



# Newsletter

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## Blue Plaque for Aston

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2003, a blue plaque was unveiled by Cora Portillo at Westfield House, Aston, near Bampton in Oxfordshire. This was to commemorate the use of the house (then called St Joseph's) as a haven for 40 Basque refugee children between 1937 and 1939. The plaque, commissioned by the Basque Children of '37 Association: UK, also acknowledged the contribution of local volunteers.

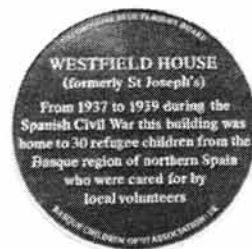
Cora Portillo was an undergraduate in Modern Languages at St Hilda's College, Oxford, in 1937. She could not go to Spain to pursue her studies because of the civil war, and was advised by her tutor to visit the Basque children's colonies in Oxfordshire, where she could not only practise her Spanish but also help with the children. So she would go to Aston every weekend, where her contribution ranged from helping to organise activities for the children to giving English lessons.

It was at the Aston colony that Cora met her future husband, Luis Portillo. Like other Spanish intellectuals, he had been sponsored by British parliamentarians and had crossed the Pyrenees in February 1939, after



which he was sent to teach the Basque children, first at Shipton-under-Wychwood, then at Aston.

In her speech, Cora emphasised the sharing atmosphere that had characterised the colony, thanks to a sympathetic local committee and the many volunteers who were involved in the daily running of the house. There was a special camaraderie between her and the older girls, in particular with Pili Merodio, who was the unofficial 'house mother' and with whom Cora formed a life-long friendship. The villagers, too, went out of their way to befriend the children, and the well-known Early family, blanket manufacturers from Witney, provided each child with a scarlet woollen blanket. But the grim reality was never very far away, there was ► Page 2



## Annual Reunion Lunch

On Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup>, the annual lunch of the *niños vascos* was held at the El Prado restaurant in Fulham.

As usual, it was ably organized by Helvecia Hidalgo, with Octavio Casado providing the seating plan. Although the meal was not until 2pm, people started arriving from 12pm, and the last left at 7pm! It was a happy occasion, a

chance to meet old friends and to catch up with news. Amongst those present were two *niñas vascas*, sisters, from the New Forest, who had never been to one of the reunions before. The Basque Children of '37 Association : UK had prepared display boards and books with photographs of some colonies; these were of great interest and proved very popular. ► Page 3

## Editorial

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Basque Children of '37 Association : UK! As you can see from the contents, there has been a revival of interest in the Spanish exile, so the setting up of our association in Great Britain was timely. We have been very busy – setting up the website, organising various activities. It has entailed many journeys from Oxford to London, but it has been a most exciting nine months: Leah Manning's work has been commemorated in various ways, there have been several interesting conferences and lectures, and we have met more *niños vascos* and made many new friends. The high point has to be the inauguration of the blue plaque at the Aston colony in July. Hopefully, this will pave the way for many more such commemorations.

Many of you have already joined the Association. We are nevertheless sending copies of this Newsletter to all *niños vascos* for whom we have an address, in the hope that they will be encouraged to become members and support us in our work.

We hope you will find the Newsletter interesting and informative; we welcome feedback and in future, we would like to have a Letters Page.

Our website is [www.spanishrefugees-basquechildren.org](http://www.spanishrefugees-basquechildren.org) and we are always on the lookout for any additional material. At present we are concentrating on the different colonies, so if you have any good photos or information, do pass it on to us.

Saludos y agur

Natalia Benjamin (*Secretary*)

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~~Opinions and comments made in any articles~~  
in this Newsletter are not necessarily those held  
by the Basque Children of '37 Association : UK

The photographs on the front page heading  
are children from the Aston colony taken by

## Blue Plaque for Aston Colony

◀ Page 1 always an undercurrent of sadness: some children had no news of their families at all, two sisters received the news that their father had been shot on his doorstep in front of their mother.

Colin Carritt, of the International Brigades Memorial Trust, did sterling work in organising the blue plaque project, and many local dignitaries came to the unveiling, including the Lord Lieutenant of Oxford, Hugo Brunner. Also at the ceremony were representatives of local history societies, the International Historic Buildings Commission, the Witney Museum, Oxfordshire County Councillors and local inhabitants who had known the Basque children. The owner of Westfield House, Jill Hook, and the Headmistress, Hilary Fenton, were magnificent in their support for



Cora Portillo

the project, and provided champagne for the guests after the unveiling. A minibus was hired by the Association to take ten Basque *niños* from London to the ceremony. Amongst these were two of the former residents of the Aston colony, Mauri Antolín and Luís Santamaría, for whom the visit revived fond memories.

