

# MAYENNE 53

# NEWS LETTER



FEBRUARY 2024

## SCHOOL CLOSURE THREATENED.... SAINT-CÉNÉRÉ



According to the Force Ouvrière union of Mayenne public schools, 24 class closures and 2 school closures are already being planned by the academic management of the Mayenne National Education Services for the start of the September 2024 school year.



Saint-Cénére primary school is threatened with total closure. La Pellerine primary, which currently has 2 classes will be reduced to just one class. Ruillé-Froid-Fonds which currently has 6 classes, expect student numbers to rise from 117 students this year to 122 in September but are expected to still lose a class.



Cité Administrative DDETSPP  
90 Rue Mac Donald, 53000 Laval

## FARMERS' PROTESTS

Following the recent protests by Farmers against Govt Eco Taxes and the poor prices paid to them by Supermarkets, Laval town hall is looking for a solution with the Mayenne prefecture to dispose of the stacked tyres dumped at the tax offices in Mayenne and Chateau Gontier, and the Cité Administrative in Laval.

In Mayenne, the town hall is in contact with state services to find out who will cover the cost of removing, processing and recycling tyres left by farmers. The tyres were protected for the night "using tape and barriers, to avoid accidents," explains Jean-Pierre Le Bonhomme, chief of staff for the city of Mayenne. Access to rue des Alouettes, where the tax center is located, is reserved for local residents, for the moment. According to initial estimates, farmers deposited "around 300 tonnes of tyres in Mayenne". The cost of removing and treating them is estimated at "between €60,000 and €80,000".

## Win a 50€ AMAZON Gift Voucher



Join the Mayenne 53 Group for English Speakers and enter the free prize draw.

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Your local Estate Agent  
**Daniela Weiss**

Email: [daniela.weiss@safti.fr](mailto:daniela.weiss@safti.fr)  
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Languages spoken: French, English, Italian & German

\*conditions may apply

To celebrate the imminent arrival of their 3000th member, the Mayenne 53 Group for English Speakers is running a prize draw. Local estate agent Daniella Weiss is sponsoring the 50€ Amazon voucher.

To enter, just join the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mayenne53english>  
and comment on the Featured Post.

VILLES DE FRANCE OÙ IL FAIT BON  
VIVRE EN 2024

## THE BEST TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN FRANCE 2024



As was the case last year, the 2024 edition of the ranking of towns and villages in France where life is good has placed Angers in first place, ahead of Bayonne and Biarritz, as the best place to live in a town with more than 2,000 inhabitants.

Laval, the only town in the Mayenne to make the top 50, has gained one place from last year, climbing to 36th.

Read our latest BLOG to find out more:

<https://mayenne53.com/2024/01/29/best-towns-and-villages-in-france-2024/>

## British citizens living abroad for more than 15 years are now eligible to register to vote in UK general elections

# All Abroad!

British citizens living abroad – you can now vote in UK Parliament elections, even if you've lived away for over 15 years.

Find out more and how to register at [electoralcommission.org.uk/overseasvoters](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/overseasvoters)



For more information about how to register to vote in UK elections following the recent changes to allow overseas voters to continue voting beyond the 15 year period, see this link:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media-centre/all-abroad-more-brits-overseas-can-now-register-vote-0>

## PONTMAIN 53220

Photographer Katia Péchard set up a photography studio at the end of October in the former Brocante & Décor boutique in Pontmain. She specializes in maternity and newborn shots. Having grown up in Fougères, she passed the Beaux-Arts in Lorient before taking a CAP in photography in the early 2000s. In 2007, she moved to Canada, where she ran an independent studio for ten years, photographing weddings, corporate events and even animals. Katia also enjoys restoring old photographs.

<https://www.katiapechardphotographe.com/>



KATIA PÉCHARD PHOTOGRAPHE

**DON'T FORGET THAT  
2024 IS A LEAP YEAR!  
THERE ARE 29 DAYS  
IN FEBRUARY.**



©Sapho

Les Jardins des RENAUDIES  
«Les Mézerais»  
53120 Colombiers-du-Plessis  
Tél. 02 43 08 02 08

## JEAN RENAULT FOUNDER OF THE JARDINS DES RENAUDIES, HAS DIED AT THE AGE OF 94.

Jean Renault, founder of the Jardins des Renaudies, in Colombiers-du-Plessis, in Mayenne, passed away on Thursday January 4. He was 94 years old.

