



# Newsletter

## Basque Children of '37 Association UK



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[www.basquechildren.org](http://www.basquechildren.org)

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### News

## Southampton conference

by Padmini Broomfield

"Coming Home? Conflict and Return Migration in 20th century Europe", an international conference organised by the Modern Languages Department at the University of Southampton between 1 – 3 April 2009 marked the 70th anniversary of the official "end" of the Spanish Civil War.

The conference brought together over 70 researchers working on the themes of "return", "repatriation" and memories of exile from the perspective of several countries across Europe, Israel and the former Soviet Union. The papers explored the motivations, dreams, myths and realities of return, including concepts of statelessness and identity, while others considered representations of return in literature, theatre, art and film.

Keynote speakers were Alicia Alted Vigil from UNED, Madrid, and Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand from BDIC, Paris, who spoke about the experiences of the Spanish Civil War exiles. Other papers focussing on Spain considered the reactions to republican exiles "returning to die" in Franco's Spain during the 1950s and 60s, the role played by returning intellectuals such as architects and poets in post-war Spain and the differing welcome awarded to Spanish returnees from the Soviet Union during the Franco regime. Studies reflected the dilemmas faced by second generation exiles confronting their own sense of identity and political affiliations and the reluctance to integrate in the host country while dreaming of a return, often to an idealised home country.

## AGM and members' lunch

The annual general meeting of the Association took place on 21 February in the committee room at the Consejería de Trabajo e Inmigración in London. There were 14 people present and apologies from a further 10.



Natalia Benjamin speaks at the Southampton conference. Alicia Pozo-Gutiérrez looks on.

The Secretary, Natalia Benjamin, presented her report. After the excitement and preparation for the 70th anniversary celebrations the previous year, one might have expected a calmer year, but in fact it was a busy year with no shortage of activities, ranging from an art exhibition showing the work of two *niños*, both members, a talk by an eminent professor and a fiesta Viva la República, to the four day Homenaje to the Basque children put on in Bilbao by the Fundación Idi Ezkerra. In October, a seventh blue plaque was unveiled in Montrose, the only Basque children's colony in Scotland. Musician and son of a *niño*, Roberto García, composed a song about the *niños*, appropriately called "Solo Por Tres Meses".

Treasurer Carmen Kilner reported that the accounts were in a healthy state (see summary of accounts, page 5) Carmen has also been Membership Secretary for some years, and decided to step down from that

position. Gerald Hoare, a member whose mother was a *maestra* in Southampton, was voted in. Carmen was thanked for her work as Membership Secretary.

After the meeting, the Members' Lunch was held at the Mall Tavern in Notting Hill Gate.

## Mantener la memoria: Presentación del libro 'Echoes of Spain'

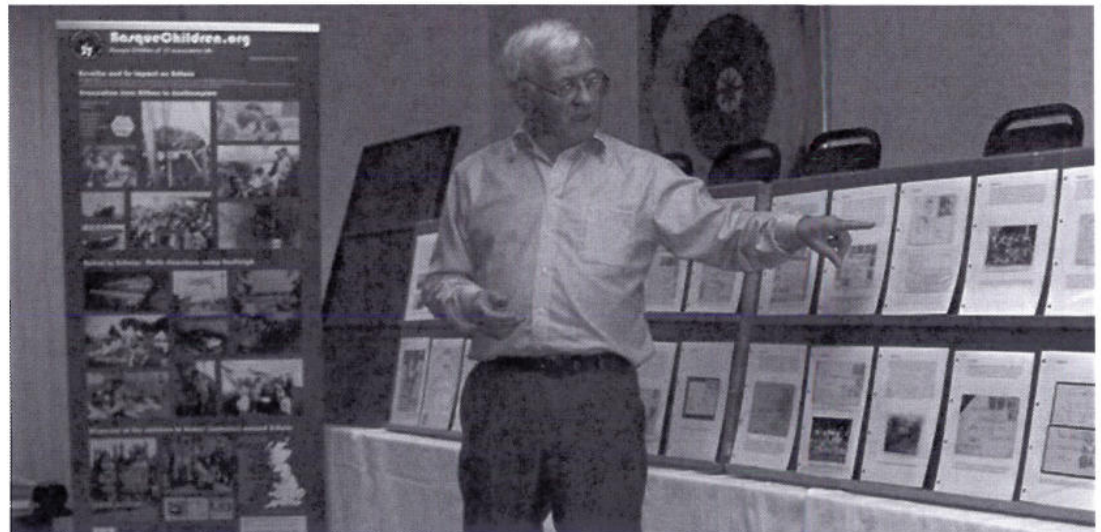
por Jesús Nieto

Vaya por delante que no pretendo hacer aquí una crítica del, por otro lado excelente, libro que sirve de guía al mosaico del mismo título instalado hace ya algunos años en Portobello Road. Quisiera que estas palabras rindieran homenaje, por un lado, al entusiasta grupo