Natalia Benjamin and Juan Moreno had compiled an exhibition of archival material to inform the guests about the story of the Basque children. The exhibition included photographs and newspaper reports illustrating the arrival and stay of the refugee children at Aston.

The first two panels showed the evacuation from Bilbao and the camp at North Stoneham, whilst the other six focused on the Aston colony itself. Natalia had discovered some marvellous negatives buried deep in the basement of the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies. They were photos both of individual children and groups, taken by a Russian émigré, Cyril Arapoff, who set up as a photographer in Oxford in the 1930s. The final panel showed the last seven girls left in the colony outside the council house in Witney that was provided for them when St Joseph's closed.

### Luís Santamaría writes:

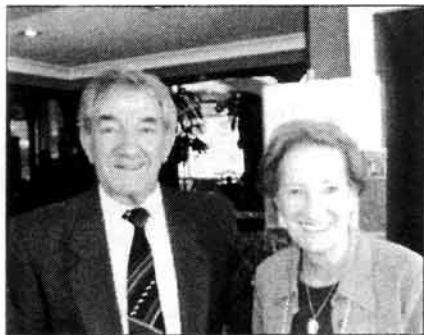
It's very gratifying to note that 66 years after we arrived in the UK in such tragic circumstances, the exodus of the 4,000 Basque children refugees still remains alive to prompt and inspire people to action. I hope today's ceremony will set a precedent to move others to adopt a similar stance. It would be most desirable to unveil other commemorative plaques in as many as possible of the colonies, to remind people of the tragic plight of those unfortunate children. But more important nowadays, since the lesson still remains unlearned in some quarters, is to remind humanity that tragedies such as that of the Basque children refugees are still commonplace in many parts of the Third World and need to be eradicated.

What most lifted my heart throughout the emotive event was the tri-colour flag fluttering delicately in the breeze, adorning the main façade of Westfield House. And the presence of the little children, smiling and clapping with their tiny hands, probably not understanding what was taking place and most likely wishing to be let loose to run all over the house... And lastly, the very moving scene of a lovely little girl presenting a bouquet of flowers to a very gracious lady.

CHILDREN SHOULD BE THE  
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, NOT  
THE VICTIMS OF THE  
PRESENT....!

## Annual Reunion Lunch

◀ Page 1 The lunch was splendid, of a very high standard: *entremeses*, followed by succulent lamb or sea bream, then flan or sorbet. The *entremeses* alone were a meal in themselves! Helvecia gave her annual speech, recollecting the year's events, in spite of suffering from a bad cold. She reminded us that it was sixty-six years ago that the *niños* had left Spain, and that, coincidentally, sixty-six people were attending the lunch.



Natalia, who had been present the previous week in Bilbao at the reunion lunch of those who had been at the Langham colony (Colchester), read out the following message from Vicente Rodriguez to all at the London lunch:

"Queridos amigos todos, con quienes pasamos juntos nuestro exilio, con tristeza, con alegría, con ilusión, con esperanza, con desilusión, con bondad, con errores, a veces con rebeldía, a pesar de todo esto éramos una familia, una gran familia y a todos los demás que estáis reunidos hoy como un recuerdo de nuestro pasado, quiero expresaros particularmente (y es el pensar de todos los amigos) el deseo que disfrutéis a tope ese día y que alcéis una copa por nosotros."



## News

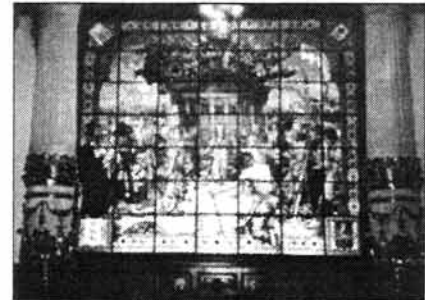
### Presentation of Plaque from Bilbao Association

To commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the evacuation of the *niños*, the Asociación de Jubilados Evacuados de la Guerra Civil wished to render particular tribute to Leah Manning and to all the British families who had opened their hearts and homes to the young Basque refugees. Subsequently, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office arranged a trip to the House of Commons for members of the Bilbao association and representatives of the Vizcaya Provincial Council on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2002 to present a commemorative plaque to Mr Speaker, as a sign of their gratitude to Mrs Manning and Britain. Mike Hancock, MP for Portsmouth, who has long been involved with the Basque region, took them on a tour of the Houses of Parliament before accompanying them to Mr Speaker's House for an informal meeting, followed by the presentation of the plaque. A dinner was arranged for the group at the Atrium restaurant in Millbank.

