

## **Rob interviewing Florence Liard of Frogs and Roastbeefs**

**Florence:** So, I'm Florence and I have created the association 'The Frogs and Roastbeefs'. That is about theatre and it's about acting but acting in English and in French. That means as French people we are meeting English people and as English people we are meeting French people and we try to speak the other language but we do it when we want. When we feel ready to do it. I never push anybody to do something but just do it when one feels it. Well, it's a way to have fun, to learn a language. To learn the other culture and to meet people.

**Rob:** Are you planning to put on some plays or is it just working in a 'workshop' situation?

**Florence:** For the moment it's a workshop situation every week, but I have a dream to do it more and to have weekend workshops and other workshops maybe in other towns.

**Rob:** So you're carrying out a theatre workshop in both languages.

**Florence:** Yes, that's right. It's totally bilingual. So I switch from French to English, from English to French very quickly. I always have the text bilingual and sometimes we do also kind of funny exercises about battles. It's 'Frogs' against 'Roastbeefs' and we have to find as many words as we can in French or in English – of course when I say 'in French' it's the English team which has to find the words and when I say 'in English' it's the French team who has to find the word beginning with a letter or something like that so it's very funny. We have a lot of fun.

**Rob:** So, actually it's a theatre workshop but it's also a language learning exercise?

**Florence:** Yes, absolutely. My idea at the beginning was that French and English people would meet to share their culture, to share the language and to dare to act but also to dare to speak another language because when we have to speak the other language we are so afraid to make mistakes that it stops us to speak and when people are having fun then it's much easier because they are relaxing and they don't think anymore' oh, gosh, I've made a



mistake, oh, I can't say that, I can't remember the name'. So when they have fun, then they are laughing, then they are just acting they forget about that and they dare to speak. And I've seen last year how more relaxed the people were when speaking the other language. It's so nice to see people that dare to do it.

**Rob:** You've had this association 'Frogs, Roastbeefs' for some time now in Chateauneuf?

**Florence:** Well, it's just the second year. Last year we were twelve and quite half and half English and French. The youngest was eleven years old and the oldest was seventy four. So it's bilingual, it's intercultural and it's intergenerational.

**Rob:** We're here in Chateauneuf-du-Faou in Finistere. Are you finding that the town of Chateauneuf is helping you with this project?

**Florence:** Yes, absolutely. Very supporting because we are able to use the (?) space and last week, last Thursday the group had the first of the stage so that's really great and I'm very thankful to Chateauneuf because they are really helping. When I arrived in Chateauneuf four years ago I've seen that there are a lot of English people there and that was a great discovery for me and most of my friends here are English and so two years ago I have spoken with an English friend and say 'I have this idea' and she say 'Shall we?' and there we are!

**Rob:** Are you looking for new members of the group?

**Florence:** Yes. Absolutely! Especially after Covid, we have a project which is a play at the end of the year for those who want.

**Rob:** And this will be a French play or an English play?

**Florence:** Why do simple when you can do very difficult so easily? So, it will be bilingual.

**Rob:** Now that's going to be a challenge

**Florence:** It is



**Rob:** Have you done this before?

**Florence:** Never!

**Rob:** Well, Florence, it's been great talking to you. Tell me, if people are interested in joining the association (I'm going to repeat the name because it's great!) 'Frogs, Roastbeefs' can they phone you or is there a website?

**Florence:** They can phone me and my phone number is 0780973384 or they can have a look at the website which is [frogs-roastbeefs.com](http://frogs-roastbeefs.com)

**Rob:** (laughing) Where did this name come from?

**Florence:** I don't know! I was just working one day writing things and suddenly it comes to me with a laugh 'Frogs and Roastbeefs' and I asked my English friend what she was thinking about that and she laughed and she say 'That's great!'

**Rob:** It's certainly memorable!

**Florence:** Yeah, easy!

**Rob:** Florence Liard, thank you very much indeed.

**Florence:** Thank you Robert.