

## 80th anniversary Events and their Reports

2017 was the 80th anniversary of the evacuation from Bilbao and arrival in Southampton of the Basque *niños*, and their accompanying *maestras*, *asistentes* and priests - a total of almost 4,000 people.

For previous commemorations, the 70th and 75th, the association organised large scale events (More details on our web site: <http://www.basquechildren.org/activities/70anniversary> & <http://www.basquechildren.org/activities/75anniversary>) largely funded by the Basque and Spanish governments. This time, due to a reduced workforce, we did not have the manpower to make these very time-consuming grant applications, so we decided to take a reactive rather than a proactive role, and work together with others, rather than trying to do it all ourselves. As a result funding was somewhat of a problem throughout the anniversary year. However, the hard work, enthusiasm and generosity of our partner organisations and volunteer helpers resulted in us having one of our busiest years.

The invitations, interest and contacts we received were overwhelming - we were invited to contribute to festivals, exhibitions, talks, discussions, school's projects and workshops both here - in England Scotland and Wales and also in the Basque country. In some we played a major role, in others a lesser one. We also include other relevant events in which we had little or no input, but are all part of the commemorative year.

Simon Martinez (SM) and I shared the bulk of the work giving talks, taking part in discussions and setting up exhibitions. It was certainly very exhilarating to meet so many interested people, *niños* and their families. I have tried to remember and mention those who were involved, but through lack of space and memory I am bound to have forgotten some - please excuse me - we are all incredibly grateful for everyone who helped and gave us support.

The simplest thing is to go through month by month and highlight each event, with little more than its title, the briefest of descriptions and a photograph. Further details and reports can be accessed through the links attached to the event.

You may notice that there is no record here of TV, radio and newspaper articles – these are all listed on our website under <http://www.basquechildren.org/activities/2017newsevents>. In the near future we hope to produce a selected list which we will place on the website and refer you to in a future eNotices.

I hope that you enjoy looking through our anniversary calendar

Best wishes  
Carmen Kilner (CK)

### 30th March - CAMBRIDGE

*A Tale of Two Hostels*

We collaborated with Mike Levy of Keystage Arts and Heritage Ltd in this project by pupils of two schools on Basque and Kindertransport evacuees to Cambridge.

Herminio Martínez and CK worked with the schools.

A presentation event of the project by the two schools included our BCA'37 exhibition and a brief introduction by CK.



Herminio Martínez

## 22nd/23rd April

### *Football Welcomes!*

Amnesty International initiative supported by a range of Premier League clubs, the English Football League and the FA Women's Super League.

'Football Welcomes' - Clubs to celebrate contribution refugees have made to football

More details at: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/football-welcomes-clubs-celebrate-contribution-refugees-have-made-football-2223>.

## 24th April - LONDON

Launch of *Spanish Crossings* a novel by John Simmons.

This has received many excellent reviews and will soon be out in paperback.

Review at: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/spanishcrossingsreview>

## 27th April - SAN SEBASTIAN/DONOSTIA

XII. *Jornadas por el Derecho a la Educación: refugiados de ayer y de hoy* - Aula Magna de la Facultad de la Educación, Filosofía y Antropología, UPV/EHU Exposición- Centro Carlos Santamaría UPV/EHU. Invited talk by CK in Spanish.

Programme details: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/jornadasprogramme> & Exhibition details at: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/cartelexposicion>



Speakers & organisers of the study day

## 2nd May - BILBAO

British Council. Azkuna Zentroa

Talks to two groups of young students and discussion

CK and SM talk "*The Basque Children Evacuated to Great Britain (and something about my mother)*" by CK (in English).

CK, Simon Martinez,  
Rowan Hardman  
and Barbara Littlewood



## 4th May GERNIKA

Derek Doyle, British Consul in Bilbao, organised a visit to the *Casa de Juntas* to meet the *Presidenta de la Asamblea de Bizkaia*, Ana Otadui Biteri.



In the Casa de Juntas signing the Visitors of Honour book on behalf of BCA'37 UK  
Derek Doyle, British Consul in Bilbao, CK, Ana Otadui Biteri, Presidenta de la Asamblea de Bizkaia.

## 4th May - BILBAO

Euskadiko Artxibo Historikoa /  
Archivo Histórico de Euskadi en  
Bilbao.

*A Talk by CK in Spanish*

With Vicente Cañada, one of the  
niños de la guerra who returned  
to Bilbao.