## Philatelic award

At the annual Spanish Study Circle Weekend held in Bournemouth on 5 April, member Cliff Kirkpatrick (right) was awarded first prize and the Ronald G Shelley trophy for his display called: "Britons who Cared". The display took a philatelic look at Britain's responses to the Spanish Civil War, focussing in particular on the Basque children and the colonies.



▶ Republic held out as long as it did, thanks to the efforts of the 40,000 volunteers of the International Brigades arriving from 53 different countries and fighting heroically for the democracy and freedom in Spain.

## Membership renewal

Your membership is now due for renewal. There is a form printed on the loose sheet insert to send with your subscription/donation to the new Membership Secretary, Gerald Hoare, at the address on the form.

- General members
- £10 for ordinary membership
- £25 for institutional membership
- *Niños*
- *Niños* and their spouses are exempt from dues, but if you wish to receive Newsletters and details of forthcoming events, you must re-register every year to keep our information up to date.

## Projects

### Southampton University grant

Professor Chris Woolgar, Head of the Special Collections at the Hartley Library, Southampton University and Dr Alicia Pozo-Gutiérrez of the Modern Languages Department have been successful in their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and have been awarded a grant of £47,000. This is for making recordings of the *niños* to create an oral history archive and an oral history book, for using both the recordings and information from the Association's archive to produce an education pack for use in local schools, for creating an on-line exhibition on the University's website and for setting up a

travelling exhibition. Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund South East England, Michelle Davies, said that the project was perhaps the last opportunity to record the memories of some of those who were involved with that unique event.

### Oral history archive: The *Niños*: Memories of refugee children of the Spanish Civil War

This project aims to record the life stories of *niños* – to document and preserve for future generations the memories and experiences of evacuation and arrival, as well as the ways in which this life-changing event shaped their lives and those of their families.

The project would like to hear from *niños* and *niñas* who would be willing to share their memories, photographs or other documents for the project, which will result in a public archive at the University of Southampton, a popular publication, a website and educational resources.

*If you would like to be interviewed or would like further information, please contact Alicia Pozo-Gutiérrez (tel: 07595 083085 / 023 8059 22208 / email: apg@soton.ac.uk) or Padmini Broomfield (tel: 07891 007856 / email: pbroomfield@gmail.com).*

### Education pack

by David Bond

As part of the HLF project we will be producing a learning pack with booklet and DVD relating to the evacuation and resettlement of the *niños* across Britain. The stories revealed by *niños* who were displaced as children will resonate with today's school children as many of them will be the same age and some will have come to Hampshire as migrants and refugees themselves. The county of Hampshire, and in particular the port of Southampton, has a long history of welcoming those seeking refuge and asylum from the ravages of war or religious intolerance.

Schools will be able to use the learning pack alongside other examples of refugee displacement; it also provides a specifically local case study for Hampshire schools. We believe that it is important to capture the memories and experiences of *niños* who are alive today, so we welcome any photographs, film, documents and especially memories of the *niños*' experience of their time in Britain from evacuation to settlement or repatriation.

### Sutton Library Services

The "Same Faces, Different Lives" project is progressing. Seventeen GCSE and A-Level students from Overton Grange High School in Sutton visited the library in February to carry out further research into the Civil War and the history of the Carshalton colony.

They explored articles on the Internet and listened to oral history interviews from the Imperial War Museum website. More traditional sources studied included local newspaper and magazine reports, Council Minutes and personal papers and photographs supplied to us by the Basque Children of '37 Association. The students were asked to make notes about what they read or heard, focussing on how they thought people's lives and feelings were affected by being a refugee and how local people viewed the arrival of the Basque children.

The next stage in the project will involve the students looking at modern day refugees and comparing their experiences with the Basque children, some creative work and a celebration to end the project.

Funding has allowed us to supply copies of "Only for Three Months", "Recuerdos" and "The Children of Guernica" DVD to the school and local libraries.

