



Tremargat - Eric Bréhin, Maire

- Elaine So, Eric Bréhin, the Mayor of this village, could you start by telling me something about yourself and how you came to be mayor here?
- Eric Yeah, it is a long story, I am going to try to make it little shorter. I moved to Trémargat in the year 2002 that was after spending a few years in Ireland, and er, I used to live in the country in Ireland and when I moved to Brittany I was looking for a place where I could find the same kind of atmosphere. That's how I ended up living in Trémargat and I loved it, and er, gradually I got to know more and more people in the commune, and then when the time of the elections came I was volunteered to be on the list of people who were candidate being the Municipal Council. It turned out the previous Maire was not willing to be the mayor again then I was asked if I was interested. I hesitated a lot, (*laughs*) but the previous mayors told me they would help me because they are also still part of the Municipal Council so that seemed to be a good idea to have that team and I have learned a lot er, working together with them.
- Elaine So what does the position actually involve because I understand that you probably will also obviously have a what we say, a day job as well?
- Eric Oh yes, you don't make a living of being the mayor of such a small, er, commune, so my job is a teacher in Carhaix, and I teach Economics and Social Studies and er, otherwise I work here in the Mairie on Wednesday afternoons and sometimes also on Friday mornings and also, of course, all sorts of meetings sometimes in the evenings.
- Elaine I have gathered that there is something busy going on this evening isn't there?
- Eric There is, there have been several things happening today. There are building works going on on the the church at Trémargat at the moment. I am supposed to meet the Architect a little bit later in the afternoon er, to see what's going on on the building site and then later on there is a concert in the café Trémargat, so I'll, I'll join in the pleasure.
- Elaine Going along and getting some fun out of that. Er, it appears that the village attracts quite young and or innovative people, people

with ideas to, to develop little enterprises here. Do you think this is perhaps by design or accident?

Eric Both of them I'd say, er, it's a long story. In the 60's there, there has been a special history in Trémargat and that history erm, made it possible that several people er, moved back to the land they were coming from different places some of them far away, some of them from cities in Brittany and er, they actually initiated a movement erm, because they had some sort of special state of mind or spirit and they I think a lot of them wanted to live in harmony with the environment and in harmony also with other people, attracted gradually people who had the same kind of, of wishes and those are the people in the 80's and 90's and so on and then also moved to Trémargat and some of them also became farmers but also a lot of them created their own job being craftsmen or craftswomen (*laughs*) so there wasn't really a design but it's not completely an accident either.

Elaine It sort of evolved because people, there appears to be this interaction and co-operation between people, between the inhabitants?

Eric Yes I suppose the main characteristic of the inhabitants of Trémargat is that they are very active and dynamic and they have projects and luckily enough they, they seem to get on well enough together so that they actually work together in associations to carry out their projects.

Elaine And I suppose once they've worked together on one project and that's turned out well, then that inspires them, okay we'll take on something else now.

Eric Yeah, that has happened with the café for instance, er, four years ago a little bit more now there was an association set up to run the café. That has worked out well and I suppose that has er, inspired yes another wish for having another shop just right next to the café and now we have a shop that has local goods, like meat and eggs and local bread and butter and all of that, also organic products that means that, that there's an economic relationship between the producers and, uh, and the consumers and that's all local that's the economic side of it but there's also the whole social part of it because that's also a place where meet and that means that er, people running the shop and the association they live here and they sell products that are produced by people who live here and they sell it to people from who, live in Trémargat or the nearby villages.

Elaine Are the inhabitants mostly French or are there some immigrants as well?

Eric They are mostly French, there is a nice mixture of people who were born here and of people who moved like myself who moved to

Trémargat and who were living in Brittany or not. There are also a few English people and a few other people from other European countries and there's even a Japanese lady living in Trémargat.

Elaine And would you say that the age group is younger than tends to be in many villages?

Eric Yeah, the average age is lower than in most surrounding villages erm, at the end the 90's all over France, there was a, I don't know how you call it? Censorship? Erm, and that proved that Trémargat was actually the youngest commune in the whole of the Côtes d'Armor.

Elaine *(Laughs)* Some reputation! Are there any further developments planned in the village or its environment in the near future?

Eric This year it is going to be about planting more trees and more shrubs and having it an even nicer environment to make the centre part of the village look nicer and we also having a big project, I mean financially getting the church reopened because it had been closed for eleven years. It started in September and it's going to continue until April next year and hopefully then next summer we will have er, some concerts in the church.

Elaine Fantastic, that's brilliant. Thank you so much for your time, it's been very, very interesting and I'm so pleased to talk to you.

Eric Thank you.

