

Elaine speaks to: Kate Bakker about Wendy Mewes' talk on the Marches of Brittany

Elaine: So Kate you've just like me enjoyed very much Wendy's presentation. Can you tell me particularly why, what made it so special and interesting?

Kate: Well, it's very interesting because I have never liked history ever since I was a little girl, it's never my thing, I didn't understand really the relevance of history 'til today. Umm, Wendy's talk apart from the fact that I'm living in Brittany and I thought shall I come, shan't I come. But I thought now I'm here in Brittany and she held my attention the entire way through, I wanted to know more. She gave us snippets, she didn't read from a script, it was absolutely superb and I really wanted to know, oh I want to know more about that, I want to know more about that, and I wanted her to go on and on to be quite honest because there was so much that she hasn't told us, so much that she can tell us, and things I had no idea about here in Brittany and the flag and certain things that perhaps you don't mention to people here to real Bretons and I've always thought Brittany it should be for the Bretons, it's their culture now I want to know more about perhaps why that isn't the case and neither did I know that it wasn't always Brittany, so I've learned a huge amount today, I really have.

Elaine: She started early with the 9th century.

Kate: Yeah, really.

Elaine: Then took us to the 14th. And that is literally further back than we go in English history even.

Kate: Oh absolutely.

Elaine: It's that whoah! there's so pre medieval

Kate: Absolutely, it really is. But I always thought it was and always has been Brittany and then just France. To me it was very simplistic. Brittany used to be Brittany, France came in and that was the end of it. But there is so, so much more to it, so much more. I didn't know anything about the marches, anything like that, incredible, really a super talk.

Elaine: Well I have to say as I said to Wendy just now, I love her anecdotes, you know she manages to bring something with her funny little stories, which is why I remembered the one about some guy who had to get married and he didn't want to particularly and he jumps out the window and gets off and they pursue him, it might have been the other way round the woman, but it was so much, she just so casually drops these stories in.

Kate: Yes, she does, she really does, which holds your interest and then she goes onto something else she wants to tell you more and she can tell you more, but no we're moving on to another century and the fact that she took it century by century but obviously there's masses that's gone on in those centuries. It just made me want to learn more, made me actually want to listen more to Wendy because she has such a wonderful way of presenting this, of talking, of holding your interest in a way that you know I have never actually experienced before in history.

Elaine: Well I'm just absolutely blown over by the amount of time she must spend researching and digging up all these wonderful stories and facts, and it's such a passion and I think her passion comes across to all of us, all sitting there listening, holding on every word.

Kate: Yeah. Her knowledge is just amazing, absolutely amazing, but the fact that she also mentions obviously she's very well known in Brittany because she says she's getting these threats and things because of her beliefs and what she's saying presumably, things like that I think my word is that happening now, you know, is that really to somebody like Wendy who is an English, sorry Welsh, who is a Welsh person here in Brittany who probably knows much much more about the history than your average person that lives here.

Elaine: I think it's important as you say if you're living here to look into the history and then you can recognise why people are as they are.

Kate: Yeah, yeah, The very thing that I didn't like when I was younger but now I need to know, now I'm quite passionate about it, yes. So roll on Wendy's next talk whenever that may be.

Elaine: Thank you very much, Kate.

Kate: You're very welcome.