



Fêtes d'Été

by Sue Burgess

Summer is here and with it, the multitude of village festivals, (*fêtes de village*), car boot sales (*vide greniers*) and so on.

The *Terre de Festivals* (the land of festivals), in Deux-Sèvres is a series of over 30 different events (*événements* or *manifestations*).

Nuits Romanes is a multitude of evening events at Romanesque sites all over the Poitou Charentes region. There are *concerts* (concerts), *spectacles* (shows), *son et lumière* (sound and light shows), *art des rues* (street art) and *feux d'artifice* (fireworks). The *Nuits Romanes* events are free.

La brocante is the business of selling used objects which are generally of little value. The name is also used to describe the shops where this sort of business is done, as well as the popular events (*foires populaires*) which are often organised on Sundays and bank holidays.

Contrary to *foires à tout* or *vide-greniers* (car boot sales) which are made up of private individuals, *brocantes* are events where most of the sellers are professionals.

A *vide-grenier* is an informal event during which private individuals sell objects that they no longer have any need for.

A *marché aux puces* (Flea Market) is an open air market where there are no foodstuffs for sale. They are often also called *Les puces*.

A *braderie* is a market selling new things, often clothes, or a special day when shops have stalls outside in the street and sell (new) things off at a special price.

The word *fête* translates as celebration, feast or fun party. It also translates as *Saint's Day*. *Un festival* is a festival and a festival-goer is *un festivalier*.

There are lots of *marché* (markets), *marché semi-nocturne* (evening markets) and *marché en fête* (festival markets).

Remember not to confuse *marché* with *marche* which is a walk.

Some villages propose *randonnée gourmande* (organised rambles or walks with stops for food and drink).

If the children are looking for thrills then you might want to look for a *fête foraine* (funfair or travelling fair).

There are so many things happening in the summer you are bound to find something that suits your taste (*est à votre goût*).

Vocabulary / Vocabulaire:

un marché	market
un festival	festival
fêter	to celebrate
une brocante	second-hand shop / sale
un vide-grenier	car boot sale
une foire à tout	car boot sale
un bric à brac	white elephant
une fête de quartier	a street party / local party
une fête de village	village fête
une kermesse	church fête / garden party
une fête foraine	funfair

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