

PASSION TRUST

EUROPASSION CONGRESS 2014

This year's Europassion Congress took place in Loudeac, Brittany, from 1st-4th May. Twelve people from England and Scotland attended with the Passion Trust and the Passion Plays represented were from Abingdon, Birmingham, Croydon¹, Edinburgh and Poole.

We were welcomed with a supper of sausages, crepes, Breton beer and Breton dancing to the sounds of the biniou and bombarde (similar to bagpipes and oboes). Everyone was welcomed not only to Loudeac, but to join in the dancing as well!



The following day was a tour to some churches and UNESCO sites in Brittany and a chance to meet other Passion-Play people from around Europe. We visited the UNESCO-listed parish enclosures of Finistère (including Guimiliau), which were located around the cemetery of the church and included the church, charnel-house and Calvary. The Calvary is a granite monument with Christ on the Cross and other people and events from the Passion. Photos of the Passion engraved in stone are below.

We also visited the Cote de Granit Rose and had lunch before heading back for the official reception by the Mayor.

¹ Croydon has a 'musical drama re-enacting the Crucifixion and passion procession' rather than a passion play.

In his introduction to the Loudeac Passion Play, the Mayor said:



[It was] written by the Abbot ROBIN, on the eve of the Great War who will sink our continent in mankind's murderous madness, this show of the Passion should also remind us about the universal message of Peace and Love, passed to us by the Christ! Proper representative of this friendship between people, the Europassion has become a wonderful melting-pot to unite your strengths and keep on making live Christian faith throughout all Europe!

During the Europassion Congress the next day, the president, Alain Guillaume, said:

We are proud, because those international exchanges allow us to build a more diversified Europe than we often think it is. It's a mistake to confine Europe only in a political or economic frame...Our duty, or should I say the reason we are, consist in conveying what our ancestors left to us. Convey, not only our cultural and artistic patrimony inspired by 2000 years of Christianity, but also and especially our faith in the Lord Christ...Here is traced the way of our future action, the way of testimony. To men of our time who lack reference points, who often have doubts, we humbly answer what said Bernadette Soubirous to her priest in Lourdes who doubted about the apparitions; "I'm not in charge of making you believe in it, I'm in charge of telling you". Our theatrical expression through our Passions, allows us to proclaim in this Pascal season: "Christ is alive, he is resurrected, Hallelujah!"

The Europassion general assembly also warmly welcomed The Poole Passion to the Europassion community – the first English Passion Play to become an official member! This was followed by a performance of the Passion of Loudeac, a traditional performance in the Palais de Congress. The play was performed by the people of Loudeac using their original script and an exhibition outside looked back to the last time the Europassion was welcomed to the city in 1982.

You can see more photographs and find the talks from the conference at <http://www.lassalle-photographe.fr/photoeuropassion.html>.