



Carte de Séjour – Irène And Terry at Quimper

Rob We've just stepped out of the Préfecture in Quimper, with Terry and Irene. Terry, what was all that meeting about, then? What did you have to do?

Terry It was very straightforward, much more so than I thought it would be. We had to provide proof of our identity, our residence here, our proof of earnings - presumably to show that we can support ourselves – and it was a very straightforward process.

Rob How did you feel about the meeting before it took place, Irene?

Irene I was very worried about it because my French is not good, so that did bother me. But we took along an interpreter just in case and they were very happy about that, no problem. So it was a great relief.

Rob They didn't actually ask you about your French?

Irene No, not at all, no. We did get the feeling that she might have spoken a bit of English had we not had an interpreter, but because he was there then it all went very swimmingly. So thank you to our interpreter. (Laughs.)

Terry Yeah, very much so.

Rob Apart from handing in the documents, what else happened in there?

Irene I found the interviewer very friendly, very helpful, and she said that we would have to wait probably about six weeks before we heard that we would get our Carte de Séjour, and that would last for five years, which was more than, longer than I expected. And we had to give our fingerprints (laughs).

Rob So the card's good for five years. And what happens after five years?

Terry We have to re-apply, presumably with updated information, but it's a simple re-application process.

Rob And you have to wait now for the card to be processed?

Terry We have to wait six weeks, and they will telephone phone us to say, or write to us to say when it's ready, and we simply come here to collect it.

Rob How about cost?

Terry No cost.

Rob The Carte de Séjour didn't cost anything?

Terry No cost. Which is excellent.

Irene *C'est gratuit.*

Rob So the whole process has been done very quickly, very efficiently?

Terry Much more so than I anticipated. Much more so.

Rob There's been talk that it's difficult for British citizens to get their Carte de Sejour. Did you get this impression over there?

Terry That wasn't my impression at all. It seemed a very straightforward process. I had reservations about it, but I certainly wouldn't if I had to re-apply now.

Rob Thank you very much Terry and Irene O'Neill.

Terry Thank you.