This is a translation of the speech given by one of the members of the Vizcaya Provincial Council:

"As representatives of the Provincial Council of Vizcaya, it gives us great pleasure to take part in this tribute.

Basque citizens, heirs of the Basque government of 1937, will always be indebted to Mrs Manning and to all those British people who prevented thousands of children suffering the consequences of a terrible civil war.



Many people throughout Europe offered hospitality and solidarity to those children, today adults, but particularly outstanding was the contribution of Mrs Manning, who travelled to Vizcaya as the representative of the National Joint Committee for Spanish Relief to witness the effects of the war and who collaborated with the Basque Government in organizing the evacuation to Britain.

Today, 65 years later, Vizcaya wishes to contribute to the homage by making a gift of this enamel plaque which is a reproduction of the one which is in our own government building.

In the plaque, under the tree of Guernica, the symbol of our liberty, we can see Vizcaya personified as a Lady, her towns, her industries and men and women representing different trades.

It is an honour for me to present this gift in the name of the Government of Vizcaya. I send you warm greetings from the President of our provincial Parliament (Aitor Esteban) and from the President of the Basque Parliament (Juan Maira Atutxa)."

## Houses of Parliament Visit

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2002, some members of the Basque Children of '37 Association : UK went to Mr Speaker's House in the House of Commons to see the plaque given by representatives of the *niños* in Spain and the Vizcayan Government to commemorate the help given to the children by Leah Manning. This visit was made



was Karen Buck, MP for Regent's Park and Kensington North.



## Visit to Leah Manning Centre

A visit was arranged on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2002 to the Leah Manning Centre in School Lane, Harlow, which is a day care centre for the elderly. The building was impressive, having excellent, spacious facilities; these include a hairdresser, a chiropodist, a restaurant providing two sittings of three-course lunches each day and areas for films and slide shows, as well as for music and movement sessions and dancing and community games. Both able-bodied and handicapped are well provided for at the centre.

Leah Manning, who died in 1977 at the age of 91, was President of the National Union of Teachers during the 1920s and between 1945 and 1950 served as MP for the Epping constituency, which at the time included Harlow. She strongly supported the Spanish Republican cause.



Six representatives of the Basque Children of '37 Association : UK were able to go on the visit, and they met former Harlow MP and MEP Stan Newens and Ron Bill. The latter are the co-authors of Leah Manning's biography, which was published in 1991. (see p. 6)

## Conference on Writers, Artists and the Spanish Civil War

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2003, a day school organized by Dr Tom Buchanan was held at Rewley House, Oxford. The Spanish Civil War had an immense impact on writers and artists both in Spain and internationally. From Britain, some went to fight for the Republic, while others contributed in different ways to the anti-Franco cause. The day school examined the political motivations of those who took sides (both for and against the Republic), and discussed the cultural and artistic legacy of the Civil War. Speakers were Dr Tom Buchanan, Professor Valentine Cunningham, editor of the Penguin Book of Spanish Civil War Poetry, Professor Rob Stradling and Professor Miquel Berga from Barcelona.

## Film Preview

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2002 at Chelsea and North Kensington College, Wornington Road, London W10, filmmaker Steve Bowles presented the film he is making on the *niños vascos* for the Latin-American Discovery Channel. Before showing parts of the film, he explained the processes used in the production



of a documentary film and the difficulties in obtaining funding. The *niños* present were particularly moved by the clips they saw, recognising friends, even themselves as children.

**Note:** The film *La Generación del Guernica* is now finished and will be shown on Latin-American and Spanish television on 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003.

## International Brigades Memorial Trust :

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March at the Imperial War Museum, Helen Graham gave a lecture on "The Spanish Civil War 1936-2002 : Memory, Myth and Revisionism".

The main thrust of the lecture was the slow and painful recuperation of the republican memory in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War. She talked of the complicity of whole sectors of Spanish society who had been involved in the murder of their compatriots, and of the exclusion of the defeated from every walk of life. The republican dead could not



Chairman: Jack Jones

be publicly mourned. After the death of Franco, the pact of silence was gradually broken, nevertheless, fear still had to be overcome

for public remembrance to be possible. Re-burials took place, a move was made to acknowledge forced labourers before it was



too late, in 2000 the Spanish government rehabilitated the men who fought in the guerrillas. Very recent years were marked by this explosion of republican memory: a whole flood of academic books appeared on the prisons, stolen children, refugee children kidnapped from France.

