



The life of Mellionec

Translation by Kay Moss

Lorna Hello, I'm Lorna Farrington and today I'm in the small but very lively and eventful village of Mellionec. I'm talking to some of the locals, Michelle Veron Kay Moss, Marie-Claude Ledily and Odette Delplace.

Well, Spotlight has heard some wonderful things about what goes on in and around Mellionec and the efforts of the people who live here including yourselves. So do tell us some more, please.

Can you tell me where Mellionec actually is?

There's loads of events that take place here even though it's a small village.

Kay Yes, in Mellionec we have quite a few different associations of all ages.

Lorna And so, what are the events that they put on?

Kay The films have been going for five or six years, they have a weekend in June where they show documentary films. International. Two thousand six hundred people came to see the films this June.

Lorna Are there any other activities?

Kay There is a very, very rich association life in Mellionec and there isn't a month goes by that there isn't some sort of activity from one of the associations in Mellionec

Lorna And I think you also take part in the 'Villages d'Europe' and in the Bois du Bard. Which, er, what are those?

Kay The Bois du Bard is a little association that organises holiday activities for children and Wednesday activities and weekend activities but they tend to invite older people as well.

Lorna How many associations?

Kay At least ten.

There's another association started about two ago to arrange to collect money to renovate the church.

Lorna Wow! That's just such a great success for a small village and we know that there's a very special event taking place in Mellionnec at the moment called Kizellan. I know that this means sculptor's chisel in Breton. So, can you tell us more? What, exactly is Kizellan?

Kay Kizellan was started in 1998 by a person from Glomel called Josie Rault he decided to set up an outdoor exhibition of monumental sculptures in and around the gardens and public places of Mellionnec, and over the last ten exhibitions it has evolved. Today we have the tenth exhibition and you can walk through the little lanes and passageways and every corner you turn, there will be something.

Lorna How many sculptures are there?

Kay There's about seventy-five. They're made of wood and metal. There's some made of granite, some made of plaster, everything, and some of them are even mixtures of all the different materials.

Lorna And where do the sculptors come from?

Kay The sculptors, basically, come from the whole of Brittany. All the sculptures are brought in and strategically placed so that they're shown off to their best ability.

Lorna Do you have any artists that are actually working?

Kay We have, yes, we have two artists who are actually working on a large piece of work. They are working in the middle of Mellionnec together. Two artists who use completely different materials. It should be finished for the inauguration on the 28th of September.

Lorna And what will happen to all of these sculptures when the exhibition ends?

Kay Well, nearly all of them will get returned to the workshops of the people who created them. If any of them is sold, transport is arranged for them to be delivered to whoever buys them and there are, there is one, one piece of work in the middle of the village, it's made of cypress tree and it was made in 2003 by five artists that worked together as well and that one is there all the time. It's on the roundabout in the middle of the village and it has a very special title. It's a title which starts with the words 'La seule force'. Translated into English, it's 'The only force that truly moves is the desire'. If it becomes the desire to do something and then together, then everything becomes possible.

Lorna Well you're certainly demonstrating that in Mellionnec because

everyone has to work together to create all these wonderful events, and particularly this exhibition.

Kay Yes,yes,yes, we have the reception open every day of the week from about two o'clock in the afternoon 'til whenever the last guests finish and you can come in and get a catalogue and for the tenth exhibition, it's in colour and there's a map to show you where the arrows go, where, you can follow and where you can go to enjoy the whole of the exhibition.

Lorna Well, on behalf of Spotlight on Brittany, I'd like to say 'un grand merci' for having talked to us and an even bigger 'merci' to everyone who was involved in promoting such a wonderful cultural event in Central Brittany. As for me, I'm off to enjoy all the sculptures and I hope that many of you will be able to come to Mellionnec before the eleventh of November to share this outdoor experience of artistic expression