## CK Visit to the Basque Country

Carmen Kilner's report on her visit and series of presentations in the Basque Country from 26 April to 5 May. Read more at: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/euskaditrip2017>

## 5th May - 30th June - BARAKALDO

Major series of events throughout the month organised by Koldobiko López Grandoso "Homenaje a las víctimas de la guerra civil". Exposición y programa de eventos.

### 5 mayo

Coloquio "*Los niños de la guerra 1937-2017: experiencias y visiones a lo largo de 80 años*"  
Cobertura de la primera presentación (1 hora 50 minutos). Euskera/castellano. Ver aquí:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdoQ65W\\_RnY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdoQ65W_RnY&feature=youtu.be)

### 13 mayo

"Acto de homenaje oficial" y concierto con "Schola Cantorum Barakaldo, y, Ruaille Buaille"  
View at: <https://youtu.be/MwO2a4-T3LA> and [https://youtu.be/\\_gNt7S\\_QBEA](https://youtu.be/_gNt7S_QBEA)

### 29 junio Barakaldo

Raimundo Perez Lezama, futbolista y niño. Película y discurso con su hijo y CK



CK with Koldo Lopez

CK, Orlando Saiz  
(representative of Athletic Club  
of Bilbao) and Raimundo Pérez  
Lezama's son - José Manuel  
Perez Ortiz de Mendibil



## 9th - 23rd May - EASTLEIGH (Hampshire)

Exhibition at Eastleigh Library of BCA'37 UK posters telling the history of the evacuation from Bilbao to Eastleigh in May 1937.

## 20th May - LANCING (W Sussex)

Plaque unveiling - Lancing Library, Penstone Park

Report by Jim Jump:

<http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/jimjumplancingplaque>



**28th May LONDON** Annual Comida for the *niños* and their families  
Attended by 100 people - *niños* and their families  
Manuel organised a raffle which raised £315 for the BCA'37UK.



**10th June - WHERSTEAD PARK (Suffolk)**

The East of England Co-op hosted an event to mark the 80th anniversary of the arrival of *niños* to Wherstead Park, 10th June 1938.

Unveiling of a plaque by Paco Robles, BCA'37 UK exhibition and talks by Adrian Bell, Ed Packard followed by a general discussion.



Adrian Bell

**18th June - 24th September - SALFORD (Greater Manchester)**

Exhibition at Ordsall Hall, Salford

*'In Search of the Basque Children in Salford and Eccles'* - a unique exhibition by Salford based conceptual artist Claire Hignett

More details at: <http://www.salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk/culture/whats-on/basque>

Report by Simon Martinez on the exhibition is at:  
<http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/exhibitionsalfordeccles>

This exhibition will again be open to the public in 2018.

**19th June – IPSWICH**

An Open Lecture by Dr Edward Packard, University of Suffolk

*'Our unfortunate little guests: The Basque Refugee Children in Suffolk, 1937-1939'*

BCA'37 UK exhibition



## 21st June - SOUTHAMPTON

'The Guernica Children' - Harbour Lights Picturehouse,

Showing of Steve Bowles' prize winning documentary, our exhibition and a discussion with a panel consisting of Steve Bowles, a contemporary refugee, SM and Mike Brown from CLEAR, a human-rights organisation working with asylum-seekers and refugees in Southampton today



Steve Bowles, SM and other participants

## 1st July - LONDON

IBMT's annual commemoration at the International Brigade memorial, located in Jubilee Gardens, on London's Southbank, SE1.

Speakers and performers this year include Michael Rosen, Maddy Carty Len McCluskey, Tosh McDonald, Hermino Martínez and Na-mara. Read more at:

<http://www.international-brigades.org.uk/content/1-july-london-0>

## 3rd July - 11th August BILBAO

Archivo Historico de Euskadi, Bilbao

Exposición 'La Caída de Bilbao, en Primer Plano'. Basque and Spanish

Full poster is at: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/triptico>

and more details here: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/erakusketabilbao>

## 9 July - SALFORD (Greater Manchester)

"The Story of the Basque Children of 1937" - Ordsall Hall, Salford

Talk by Simon Martinez

Event as part of an exhibition by artist Claire Hignett

View the full event details at:

<http://www.salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk/culture/whats-on/basque>

and a report by Barbara Coombs at:

<http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/basquechildrenmanchester>



