick them. There is also a 'code of conduct' among mushroom lovers to make sure we respect the area and to try and not damage the delicate mycorrhizal roots system which will lead to new mushroom growth:

- ◇ Never pick a mushroom you do not recognise; do not destroy any you think may be dangerous – they all have their part to play in nature.
- ◇ Follow the country code – close gates, don't leave a mark, be quiet and respectful.
- ◇ Avoid moving dead wood around as it disturbs wildlife.
- ◇ Use a sharp knife to cut mushrooms at the base rather than rip them out of the ground as this limits damage to the mushrooms' roots and threads.
- ◇ Only collect a few from each troop – leave some for others and nature. Let's learn from the cod fishing industry experiences!
- ◇ Wear bright clothing as you don't want to be mistaken for a wild animal in case the local hunters are nearby.

### The *brocante* in Le Teilleul (61)

A reminder that the *brocante* run by Pascal and Arielle, on the road leaving Le Teilleul towards Domfront, is open every afternoon of every day, from 14h30 to 18h30, until the end of September (after that, to be advised). Also, the next *brocante* in Gorron will be on the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> from 9h to 18h.

### Telephone numbers

I have been asked to repeat for new readers the following advice: when verbally giving out a phone number, the figures are divided into blocks of 2 (for example: 02 43 60 17 77) and it is very important to pause between the numbers to avoid ambiguity. Without the pause, 60 (*soixante*) followed by 17 (*dix-sept*) could be understood to be *soixante dix-sept* which is 77. So, when dictating the number 02 54 60 17 77 you would say: *zero deux* [pause] *cinquante-quatre* [pause] *soixante* [pause] *dix-sept* [pause] *soixante dix-sept*.

### Open gardens / craft stalls / *vide maison* in Saint Pois (50)

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup>, 10h to 16h, at 'La Grande Peuverie', Saint-Pois, there will be many stalls with crafts and household items, and there will be refreshments and home-made cakes. Dogs are allowed but must be kept on a lead. Social distancing must be observed

### Live music evening at Château Jasmine

On Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> in the orchard at Château Jasmine in Passais-la-Conception (61) is an evening of great music with 'Modelo' a 2-piece band from Spain & Brighton, Jorge and Batz, who have toured all over the world - with special guests 'Rock My Country' (Country & Western), vocals from Melanie, with Sabrina on guitar. There will be 2 large bars and the Château street food team will be offering big-bite hot dogs and chicken coconut skewers, plus lots of vegetarian & vegan options. Tickets are 10€, payable in advance (to avoid queuing outside). Reservations and further information from: [chateaujasmine61350@gmail.com](mailto:chateaujasmine61350@gmail.com). Due to the current situation, numbers are limited to 350 (there is a lot of outside space) so book early!

### Désertines Fête

On the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: at the 'RDV' bar/restaurant in Désertines (53): on Sat. 5<sup>th</sup>: *Soirée moules-frites* with live music. Tickets: 12,80€ – by reservation only (02 43 00 60 21). On Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> there will be an expo of cars, bikes and other vehicles. Food and drinks available at the RDV. Free entry.

As part of *Septembre musical: 'Quintettes pour clarinette'*

Sun. 6<sup>th</sup> at 16h30 in l'Eglise Saint-Julien in Domfront (61) a concert with Pierre Génisson on clarinet, accompanied by Quatuor Hermès, with works by Mozart and Brahms. Tickets (from the Domfront Tourist Office): 25€, 22€ and 10€ (children and students).

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

In 1539 François I signed the Order of Villers-Cotterêts. This legal document stated that French must be the only language spoken in the kingdom, in an effort to promote a wider understanding of legal and administrative documents. So, regional dialects were forbidden. However, throughout the years the regional dialects continued to be spoken – even if the land was no longer in France! *Le Breton, le Corse, l'Occitan, le Catalan, l'Alsacien, le Créole* or *le Basque* are still spoken by many people today.

### Discover the view from the top of the Gorron Mairie -

On 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*, you can have a rare view from the inside of the top (*la lanterne*) of the Mairie, which offers a great view of the surrounding area, as well as other newly renovated parts of this iconic building. Free. Limited to 10 people at each visit, you will need to reserve your place at the Mairie (open 10h-12h & 14h-18h), or by phoning 02 43 30 10 50.

### Exhibition: 'Le paysage'

From 12<sup>th</sup> Sept to 10<sup>th</sup> October, this exhibition by the Orne FDAC (*Fonds Départemental d'Art Contemporain*) take place in the Salle d'Exposition Jacques-Rousseau in *l'Espace Culturel Le Grand Turc* in La Ferté-Macé (61). Free entry.

## Lest We Forget

This annual ceremony in August at the monument in St Mars-d'Egrenne (61), erected in memory of Lt. Morton Eustis, took part in 2 sections, due to current Covid-19 restrictions. 76 years ago, on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1944, Lt. Morton Eustis, an American officer of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of Tank Reconnaissance, was at the head of his platoon as they made their way towards Domfront. They came under heavy German fire near the Pont d'Egrenne, in Saint-Mars d'Egrenne and Lt. Eustis was killed. The wreaths were laid in the presence of the United States Ambassador, Eric Beaty, representatives of the commune, and the president of the *Anciens Combattants de Saint-Mars-d'Egrenne*.

### St-Fraimbault lake – activities

After a relatively busy summer, with families enjoying fishing, pedalos, children's games and mini-golf at this lake in St-Fraimbault (61), these facilities will be staying open during September: Mondays to Thursdays, 15h to 18h; Fridays to Sundays: 14h to 18h. The refreshment booth was also open, and this – together with the mini-golf and pedalos (2€ per person) – will enable families to continue to enjoy this lovely setting.

### Exhibition of vintage vehicles instead of the *grande braderie*

The popular annual *grande braderie* in La Ferté-Macé (61) will not be held this year due to Covid-19. However, on the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> the organisers have decided to hold an exhibition of vintage vehicles on the Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> at the Place de l'Hotel de Ville, 9h to 17h, with a *foire aux vins* and a *marché d'art et terroir* in the car park of Leclerc on both days, 9h to 18h.

And finally:

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

That's all for this month. Still only a limited amount of events around the area, but it is so important for us all to keep safe. I hope you enjoy what you do manage to see and/or do.

*Judy Skinner*

*e-mail: judithsk@free.fr*

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

## September 2020

Date	Event	Place	Page
W/e 5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Soirée moules frites &amp; fête</i>	Désertines	4
”	Open weekend at the Garden Centre	Rânes	3
”	Expo of vintage vehicles & market	La Ferté-Macé	5
Sun. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Clarinet concert	Domfront	4
Sat. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Live music at Château Jasmine	Passais-la-Conception	4
W/e 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Journées du Patrimoine</i>	All over France	1
Sun. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Special Reunion Gig	Hercé	2