

## **Rob interviewing Alan Kloareg, President of Radio Kreiz Breiz**

Alan Kloareg: The project is to allow the people of Kreiz Breiz, and also the Monts d'Arrée and Trégor, to have their own media and to speak freely, as freely as they can, about themselves first, and about the world and in all the languages that are present on this area. So, Breton is a big part of it, French of course, and English, with what we are doing now – there's some English, I hope there could be more, but still, what we are doing now is a very big symbol, because of course, well the English-speaking community is quite strong around here, so it's also their media and it's very important to us that it can continue to be a link within the community of English-speaking people around here.

Rob Millar: A few facts and figures. How long has the RKB been going?

Alan: It started as a radio in '83, but the project was from previous projects, the big one was [???], which started in '78, and it was a magazine that was on radio cassettes that were sent to the farms, because it was mainly a farming area, and so a few of those projects came together and built the radio in '83.

Rob: And how many people are involved now? I mean, you certainly have some people who are salaried?

Alan: Yes, so it's around five people working daily, and then around the radio there's, let's say, 20 volunteers that are seen on a regular basis, people who are making emissions on the radio, but also people, as myself, who are trying to make the radio work as it should and think about how it could evolve, also to make the people of this area speak and tell us what they do and what they want for the future of this region, which is lovely.

Rob: Indeed. We're speaking here in Rostrenen. You've recently moved at the beginning of the year, to Rostrenen.

Alan: The radio was built in St. Nicodème, and, yes, one of the big steps that happened this year was we moved from St. Nicodème, partly in Guingamp – the idea of going to Guingamp was to be closer to the coast and the people living on the coast, because they are also listening to Radio Kreiz Breiz, and it was important to us that they could reach us more freely – and we moved the main studios, we moved to Rostrenen. There were two main reasons. The first one was technical reasons, the internet, the web was not as strong in St. Nicodème as it is Rostrenen, and the second reason, which is probably more important, it also to facilitate the people, the volunteers coming to the radio. It is easier, Rostrenen is a bigger town, there's markets, there's more life in Rostrenen than there was in St. Nicodème, so it's easier also for the people working in the radio to be part of a bigger project, 'cause we integrated our structure with other associations around and that's great too, to bring a project together.

Rob: Because on the first and second floor there are other associations that are local ...

Alan: Yeah, local, working mainly on cultural and language stuff. Out of my head, there's one that is left for me that is the festival around art in Rostrenen, Callac and, I think, Botmeur. The festival is called "In-Cité." There's another one coming, which is Champs d'Expression. There's also la Fiselerie, which they make a festival around music and dance at the end of August in Rostrenen, le Festival Fisel, and they also work with the Vieilles Charrues, so those are the big structures here, but there's also an office for Dastume, and office for [???], which is around the Breton language in this area too. BCD, which is around also the language and the culture. Well, there's a lot of people working here. The idea is to federate, to bring people together, to be stronger together and more imaginative, more creative, too. And, it's, so far, it's going really well.

Rob: And, is your background in radio-journalism?

Alan: Not at all. Actually, my background is in agricultural economics.

Rob: What brought you to the presidency, then?

Alan: Well, I was teaching in Breton – so, Breton is a big part of my life, and it's also a big part of the radio. I was teaching social economics, so I think it's very important, the medias in general and Radio Kreiz Breiz in particular. It's also a tool for democracy and that's what I think, well, I hope to accomplish a bit, with the help of everybody in Radio Kreiz Breiz. Also to say that the radio is a tool for people to make up their mind and speak their mind and it's important that we should speak together and tell honestly what we think, because it's important for society in general, and, moreover, in a democracy, it's real important, and it's important that this role of the medias would be strengthened.

Rob: Now I understand that you're not only French.

Alan: I'm not. I'm French, Breton and European of course, but I was born, actually, in the United States, on the west coast, in Oregon. My dad had a job there with a marine biologist, and so he went there, and I happened to be born in Corvallis in Oregon.

Rob: And so you follow what's going on in the States as much as you do what's going on ...

Alan: Sometimes more, actually. Yeah, I like to follow the medias in the States. It's quite interesting, yeah.

Rob: Well, it's been great. Thanks very much indeed, Alan Kloareg.

Alan: It's a pleasure and, again, what you do here is very important for all the listeners of Radio Kreiz Breiz. I know my mum, which is very fond of English, is listening and she really appreciates a Spotlight on Brittany.



Rob: Well, that's a nice way to finish the interview. Thanks very much indeed for your time, Alan.

Alan: It's a pleasure.