Further details from: Jane Allen, Principal Librarian, Sutton Central Library, tel: 020-8770 4622; email jane.allen@sutton.gov.uk or Kath Shawcross, Borough Archivist & Local Studies Manager, tel 020-8770 4745; email: k.Shawcross@sutton.gov.uk

## Accounts

Abridged version of accounts for the year ended 30 November 2008 and adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 21 February 2009:

	2008	2007
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions and donations	2506	1700
Grants	521	25318
Commemorative events	–	4346
Sale of books and DVDs	4529	7967
Other income	1058	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>8614</b>	<b>39331</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Commemorative event	–	12417
Film: bilingual version	4450	11508
Cost of books and DVDs	1453	5256
Newsletter, postage and other costs	1878	2256
<b>Total</b>	<b>7781</b>	<b>31437</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>7894</b>
<b>Bank balance</b>	<b>9454</b>	<b>9121</b>

Copies of the audited detailed accounts with the trustees' report may be obtained from the Treasurer. Tel: 020-8224 7959.

## In brief

### Research

Simon Mitchell, from the University of the West of England, has just finished his undergraduate dissertation on "English Catholics and Their Attitudes Towards the Basque Region July 1936 – December 1938."

### Books

Peter O'Brien's book: "A Suitable Climate – the Basque Children at Hutton Hall", published by Peter Tuffe, price £5.95, will come out at the end of May. It will be reviewed in the next Newsletter.

### Archival material received

Photographs from Cliff Kirkpatrick and Eli Sanchez.

### Talks given

On 26 March, Natalia Benjamin gave a talk in Oxford on "The *niños vascos* in Oxfordshire" to the Corona Society.

### Displays

The Association has had three banners on stands designed by member Nerea Mendicute which tell the story in photographs of the Basque children coming to Britain. They are portable and very useful as a visual aid when

# The first child to be returned

by Cliff Kirkpatrick

Of the 4,000 or so children and adult helpers who came to England on the *SS Habana* in May 1937, the first sizeable group, comprising 160 children, were returned to Spain under the auspices of the Basque Children's Committee on 12 November 1937. This date is generally accepted as marking the beginning of the process of repatriation. There were instances of children being reunited with their parents, a parent or other family member earlier than this but numbers were extremely small and they were not returned to Spain but to some other destination which almost invariably was France.

Calls for the return of the children had begun within days of the fall of Bilbao on 19 June 1937, but the Basque Children's Committee, responsible for the welfare of the "Habana children" in Britain, rightly resisted taking precipitous action. Exactly when, then, did the committee consider the time and conditions right to make arrangements for the first refugee children to leave and who was the first child to be reunited with his or her parents?

Among the Foreign Office papers relating to Basque refugee children in the National Archives at Kew is a three page typed letter (FO371/2173/W14407) from J.R.J. Macnamara, one of the joint honorary secretaries of the Basque Children's Committee and the only Spanish speaker on the committee, addressed to the Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden. The letter is dated 9 July 1937 and was written in a private capacity with the committee's approval, seeking advice but also providing draft proposals for implementing repatriation. In it he states:

*Last Monday, at my suggestion, the matter of repatriation was discussed. It was at once generally agreed that should any individual parents write for their children they should be returned at once, provided that the request was bona fide. One, in fact leaves to rejoin her parents in Portugal to-morrow and some others are leaving soon for France.*

*.... What in my opinion is of urgency is that there should at once be a policy formulated for the return of the children so that all may appreciate our good-will and that negotiations be initiated by us, rather than others saying we are holding them back from them.*

The reference to the child leaving to rejoin

her parents in Portugal is particularly interesting and is the earliest case that I have found in the archives, taking place, as it does, some seven weeks after the children arrived at Southampton. The name of the *niña* is not given as her mention is only incidental in the context of the letter but I was hopeful that she could be identified by consulting the list of children evacuated to Britain, reproduced as Appendix 1 in Gregorio Arrién's book, "Niños Vascos Evacuados a Gran Bretaña". This book regrettably does contain printing errors, usually incorrect year dates, which can easily misinform the unwary reader. For example, several children are listed as having been returned during the first quarter of 1937 before they even arrived in England. Two boys are shown as having been repatriated in 1935 and three sisters during 1933!

