

# 103W Congrès de Printemps

I together with Peter was proud to represent 105SW at the Congrès de Printemps, the Spring Convention of our twin District of 103W, at St Brieuc.

After a rough overnight ferry crossing from Plymouth to Roscoff, we arrived at our hotel at Plerin, and met up with the District Governor Lion Marie-Hélène Rémi and her Cabinet members and joined them for lunch.

We then had a few hours to recover and then attended the Tree planting which is traditionally performed for each Convention. This was followed by a reception hosted by the Mayor of St Brieuc. After which we returned to the hotel to change for the Gala Dinner, this was a typical French meal with a different wine with each course. During the evening there was music with a singer, who then proceeded to get attendees up to the front to make up a choir who sang popular songs. It was certainly strange to hear these well known songs sung in French. Peter kept breaking out with the English version!

Then we were all taught the French version of the Gay Gordons, which was fine, except we had to remember not to dance with our normal moves.

We retired at midnight, for an early start the next morning at we had to go to St Brieuc for the Congrès which started at 8.30 am

There were four workshop during the morning which covered Communication, which covered how to communicate both within the organisation, between Clubs and the Outside world; Ethics and Protocol, covering how our Ethics assist Clubs to function within the ethos of Lionism and how to promote Lionism to others; Vitality of Clubs, this promoted the interest and how to keep the life blood of Clubs in good standing and keep the interest of members, by refreshing old activities; Projects of Lionism, looked at the different projects that Lions are involved with, both locally, nationally and internationally and how we work with outside partners.

After lunch the Congrès resumed with the winner of the Lauréat du Concours d'Eloquence ( a Speaking context for youngsters) when the young lady delivered an excellent speech in beautiful clear French, which even I could appreciate.

Then it was my turn! I with the assistance of Pierre Wallet (their IRO) delivered a short speech, half in French and English, Pierre then translated my English into French and my French into English! Everyone said how nice that was and it had made them stop and listen, and felt that it had lightened the afternoon.

I was then presented with a cheque for €1,500.00 for the Joint Humanitarian Aid Project.

The photo shows the Treasurer Lion Philippe Oger and District Governor Marie- Hélène Rémi presenting the cheque to me.



The International Guest, Pierre Gerondal from Brussels then addressed Congrès about Lions in the 21st Century. He felt that new Clubs were not the answer for the future, but new members, and to be able to keep those who join. (I had already found that they do not have a probationary period before they badge up new members, and very often they are badged up at their first meeting).

Finally District Governor Elect Lion Jean- Maurice Coudré (they have their elections at their Congrès d'automne) presented his Cabinet and outlined his plans for the forthcoming year. This featured improved communication between all and promotion of service to those in need.

It was really wonderful to be made so very welcome by all the friends we already knew and we made many new friends. The language barrier is no problem at all, as many of them speak English, and if there is a problem there is always someone close by who can assist.

A wonderful weekend and this is to be recommended.

Next year will be 40 years of this twinning, so hopefully some Lions from 105SW will be able to attend the Congrès de Printemps at Pornichet 30-31 March 2012.