

A NEW PROJECT - THE *COMIDA*

For many years now the *niños de la guerra* have gathered together for a 'family' meal. Originally it was just the *niños* and their partners, not every year and in various places: from the original one in the Midlands, to the more recent ones in London. These have always been a private affair organised by the *niños* for the *niños*, though the character has changed somewhat in recent years.

I would like to trace the reunions back to their earliest days when Helvecia first started organising the *comida*, up to the present day when second generation *niños* - Luis and Amaya have taken over the organisation, and which are now attended by the children and grandchildren of those *niños de la guerra*, the *señoritas* and others who supported or helped in 1937-39.

It seems appropriate to me that we should create a lasting record of this unique event and its long history.

As a starting point we have many of Helvecia's letters and albums (which will eventually go to our archives at Southampton), and Helvecia's daughter Susannah Hogg has offered her help and support. However we would like to bring together any history, anecdotes or memories (old and new) and photos (old and new) of this unique annual gathering of the *niños de la guerra* and their families and friends. The meal has taken place in so many places - from Birmingham to London and in so many venues - and we would like to know about all of them. I think it will make a fascinating document.

If there is a good response then I would like to seek funding and produce an illustrated book/booklet, if there is little or no response then I will write a simpler illustrated article for the website.

If you would like to contribute any memories, photos (I will copy, then return them by post if you wish) or if you would like to help in any way, please contact me at: carmen@basquechildren.org or call on 07801 067161.