

was extremely thought provoking but emotionally draining!

Dr Tim Rees' lecture was entitled "Forgetting and remembering the Civil War in Spain." The Franco dictatorship left many unresolved and highly contested issues, most of which were pragmatically ignored following the death of Franco in 1975 by successive democratic governments with their *pacto del olvido*. The lecture explored in detail the themes: remembrance and memorialisation under Franco, the transition to democracy, breaking the silence and historical memory.

The final lecture, given by Professor Jeremy Treglown was "Franco and Spanish culture" and looked at ways in which the regime is depicted and the ways that it depicted itself. Censorship was maintained in Spain well after the end of the Civil War but film-makers and novelists looked for ways to overcome the restrictions imposed by the regime. Prof Treglown cited examples of the use of satire and showed film clips which were highly amusing and he certainly succeeded in lightening the mood. The lecture highlighted five specific examples to illustrate the character and legacy of the regime.

Although the above is only a brief resumé of each lecture, the speakers complemented each other and everyone involved is to be congratulated on producing such an interesting, informative and successful course on a difficult and sensitive subject.

## Fundraising exhibition in San Sebastián

In October 2010, the Caja de Ahorros de Navarra (CAN) held a fundraising exhibition in Plaza Okendo in San Sebastián. Two of our members, Luis Mari Naya and David Bumstead,

organised and supervised a stall for BC'37A UK. The son of a *niño*, Luis is a lecturer in the History of Education at the University of the Basque Country and has a strong personal and professional interest in the Association. David and his Anglo/Basque family also live in San Sebastián and he teaches history at the Ikastola Zurriola; for several years he has included a course about the evacuation of the Basque children on his programme.

The stall was a great success in terms of informing the public about the association and also for the sale of books, CDs etc. This success was in no small part due to the enthusiasm and attraction provided by the eight young student volunteers from David's class at the Ikastola who distributed leaflets and information to the visiting public.

Two features of this event are noteworthy. First, the debt of gratitude due to those of our members, especially in the Basque country, who contribute so positively to raising funds and our profile; second, how encouraging it is to see young people interested in our bit of history. I especially want to thank the eight volunteers for their involvement. ¡Eskerrik asko!

## Visit to Guipuzcoa

by Carmen Kilner

In April 2011 I was delighted to be invited to return to talk in two schools in Guipuzcoa. My first visit was to the Ikastola Zurriola, San Sebastián, where one of our members, David Bumstead, is a teacher. He regularly teaches his class of 16/17 year olds about the Basque children's evacuation to Britain.

I spoke in English about my mother and the Basque children. The students, who were already well informed, responded with thoughtful

comments and questions. Also present was Javier Lacunza, a *niño* who had come to England with his brother. They were in the Honiton colony in Devon until their return in 1939. He gave invaluable first person experience to the session.

After that we had a complete change of scene, meeting with 50 or so excited 9-10 year olds. Although challenging, they were a delight, participating very fully! They had no problem identifying with or understanding the emotions, fears, sorrows and also excitement experienced by the young refugees. They had plenty of questions for Javier and me, both prepared (in English and Spanish) and spontaneous, including, to Javier, "What did you do on birthdays?"

My final talk was to the Instituto de Elgoibar. Here the audience consisted again of older students and was also attended by a good number of staff. They had all just watched the film "The Guernica Children", so my involvement was more one of answering questions and general discussion. With me was Ana Santolaya, the daughter of Luis Santolaya, who was at the Plymouth colony.

Whilst I was in Elgoibar, three other schools contacted me and asked me to talk; and I will do so later in the year.

We know that there are schools in Southampton, Eastleigh, Sutton, Hereford and elsewhere that teach this special period of history that unites our two countries, so it is fitting that their Basque counterparts are also increasingly doing so. Education is one of the prime aims of our Association, and it is a source of satisfaction that it is increasingly being fulfilled.

I can't help thinking that my mother would be laughing (were she alive) to hear that she is being talked about in San Sebastián, where she was born and grew up, and in Elgoibar where her maternal family roots are and where my family and I are regular visitors.

## Newsletter in Spanish

We now have brought out an *Edición Especial* of the Newsletter. It contains forty articles from Newsletters 1-14 which have been translated into Spanish and is aimed particularly at those *niños* who went back to live in Spain but who have forgotten their English. As you can imagine, it is a very interesting collection, and if you know of anyone who would like a copy (they cost £5 including p&p), please put them in touch with the Secretary (Tel: 0034 1865 459744)



Carmen and young fund-raisers