

CONCERT FOR BASQUE CHILDREN IN CHURCH HOUSE, WITNEY

A concert in aid of the Basque children at St Joseph's, Aston, was held in the Church Home, Witney, on Friday night, and was followed by a dance.

The Basque children performed folk dances and sang national songs, and Mrs Cook, Mr Collins, Mr B Baughan, and members of Witney Women's Institute Choral Society presented "Papageno", an operetta from the Mozart opera "The Magic Flute". Others who contributed to the programme were Mrs. P. Wilsdon, Mrs. W. Geary, and Messrs. R. Morton, J.H. Parkes, G. Baker and J. Kempster.

(Witney Gazette, Friday May 5th, 1939, p.6)

CARTERTON

Basque Children Give Entertainment

A local Committee organised a Garden Party to raise funds for the Basque House at Aston on Tuesday evening in Carterton. The party, which was to have been held in the grounds of "Fairseat" by kind permission of Mrs. And Miss White, had to be transferred to the Co-operative Hall owing to the wet weather. A good company listened to the Spanish songs and dances given by the children and to the address by Miss Thorneycroft, Bursar of St. Hugh's College, Oxford.

Mr. Patrick Early, Chairman of the Aston House, presided, and in introducing Miss Thorneycroft mentioned that she had been to the South of France to the Refugee Camps and was in fact there last February when the refugees were pouring over the French frontier.

Miss Thorneycroft told of the conditions in the camps, which although better than a short time ago, were still very bad. She said 300,000 refugees in France and many of those who had returned to Spain had been put into concentration camps on their return. She appealed for funds to make it possible for these children to stay in England a little longer as there was a food shortage in their home town, Bilbao, and they were in danger of starvation if returned at once. She also appealed for clothes, books, particularly in Spanish, and correspondents for the men who were living in such appalling conditions in the French camps. The collection afterwards realised between £5 and £6.

(Witney Gazette, Friday 11th August, 1939, p.6)