Helen Graham ended her lecture by postulating that it marks the completion of the transition to republican Spain.

## Research student

French post-graduate student Mariam Fazlollahi spent three weeks in England at the beginning of the year doing research for her MA thesis to be submitted in September to the Université Catholique de l'Ouest in Bordeaux. Her research focuses on British civilians' aid to the Basque refugee children of the Civil War. The Moreno brothers were able to put her in contact with several Basque *niños* whom she interviewed, as well as with the chairman of the Eastleigh

## Exhibition in Madrid : Exilio

One of the consequences of the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939 was the exile of more than a million Spaniards : women, children and men of all ages and of the most diverse social and professional backgrounds. They went to Europe and South America, some even to Russia, thereby contributing to their adopted country's economic development as well as participating in its social and cultural life. At the same time, they strove to keep alive their own culture as a means of preserving their national identity. These people are "los olvidados" of the Civil War: they constitute nevertheless an important legacy which should be preserved and they are an essential part of Spanish patrimony.

To raise public awareness of this episode in recent history, the Fundación Pablo Iglesias organized a series of events to commemorate the Spanish republican exile. The first event was the highly successful exhibition **Exilio** which took place in Madrid in the Palacio de Cristal del Parque Retiro from 17<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2002. It was originally intended to run until the end of

### News from Spain

## Square named after Leah Mannin!

The Asociación de Jubilados Evacuados de la Guerra in Bilbao finally succeeded in getting official recognition for the work of Leah Manning who helped bring Basque children to Britain in 1937 to avoid the bombing in Bilbao. The Plaza Leah Manning in the Barrio Thurdinaga was inaugurated at a ceremony held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2002. The square is somewhat unusual in that the gardens contain a gymnastic circuit with eight different kinds of apparatus.

About one hundred *niños*, now retired, the Mayor of Bilbao, Iñaki Azcuna, the British Vice-Consul, David Doyle and Andrew Dismore MP, were present at the ceremony. Also attending as representatives of the Basque Children of '37 Association : UK were Manuel and Juan Moreno.

Andrew Dismore gave a moving speech, quoting parts of Leah

Manning's autobiography *A Life for Education* which specifically mention her experience with the evacuees. There followed a display of traditional Basque dancing, then a mass was held at the Begoña Basilica, before an official lunch at the Miramar restaurant in Arthanda.

"Bilbao inauguró ayer una plaza en memoria de la mujer que salvó miles de vidas al organizar la evacuación de casi 3.900 niños vascos a Inglaterra durante la guerra civil."

(Deia, Bilbao 14.12.02)



## Conference in Madrid: Espacios y Protagonistas del Exilio

The second event commemorating the Spanish republican exile was the conference Natalia Benjamin attended from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> February 2003 at the Ateneo in Madrid, entitled **Espacios y Protagonistas del Exilio**. The themes of the lectures were El Legado Constitucional del Exilio, La Resistencia, Las Aportaciones Culturales and Los Niños; these were each followed by discussions and then a round table where participants of the exile gave their testimony. Helvecia Hidalgo was invited to give

her testimony for the last session. The lectures were highly stimulating and informative, the ensuing discussions arousing great passion among the audience.

The essential message that came out of the conference was that there was a moral obligation to remember the Spanish exiles and their struggle, to render homage to those who were persecuted for their ideals and to do everything possible to prevent such a situation from ever happening again.

In his opening address to the conference, Alfonso Guerra, President of the Fundación Pablo Iglesias stated: "Estas jornadas son un homenaje hecho con mucho amor a aquellos centenares de miles de españoles que debieron dejar España; fue una generación extraordinaria que se perdió para España y que durante muchos años no solo fueron ocultados, sino considerados como anti-españoles".



## Forthcoming Events

### Exhibition in Bilbao in December : **El Exilio de los Niños**

Public interest in the republican exile has been so great that the Fundación Pablo Iglesias has joined forces with the Fundación Largo Caballero in promoting a new exhibition based on the experiences of the *niños* who were evacuated during the Civil War and who were exiled from their fatherland.

The exhibition will take place in Bilbao in the Palacio Euskalduna, from the middle of December 2003 until the end of January 2004. Then it will move to Barcelona and other towns throughout 2004, finishing in Madrid in 2005.