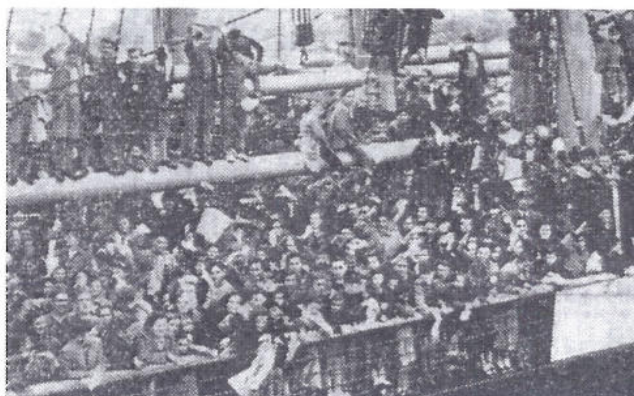
That said, it is still an important and useful book and did provide the information I was seeking, as on page 190 it confirms that Karitza Olariaga Basterra, 14 years of age, identity tag number 1309, was sent to Portugal on 12 July 1937. It would seem then that she actually left England two days later than Macnamara anticipated but there is no doubt that Karitza is the girl referred to in his letter as no other child is listed as having been taken to Portugal.

Although not the experience of the majority of the children, it is nonetheless gratifying that the words "Only for three months" said for comfort and encouragement by so many parents to their departing children were, on this occasion and a few others, not just wishful thinking but actually turned out to be an overestimate.

### Postscript

Since writing the above I was kindly invited by Natalia Benjamin to her house to look at some of the archival material currently being held there. I was especially pleased to find confirmation of my premise in a typed document entitled "Press cuttings on Basque Children. From Scrap Book kept at time and in possession of Eastleigh and District Local History Society." Two newspaper items are relevant: *Daily Herald* of 9 July: First girl going home, to parents in Portugal. Children whose parents are in France will join them, but not yet Spain.

*Echo* of 10 July: Picture of first girl returning.



## Basque Children of '37 Association UK

- Honorary President: Helvecia García Aldasoro ● Chair: Manuel Moreno
- Secretary: Natalia Benjamin, 8 Hernes Road, Oxford OX2 7PU; tel: 01865-459 744; email: secretary@basquechildren.org
- Membership Secretary: Gerald Hoare; tel: 01282-770 655; email: membership@basquechildren.org
- Treasurer: Carmen Kilner; email: carmen@basquechildren.org
- Other committee members: Jim Jump, John Kilner, Herminio Martínez and Alicia Pozo-Gutiérrez

### How to support the Association

*Niños* and their spouses/partners and widow/ers are honorary members. Annual subscriptions (which are renewable in May) for other family members and supporters of the Association's aims are:

- £10 for individuals ● £25 for institutions.

Contact Membership Secretary Gerald Hoare for membership application forms. These may also be found on the website.

### Our aims

1. To reunite the *niños* of the Spanish Civil War who were exiled in Great Britain in 1937 and who did not return to Spain or who returned later, that is, those who had the common experience of being evacuated.
2. To preserve for descendants and future generations, through the collection of oral and written testimonies, the memory of the *niños*' experience of the period and their subsequent life in Britain.
3. To place the experience of the exile within its rightful historical context, so the *niños* should not be "*los olvidados*".
4. To provide a forum for discussion and to promote dialogue between *niños*, researchers and interested persons.
5. To encourage the collection and preservation of archives (photographs, letters, documents, films, songs, posters, oral testimonies, artwork etc) to be used for educational and historical purposes, eventually to be deposited in the Special Collections Division of the Hartley Library at the University of Southampton.
6. To locate commemorative plaques and to ensure their preservation and maintenance; to organise the setting-up of other dedicated plaques to commemorate the experience.
7. To liaise and collaborate with related societies of *niños vascos* in other countries.
8. To facilitate and support research into the history of the evacuation of the *niños vascos* who were sent to Britain.
9. To inform members about new developments in the knowledge of the period through publications, bibliographies, web pages etc.
10. To advance the education of the public, students and academics in the subject of the exile of 1937.

### Newsletter

- The BC'37AUK Newsletter is published twice a year and is sent free to all members. Back numbers can be downloaded from the BC'37AUK website: [www.basquechildren.org](http://www.basquechildren.org). The deadline for the next issue is 28 October 2009.
- Editor: Natalia Benjamin (see details above for BC'37AUK Secretary).

▶ giving talks. We have also prepared two boxes each of laminated photographs and artefacts that we will hire to organisations for exhibition purposes.