Born in 1929, Jean Renault came from a long line of farmers. It was his father, Henri, who chose to become a horticulturist in Montaudin, after the First World War. In 1951, at the age of 22, Jean's career began with the creation of a horticultural business in Gorrion, initially comprising of a small greenhouse and a few frames. With his brother, Henri junior, the nursery grew quickly thanks to their innovations and improvements.

A visit to a garden in Edinburgh in 1975 inspired him to launch "butterfly lavender". And in 1989 he launched the hydrangea Vanille Strawberry, now marketed worldwide.

Passionate about the industry, he was president and treasurer of the Mayenne Horticultural Union (UHM); treasurer of the "containers" section within the National Federation of Horticultural and Nursery Producers (FNPHP), and first president of the supervisory board of the Regional Horticultural Bureau (BHR).

But it was in 1989, upon his retirement, that he got involved in the creation of the Les Jardins des Renaudies floral park. Jean Renault was also a garden columnist for 35 years on France Bleu Mayenne Radio.



**Hélianthus Charity**  
**48 rue du Champ de Foire**  
**53140 Pré en Pail**  
**Tel: 07 84 94 95 02**

Hélianthus is a not-for-profit animal charity whose aim is to help stray, abandoned and distressed animals, and to assist elderly people on low income look after their little companions.

The association was founded in 2008 and its Charity Shop opened in Pré en Pail in December 2010.

Rehoming abandoned cats and helping with the spaying of feral colonies, assisting abused dogs find a better life or hand-rearing orphaned hedgehogs are only a few examples of what we do. We are also developing a network of foster homes to care for an elderly person's pet in case of short-term hospitalisation. All this is achieved thanks to donations of bric a brac, furniture, appliances, books etc. sold in our Charity Shop

Like all charities, we need your help and support. Every donation you make enables us to help another animal. Be it 1 euro or more, every centime counts. You can also become a member of our charity and receive your membership card for just 6 euros per year. To download our membership form, visit: <https://helianthus-asso.org/HelpUs/>

**Mayenne** **53** **The Magazine for English Speakers in the Mayenne**

NEWS · EVENTS · LEISURE · PROPERTY · TOURISM · FOOD · BUSINESS

**THE DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS IN THE SPRING EDITION IS 9TH MARCH**



**2ND - 4TH FEBRUARY**

## **SALON MAISON - LAVAL**

The third edition of the Salon Maison de Laval returns on February 2nd to 4th, 2024 at the Espace Mayenne.

140 exhibitors will gather to represent their sector and know-how. Construction, renovation, interior and exterior design, finance... all the new housing and decorating trends will be brought together in one place.

# Quiz night

Good news!!! We are starting our very own quiz night.

Len Amos is our Quiz master and he will be doing a general knowledge and music quiz,

First quiz night is **Saturday 10th February**. Quiz starts at 8pm but we will be serving food from 6pm until 7.30pm, menu to follow. Takeaway pizza available.

Booking essential for food and quiz as limited seats available. Teams of 4 or 6



La Renaissance Bar, Hercé 53120

### **Fitness Sessions for Males over 50**

For those looking to lose some weight and improve their fitness. \* These sessions are NOT Bodybuilding or Typical Gym workouts. Some members may be participating with chair type aerobics. Our resident fitness instructor Alex Beech (Brece Fit) will be working to provide a suitable personalised plan based on your goals. Your first Taster Session is FREE then €5 Euro per session thereafter. Designed for small groups (6 to with a Maximum 12

People. Classes run **every Tuesday at 2pm.**

Come and join us for a Free Taster Session.

