

**Spanish Civil War Study Day
18 May 2019
Hull History Centre
Worship Street, Hull**

**Report by Simon Martinez
Photos by Marshall Mateer / IBMT**



Manuel Moreno explaining the history of the Basque Children



Simon Martinez talking about the two Colonies in Hull

An appreciative audience attended the study day at Hull History Centre on the 18 May. The Centre hosted an exhibition by Hull Students of graphic art of images of Hull and the Spanish Civil War in May and the study day welcomed the exhibition on the Basque Children which included boards on the two Colonies in Hull – Elm Trees and Hazeldene. The study day comprised: a talk on Football and the Civil War; the history of the Basque Children and the two Colonies in Hull; and propaganda images of the War.

Manuel Moreno presented a short history of the War in the Basque Country and the evacuation of the 4,000 children on the *SS Habana* to the UK. He talked about the solidarity shown to the Republican Government by the British people in taking refugee children despite the opposition of the Government in London. Simon Martinez talked about the arrival of the Children in Hull and the welcome given to the Children and the ongoing kindness and generosity shown to them. Simon commented on the warden of the Elm Trees Colony who travelled on the *SS Habana* with her baby daughter. Her husband was reported as fighting in the Republican Army and that she had been evacuated with their baby to the safety of Hull. Perhaps the accepted age range for children on the *SS Habana* should be revised to include this baby?



Both Manuel and Simon commented on the internationalism and humanitarianism of the Basque Children's supporters in Britain generally, and specifically in Hull. A spirit which despite the times, we live in now, lives on with those who support internationalism and helping refugees and opposing racism.



Rob Bell and a slide of Hull City.



Manuel and Dr Marianne Gilchrist.

Rob Bell talked on the football manager Don Patricio and described the professional and personal life of the man who both managed Hull City and F.C. Barcelona. He was the manager of Barcelona during the Spanish Civil War and he took the team abroad to avoid the conflict playing matches in Mexico and the USA. Dr Marianne Gilchrist talked on the propaganda posters of the war on the theme of 'Taking Sides' showing the contrasting styles adopted by the Republican and Nationalist sides.