



BCA'37UK
The Association for the UK Basque Children

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
1st FEBRUARY 2019

BCA'37UK - The Association for the UK Basque Children

Constitution

The original Association was formed in November 2002 and in 2006 became a registered charity. In 2013 a new constitution was adopted when the membership side was closed and efforts were focused more on educational aspects. After deregistering from the Charity Commission in 2016, the Association was required to change its name to its current form, and it adopted a new, simpler constitution. This constitution was adopted on 9 November 2016. (Copies available from the secretary.)

The aim of the Association has not changed over the years and continues to be to advance the education of the public, academics and students in the subject of the exile in 1937 of 4,000 Basque children to the UK during the Spanish Civil War.

Activities

This year has been remarkably full of activities and events, given that it followed on from the busy 80th anniversary year in 2017.

Interest in our history continues to grow as can be measured by the subscriber list to our bi-lingual eNotices/Boletín that now nears 400, a similar number of followers on Twitter and a good presence on Facebook.

Our website also continues to grow and gather favourable comments, especially from media and researchers. This year we have published a wide range of articles on our website, in both English and Spanish: two undergraduate degree theses, family recollections, an article on our archives, on colonies, repatriation and a photo article.

We have again been involved in events and exhibitions over the UK and several of us have given talks in public - at Universities and Local History Societies, and private talks to schools and groups of undergraduate students. Details of the public events and accompanying reports can be seen on our website in the ACTIVITIES page. There is a brief report on this year's public events by Simon, our Events Co-ordinator Appendix 2.

Simon also continues his role as Family History Adviser, continuing to deal with enquiries along these lines - again, his report is included in Appendix 2. Na-mara has continued to perform throughout the year and to act as ambassadors for us.

This year we have been involved with two plaques both of which followed on from events held last year. The Wherstead Park plaque (2018) has led to a new one being placed at the site of the follow-on colony at Whickham Market. The Caerleon plaque, which had fallen into disrepair, was replaced by a new one and rededicated this June.

2018 saw the publication of a new book containing a chapter on the Basque children *That Was Then, But This Is Now* by Andy Grigg, in which our help is acknowledged.

Archives that have been given to us have been transferred to The Special Collection, Hartley Library, University of Southampton. These include the personal papers and photographic albums of Helvecia Hidalgo, Carito and Marina Rodríguez; and Poppy Vulliamy's photograph album was donated by Adrian Bell.

In November we held a meeting of some of our most active followers to gauge support for the future of the Association and to hear ideas for new initiatives and, crucially, to ask people to carry them out. This was a successful and interesting meeting that we hope to follow with a more open meeting next year. We will report on the success of the initiatives if and when they become reality.

We are in the process of establishing stronger links with the Basque Government which we hope will be fruitful both for financial and general support.

We have established a link with University of East Anglia's 'Refugee History' project for which we contributed an invited article.

We continue to have reasonable support from the press both in UK and Spain; we add links to these on our website as we go along.

Our close links with IBMT continue and in July we laid a wreath at their annual commemoration at Jubilee Gardens.

The Association again made its annual contribution towards the cost of the annual *comida* for the *niños* and their families, organised by Luis Jarero and Amaya López.

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(Contd.)

We send our most sincere thanks to **all** those who have worked with us, supported us, contributed to the Association with talks, articles and exhibitions - and to those who have let us know that they appreciate our work - it means so much to us.

The Association welcomes Dr Ed Packard as a new trustee. He is a lecturer at the University of Suffolk with a special interest in the colonies of Suffolk and football and the Basque boys. He was appointed at a meeting on 24 November 2018.

The trustees who have served throughout the year are: Natalia Benjamin, Willie Black, Carmen Kilner and Simon Martinez.

Agents

Bankers: Co-operative Bank

On behalf of the Trustees

A.M.C.Kilner, Hon. Secretary..... Date.....

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Financial Report

Summary of accounts from 1-1-18 to 31-12-18

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Starting balance 1-1-2018 | £5292 |
| End of year balance 31-12-18 | £4961 |

INCOME

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Donations and speakers' fees | £1829 |
| Sales | £1455 |
| Other * | £1024 |
| | £4308 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Events ** | £1503 |
| Asset expenses*** | £1408 |
| Office and incidental expenses | £ 297 |
| Travel **** | £ 956 |
| Other * | £ 476 |
| | £4640 |

Surplus/deficit for the year **-£332**

Balance brought forward £5292

Funds available £4960

Notes

Income

* This is mainly income from third parties to cover our outgoings and therefore also appears as part of expenses.

Expenses

* See above

** Includes a contribution towards the Annual Meal (*La comida*) for the *niños* held in May.

*** Increase in stock - posters, DVDs leaflets etc

**** Travel - to set up and take exhibitions, setting up and taking part in events and talks. These are often reclaimed, but others have no funding for expenses.

Overall our expenses are low because all the people who work for the association are volunteers, not only do they not charge for their time, but they often incur expenses for which they do not claim.

(Report on Shop stocks and sales see Appendix)

A M C Kilner Hon. Treasurer

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Appendix

Events

I am pleased to report that there continues to be a steady stream of requests for our story to be told. Some of the events are public and others not. The private ones are for students and include a visiting class from the USA. It is a pleasure to report that our story has been told from Totnes in Devon to Carlisle on the Scottish Border, and from Britain to the USA.

Each of the public events has had a notice about it on the website and a report of it afterwards. The Association's website reflects how busy the volunteers are. It is a pleasure to welcome Koldo Sanz and Carmen Coupland to the team of speakers and event organisers. A small organisation with a wide reach and a powerful message.

Family History

The Association received requests from family members seeking information. Thanks to Natalia and Carmen's establishment of a very effective working relationship with the Madrid archive *Fundación Universitaria Española* (FUE), I am able to help the descendants of the *Niños* who remained in Britain after 1939. This is usually in the form of the *ficha* or record card kept on the child, *Maestra* or *Auxiliar* by the Basque Children Committee.

I have been making tentative steps to access other archives in Spain to see if they hold information that belongs with family members but the progress is slow.

The relationship with FUE works and now that they have digitalised their collection almost the same day! The quality of the copies of the *fichas* and cards has also improved.

Shop and stock

The best selling items in the shop in 2018 have been the two books *Recuerdos* and *Only for three months*, and the DVD *the Guernica Children*. Sales are mostly through the events the Association is represented at, with some coming through the internet shop.

We have restocked the Steve Bowles' DVD this year, and are grateful to Adrian Bell for keeping the shop stocked with his book. Thanks also to Manuel Moreno who has provided us with a CD and a *memoria* of the lives of the *niños* who settled in West London. Other new items for the shop this year have been the flags - of the Basque Country and of the Second Republic.

In 2019 I am working on sorting out a shop box for events that I don't attend which our speaker volunteers will be asked to take with them.

Reports by Simon Martinez