**Contact:** Les les.csonge@gmail.com

Enchante, 5 Grappay Charpentier, 53120 Brece



**The Spring Edition of the MAYENNE 53 Magazine for English Speakers will be published on Monday 18th March. To advertise or to submit an event to the DIARY page, please email: [contact@mayenne53.com](mailto:contact@mayenne53.com)**

# VALENTINES DAY: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

Valentine's Day has roots in both ancient Roman and Christian traditions. One theory links it to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, later combined with the Feast of St. Valentine by Pope Gelasius I in the 5th century. The identity of St. Valentine remains unclear, but one popular legend involves a priest who defied Emperor Claudius II's ban on marriages for young men and continued to perform them in secret. Executed on February 14th, he became associated with the day.

The celebration evolved in Europe, and by the 18th century, exchanging love notes and tokens became common. Esther A. Howland popularized commercially produced Valentine's Day cards in the 19th century in the United States. Today, the holiday is a global celebration of love marked by card exchanges, flowers, chocolates, and romantic gestures.



## RESTAURANT SUGGESTIONS FOR VALENTINES DAY IN THE MAYENNE

La Bastide d'Elva, à Changé

L'épicurien, à Laval

Les 3 petits cochons, à Laval

L'escale, à Laval

L'esprit Cuisine, à Laval

L'Atelier Gourmand, à Laval

Le Camélia, à Ruille-Froid-Fonds

Le Beyel, à Origné

Verte Campagne, à Château-Gontier-sur-Mayenne

Le Sofa, à Château-Gontier-sur-Mayenne

La Cantine, à Château-Gontier-sur-Mayenne

Le 2M, à Château-Gontier-sur-Mayenne

Au Relais du Gué de Selle, à Mézangers

La Fenderie, à Deux-Evailles

La Taverne des Grottes, à Thorigné-en-Charnie

Le Bistrot de la Gare, à Brée

L'Ermitage, à Saulges

Beauséjour, à Sainte-Suzanne

L'Atelier du Vieux Moulin, à la Bazouge-des-Alleux

Le Gué de Gênes, à Ambrières-les-Vallées

Le Bistrot de la Varenne, à Ambrières-les-Vallées

Les Voyageurs, à Chailland

Le Grand Cerf, à Ernée

Le Petit Monde, à Fontaine-Daniel

La Croix Couverte, à Mayenne

Beau Rivage, à Moulay

La Marjolaine, à Moulay

### PRACTICAL INFORMATION :

By reservation - until Friday 9 February

Aperitif / starter / main course / dessert: €28.90

Aperitif / starter / main course or main course /  
dessert / coffee: €21.00

Wine and food pairing: € 10.00

1 glass of White - Chardonnay / 1 glass of Red -  
Juliéas / 1 dessert glass Crémant de Loire  
1/2L Plancoët still wine and 1/2L Plancoët  
sparkling wine

### TO TAKE AWAY

Possibility to order the takeaway menu

By reservation - until Friday 9 February - to be  
collected from 5pm on 14 February

Starter / main course / dessert: €20.00

Starter / main course or main course / dessert:  
€15.00

**HOTEL DES VOYAGEURS**  
BAR - TABAC - RESTAURANT - TRAITEUR

**MENU SPÉCIAL  
SAINT VALENTIN  
MERCREDI 14 FÉVRIER**

**HOTEL DES VOYAGEURS**  
7 rue de Saint Hilaire 53420 Chailland  
02 43 02 70 12  
hoteldesvoyageurs.chailland@gmail.com



## YOUR FEBRUARY GARDEN IN THE MAYENNE

As February unfolds in France, gardeners eagerly anticipate the arrival of spring. Despite the lingering chill, this month presents crucial tasks to prepare the garden for the upcoming growing season. Let's explore essential gardening jobs for February.

### 1. Pruning:

Take advantage of the dormant season to prune deciduous trees and shrubs. Remove dead or damaged branches and shape plants for better structure. Avoid pruning early spring bloomers to protect buds.

### 2. Seed Starting:

Kickstart the growing season by starting cold-tolerant vegetable seeds indoors. Broccoli, cauliflower, and lettuce are ideal candidates. Indoor seed starting ensures robust and healthy plants for later transplanting.