### Exhibition launch

A touring exhibition tracing the story of the *niños* who arrived in Great Britain in 1937 was launched at the "Coming Home" conference at Southampton University on 1 April (see photograph on page 1). The exhibition has been made possible by the HLF grant.

## British Empire Medal

### Do you know...

- ...that Basque *niño* Domingo Arana was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List of 31 December 1983 for carrying on with his job in the face of serious injuries? He suffered three serious accidents in his adult life that left him with a badly damaged right arm. He was recommended for the award by the firm he worked for, Cambridge Instruments, who said: "He is an outstanding example of how a normal person can overcome almost insurmountable obstacles and still continue to achieve a good working capacity".
- ...that Basque *niño* José Armolea too was awarded the British Empire Medal at a ceremony on 20 November 1986 for his long and dedicated service to Smiths Industries Environmental Controls Ltd. He joined the company in 1946 and progressed to be responsible for all products at the factory; in particular, he was a key figure in the introduction and assembly of electro-mechanical time controllers, which were mainly responsible for the growth of the business since 1980. The Managing Director said in his citation: "Mr Armolea's personal commitment to the business has contributed substantially to its success".

## Forthcoming events

### Tullie House Museum, Carlisle

"Carlisle Cultures" Exhibition from 2 May-6 September, experiences of individuals who came to Carlisle from all over the world, including some Basque children.

### Exhibition at Ormesby Hall, Middlesbrough

Exhibition: The Basque Children Refugees in Great Britain (1937-1939); from 23 May-26 July; opening times: 1.30-5pm, Saturdays and Sundays. Lunchtime lectures: 5 June 12 pm, Natalia Benjamin on "The Basque Children in Great Britain"; 12.40pm, Peter O'Brien on "The *Niños* in Hutton Hall".

In 1937 the socialist Mrs Ruth Pennyman, of Ormesby Hall, persuaded local landowner Sir Alfred Pease to lend his large house Hutton Hall for use as a hostel for 20 Spanish children from Bilbao. A further 20 joined them in 1939 and Mrs Pennyman organised some of them into a concert party, performing Spanish songs and dances around the north of England. They even went on tour to Switzerland and performed on BBC Radio to raise money for their keep. By 1939 most had gone home, but a few others got jobs locally. Ormesby Hall is a National Trust property.

### BFI Southbank (formerly National Film Theatre)

"Cinema and the Spanish Civil War": documentaries, newsreels and films from 1937-2007, films on every day in June.

### IBMT ceremony at Jubilee Gardens

On 4 July, the IBMT will be holding a ceremony at the monument in Jubilee Gardens, in honour of the British International Brigaders. It starts at 1 pm and all are welcome. Tube: Waterloo, Southwark.

### Talk in London

On 3 October, Dr Tom Buchanan from Oxford University will be giving the inaugural lecture of the Association. It starts at 2.30 pm and will be held in London at the Meeting Room in the Kensington and Chelsea Library, Philimore Walk, London W8 7RY. The title of the talk is "Basque Refugee Children in Britain 1937-1939: Personal Memory and History." Tea will be served afterwards.

## Book review

### Agur Euskadi, Hasta Nunca by Luis Santamaría (Ministerio de Trabajo e Inmigración, Madrid, 2008)

Reviewed by Maite San Juan

"Agur Euskadi, Hasta Nunca" (Goodbye Euskadi, I'll never see you again) by Luis Santamaría is an honest and gripping account of the memories of his first years as an exiled Basque *niño* in England. Luis, aged 10, travelled to Southampton in May 1937 on the *Habana* with his elder brother Josechu, aged 12, and his younger brother Ramonchu, aged 9. They belong to the group of *niños vascos* who would never return home. Luis would not visit Spain until 1976, at the age of 50.

Luis writes the book in Spanish and tells the story of his journey on the



*Habana* and his stay in the different colonies in great detail. His views on the way the colonies were run and how the children were treated are far from complimentary. The brothers Santamaría soon acquired a reputation of being "bad kids". Luis often describes himself and his friends as "wild", and blames that partly on the lack of warmth from the adults who were running the colonies. He is especially critical of the Shipton and Margate colonies.

Written in the direct language of a child, the book contains invaluable material for anyone interested in the way Spanish children spoke at the time, what games they played and what songs were popular in the late 1930s. Nevertheless, it is a poignant testimony of the suffering that thousands of children had to undergo because of the Spanish Civil War.

