



Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee

An evening of song and dance, music and film,
and good conversation in solidarity and
celebration of our City of sanctuary.

Save the Date!

Friday evening 22nd April from 7 'til 11 at The
Gladiators Club, Iffley Road, Oxford. Tickets £5
minimum from "We Got Tickets"

<https://www.wegotickets.com/event/541800>





Not Afghanistan, or Syria, or Yemen, not Libya and not Ukraine.

This is Guernica in April 1937 and perhaps a forewarning of the way war would be waged from then on. The Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee keeps alive the memory and spirit of the men and women from Oxfordshire who volunteered to defend democracy and fight fascism in Spain from 1936 to 1939. Guernica also reminds us of the human cost of innocent civilian lives destroyed, families torn apart, uprooted, displaced, changed forever. They were not volunteers but bystanders caught up in the crossfire. In 1937, 4000 refugee children from the Basque region of Spain came to Britain with the support of voluntary groups in towns and cities throughout the land. The Tory government of the day put every obstacle in their way but the goodwill of the British people overcame all obstacles. Many of the refugees eventually returned to their homeland, but many remained for the rest of their lives, forever grateful to the sanctuary given to them by the British people.

This year, our annual celebration of the Oxfordshire volunteers of the International Brigade draws on the theme of solidarity for all displaced people, uprooted from

their homes by war or by economic hardship. Oxford has been identified as a city of sanctuary and continues to welcome refugees and asylum seekers from across the globe.

Tickets from "We Got Tickets"

<https://www.wegottickets.com/event/541800>

priced at £5 minimum; £10 Solidarity ticket;
or £15 Solidarity and additional donation ticket



Our comrades from the Didcot Red Kite Singers are travelling to the Solidarity Park at Malgrat de Mar on the Barcelona coast to sing. The story of the Solidarity Park commemorates the tragic events of 30th May 1937 when the steamship Ciudad de Barcelona was torpedoed by a fascist submarine.

45 of the 300 International Brigade volunteers perished in the explosion. Fishermen from the village of Malgrat de Mar helped to save 120 of the Brigaders. Legend has it that the Brigaders sang The Internationale as the ship went down.

Our evening of song and dance, music and film will raise funds to support The Red Kites in their journey to the Malgrat Solidarity Park <https://solidaritypark.com/about/>



Our detailed programme has yet to be finalised
There will be a CASH BAR (sorry - no credit cards taken) plus assorted crisps and nibbles
Entertainment to be finalised but may include:-
Didcot Red Kite Singers
Film about the International Brigade Volunteers in their own words - a documentary by Milo Cumpstey of Speedwagon Productions (7 minutes) and brief presentation of the Oxfordshire Volunteers or the Basque Children Refugees tbc (5 minutes)

Other performances to include:-

Mila Todd Singer/songwriter

'Enrique, Tony, Chris and Liz play Tango'

Maeve Baynton - singer

John Christie - singer

We hope to end the evening with a 45 minute session by "Horns of Plenty" which is guaranteed to get everyone on the floor letting their hair down to this wonderful Jazz and Dance ensemble.

And in between performances we will have short presentations

by speakers on the importance of sanctuary and settlement in Oxford for asylum seekers and refugees from war.

And if you are up for it on the Saturday morning 23rd April at 11 o'clock, join our host Ciaran Walsh for a bespoke "Radical Walking Tour of Oxford City" starting at the Oxford International Brigade Memorial at St Clements, Oxford. (The tour lasts about 2 hrs and with Ciaran hosting it, it will go in a flash! More details at "Gladiators" on the evening of 22nd)

