

BASQUE FÊTE AT SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

The Basque camp recently transferred from Farringdon to Shipton-under-Wychwood made a social debut in Oxfordshire by holding a very successful fête and social evening on Wednesday (April 19). It was opened by the Mayoress of Oxford, Mrs Gillet who was introduced to a large crowd by Father Hayward.

The Wychwood Spanish Aid Committee are to be complimented on holding the function, and congratulations are particularly due to the organising ability of Mrs Wainman. Mr W. Leonard thanked all those who gave their support.

The various stalls, lucky numbers, dips, competitions, and flower show were well patronised. About 300 people attended, and between £20 and £30 was raised for the Basque Fund.

Dance music was provided by the Accordeon Serenade Band, who gave their services free. The Misses Shepherd, Keen, Stoud, Beney, Edwards, Harris, Timms, and Franklin assisted with refreshments and general organising.

The winners of the film competition who received portraits of film stars were: C. Norgrove, E. Gregory, N. Keep, G. Mitchell, J. Slatter, F. Miles, F. Tarpit, M. Moral (resident at Basque Camp), E. Story, F. Jones, I. Beaney.

The film competition was organised by Mr A. Melville Thompson, our film correspondent.

(Witney Gazette, Friday April 21st, 1939, p.5)

BASQUE CHILDREN AT SHIPTON

New arrivals at Shipton this week are twenty five Basque Refugee Children who on Tuesday moved to St Michael's. They were formerly housed at Buscot Park, Farringdon. A local committee has been formed to assist the colony and make them feel at home.

The Rev Father N. Hayward is Chairman, and the other members are Dr Gordon Scott, Mrs P. J. Franklin, Mrs S.E.Groves and Mrs Wainman.

Several gifts of food and furniture have already been received..

(Chipping Norton Advertiser, Jan 13th, 1939, p.1)

BASQUE CHILDREN'S 'AT HOME'

The Warden and boys of the Basque Children's Home at Shipton-Under-Wychwood held an 'At Home' on Thursday which was very largely attended. Miss Thorneycroft, Bursar of St Hugh's College, Oxford, gave an address.

Proceeds from refreshments and a collection amounted to over £15.

(Chipping Norton Advertiser, 23rd June 1939, p.1)

BASQUE CHILDREN IN THAME

On Thursday last, some 50 Basque children arrived from Southampton, accompanied by Spanish schoolmistresses. The children, who are all between the ages of six and fourteen, are being accommodated at "Rycotwood", formerly Thame Poor Law Institute, where they will stay for an indefinite period. There are three English volunteer helpers and a superintendent and it is hoped that the children will have regular education in the mornings and craft work and other recreational activities in the afternoon. We understand that the children have settled down and are happy 'midst their new surroundings.

(Thame Gazette, Tuesday June 22nd, 1937, P.4)

BASQUE CHILDREN ENTERTAINED

Frank Payne and his band delighted the Basque children with an hour of music, when dancing and singing was entered into with real gusto by the children who at the close gave three hearty cheers to the musicians.

(Thame Gazette, July 13th 1937)

25 BASQUE CHILDREN AT SHIPTON

New arrivals to Shipton this week are twenty-five Basque Refugee Children who on Thursday, 10 January, 1939, moved into St Michael's. They were formerly housed at Buscot Park, Farringdon. A local committee has been formed to assist the colony and make them feel at home in their new surroundings. The Rev. Father N. Hayward is Chairman and the other members are Dr Gordon Scott, Mr R.J. Franklin, Mrs S.E. Groves and Mrs Wainman. Several gifts of food and furniture have already been received.

(Farringdon Advertiser, Friday, January 13, 1939, p.4)

ASTON BASQUE BOY TELEVISED

One of the Basque refugee children, who are staying at St Joseph's, Aston, Bampton, took part in a television programme on Wednesday afternoon.

He was 12 year old Santiago Elorza, and he was given two minutes during which he sang two songs. The remainder of the allotted ten minutes was devoted to other Basque children. Santiago has sung at concerts in the county at which other Basque children have performed.

(Chipping Norton Advertiser, Jan 7, 1938, p.1)

BASQUE CHILDREN

To the Editor of the "Thame Gazette"

Sir – Will anybody willing to help in giving a tea and entertainment to the Basque children now residing in Thame, please send some small donation to the undersigned?

It is proposed to hold this on 6th November at Rycotwood and I shall be pleased to receive donations as soon as possible.

A balance sheet will be printed later. Trusting you will support me in entertaining these children.

I am

Yours faithfully

S.P.SUMMERSBEE

(Thame Gazette, Oct 26th 1937, p.5)

BUSCOT

Buscot Farewell Party to Basque Refugees

About 200 people were present at the Lecture Hall, Buscot Park, on Sunday evening for the Farewell Party to the Basque Refugee Boys who are this week moving to Shipton-under-Wychwood.

The function was promoted by the Wootton, near Abingdon, Labour Party, with the co-operation of other local parties in the Division, and among the guests was Lord Farringdon, Mrs Le Gros Clark, Mrs Carritt (Chairman of the Basque Committee), Mrs Frank Bourne and Lady Jackson.

Messrs. F.White (Wootton) and Mr.J.V.Hale were the M.C's and included in the programme were songs by Mr G.Gallo (Didcot), accompanied by Miss D.Mills; games, dancing and a spelling bee; recitations by Miss Nina Hale and Master Vernon Hale, solos by Miss Jean Hancock, and selections by the Mandoliers Band.

