

## International Liaison

BRITISH SOCIETY OF SCIENTIFIC GLASSBLOWERS

Annual Symposium 2011

September 8-10

This year the BSSG's symposium took place at The Quay Hotel & Spa in Deganwy, North Wales. The hotel was situated on Conwy Bay & our room looked out across the bay to Conwy Castle (13<sup>th</sup> century) as well as a view of the Irish Sea. It was an idyllic location. Gary & Mara Coyne joined my wife, Sherri & I on this trip.

The Mayor of Conwy, Councillor Mrs. Anne Roberts together with the BSSG Chairman, William Fludgate, opened the symposium. While the "companions" went on a tour of the walled town of Conwy, we attended a series of lectures. Dave Smith of Qioptiq Space Technology lectured on astrological telescope mirror fabrication & development of glasses used in the new 42 in. & Hubble telescopes. Next Andy Grey, also from Qioptiq Space Technology, spoke about glass manufacturing at Qioptiq's. He described some of the features of the space environment their components have to interact with & some of the more interesting missions they have been involved with. Gary Coyne who spoke about "Sodium Migration in Glass During Glass Forming" gave the final lecture of the day.

Following a delicious dinner of roast lamb, a Welsh men's choir entertained us. The Charity Auction followed with Ian Pearson as our enthusiastic auctioneer. The proceeds were donated to St Dunstan's, an organization that aids blind ex-Service men & women.

The second day of the Symposium saw the "companions" off on a daylong trip to the Trefriw Woollen Mills & the National Slate Museum. Meanwhile the glassblowers spent the entire day observing demonstrations, attending the AGM & speaking with exhibitors. They were Herbert Arnold GmbH & Co., Enterprise Q Ltd., GPE Scientific Ltd., Jepson Bolton & Co. Ltd., Schott UK Ltd., Scientific Glass Laboratories Ltd., Scilabware Limited, Smith Scientific Ltd., & Yorlab. Overseas attendees included Dimitre Atanassov from Italy, Keith Holden from New Zealand, Kon Kraft from Germany & of course Gary Coyne from the U.S.A. & myself from Canada. The day concluded with the Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Legge