

Author finds inspiration in Collioure



British children's writer and education specialist, Daniel Britton, planned a winter retreat in the region to work on his books and escape the British winter, but quickly fell in love with the unique ambience of Collioure in the Pyrénées Orientales.

asw: What brought you to Collioure?

DB: I have been structuring my working life so that through the internet, virtual offices and services such as Skype, I am able to live and work almost anywhere. I spend most of my time as a children's writer with other business interests based online.

Having set things up this way, I was able to realise a long held dream to live and work in the South of France. A friend of a friend had a holiday apartment which was going to be empty over the winter months and it turned out that I could live in France for less than I might spend in the UK.

asw: How long have you lived here in France?

DB: I arrived in mid October, having driven right through the middle of France. My plan was to stay until Easter but I'm now considering something more permanent.

asw: How do you spend your days?

DB: I work hard at structuring my time; otherwise I could easily slip into holiday mode. I start the day with a run or take my dog

Lara for a good walk. She loves the Boulangerie and often stops to see if a kind soul may spare her a bite of a croissant!

The rest of the day I am usually glued to my keyboard, writing articles, marketing activities and developing my Financial Fairy Tales stories.

I love taking time off however to explore the region and spend a little time to enjoy the fresh air and spectacular scenery.

I've also enrolled in a French speaking class. I had a smattering of French before I came, but wanted to develop my conversational skills so I could understand and be understood more easily.

asw: Have you found inspiration for your writing in Languedoc-Roussillon?

DB: Very much so. I love the peace and tranquillity of Collioure, although I understand from the locals that it changes in summer! There is undoubtedly something special about the light and the combination of sea and mountains, which has inspired artists for years. A writer could be described as an artist who uses words to paint pictures. Forthcoming books will feature many locally inspired scenes including a windmill, vineyards and an old bridge.

asw: What are your books about?

DB: I have had previous careers as a financial adviser, teacher and education consultant and I combine the experience from these to write books, which introduce children to money and financial principles. I call them The Financial Fairy Tales as they take the form of traditional fairy stories but with an embedded financial theme such as saving, investment or entrepreneurship.

They are all set in a mythical land called Argent, which of course is French for money, so it seems appropriate to develop some of the stories here.

asw: What do you like best about living here in Languedoc-Roussillon?

DB: Considering the weather that the UK has had this winter, I'm tempted to say the climate! In all seriousness, the ability to spend part of everyday outside and see some sunshine is something I am grateful for. I really enjoy simple things too, like a fresh croissant with my coffee on a Saturday morning, seeing the snow capped Canigou Mountain framed against a clear blue sky and the ability to see and hear the Mediterranean every day.

The people also have been very welcoming. I'm extremely fortunate to have some lovely neighbours who have looked after me and made me feel part of their community.

Dreams Can Come True is the first in the Financial Fairy Tales series published by Authorhouse Books.

For more information on Daniel or his work please visit www.thefinancialfairytales.com