

## Hull History Centre

The award winning Hull History Centre is the home for Hull City Archives, Hull Local Studies Library and Hull University Archives.

## Hull College Project

Gary Hammond came to Hull College to explore how best to support the unveiling of a commemorative monument to honour those people from Hull who fought in the Spanish Civil War, in the 1930s. At the time, our knowledge of the conflict was thin and so we set about working through the history and a wider context of the stories and artwork from the war. Working with Hull College's Illustration, Graphics and Photography degree students, Gary took them through the lives and the inspirational experience of those who joined the cause against the Fascist forces of General Franco and his German and Italian supporters.

Root causes were discussed and images from all over the world shared. The students worked hard to create their own interpretation. In three weeks of early mornings and long nights, the student's responses were terrific. By popular demand, a repeat at the Hull History Centre is now on.

Lucy Francis, Hull College

## The History Troupe

The History Troupe trawls local roots, heritage and futures to devise and deliver exhibitions, performances and workshops. Hull History Centre has staged our Hull, Port City exhibition.

## What's On?

All events are at Hull History Centre and are free entry.

### Spanish Civil War Study Day II 18th May II 13:30 – 16:30:

- 13:30 **Don Patricio: from Hull City to F.C. Barcelona II** A talk by Rob Bell on an Irish born Hull City footballer who became manager of F.C. Barcelona during the Spanish Civil War.
- 14:30 **Basque Children 37 Association for the Guernica children talk II** A talk from Manuel Moreno.
- 15:30 **Taking Sides: Posters from the Spanish Civil War II** A talk on posters from around the period of the conflict, by Dr. Marianne M Gilchrist.

**Nine Men and Frida II** 11th June II 12:30pm II  
Gary Hammond tells the story of the men and women commemorated in the recently established Hull Spanish Civil War Memorial.

**The Spanish Cockpit II** 15th June II 14:00 II  
A story of Hull's connections to the Spanish Civil War in words and song, told by The History Troupe Players, written by Rob Bell, with music from Dave Gawthorpe and Mick McGarry.

**HULL AND THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR!** Hull History Centre  
1st May – 6th July

hullhistorycentre.org.uk  
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Worship Street  
Hull,  
HU2 8BG



Exhibition opening times: Tues – Fri 9:30 – 17:30 | Saturday 4th + 18th May, 1st + 15th June, 6th July

# HULL AND THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR 1st May – 6th July

"Here lies half of Spain..." wrote Jose de Larra in 1836 "...it died of the other half" – as it was a century later. Alfonso XIII abdicated in 1931; a Republic was established and then from 1936–39 the International Brigade and others from the Popular Front, POUM and the CNT fought to defend the Spanish Republic against the Nationalist forces of General Francisco Franco.

Franco's forces were well supplied by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy; Spain being the laboratory to test military strategy ahead of the war to come. Meanwhile, the International Brigade from over 50 countries fought at Jarama, Guadalajara, Brunete, Belchite, Teruel, Aragon and the Ebro. Most of these ended in defeat. And yet, in Spain, this was less about Fascism and more about a return to a feudal society. There were nine men from Hull who went to Spain: four didn't make it back – Jack Atkinson, James Bentley, Morris Miller

and Robert Wardle. Five did – Dick Mortimer, Joe Latus, Sam Walters, Clive Smith and Bert Wilson (who had borrowed his brother's passport and was known as 'Leslie'). Frida Knight drove an ambulance to Spain. Then there was the Hull City player Patrick O'Connell who was manager of F.C. Barcelona during the conflict.

Hull, as a port city, had some part in supplying the war effort; as a home for children from the battle zone and, as a life changing cause for nine men and a woman from Hull fighting on the Republican side.

This *Hull and the Spanish Civil War Exhibition* at Hull History Centre features the core story from the Hull International Brigade Memorial Group; images from Hull College students inspired by the conflict; talks and performances on a range of related topics from The History Troupe, Gary Hammond and Manuel Moreno.



Above: A group including some of the volunteers who fought in Spain pictured in Hull's Pickering Park in the 1930s

*La noche se puso intima / como una pequeña plaza.*

*The night closed in / Like a small town square.*

Garcia Lorca, 1936.



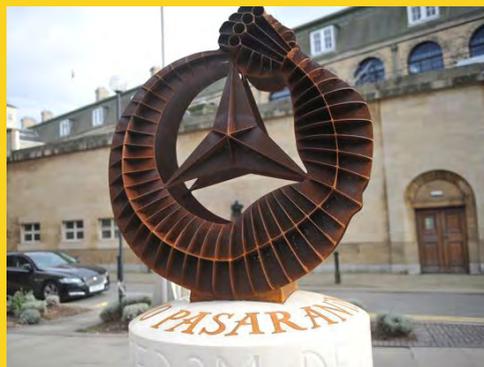
Above: Children from the Basque Country – many of whom found refuge in Hull during the war.



Left: Image taken from a poster of the period, here, the serpent is used as a symbol of Fascism



A poster from the Spanish Civil War



The Spanish Civil War memorial statue near the Guild Hall. Revealed to commemorate the 10 socialists from Hull, in March 2019.