



Sue interviewing Silvia Wigger in Duault

Sue:
I'm with Silvia here in Central Brittany. Hello Silvia.

Silvia:
Hello Susan.

Sue:
Can you tell us where you're from?

Silvia:
Yes, I'm from Germany near Frankfurt.

Sue:
And what are you doing here in Central Brittany?

Silvia:
Oh I live my dream I would say. We just, well last year we bought a house here at the moment its only well for the holidays and our plan is to live here in well 4 years I hope.

Sue:
So you're working at the moment are you?

Silvia:
Yes

Sue:
Full time in Germany?

Silvia:
Yes, right.

Sue:
And what do you do?

Silvia:
I'm a teacher. I'm a teacher for English and Spanish.

Sue:
So you're hoping to retire in 4 years?

Silvia:
Yes right

Sue:
And then when you've retired what would you like to happen?

Silvia:
Oh my God, first thing is of course I would like to come here and stay here so that I don't have to go home after several weeks, and live my life here. And then I hope to have more time for my second job or my biggest hobby because I do embroidery and make bags and things like that.

Sue:
What do you make your bags from?

Silvia:
Mostly I use felt, but I also use leather and then I do make embroidery on it. I have lots of motifs and people can also give me for example a picture they have and I make an embroidery from it. So I can do whatever people want to have.

Sue:
How long have you been doing this?

Silvia:
Four years, five years now I think.

Sue:
So did it start as a hobby?

Silvia:
Yes it started more than 5 years ago as a hobby, but about 5 years ago I started a little business from it.

Sue:
And how do you run your business?

Silvia:
Mostly I go to small markets around the place where I live of course. And then people come and see things and buy them there and after the markets they can call me and say I'd like to have another bag for a friend of mine for example and I have a little site on the

internet too where I present my things so you can write me if you see something you'd like to have.

Sue:
And what's the name of this site?

Silvia:
It's Miss Pennymoney.de

Sue:
Are you anything to do with James Bond?

Silvia:
I love James Bond. And I always thought that if one day I have a business or do something on the internet I'm not Miss Money penny but I will be Miss Pennymoney. I don't know why but the idea was always in my head.

Sue:
Is it mainly handbags you make?

Silvia:
Yes, mainly handbags, purses and if you need something for a laptop or for your mobile phone all these things. I also do things for children, babies and well you should have a look on the site because there are so many things I have a lot of ideas and I always try to find something new and

Sue:
So this is something that you want to do when you've retired, more of is it?

Silvia:
Yes absolutely. That's why we bought a house that has enough space for a big Miss Pennymoney room where I can put all my machines and all my material and run the business from here yes.

Sue:
Tell me a bit more about how you came to be in Brittany.

Silvia:
Well I always loved France because I studied not only English and Spanish, also French and I loved France and I did a lot of holidays in France and all over France. But my husband, his family comes from Brittany but a long time ago, so there's nobody else,

nobody living here now. and we always had the idea one day we go to Brittany and have a, do a little tour. And 2 years ago there was this hot summer and Brittany was rather nice temperature there. So we decided that's the year to go here. Well we came here after 2, 3 weeks we said why couldn't we stay here forever. So this idea was born. And when we went home again I started looking for a house and 6 months later I found it and now we are here.

Sue:

Did you find it on the internet?

Silvia:

Yes I found it on the internet. I saw the photos and I knew this could be our house. It was after Christmas and so on the Saturday evening I said to my husband well you know what I do, tomorrow morning I go to Brittany have a look at the house

Sue:

Just like that ...

Silvia:

Just like that. My husband say really? I say yes I'm going to pack some things and tomorrow morning I start, He said OK I know my wife so go and have fun. And I came here, I had a look at the house and 2 days later I sent all the photos to my husband and I said I found it. You can be sure that's our house. He saw the photos and well, if you say everything's fine then we are going to buy it. He didn't even see it before we bought it.

Sue:

He trusted you.

Silvia:

Yes he trusted me. When he finally came and saw it the first time he said yes you were right. It's perfect for us. We wanted something quiet with a lot of greenery around and so here in Central Brittany it's perfect, just perfect for us.

Sue:

That's lovely. I haven't come across many German people who come to Brittany and buy a holiday home. I'm used to lots of British people who do that here.

Silvia:

Yes well of course for British people it's not far away.

Sue:

It's quite a long way for you to come isn't it.

Silvia:

Yes because we have, it's about 1100 kilometres so we need 12 hours normally, 11 or 12 hours, that's quite far, and I think that's because there are not too many Germans who buy a house here.

Sue:

It's a long way

Silvia:

It's a long way, yes. But Germans like Brittany, they do but of course the long way and most people say it's bad weather here. Well it depends on what you expect, I mean if you have 2 or 3 weeks in summer you want to have sun be safe talking about the weather then perhaps Brittany is not the best choice. I mean last year we had a perfect summer here several weeks of sunshine and warm temperatures, this year is not that good but I mean we like that. Perhaps that's why you don't find too many German people here. And we had help. There was a woman, Edwina, and she is French but she lived and studied in Germany and she made a business here to help Germans who want to have a house in Brittany. And so she, I found her on the internet too, and I called when I found the house and I perhaps you could help us so of course she came and she did everything for us. That was really a big help. My French is good and I could have done it in french but buying a house and knowing all the laws and the details if you are not here and you have to do everything from far away it's not too easy so I was glad she helped us.

Sue:

And have you met your neighbours?

Silvia:

Yes, I've got lovely neighbours really. There's only 1 house near us because we wanted to have something bit outside and 2 houses ours and the neighbours, and she's lovely. It's a lady with her daughter and the daughter and her husband and 2 children, they live there. And she helped us a lot. When we had a question or we needed someone to fix something in the house I can always ask her and she knows everybody because she was born here and it's very good to have someone nearby.

Sue:

Tell me about the name of your house.



Silvia:

Oh yes, that's lovely name. It's Le Petit Chateau. I love the name now we have a chateau, it's a normal house, it's a very lovely house it's a typical Brittany house with stones and it's really beautiful but it's not a chateau, no it's just a normal house.

Sue:

But you have your own little chateau, petit chateau.

Silvia:

Le Petit Chateau. We have our little chateau,

Sue:

Thank you very much.

Silvia:

You're welcome.

Sue:

And I hope you continue to enjoy your petit chateau in Brittany

Silvia:

Yes thank you very much. I'm sure we will.