



Anke & Kevin - Carhaix Tourist Office

Elaine: Well, I'm in Carhaix today at the Tourist Office to talk to Anke and Kevin. So to begin with, Anke. I understand it's called the House of Senechal. Can you explain that?

Anke: Yes, it is a very ancient building from the 16th century and the Senechal was kind of sheriff of the town, like the sheriff of Nottingham Forest or whatever and he was the representative of the king before the French revolution and he cared about taxes and the law and order. He, er, there was the area of Poher which was the historical area around Carhaix. And it was quite big area, and Kevin might explain a little bit more about it.

Kevin: The.... the Senechal was some sort of, as Anke said, the sheriff so he has power as a representative of the king on this area and he has to control everything that..... he has to make sure that every laws was respected in this territory.

Elaine: So this... I mean it's is an absolutely beautiful building, and incredible beams and the enormous fireplace.

Kevin: The beautifulest house.... The beautiful house in Carhaix.

Elaine: Most beautiful, right. So that was then, but now this is now which we are particularly concerned with Anke is when people come to Carhaix what do you advise them to do or where to go?

Anke: So they can begin they can start with a little tour in Carhaix because in front of each interesting monument or building they have a sign with explanations in French and English and Breton language so they, they can do a tour. We give them a map and they can have discover the, the heritage of Carhaix and in general they are quite surprised because we have about 2000 years of heritage in Carhaix. Carhaix is a very old town, so it started with the Roman period and that's why Kevin is here as well because he works for the ...

Elaine: He's a historian.

Anke: Yes, he works for the attestation of Association les Memoires de Kreiz Breizh. and they do guided visits and perhaps he can present a little bit.

Kevin: Yes, the association les Memoires de Kreiz Breizh promote the heritage mostly the heritage of the Roman empire because Carhaix was the capital of some sort of old territory around the, it's like the Finistère

Department even bigger than the department. It was a huge territory and Carhaix was the capital so we have this heritage that's quite important. We have the only aqueduct of Brittany, in Carhaix,

Anke: About 27 kilometres long.

Kevin: Yes. And diggings, with diggings we have found some huge house, houses that are really important for the.... for Brittany because they are, even if they use architecture of the Roman empire they are specific to the region, so it's very important for us to promote this heritage first. That was the primary role of the association and in Carhaix we work also with all the heritage that have been built after that, like the medieval, we don't have much of the medieval heritage, but the medieval heritage and then the early renaissance period because this house, for example, was built in the 16th century because the town was practically destroyed after the Guerre de la League, the war between the lords that was supporting the Henry IV so the protestant king and the la league, which would have preferred Catholic king.

Anke: And what we tell the people when they come here is that Carhaix, for all the centuries still is the crossing, the main crossing in centre of Brittany. So it started with the Romans, with their Roman roads which led from Carhaix in all directions. And then in the 19th century there was the Breton railway which was called the Star of Carhaix, because as well all the railways went in all directions and now, these railways were transformed in cycling routes, most of them, they still kept the line from Carhaix to Guingamp but the others they are now green roads, green routes from going from Carhaix in all directions.

Elaine: You mean something like St. Meen le Grand. There is that track.

Anke: That is one. There is another one going down from Roscoff to Concarneau, and then you have as well the canal, because the canal as well is very important, was very important, because transport for the people and now you can cycle along as well, and there is the famous what they call La Vélogysée. It is the Cycle West tours and they come from Great Britain, they go to the south of France and even further because they can go east along the Loire Valley and so it is very important now.

Elaine: Very important for the centre here.

Anke: Yes, very important now for the centre and the crossing, and we have a lot of people coming from all over the world now doing cycling tours and, and even for the people if they were they come with their family they want to just do a one-day tour and they can do it on the safe roads like the Voie Verte and the canal because there are no cars on that, yes and vehicles.

Kevin: It's beautiful.

Anke: And it is really a new way for the people to discover. Yes.

Elaine: And you said, when you were just talking beforehand, about the golf, that that seems to attract.

Anke: Yes. So, we have two in Carhaix, two leisure areas, there is one

called the Vallee de l'Hyères which is near to the campsite, it is west of Carhaix and it is about one and a half kilometers from here from the centre and there you can discover the Rope Park, the Adventure Park because you have labyrinth .

Elaine: That's the one with the

Anke: Yes, and you have the zip wire , yes it is one of the biggest in Brittany as well and for all ages up from four they accept because they have levels.

Elaine: Different levels....

Anke: It's like our skiing, really.

Elaine: It seems to be done over here.

Anke: And for, really and then you have the horse centre, you have the golf, and you have a lot of you have some ponds and for fishing and you have for just walking around.

Elaine: So there is literally really something for every age group from little ones doing the zip wiring and getting lost in the labyrinth to then obviously more leisurely things for grown people.

Anke: Yes, and the golf is open the whole year round, the rope park it depends on the weather, if it is raining they can't open and but for groups, for people who want to they can book before and in summertimes really people coming from all over Brittany and tourists to do this because and they are very glad to discover that they can do other things beside. Yes.

Elaine: This is just a little taster of what there is going on. And they can get back to you, Kevin at the Memoires of Kreiz Breizh.

Kevin: Yes.

Elaine: And you are actually upstairs.

Kevin: Yes, my office is just above the tourist office.

Anke: Right, but he is, he does, they mean well the Kreiz Breizh do a lot of guided visits, the whole programme the whole year long and they organise as well workshops for children to discover.

Kevin: The antiquity heritage and the lifestyle of the Roman. We have cooking, cooking workshop and we work around...

Elaine: Like Roman cooking?

Kevin: Yes, Roman cooking. We have also, we work around the archæologists because my colleagues are archaeologists so we have workshop around the job of archaeologist. We have mock diggings.

Elaine: So the whole family can be catered for.

Anke: Yes.

Elaine: Children over to you and then you can deal with the adults, Anke.

Anke: Yes. No problem.

Elaine: Thank you very much for your ??

