

Bulletin !

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

Thought for the month:

If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's,
we'd grab ours back

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

W/e 4 th / 5 th	Genêts (50)	<i>vide-maison</i> (house/garden/garage) 10h-18h30
Sun 5 th	La Ferté-Macé (61)	53 rd <i>brocante/braderie/v-g</i> , around the town, ±300
"	Le Pas (53)	v-g, in Place du 5 Novembre, ±30
"	Avranches (50)	monthly <i>brocante</i> , 11 rue Le Quesnot, ±30
"	La Fresne-Poret (50)	v-g in Salle des Fêtes car park; ±50
"	Dinard (35)	<i>Foire à la brocante</i> , Esplanade de la Halle, ±50
W/e 11 th /12 th	Montsûrs-St-Céneri (53)	<i>vide-maison</i> , 13 rue de la Jouanne, 9h-18h
W/e 18 th /19 th	Fougères (35)	<i>bric-a-brac/v-g Action Serge Colombie</i> , 73 Blvd Edmond Roussin, ±30
Sun. 19 th	Granville (50)	monthly <i>marché d'antiquités</i> , Cours Jonville, ±30
"	Louvigné-du-Dés.(35)	v-g & expo of vintage vehicles, Place du 8 Mai 1945,
"	Montflours (53)	v-g in Place de la Sergenterie, ±30
"	Louvergné (53)	v-g at Ecole Publique Jean de la Fontaine, ±50
Sun. 26 th	St Mars-sur-la-Futaie	v-g & fireworks the night before, ±500

Special dates

W/e 18th & 19th : *Les Journées du Patrimoine*: All over France, on the weekend of 18th & 19th 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 or ask at a Tourist Office.

Eating out - ‘Anacapri’

This friendly, spacious restaurant at 69 rue Paris, Saint-Hilaire-du-Harcouët (50) serves pizzas, pasta, Italian dishes, galettes and also a 3-course *midi* for 13,50€. Take-away (emporter) is available. Open Weds to Sundays, mid-days & evenings. 02 33 49 48 27; www.restaurant-anacapri.fr

Learn French with EuroMayenne

Spaces are available on EuroMayenne Beginners’ French Course, with classes starting in September. If you have ever considered taking a more structured course in French, now might be the perfect time to give it a go. The class is limited to 12 students and the lessons are taught by a qualified French teacher, who is also a native French speaker. More info and contact details at: <http://www.euromayenne.org/french-lessons> or you can contact Simon King, the French Course Coordinator: 07 83 68 94 70; frenchlessons@euromayenne.org

Lunch cruise on the river Mayenne

Sun 5th, 11h to 15h, departing from Quai Waiblingen in Mayenne town (53), on this *Croisière déjeuner au bord de l’eau* you have a lovely sail along the river while enjoying an *apéro* & 4-course meal. More info at the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37)

Art Exhibition: “Essentielle” by Cynthia Evers

Until 29th Sept., at the Majestic Gallery in Montsûrs (53) an exhibition by this Belgian artist, organised by “*l’Art pour Tous*”. Open in the afternoons (closed Mon. & Tues). Free.

Fête Communale in Désertines (53)

On the weekend of 4th & 5th is this annual village fête and bike ride. Entry free. For more info ask at the bar/ restaurants ‘Au RDV’ and ‘The Red Lion’ in the village.

Treasures, Trinkets and Talent

This new shop was opened in July by Tina, a lovely English woman. It is in Le Teilleul (50) just off the main drive through the town, opposite the church, close to ‘Le Royale’ bar/restaurant. Small but beautiful, the lower floor is set up as a living area, while upstairs is a bedroom! Stylishly decorated, everything - really everything! - is for sale even down to the clothes in the wardrobe! Prices are unbelievably good, while quality is high. For more info & opening hours: 07 69 53 49 55; tina.number8@gmail.com; Instagram: [sourceress10](https://www.instagram.com/sourceress10).

Foire d’Automne (Autumn Fair) in Gorrion (53)

This popular annual *foire* is a *vide-grenier* / *braderie* and takes place throughout the town. There will be music, a funfair and entertainment. Some shops and businesses will be open for the day. [However, the road race will not take place – this has been moved to the *Foire Fleuri* in Spring 2022].

Musique à Pontorson (50) – Les dimanches de l’orgue

On Sun. 19th from 17h in l’Eglise de Pontorson, a recital by the head organist of St-Pierre-de-Caen. Free, open to all. For more info: www.manchetourisme.com

Basilique de Pontmain (53)

Sun. 19th, as part of the *Journées du Patrimoine*, this impressive Basilica, with its fabulous stained-glass windows, will be open to visitors from 8h to 19h. At 14h to 16h there are guided visits (in French) to see the huge organ (small groups) and at 18h an organ recital. Free, with donations much appreciated.