Luis makes a point in the book of stating his relentless anti-francoism and his firm views on justice and democracy. There is an underlying feeling of resentment throughout. His anger at the policy of non-intervention of the British government and his disappointment every time his dreams of returning home are shattered add to the bitter-sweet feeling this book leaves on the reader, which will last for a long time after it is put down. In fact, its subtitle sums up what Luis Santamaría feels about the whole episode: "Hijos de Euskadi Perdidos, Hijos de Euskadi Olvidados" (Lost Children of Euskadi, Forgotten Children of Euskadi).

## Exhibitions



### "Guernica" tapestry in London

In January 1939, Picasso's original painting "Guernica" was displayed for two weeks at the Whitechapel Gallery. The exhibition was opened by the then leader of the Labour Party, Clement Attlee, and raised £250 to send relief food supplies to Spain. Now the Whitechapel Gallery has just opened again on 6 April after a three-year and £13.5 million refurbishment and the centrepiece of the inaugural exhibition is the life-size tapestry replica of "Guernica" which usually hangs in the UN headquarters in New York. It is on loan for a year. It is a must see! *The Whitechapel Gallery is next to Aldgate East tube station; admission free; opening times: Tuesday-Sunday 11 am-6pm, Thursday 11am-9pm; tel: 020-7522 7888.*

## For sale

All goods are available from Tony Armolea: 85 Summerleaze Road, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 8ER; tel: 01628 781525; email: sales@basquechildren.org.

Please note that we have opened a branch of the shop in Spain, and if you live there, you can order more easily from: tienda@basquechildren.org. Prices include p&p.

### Books

- "Recuerdos" edited by Natalia Benjamin, £15.10.
  - "Only for Three Months" by Adrian Bell, £11.10.
  - "Leah Manning" by Ron Bill & Stan Newens, £5.
- The following two poetry books can be ordered via the IBMT website: [www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)
- "Poems from Spain", an anthology edited by Jim Jump, £13
  - "Poems of War and Peace/Poemas de guerra y de paz" by James R Jump, £12.

### CDs & DVDs

- "The Guernica Children", Steve Bowles' documentary film, now available in a bilingual English/Spanish edition, £15.
- "Songs of the Basque Children", songs from the book used by the *niños* when performing, plus the reissue of the original 1938 Parlophone recording, £9.50.
- Southampton Anniversary Event, £4.
- Danzaris at Southampton, £4.
- Montrose blue plaque, £5.50.
- CD-EP "Solo Por Tres Meses". Written and performed by Na-Mara, a duo composed of musician Roberto García (son of *niño* Fausto García) and Paul McNamara, the EP includes their song about the story of the *niños* leaving Bilbao. A limited number of the EPs are available for sale and all proceeds will go to the Basque Children of '37 Association UK, £6.

### Commemorative envelope

- Franked envelope with special stamps marking the anniversary of the arrival of the Basque children, £6.

## Obituaries

We very much regret to announce the deaths of the following:

- Koke Martínez
- Purificación Basarte
- Alvaro Velasco
- Isabel Seguro (González)
- Luis Naya

## Personalities

# Remembering Chloë Vulliamy

by Natalia Benjamin

Born in 1905, Chloë Vulliamy was the daughter of a solicitor and was brought up in Cauldwell Hall, Ipswich, with her sister Poppy. She devoted her life to helping others not as fortunate as herself and after studying in Oxford, worked among the poor in London's East End. When the Spanish Civil War broke out, she and Poppy were living in Tossa on the Costa Brava. They returned to Britain, where they both helped with the Basque children, Chloë taking on the running of the colony at Wherstead Park in Ipswich while Poppy took the "bad boys" who had remained in the camp at Eastleigh to another camp at Diss, before finding them more permanent quarters in Great Yarmouth, later in Tythrop House, Faringdon and Shipton-under-Wychwood.

Chloë was a striking woman, looking quite Spanish in her polka dot dresses, her dark hair parted in the middle, pulled back behind the ears and twisted into a bun at the nape of her neck. She was rarely seen without a cigarette. The *niños* thought her very daring! She organised parties for the older girls in the colony, inviting pupils from nearby schools, allowing them to stay until

midnight and would play the piano for them to dance to.

