

BFFS in Sheffield on 1 December 2007, then on 4 December 2007 at the Bournemouth Media School (Steve Bowles) and on 12 February at the LSE (Herminio Martínez).

● Natalia Benjamin gave the opening talk at The Point, Eastleigh on 10 October 2007. She also gave a paper on 10 February on "The Basque Children in Britain and Memory" at the international conference on The Spanish Civil War: History, Memory and Representation held at Cardiff University.

## Forthcoming events

### Viva la Republica!

A fiesta to celebrate, commemorate and mourn the Spanish Republic of 1931-39 is to be held at the Yaa Asantewaa arts centre near Paddington, West London, on the evening of Saturday 26 April.

Viva la República will feature, poetry, prose, music and dance and aims to bring together those individuals, families and communities whose lives have been influenced or inspired by the Republic and its resistance to fascism.

The date chosen for the event is the anniversary of the bombing of Guernica. It is also close to the 14 April Day of the Republic which is marked in many towns and villages in Spain.

The fiesta is being organised by Manuel Moreno, chair of the Basque Children of '37 Association UK and committee member Jim Jump, who is also a trustee of the International Brigade Memorial Trust. Both organisations are supporting the fund-raising and educational initiative which, if successful, will become an annual event.

Admission is free, though places can be reserved in advance to guarantee entry. There will be a Spanish menu and a bar.

The Yaa Asantewaa Centre is at 1 Chippenham Mews, London W9 2AN and proceedings will run from 6.30pm to 11.30pm. Register in advance to guarantee entry at [vivalarepublca@hotmail.co.uk].

### Homenaje in Bilbao

Mauro Calvo, of the Fundación Idi Ezkerra, is planning a "Homenaje" for the *niños de la guerra vascos* who never returned to live in Spain, inviting *niños* from the different countries they were evacuated to. It will take place in Bilbao from 11-15 June; if any *niño/a* is interested in going, please contact the Secretary.

### Talk in London: change of date

On Saturday 21 June (not 14 June, as previously advertised), Professor Michael Alpert will be giving a talk at the Marx Memorial Library, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU (Tube: Faringdon). The talk starts at 2.30pm and is entitled: "The

Blockade of Bilbao". Please let the Secretary know whether you will be coming.

### IBMT ceremony at Jubilee Gardens

On 19 July, the IBMT will be holding a ceremony at the monument in Jubilee Gardens, London, in honour of the British International Brigaders. It starts at 1pm and all are welcome. Tube: Waterloo, Southwark. Afterwards there will be a lunch and social at nearby Premier Inn (former Travel Inn), Belvedere Road, London SE1 7PB.

### Blue plaque at Montrose

Following the AGM of the IBMT in Dundee on 11 October, it is hoped on the following day to unveil a blue plaque at the colony in Montrose. We hope *niños* living in Scotland will be able to attend the ceremony. Please contact the Secretary nearer the time for further details.

### Sussex and the Spanish Civil War

Poetry, Prose and Songs on Saturday 21 June at 2pm, Southover Church Hall, Lewes, East Sussex. Explore the connections between Sussex and the Spanish Civil War, including the Basque refugee children and the International Brigades. Spanish food and wine. Entry free. Further details Mike Anderson Tel: 01435-864 978 or [mike.c.anderson@talktalk.net].

## Accounts

Abridged version of accounts for the year ended 30 November 2007 and adopted at the Annual general Meeting on 16 February 2008:

	2007	2006
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions and donations	1700	2125
Grants	25318	1752
Commemorative events, fees and donations	4346	-
Sale of books and DVDs	7967	3907
<b>Totals</b>	<b>39331</b>	<b>3907</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Commemorative event	12417	-
Film	11508	-
Cost of books and DVDs	5256	49
Blue plaque	267	721
Newsletter, postage and other costs	1989	1254
<b>Totals</b>	<b>34437</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>7894</b>	<b>1883</b>
<b>Bank balance</b>	<b>9121</b>	<b>3413</b>

Copies of the audited detailed accounts with the trustees' report may be obtained from the Treasurer. Tel: 020-8224 7959.

# Letters from the archives...

This letter was sent on 24 May 1937 to Sir Walter Citrine, TUC General Secretary, from a London W1 address.

Dear Sir Walter

I have instructed my bankers to send my "poor mite" of 10/- a week to you on the understanding that this amount is only to be used in the interests of the Basque children landed in England this weekend.

If there is a general fund which provides not only for this but for propaganda or any other political support for the Communists and Socialists in Spain, I am not in the slightest bit interested. My desire is simply to help these children to have a comfortable and happy time in England.

Will you please confirm that this money will only be used for this purpose, and I on my part only wish I could send more.

Yours truly

When many of the *niños* had returned to Spain in 1939 and most of the colonies had closed down, the British public was asked to "adopt" the remaining *niños*. Here is a letter from a prospective adopter.

Dear Sir

Just a few lines to know if you can help me. I want to know if your committee has an orphan little girl I could adopt age about 8. Bright and healthy with no Consumption or Mental or other hereditary disease (and I prefer one not wearing glasses). I have had a bereavement and lost Mother and my Father died when I was 7 years old. I have no sisters or brothers and I was Mother's inseparable companion. Now I find life very lonely as I am left alone. I am 40 years of age live in my own house and have a good and modern home. I am healthy and strong and good character and my income comes from investments. I love children and could give one every comfort. An answer will oblige.

I am yours respectfully

P.S. I would like a Protestant as I am Church of England Religion.

The original of this letter is held at Warwick University Modern Records Centre from the papers of Wilfred Roberts MP (ref MSS.308).