There will be five parts:

- Los niños de la guerra
- Organizaciones humanitarias y políticas de evacuación
- Evacuaciones de niños al extranjero
- Repatriaciones y retornos
- Los niños del interior

The central part of the exhibition will obviously be the third section. We hope there will be a full representation of the experiences of the *niños* who came to Great Britain, but this depends on you. The sort of material required are photos, letters, identity cards, medical or other certificates, posters, letters, story books, costumes, etc. It will be most helpful if you could lend personal artefacts to enrich the exhibition. Please let the Secretary of the Basque Children of '37 Association : UK know what you could lend for the exhibition.



## The importance of archives

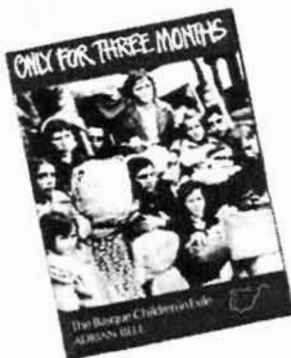
Archives are the records generated by families, individuals or institutions in the course of their daily activities. In the UK, archives are held in many locations: local authority records offices and archive services, universities, museums, galleries, libraries, charities, hospitals, learned or religious institutions. These archives are an indispensable part of a nation's documentary heritage and it is vital to preserve them: letters, articles, documents, photographs, films, songs, posters, oral testimonies, artwork - the list is endless.

Archives help us to understand the past and show us and future generations how we came to be what we are. They are also a means to give people whose families experienced voluntary displacement or emigrated access to information on them. In addition, they are of immense historical and social value for the community and are used increasingly by individuals to support research of all kinds: to explore family history, to write local histories and to prepare theses. Archives are a powerful tool to change lives, for example, reminiscence therapy with the elderly, enabling individuals' search for personal identity, supporting people coming to terms with life-changing experiences.

The story of the Basque refugees who came to England should not be forgotten: not only is it part of the history of Spain and the Civil War, but also the history of families separated and adapting to a completely different culture. It should not be a neglected legacy. Your documents are valuable. This is why we urge you to share your memories by unearthing your own archives. They can then be deposited in a central location, to be looked at and consulted not only by our contemporaries but also by future generations. NB

## Books for Sale

### Only for Three Months



by  
Adrian  
Bell

£6.95 +  
p&p

### Leah Manning

by  
Ron Bill  
and  
Stan  
Newens

£4.99 +  
p&p



## Can you help us?

### Memorials

Do you know the whereabouts of any memorial or plaque commemorating the stay in Great Britain of the *niños vascos*?

### Wanted

Copies of *Amistad*, the newsletter published in the 1940s.

Copies of *Ayuda*, the newsletter produced by the Cambridge colony.

The text of *Five Years a Refugee*, a short play produced in the Hogar Español on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1942. Many *niños* from the Culvers were in the cast.

Original copies of the song book *Los Cantos de los Niños Vascos*.

## Obituaries

We very much regret to announce the deaths of the following:

Victor Cantalapiedra  
Srta María Luisa Izaguirre (Silov)  
Consuelo Macias (Smith)  
Antonio (Tony) Murga  
Jesús Murga  
Srta Rosa San José (García)  
Rosita San José



## 1936-1946 VIA VERITAS VITA The Way the Truth the Life

Kokë Markiniz

Do you remember that magical Culvers Carmen?

Carmen: remember the tender-age florescence?  
And the River Wandle's echo effervescence  
Holding clasp hands near nymphean lilies  
Voluptuously touching enamoured kissing  
And your red bud lips tasted like wine  
And the Basque children in hop locomotion  
Under one roof such kid ecstatic existence

Do you remember that Arcadian Culvers Carmen?

Carmen: remember the chrysalis soul pubescence?  
And the Basque children destine companions  
Without money nor care dwelling ensemble  
Acting painting sculpting writing musical  
And the clap clap tap tap of the castanets  
And the melodious plucking string guitars  
Basking dancing singing in the dormitories

Do you remember that quaint Culvers Carmen?

Carmen: remember the jolly young whimsicality?  
And the girls fiesta florid swing romping  
Bodies twisting twirling turning glancing  
Whirling revolving girating hands clicking  
And shifting advancing backing churning  
And swivel laughing inwards forward and ole  
To the tom-tom-tom and the flute chistulari

Do you remember that idyllic Home Culvers Carmen?

Carmen: remember nevermore to recall nunca más?  
And Guernica's hot firebombs Blitz burning  
Only the bomb blast billowy smoke of Bilbao  
Their home walls tumble crumbling blazing  
And agonizing crying carnage fall scorching  
And corpses squall squashed embedded in ashes  
Whimpering animals on the ground flaming

Do you remember that doom Blitz Carmen?