The evening commenced with a sumptuous tea served the members of the Buscot and Eaton Hastings Labour Parties, after which Mr Walter Leonard (Administrator at the Basque Colony) thanked the hosts for providing the entertainment, to the various organisations in the district who had supported the boys since their arrival in the district and especially Lord Farringdon for his very generous hospitality. He explained that the camp was being moved to Shipton-under-Wychwood through force of circumstance and not through choice.

Lord Farrigdon mentioned how grieved he was to lose the company of such happy youngsters. Both he and the people in the district had felt a responsibility towards the boys, their well-being, happiness and social life and he was pleased to say that the local people had responded in such a way that, he was sure, would result in the boys going back to rebuild the new Spain, which they had to do after the Fascist invaders had been defeated, with vigour, and a social consciousness fortified by their stay in England. Mr J.V.Hale, speaking for the various local parties in the Division, observed that if support had been given, it was given not in the spirit of charity, but in one of duty and given in the knowledge that the Spanish people were fighting, not only for themselves, but for us in Briatrain, and were in the front line of the fight for the preservation of freedom and democracy. He thanked the Wootton and Buscot parties and Lord Farringdon for the evening's entertainment.

On behalf of the Wootton party, Mr F.White (secretary), offered thanks to all the people who had co-operated in making such a success of the function, especially the Buscot ladies and the members of the Mandoliers Band. Mr Leonard also thanked the musicians.

(Farringdon Advertiser, Friday, January 13, 1939, p.5)

BASQUE CHILDREN IN BANBURY

Concert in Broad Street Assembly Room

Basque refugee children gave a concert of national songs and dances in the Broad Street Co-operative Assembly Room on Tuesday. The hall was lent free of charge and all takings went to the North Oxon Basque Children's Committee, of which Mr Patrick Early is the President, for the upkeep of the child refugees.

The children, one boy and twelve girls, from St Joseph's Home at Aston, Bampton, have given concerts at different places in Oxfordshire. The boy, whose name is Santiago, has been televised by the BBC. He is gifted with a really remarkable voice for a child of his years.

Mr J.W.Baker, President of the Co-operative Society, addressed the gathering briefly.

Mr J.E.Triggs, who had accompanied the children from Witney, explained each item and during the interval spoke of the St Joseph home and read letters of gratitude from children whom they had been able to send back to Spain.

At the conclusion of the concert, the audience stood while the children sang the Basque national hymn.

Amongst those present were members of the North Oxfordshire Basque Children's Committee (who brought the children over in their cars), Major F.J.Wise, Mr P.Early, Mr W.M. Lickorish (managing secretary of the Co-operative Society), and Mr W.I Trinder (education secretary).

(Chipping Norton Advertiser, Friday, April 15th 1938, p.5)

BASQUE CHILDREN LEAVE THAME

The Basque children who have been housed at "Rycotwood" for the past eight months, left today (Tuesday). Some are returning to Spain, whilst others were transferred to different camps in the country. From reports which have appeared in the "Thame Gazette" from time to time, it will be seen that they have had a happy time. This came to a fitting conclusion on Sunday, when useful gifts were distributed from a Christmas tree.

(Thame Gazette, Tuesday, Dec 28th 1937, p.3)

CHIPPING NORTON ENTERTAINS THE BASQUE CHILDREN

Tea, games and concert

On Monday, Chipping Norton Town Hall was enlivened by the arrival of the forty-three Basque children from Aston. In their gaily coloured national costume, and accompanied by Mrs Dagleish, Miss Early and the helpers at the Home, they were welcomed by the Mayor (Councillor O.L. Carrington), the Mayoress and some forty children of the borough. An energetic committee, under the still more energetic chairmanship of Mr R.W.Griffin, had prepared tea and a programme of games. The latter lasted until after 6 pm and was watched by an interested company of Chipping Norton parents and friends. During the afternoon, each of the guests from Aston received a present from Santa Claus (Deputy Mayor, Councillor G.W. Warmington).

The Town Hall was then hurriedly prepared for the evening concert, at which every available seat was taken. Dancing pupils of Miss D. Pearce, Mr Peter Freeborn, Mr and Mrs Reg Johnson and Mrs Reg Johnson's company, together with the Chipping Norton Temperance Silver Band under the direction of Bandmaster Pickett, were all enthusiastically applauded for items of high artistic merit. Mr Griffin, as Chairmen, expressed the very real gratitude of the committee to these local artistes, who gave their support so readily and so generously.

Most interesting perhaps of the whole evening was a programme of songs and dances given by the Basque children themselves. It was unforgettable to watch the intricate patterns and movements carried out with unerring rhythm by this group of merry laughing strangers, two of the youngest of whom gave solo items.

In a very telling appeal. Mr Bovington, of Aston, gave some account of the poor nerve-shattered, terror-stricken beings who arrived in England last June. He spoke of the suffering endured by the children present that evening and hinted at the pain still in store for many of them when they understood that all those dear to them would never be seen again. The children asked for nothing and expected nothing; their only call upon others was their dire need, a need in the face of which no human being could remain unmoved.

The generosity of Chipping Norton is already shown by the standing contribution to the Basque Fund, which now stands at £25; but the committee now take this opportunity of expressing again on behalf of the children its most grateful thanks for the support and generosity shown at the concert. The proceeds of the evening amounted to £7. 0s.10d.

After light refreshments, the coachload of happy youngsters were given an enthusiastic send-off by crowd of Chipping Norton friends.

(Chipping Norton Advertiser, Jan 14th, 1938, p.1)