When the Ipswich colony closed, Chloë took the 40 or so boys and girls to a former workhouse at Wickham Market where they all pitched in to make the building habitable. In the summer, she organised them to go fruit picking to raise money for Spain, and allowed them to keep half of what they



earned to be spent as they liked. Herminio Martínez recalls how at Margate, where the children had been so cold that they had wrapped themselves in the blankets put over the windows as blackout, she had taken him into a room piled high with clothes and kitted him out.

She was an excellent administrator, so when WW II broke out and the colony at Wickham Market closed, she was sent to the Culvers which, together with Pepe Estruch, she ran most efficiently as "executive secretary". The success of the home was almost entirely due to Pepe and Chloë who worked together to bring to life the idea of self government, which developed in the young people latent qualities of surprising variety. They produced their own magazine, "Amistad", decorated the home with the help of the artists amongst them, made furniture designed by the students in cabinet making, made a workshop, put on exhibitions, concerts, play readings and produced plays which brought in funds for the home.

After the war, Chloë continued to work with Republican refugees in France and for the organisation "Appeal for Amnesty in Spain". It was during a visit to Spain in 1963 that she was arrested while trying to give food and money to families of political prisoners. She was interrogated for four days and finally deported.

Chloë kept up with the *niños* through the years and would invite them to visit her in her cottage near Oxford. She is remembered by them with great affection.

# Nuestras madres

by Eugenia

"Amistad", No.19, 23 May 1942

En este quinto aniversario de nuestra llegada a Inglaterra, nosotras las chicas vascas no podemos dejar de pensar en los sufrimientos tan enormes que nuestras madres, las madres de los soldados españoles, las madres de los que gloriosamente murieron defendiendo Guernica, de los que junto con todos los españoles lucharon por la independencia y la libertad de España, las madres de los que en los campos de concentración de Francia y Africa sufren las atrocidades a que les tiene sometidos el inhumano Petain, las madres de los que en España son apaleados en las cárceles, en los cuarteles de la Falange, las madres de España, las madres nuestras, las madres que supieron dar tantas heroínas al pueblo español, las que hoy, dentro del hambre, la miseria, el sufrimiento y las penalidades siguen dando hijos al pueblo español, que serán los mejores defensores de la libertad y del progreso, de la civilización y de la humanidad, puesto que nacen en esa hora

de rencores y de lucha, de muerte y de exterminio, conociendo la barbarie y la incultura, las madres que tienen el dolor de ver como los hijos pequeños tienen por hogar la calle y por escuela la mendicidad.

A esas madres, nosotras las recordaremos en este quinto aniversario. Pero no con un recuerdo romántico, sino con un recuerdo práctico. Junto a nuestro mayor recuerdo de amor y cariño, de admiración y de dolor tiene que ir el estudio, el trabajo diario por haber que en el alma de cada español vaya grabada la situación de nuestras madres, por hacer que los amigos de España vivan y ayuden prácticamente a la situación de los españoles, para hacer comprender a quienes todavía no han comprendido el porqué estamos refugiados y lo que significa la separación de nuestras familias, por hacer que el triunfo de la guerra presente sea un hecho que no se deje esperar mucho puesto que esto ayudará a la liberación de España.

Si queremos que nuestra estancia en Inglaterra no haya sido en vano, tenemos que estudiar más y capacitarnos más, ya no como

buenas secretarias, que es muy bueno, sino en otros muchos trabajos y también en trabajos y en labores que por instinto de sexo nos pertenecen a nosotras y no nos podemos engañar que a unas tres partes nos falta bastante para reunir todas estas condiciones.

¿Recordáis Agustín de Aragón y Mariana Pineda en los años 1812 y 1831? ¿Recordáis en el año '34 a la gran heroína Aida Lafuente en Asturias y en nuestra guerra a Lina Odena en Granada? ¿Y a ese gran ejército de muchachas que se incorporaron a las fábricas de guerra? ¿Recordáis a las que en los primeros momentos cojieron el fusil junto con los hombres y lucharon contra los moros, fascistas, alemanes e italianos? Y el fin de nombres anónimos que en la guerra y después de la guerra van grabando en la historia de nuestra España puestos de honor y de ejemplo que tienen que servirnos a nosotras para hacernos comprender que no podemos descansar ni un momento, pensemos siempre en España, ayudemos diariamente con nuestro trabajo a España, unámonos más y más para salvar a España sin olvidar ni un momento a España.

Dediquemos hoy en nuestro aniversario un saludo a las madres de España, a las madres del pueblo español, a nuestras madres, a ELLAS QUE SE LO MERECEN TODO.