### 3. Soil Preparation:

Enrich the soil with compost or well-rotted manure in preparation for the growing season. Turn the soil to improve its structure and drainage. This essential task sets the foundation for a thriving garden.

### 4. Weeding and Cleaning:

Tackle weeds and clean up garden debris during February's dormancy. Weed prevention now minimizes competition for your crops later. Removing dead plant material helps prevent pests and diseases.

### 5. Fruit Tree Care:

Prune apple and pear trees, removing dead or crowded branches. Apply a dormant spray to control pests and diseases. This proactive care ensures a healthy fruit harvest.

### 6. Planning and Planting:

Finalize garden plans, and consider succession planting. If conditions permit, start planting hardy perennials like strawberries or asparagus towards the end of the month.

### 7. Cold Frame or Greenhouse Maintenance:

Clean and organize cold frames or greenhouses. Check for repairs, ensure proper ventilation, and clean windows. A well-maintained structure provides an optimal environment for early seedlings.

February may seem early, but it's a critical month for garden preparation. By pruning, starting seeds, enriching soil, and planning strategically, you'll pave the way for a successful gardening season in France.

## SOME GARDEN CENTRES WORTH A VISIT....

Les jardins de Maryline  
Zone des Bozées 6 rue Rome  
53000 Laval  
[www.lesjardinsdemaryline.com](http://www.lesjardinsdemaryline.com)

Rocher Fleurs EARL  
70 route Château Gontier 53400 Craon

Horticole Guiard SCEA  
17 rue Fouteau  
53300 Ambrières les Vallées  
<http://www.horticulteur-guiard.com/>

## Composting...



Contact your local Communauté de Communes for information about free or discounted compost bins available as part of the government's plan to reduce landfill usage. Some Communautés are even offering free training on how to use a composter. The 9 "Intercommunalités" can be found here: <https://lannuaire.service-public.fr/navigation/pays-de-la-loire/mayenne/epci>

**SHARE YOUR GARDEN  
STORY IN NEXT MONTHS  
NEWSLETTER.....**

**EMAIL: CONTACT@MAYENNE53.COM**

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VISIT AN ORGANIC CHEESE FACTORY(Entrammes)

with the Euromayenne Association

Friday 23 February 2024

Reservations before Wednesday 14 February 2024

For the past 10 years, Entrammes have been producing a truly traditional cheese, made from raw organic milk from their farms in Mayenne and neighbouring cantons in Brittany and Pays de Loire.

We will have a guided tour of the Entrammes organic cheese dairy, followed by a tasting of their cheeses. Afterwards, we will have lunch at the "Agra" Indian restaurant in Laval.

EuroMayenne Members: Lunch € 17, Visit € 2, Lunch & Visit € 19

EuroMayenne Members Guests: € 25, Visit € 4, Lunch & Visit € 29

For more information visit the Euromayenne website: <https://www.euromayenne.org>

### VISA SETBACK FOR SECOND HOME OWNERS

A French court has rejected a proposed law allowing British second-home owners in France an automatic long-stay visa, deeming it "unconstitutional." The amendment was part of an immigration bill aimed at letting British expats with a second home stay over 90 days without a visa. Despite passing the Senate, the court cited a lack of connection to the immigration bill for the rejection. This setback affects about 86,000 British second-home owners. Post-Brexit, UK citizens lost indefinite stay rights, requiring visas for over 90 days. The rejection complicates matters for those anticipating eased visa rules after a surge in property inquiries.

Within three weeks of the amendment being introduced, there was a 582% surge in inquiries about properties in France, as reported by the UK-based international property portal Kyero. In November, French Senator Martine Berthet expressed concerns that restricting the contribution of Britons to local economies would exacerbate the issue of vacant properties in tourist areas. She had proposed the amendment in response to complaints from British citizens residing in her department, Savoie, in the French Alps.

For more information visit the Facebook Group: [FRANCE VISA FREE\(180 Day Visa Waiver\)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/304171118520669), <https://www.facebook.com/groups/304171118520669>

Let us know what else you'd like to see in the next newsletter.

Email:

[contact@mayenne53.com](mailto:contact@mayenne53.com)



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