

▶ like to receive funding for this, get in touch with the Association Treasurer.

Blue plaque at Worthing

The Association is funding a blue plaque to be put up in one of the colonies at Worthing, Beach House. It is hoped that the unveiling will be on 23 May. Please contact the Association Secretary if you were at the Worthing colony and/or would like to be present at the ceremony.

70th anniversary event at Southampton

On 26 May there will be an event at Solent University Conference centre to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Basque children's exile to Great Britain. With over 200 people attending, we are not in a position to take any more multiple bookings; it may, however, be possible to accommodate ninos and their spouses or individual members of the Association. Please get in touch with the Treasurer as soon as possible. See preview on page 3.

Ceremony at Jubilee Gardens, London

On Saturday 21 July the International Brigade Memorial Trust will be holding a ceremony at Jubilee Gardens, South Bank, London, to honour the British International Brigaders. It starts at 1pm and all are welcome.

Personalities

Frida Knight

by Natalia Benjamin

Frida Knight was the daughter of a Cambridge academic and Dean of Trinity College, Dr Stewart. In spite of her privileged background, she spent much of her life fighting for the oppressed, being greatly influenced by the Depression of the 1930s and the poverty she saw around her.

In her twenties, she worked for a time in a deprived area of Manchester before studying music in Germany, where she witnessed the rise of Nazism. These experiences persuaded her to join the Communist party.

When the Spanish Civil War started, she was working with a theatre group in the north of England, and in York she persuaded the Archbishop to chair a meeting to raise funds



Frida Knight.

for medical aid to Spain; in Hull she helped form the Spanish Aid Organisation. For the next three years, Spain was never out of her life. She gave up her job to work for the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief, with which she became actively involved. In 1937, she was asked to drive an ambulance to Spain, and, leaving it at a hospital behind the lines, she made her way to Madrid, staying there for three months in the thick of the bombing. There she worked in the Press Office, sending information about the war back to London and broadcasting from the badly bombed radio station every night. She returned to England to try and inform the British public about what was going on in Spain.

Her parents spent a great deal of time with the Basque children refugees in Cambridge, often inviting them to their house at the weekends. Her mother, Jessie Stewart, edited a book, "Recuerdos", about the Basque children's colony in Cambridge. One of Frida's jobs for the NJCSR was to organise the fund-raising tours of the Basque children's concert parties, which were enormously successful and which were a major source of raising money for the children's keep. Another job was to visit the different colonies scattered around England and report on them to the committee. If, as was occasionally the case, there was an unfavourable report, the children were found homes in other colonies.

About her involvement with the Basque children, Frida had this to say: "Many remember Cambridge as a happy home and a refuge from the horrors of civil war. If we did nothing else in Cambridge for the Spanish people, this would have been a valuable contribution to their cause."

At the outbreak of the Second World War, Frida, then aged 29, went to France to help her left-wing colleagues, and was arrested and imprisoned with another British woman. Later, they managed to escape, getting in touch with the French Resistance who gave them forged papers and they reached the unoccupied zone of France before managing to return to London, where for the rest of the war, Frida worked for the Free French.

In the post-war period, she became the author of many musical biographies, including one on Beethoven, and a study of the French

Resistance. She was a founder member of the Cambridge Peace Council and later in life, campaigned with the CND. Her whole life was dedicated to the pursuit of justice, and to the end, she opposed and campaigned against any form of oppression. She was a truly remarkable woman.

Accounts

Here is an abridged version of accounts for the year ended 30 November 2006 and adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 17 February 2007:

	2006	2005
● Receipts		
– Subscriptions and donations:	£2,125	£2,007
– Grant from Spanish Government:	£1,752	£1,114
– Other:	£30	£142
– Totals:	£3,907	£3,333
● Payments		
– Blue plaques:	£721	£1,499
– Newsletter:	£376	£162
– Postage, copying etc:	£744	£702
– Other:	£183	£365
– Totals:	£2,024	£2,728
● Surplus for the year	£1,883	£605
● Bank balance less accrued costs	£3,227	£1,344

Copies of the audited detailed accounts with the Trustees' Report may be obtained from the Treasurer, tel: 020-8224 7959, or the Secretary, tel: 01865-459 744.

Renewal of annual subs

Membership year beginning 21 May 2007

Annual subscriptions are due for renewal for the membership year 21 May 2007 to 20 May 2008. The rate remains the same as last year, £10 for ordinary membership and £25 for institutional membership. *Niños* and their spouses are exempt from subscription dues, but like all members who wish to receive Newsletters and details of forthcoming events, they need to re-register every year to keep our information up to date. However, even if you are exempt, we welcome donations: contributions towards postage, printing etc, would be much appreciated, especially if you live abroad.

There is a form printed on the loose sheet insert to send with your subscription/donation