

Michelle interviews : Cathy from Laniscat Library

Michelle: I'm here in Laniscat library with Cathy, who runs it. Hi, Cathy. Welcome to Spotlight on Brittany.

Cathy: Hi.

Michelle: Could you tell us a little bit about yourself.

Cathy: Yes, of course. Well I'm um, I'm a French Canadian. I'm a Mum of four. Er, youngest is three. Oldest is 14. And um I'm married with a French man from the north of France. And er, well, we live two years in the north of France, and we moved to Scotland for eight years, and then back to Brittany for nearly nine years now.

Michelle: Okay, why did you come to Brittany?

Cathy: Well, after eight years, my husband lost his job in the UK, and it was kind of time we needed to move. We wanted to move for a while. Er, obviously, the weather in Scotland is not terrible. We really wanted to move from there, and it was like the opportunity that we just took. So we moved to Mellionnec at first, and then we looked for houses to rent. And the first we found was in Laniscat. So that's us.

Michelle: Excellent. And when did you start at the library?

Cathy: Er, it was about four or five years ago. Er, Cathy, which was there before me, she she wanted to, you know, just stop and have someone else to do it for her. So I jumped on the opportunity. And since I was already working at the Mairie it was kind of obvious, you know, it was a continuity of my work. So,

Michelle: And can you tell us about any projects you got coming up or currently?

Cathy: Yeah, well, projects, I, Um, I've started an English section of books. I've asked people to make donation of English books so I could put some novels in there. Obviously, there is quite a lot of English speaking people around here, so I thought it was the it was a good thing for for us to have some English books in here. And then I'm trying to do some bit of animation, because obviously, there's not a lot going on in Laniscat, so I thought we need to do something about that. So, er for example, last Christmas, no two Christmas ago, there was a theme going on in the, well, the the village. It was the Nutcracker. If you've seen maybe the decorations. We've made decorations around the three villages, Laniscat, Perret and and Saint- Gelven. And so I

just, we we did some craft around Nutcracker with the kids. And er also a storybook, you know, the Nutcracker we saw, that was um an audio book that I've put on, what else? I was looking to do, like games afternoons or afternoon with games um for the kids. But not only for the kids. I was trying really to reach at first, the teenagers, but it's really difficult to reach them. Um, so I was looking for funds to do that, because we didn't have any games here. Er, so I looked online, and I found that scheme called Grandir en Milieu Rural, which is made by the MSA. Um, and they kind of, they can pay up to 80% of the bill if you give them like the good, good project for kids or for people in villages. So well, I've put it on paper, I've sent it, and they approved my first project about like a year and a half ago, which is to buy a Nintendo Switch, some games for it, a new computer for our benevole here at the library, and a couple of games, er board games. And then from there I did, around Christmas, I did the first game afternoon, and er it was a success. The library was full, actually too full. So I thought, well, next time, we need to do it somewhere else. So we did it at the Maison des Associations here in Laniscat. But again, it was too small. We were really crowded. So, I saw that there really was a need for more days like this, or more afternoon we are totally free. We even, the Mairie is paying for snacks and drinks, which is really great. So I was looking for more games, because obviously I saw that there was younger kids that were coming in the I didn't have anything for them. We needed, like toys and maybe games for older people as well. So again, I checked online, and actually the MSA opened another slot for that scheme, so I sent another project er with more details about er one needed needing more games for younger kids. And they approved again. So we did buy quite a lot of board games and toys as well. It was about two months ago. And now, so I did yesterday, actually, which is, which was the 16th of April, we did our first afternoon games, with all those new, brand new board games, and the Nintendo Nintendo Switch was there as well for the little geeks.

Michelle: And how did it go?

Cathy: It was brilliant. Actually, it was in the Salle des Fêtes, and there was about 30 person that came up. It was great. We had a good time. Everybody was really excited. And they were all asking, "When are you doing that again?" So

Michelle: Great stuff.

Cathy: Yeah great.

Michelle: And you mentioned the Mairie donating money for snacks and things. Has the Mairie been very supportive

Claire: Yeah.

Michelle: Of all your projects?

Cathy: Really. It's really great because every time I have an idea, they really follow me into that. And they never say no, really. Er, obviously, I have a good relation with my colleagues, because I work there at the Mairie. So, er, every time I ask for something, they kind of, "yeah, go on and"

Michelle: That's amazing.

Cathy: "Just do it." So for example, I saw that we're missing some places to just have a coffee or a drink in the area. So I've put a coffee machine and tea, well our kettle here, now at the the library, and we've put two metal tables and chairs outside for when it's sunny. Well, so now we have, like, four spaces worth for outside. And they just said, "Yeah, go on, take it." And and it's great, you know. So we'll, we'll actually have some exposition going going on as well at the library very soon. So I needed fixation for this exposition. So they just bought it, actually, today. So we will receive that very soon. And then um I contacted photo club of the AI KB, actually, they will probably come here and do an expo. So it's really, I mean, coming on and I'm very happy.

Michelle: Fantastic. You've got quite a hub going here, haven't you.

Cathy: Yeah, yeah, really,

Michelle: Brilliant. So where can our listeners find out more about what you're doing?

Cathy: Well, er the only place you can find info is on the Facebook page, which is, it's called er Bibliothèque de, Bibliothèque Municipale de Bon Repos sur Blavet, good luck with that! Er

Michelle: Maybe they could just search Bibliotheque.

Cathy: Yes,

Michelle: Laniscat.

Cathy: Of course, they will find us. And otherwise, they can come and ask me at the Mairie in Laniscat. I'm always there because I work, I work at the post office there every morning except Wednesday, so you can come and see me and have a chat, and I can talk to you about the library.

Michelle: So you're in the er post office?

Cathy: Yeah, post office.

Michelle: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

Cathy: And Saturday too.

Michelle: And Saturday.

Cathy: Yeah.

Michelle: Okay, so from nine till?

Cathy: Nine till half past noon, except on Saturday it's noon.

Michelle: Okay.

Cathy: I close afternoon.

Michelle: And what are the library opening hours?

Cathy: It's er every Wednesday, from two to half past three, and then Saturday morning, from half past 10 and until noon. And I'm very happy to say that we have lots of benevoles that will happily be there to say hi and talk to you and.

Michelle: Help out.

Cathy: I'm not alone. You know. We are about nine benevoles now that's so it's great.

Michelle: Nine volunteers, wow.

Cathy: Yeah, nine, nine volunteers, and it's a great team. So I'm very.

Michelle: That's great. And so, this will be, the the um games afternoon will run in conjunction with the library opening hours?

Cathy: Yeah. It's not, it's, well I'm trying not to do it at the same time, obviously.

Michelle: OK.

Cathy: I can't be at the same, I mean two spots.

Michelle: Two places at once.

Cathy: Exactly. Er, and I'm trying to do that at least once every school holidays.

Michelle: OK.

Cathy: So next time during the big holidays this summer, I don't know when, but look up for

Michelle: Hopefully there will be an update on the Facebook page.

Cathy: Exactly.

Michelle: Great stuff. Okay Cathy, thank you so much for your time.

Cathy: You're welcome.