Hot air ballooning – *Les Montgolfiades*

Fri. 10th to Sun. 12th at the Site de la Chaine, route de Montalon in St Mars-sur-Colmont (53) you can see these huge balloons in action. Flights possible (Fri. around 18h; Sat. 7h30 & 18h; Sun. 7h30 & 18h) depending on the weather condition). More info available at the Mayenne Tourist Office.

‘La guinguette’ on the banks of the river Mayenne (53)

Until Sun. 19th, Thurs to Suns., 11h to 18h - *‘La Cale’*: entertainment beside the river (near the Tourist Office). Take a picnic, or snacks and soft drinks are available on site. Concerts from 15h to 23h. www.ville-mayenne.fr (*la guinguette* = musical entertainment)

La Fête de la Terre at Fontaine-Daniel (53)

On Sat 4th (from 14h) & Sun. 5th (from 10h) – this 18th edition offers workshops, exhibitions, street entertainment, guided visits and a local produce market. At 14h to 18h: pony rides for little and large! On Sun. at 12h and 14h: a chance to visit the cloister of the Cistercian Abbey. Programme of events available at www.mayenne-tourisme.com

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 not to 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.

Spectacle Pandémique de Plein Air

On Sun. 12th, 14h30 to 16h in St Denis de Gastines (53): open-air entertainment and songs. Free. Look for roadside signs for the location.

‘Le Concert Spirituel ‘ in Alençon (61)

On Fri. 3rd at 19h30 in the Basilique Notre-Dame, organised by ‘September Musical de l’Orne’, an impressive programme with 2 baroque Handel masterpieces - ‘Water Music’ and ‘Music for the Royal Fireworks’. Tickets: 15€ to 25€, depending on seat. More info at www.september-musical.orne or www.orne-tourisme.com

Something you didn’t know you didn’t know

The oldest surviving inn in France is *La Couronne* in Rouen. It was founded in 1345, and it had already been in business for 86 years when Jeanne d’Arc was burnt in the Place du Vieux Marché in 1431. It is now a popular *gastronomique* restaurant.

Fête Communale in Ambrières-les-Vallées (53)

On Fri 10th to Sun. 12th: concerts & races in Place du Château. On Fri. 10th, 21h to midnight: a free concert with group ‘Generation’ (www.groupe-generation.com); Sat. 11th: in the afternoon you can take a ride on the little tourist train; concerts during the afternoon and fireworks at 22h. More info from the Mayenne Tourist Office

Something for all the family – Amazing horse show at *La Michaudière*,

At *la Ferme du Cheval de Trait* (farm of the draught horse) ‘*La Michaudière*’ in Juvigny-sous-Andaine (61), you can watch 30 powerful horses, including a Percheron and Normand & Breton Cobs, in the fascinating hour-long show ‘*De la Terre à la Scène*’. Over the years over 450,000 visitors have enjoyed this amazing spectacle. Adults 13,5€; children age 5-12: 5€; under 5s free (price includes the show, a farm visit and meeting the horses). English spoken. For more info and opening times: www.lamichaudiere.fr,

Exhibition at the *Musée Christian Dior*: ‘*Dior en roses*’

Until 31st October, this exhibition in the villa at 1 rue d’Estouteville in Granville (50) celebrates the rose, the favourite flower of Christian Dior. with models of haute couture, perfumes and accessories, but also paintings, sculptures, photos and decorative art objects. For this event a large area of roses has been planted on the lawn facing the Winter Garden. Entry 9€, students 7€, under 12s free. More info at www.musee-dior-granville.com.

9th *Rando Baie de Mont-Saint-Michel* (50)

On Fri. 10th and Sat. 11th, departing from Genêts (near Avranches) there will be guided walks each day from 9h to 23h, also the possibility for bikes, horses or canoe. There will be concerts and entertainment at Genêts. More info from www.randobaie-mont-saint-michel.fr

La Maison des Beaux Cadeaux in Gorron (53)

Due to the closure of the shop at 19 rue de la Mairie in Gorron ('Bout Chou') on 30th September, there will be a *liquidation totale* of all wool and haberdashery items from 1st to 30th September. There will also be special offers on some of the handmade cards and gifts. For more info, go to Anne's facebook page.

Viewvy at the time of the French Revolution

On Sat. 18th, 17h30 to 19h, there will be guided visits (in French) of the Viewvy (53) church *l'Eglise Notre-Dame de la Visitation*. Walk around the outside and inside of the church, which played a central role at the time of the Revolution. Free.