## 10th July - CAERLEON (Nr Newport, Gwent)

Caerleon Arts Festival, 7th to 16th July

10th July is the 80th anniversary of the arrival of 56 Basque children to Caerleon and the Festival dedicated a whole day to commemorating this event. Organisers: Gail Giles and Chris Thomas

Talks by Hywel Davies, Eddie Butler and Carmen Kilner; films; a guided walk; our BCA'37 exhibition and a concert by Na-mara

Full poster here: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/caerleon2017>

Review by María Dolores (Lita) Power: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/caerleon2017>



Chris Thomas, Hywel Davies,  
Gail Giles, CK



Chris Thomas, CK,  
Eddie Butler and Gail Giles

**28th July - HULL 34 Pearson Park,**  
Plaque unveiling, showing of *'The Guernica Children'* and a talk by Manuel Moreno

SM, Mayor of Hull,  
Manuel Moreno



A review of this event by Barbara Coombs is at:  
<http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/hazeldenepearsonpark>

**31st July - 23rd August - BRIGHTON**  
University of Brighton Gallery, 58-67 Grand Parade, Brighton, BN2 0JY

*"Guernica Remakings"*. An exhibition curated by Dr Nicola Ashmore, exploring the ongoing power of Pablo Picasso's iconic painting Guernica (1937) through a display of contemporary reworkings.

More details are at: <http://guernicaremakings.com/exhibition-2017>

**28th August - 11th September - DUNDEE Dundee Central Library,**

Exhibition by BCA'37 of the evacuation of the Basque Children to Britain in 1937 with special reference to the colony at Montrose  
Report by Carmen Coupland at:  
<http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/dundee>



28th August: Opening event: Screening of *'The Guernica Children'*, followed by a Q&A session with Carmen Kilner.

More details are at: <http://www.leisureandculturedundee.com/event/23944>

**12th September CAERLEON**  
Talk by Gail Giles on *The Basque Children in Caerleon*

**6th October - EDINBURGH**  
The Jaffle Joint,, Edinburgh. Performances by Gallo Rojo and Na-Mara

**7th October - MONTROSE**  
The Neptune Bar, Montrose. Performances by Na-Mara and Gallo Rojo

Read this report in the Montrose & Dundee Courier at:

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/local/angus-mearns/521781/son-of-spanish-civil-war-refugee-retraces-his-fathers-footsteps-in-montrose>



Three sons of *niños*:  
SM, Koldo Sanz and  
Roberto García

**9th October - EDINBURGH Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival**  
The University of Edinburgh, showing of *"The Guernica Children"*

Followed by songs from Na-Mara and a discussion with descendants of the children - Simon Martinez, Koldo Sanz and Carmen Coupland

More information at:  
<https://www.edinburghspanishfilmfestival.com/en/films/the-guernica-children>



Na mara

## Edinburgh Event Applauded in the Scottish Parliament

"Following the success of the event in Edinburgh, there was a motion in the Scottish Parliament applauding and mentioning Gallo Rojo, Na-mara, Edinburgh Spanish film festival and our association." Read the text of the motion at:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance>  
and enter Reference Number: **S5M-07642**

## 28th October - KEIGHLEY Keighley Local Studies Library

*"Child Refugees Welcomed by Keighley 80 Years Ago in September 1937"*

A talk by Simon Martinez & John Birkbeck (grandson of Rev Balmer who was in charge of the colony)

More details at:

<http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/keighleytalk>

and in this article:

<https://www.keighleyonline.co.uk/community/news/959-exhibition-marks-80th-anniversary-of-basque-child-refugees-welcomed-to-keighley.html>

and in this blog:

<https://bradfordlocalstudies.wordpress.com/2017/11/03/spanish-civil-war-children-sought-refuge-in-keighley-and-bradford-in-1937>



Site of the Keighley colony



SM and John Birkbeck,  
grandson of Rev Balmer

## November LONDON

Open Age talk in North Kensington by Manuel Moreno

## 13th November LONDON

Kensington Library, talk by Manuel Moreno

## 16th November - LEICESTER

Evington Park House, Cordery Road, Leicester LE5 6DE, 7:00 pm

A talk by Richard Graves entitled, *"Evington Hall - Leicester's refuge from the Spanish Civil War"* was given at this meeting of the Evington Local History Society.

The talk was based on the following two articles which can be read in full here:

<http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/articles/gravesleicestershire>