

Jon interviewing Patrick of LE ROUQUIN QUI ROUL in Rostrenen

Jon: We're with Patrick in the Espace Kageri, which used to be a tailors shop I understand.

Patrick: Yes, it used to be a tailors shop, so now c'est un neue Associative, a collective hub

Jon: So you're here with a focus on bicycles, bicycle repairs, is that

Patrick: Yes so here Friday morning from 10 to 12, with Danson, my colleague. We do a bike workshop. The idea being that people come along, so either they bring their own bike which is in need of a bit of a fix or else they can come along and they can buy one of our bikes that are also in need a fix. But the idea is that they use the spanners, they put their hands in the grease, they do the work and basically we guide them along.

Jon: Where do you get your bikes from?

Patrick: Yeh, so the bikes, they come from a variety of sources. So we get them from the dump, we get them... no... but there's people throw away the bikes. We get lots of vintage bikes. We also work a bit with Ti Recup as well, and there's people who come by who say listen... I've a few bikes lying around in the garage, they're collecting dust, we can drop them off, and people drop off bits and pieces, sometimes tools. We're always looking for tools. If anyone has a bike stand that's also gathering dust we would be very keen to have a bike stand.

Jon: And you also make bespoke ...haha ...nice bicycle pun... bicycle saddles and bags.

Patrick: So that's my professional activity. I sew bike bags, yeh, I have 4 or 5 models. Little saddle bags, handle bar bags.

Jon: So in what material?

Patrick: It's a mix of fabrics, all of them are basically from the circular economy, so at the minute I'm using a lot of Seerey from Ghee Cotton. It's the waterproof fabric, that you'd see a lot in the sailor's clothing, so it's called Seeray in french. It's a waxed synthetic material. I'm using that a lot at the minute. I use Cordura, I use a bit of Expack.... it's a mix of materials, but the idea is that they all come from the circular economy ...err

Jon: What exactly is the circular economy?

Patrick: So it's called Up-cycling as well. So the circular economy is these items aren't new necessarily, or they are the offcuts from factories, or I get them from charity shops and basically then I deal with transforming them from this material into something new.

Jon: So as well as cycling you're into recycling.

Patrick: Yep, ... very good, very good...

Jon: So Patrick how long have you been in Brittany?



Patrick: I've been here, we arrived last June.

Jon: And what brought you here?

Patrick: Well a few reasons....we were living in Lyon before and we were looking to get out of the city We were looking for an area we could know our neighbours, where we could maybe insert ourselves into the local fabric, into the local society and we were looking for an area where the climate was more benign as well.

Jon: Ok so thank you very much Patrick. Before we go through what is your website called?

Patrick: It's called lerouquiniroule.com ...it means the red head that rides, because I have a certain reddish tint to my hair.

Jon: I have noticed. Thank you very much Patrick.

Patrick: Thank you.