Fête Champêtre in St Loup-de-Gast (53)

This will take place on Sat 4th & Sun 5th. On Sat., 14h-18h: a 3.5km to 10km race '*Foulées Lupigastaises*' with fireworks and music at nightfall. Food and drink available on site.

Visit to Saint-Fraimbault (61) – *village fleuri* ****

On Wed. 15th there will be a guided visit (in French, but for a guided visit in English please ask in advance) to show the floral areas and other parts of this pretty '4-floral' rated village. Reservation necessary at the Domfront Tourist Office (www.ot-domfront.com , 02 33 38 53 97)

Weekly markets in the *Mayenne* department (53)

Day of the week	Location
Mondays	Craon, Mayenne, Villaines-la-Juhel
Tuesdays	Ernée, Laval (centre), Montsûrs, Landivy, Oisseau
Wednesdays	Cossé-le-Vivien, Gorron, Lassay-les-Châteaux
Thursdays	Andouillé, Château-Gontier, Evron, Martigné-sur-Mayenne
Fridays	Fougerolles-du-Plessis, Javron-les-Chapelles, Meslay-du-Maine
Saturdays	Ambrières-les-Vallées, Mayenne
Sundays	Bazouges, Bourgneuf-la-Forêt, Laval (St Nicholas)

It is wise to double check before going, as these can change without notice. Next month: the weekly markets in the Orne (61) department

Art en bars in Saint-Hilaire du Harcouët (50)

From Wed. 22nd to Sun 26th, there will be concerts held in many bars in the town. For more info ask at the Tourist Office (www.st-hilaire.fr; 02 33 79 38 88)

Sport & Leisure Activities

Rando en semaine (weekday walk) near Pontmain (53)

Tues 7th at 14h, organised by *les Randonneurs du Bocage*, a walk of about 8km. Depart from la Place Haute de la Mairie. 2€ if not a member. www.mayenne-tourisme.com

Semi-marathon from Poilley (35) to Landivy (53)

Sun. 12th, from 8h30 (+ cyclists from 9h30). Free and open to all. Limited to 100 people. More info at the Mayenne Tourist Office (02 43 04 19 37).

Rando cyclo Patrimoine (cycle ride)

Sat. 25th, 10h to 15h, 30km bike ride from Mayenne town to Montgiroux (53) Entry 5€. Limited numbers. More info at the Mayenne Tourist Office

Walks in the area

For walks in the area, with info on department, difficulty, time, etc., you can go to www.visorando.com

Semi-marathon: ‘*Marathon des Ecluses*’ - from Mayenne to Laval

Sun. 26th, 9h to 15h, 10km. Depart at 9h from rue Volney, Mayenne, arrive at Square de Boston, Laval, around 14h45. Info from the Mayenne Tourist Office

Gorron swimming pool – delayed re-opening

Due to the Covid crisis delaying repair work on this swimming pool, the re-opening date will now be early November. Initially, leaks were discovered in Feb. 2020, but further defects were found. The cost of repairs was estimated at 660,000€.

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And finally: Relationships are a lot like Algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?:

Judy Skinner

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Page</u>
Fri. 3 rd	<i>Le Concert Spirituel</i>	Alençon	4
Sat. 4 th	<i>La Fête de la Terre</i>	Fontaine-Daniel	3
W/e 4 th / 5 th	<i>Fête Communale</i>	Désertines	2
“	<i>Fête Champêtre</i>	St-Loup-de-Gast	5
Sun. 5 th	Lunch river cruise	Mayenne	2
Tues. 7 th	Weekday walk	Pontmain	6
10 th to 12 th	<i>Fête Communale</i>	Ambrières-les-Vallées	4
“	Hot air ballooning	St Mars-sur-la-Colmont	3
10 th & 11 th	Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel walks	Genêts	4
Sun. 12 th	<i>Spectacle Pandémique en plein air</i>	St Denis-de-Gastines	4
“	Semi-marathon	Poilly to Landivy	6
Wed. 15 th	Visit to the floral village	Saint-Fraimbault	5
Sat. 18 th	Visit to the historic church	Vieuvy	5
W/e 18 th / 19 th	<i>Journées du Patrimoine</i>	All over France	1
Sun. 19 th	Visit to the Basilique	Pontmain	3
“	Organ recital in the church	Pontorson	2
Sat. 25 th	<i>Rando cyclo</i> – 30 km cycle ride	Mayenne to Montgiroux	6
Sat. 25 th / Sun 26 th	<i>Foire d'automne</i>	Gorron	2
Sun. 26 th	Semi-marathon	Mayenne to Laval	6