



Newsletter



Basque Children of '37 Association UK

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News

Launch of new website

by Carmen Kilner

On 25 March the Association's new website went live on the internet. Since the Association was first founded in 2002, we have piggybacked on the website created by the Moreno brothers, and used it as a mouthpiece for our Association and its events. However, the Moreno site has a far wider remit than ours, covering adult Spanish Republican exiles to Britain and Republican slave labourers in Britain, as well as the Basque children.

As we have grown, it has become clear that it was appropriate for the Association to have its own dedicated site, focusing on the exodus of the *niños* from Bilbao on the *Habana*, and their subsequent exile in Great Britain.

We hope that those of you that have access to a computer will have a look at our website – www.basquechildren.org – and look at all the interesting sections that we have put together. Amongst other things you will be able to read about forthcoming events and activities, see what is happening on the research and archiving fronts, look at past Newsletters, consult the bibliography, view the photo gallery and read articles about the different colonies. It is still very early days and there is a lot of information still to be added, but we have made a start, and that is so often the hardest step to take. We hope to keep adding background information at a steady rate and also to keep you updated with "Latest news" on our home page. You will also be able to download and print membership, gift aid and standing order forms.

This is an exciting new addition to our Association, and we hope that you will let as many people as possible know about it, in Britain, Spain and elsewhere.

The creation of the website has been possible due to the efforts and technical expertise of Joseph Kilner, the grandson of two maestros Eduardo Sánchez and Ana María González.



This plaque is to be unveiled on 26 May by the Spanish Ambassador at a commemorative event to mark the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Habana. It was designed by Association committee member Herminio Martínez. See page 3 for more details of the event.

Recovering memories: the IBMT lecture

by Colin Carritt

It is all too easy to forget the past, to move on. But not without understanding and not in ignorance. The guest speaker at the annual International Brigade Memorial Lecture (organised by the International Brigade Memorial Trust) held at the Imperial War Museum, London, on 3 March was Julián Casanova, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Zaragoza.

His subject was the celebration of Spain's increasingly confident democracy and the opening up of the history of the Spanish Civil War.

This, he said, was achieved through respect for and access to archives and

museums and, above all, through historical education.

Casanova began by outlining the unity of purpose and optimism of the Second Republic from 1931 to 1933, which was followed by increasing uncertainty from 1934 to 1936. Tensions were evident between the armed forces, the bourgeoisie and the Republic's reformist government, and also on the left between the Anarchists and the Socialists.

Professor Casanova explained that the rift between Anarchists and the Republican government was not as stark as described by Orwell and, with over 1 million affiliated anarchists in Catalonia, it would have been surprising if they had shunned all opportunity to take part in the Republican government. He takes issue with those historians of the conflict who claim that the