Carmen: remember the London Blitz fireball burning?

[Kokë was presented with the International Poet of Merit Award on  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2003 by the International Society of Poets USA]

## International Brigades Memorial



The International Brigades Memorial Trust held a ceremony at the memorial in Jubilee Gardens, London, on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2003 to commemorate the 2,100 British men and women who fought against fascism and to remember the 526 who did not return. Jack Jones, President of the IBMT gave an introductory speech and introduced Chris Smith MP, who gave the address.

Chris Smith made an accomplished speech, reminding those present of the bravery of those British men and women who went to help support the Republic.  
Left to right : Jack Jones, Bob Doyle and Chris Smith.

## Aniversario Sexagésimo – Sexto

Algunos de los *Niños Vascos Evacuados* cumplimos el 23 de mayo último 66 años de estancia en el Reino Unido, o dicho de otra manera : 66 años de ausencia del Suelo Paterno, de un grupo reducido de aquellas criaturas que fuimos arrebatados del entorno familiar por salvarnos de las bombas que llovían sobre Bilbao.

En 1937 la destrucción despiadada de Gernika por la barbarie fascista y el Gobierno de Euskadi se esforzaba por auventar a los niños del peligro que acechaba amenazador contra sus vidas, encontrando su solución en su envío a países dispuestos a acogerlos. De los 3956 que llegamos a la Perfidia Albión, quedamos de los últimos 500 más o menos que no llegamos a ser repatriados, un centenar escaso en el país que nos recogió. Los que quedamos hemos recorrido un larguísimo camino fuera de nuestra patria sin el amparo paterno. Hemos superado muchas difíciles barreras, perdiendo por el ríscoso y duro camino seres queridos. Aquel 23 de mayo de 1937 es para nosotros una fecha tan emotiva, como tan difícil de olvidar. Aquel día, hace 66 años, se nos privó forzosamente sin posibilidad de voz, voto o protesta, nuestro derecho sagrado de desarrollar, envejecer y terminar nuestra vida en la tierra que nos vió nacer.

Si el Gobierno de Euskadi y el Gobierno Central, pese al profundo amor que sentimos por el Suelo Patrio, no son capaces de resolver de una vez por todas la injusticia que aun hoy día nos marca como víctimas, serán para todos efectos, los responsables de convertimos a los que quedamos, en 'LOS ÓLVIDADOS' por la Patria.

Luis Santamaría, mayo 2003

## Lecture

On 17<sup>th</sup> June 2003, Martin Murphy gave a lecture at the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, Oxford University, on **The Spanish Exiles of Eaton Hastings : Cernuda, Garfias and Barea.**

The three writers considered in the lecture were all, coincidentally, marginally involved with the Faringdon colony between 1937 and 1939.

**Stop Press**

# Weston Manor Revisited

Members of the Association visited Weston Manor, a former Basque girls' colony on the Isle of Wight near Totland on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2003. The house is situated on a hill overlooking the sea and is surrounded by splendid gardens. Bulletin No. 8



(July 1937) of the NJCSR tells us that 114 girls were sent there. They stayed for two years and were cared for by the Sisters of Nazareth from Southampton.

Weston Manor was built in 1869 for William George Ward, a friend and neighbour of Alfred, Lord Tennyson. He was ordained as an Anglican priest in 1840, then became one of the prominent figures in the Oxford Movement before being converted to catholicism in 1845.

On arrival, we were introduced to Brother Francis, who showed us round the manor. Of special interest

was the private chapel attached to the house and built in 1871. On the right near the altar was a small plaque set into the wall and a statue of Our Lady of Begoña holding a small child. This is a copy of the statue in the Basilica of Begoña in Bilbao. The following words are written on the plaque: "Our Lady of Begoña. Presented to Mr Wilfred Ward on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1987 by the former Basque refugees who, as children, spent two years at Weston Manor during the Spanish Civil War 1937-1939."

Weston Manor is now a care home for adults with learning and physical disabilities, run by the Companions of St Martin's Trust.



Who are these girls?



...if you know their names, please call \*

Carmen: do you remember...



## Can you spare a few hours?

Voluntary help needed to help administer our membership list.

The person will need

- to be familiar with Microsoft Access
- to have worked with databases
- to have his/her own computer
- to work closely with our Secretary Natalia Benjamin

The work should involve only a few hours per week.