



INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

Patrons Ken Livingstone
Prof. Paul Preston

www.international-brigades.org.uk

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INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

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Welcome once again to Issue 11, and thanks to all of you who've expressed your appreciation of the newsletter and of recent events.

It's been another busy time for the Trust, and this issue is packed with reports of the events which have taken place.

Paul Preston's lecture "The Crimes of Franco" at the Imperial War Museum Theatre was very successful, interesting and informative and attracted a full house, Paul preceded the lecture with a tribute to Len Crome, who was the last President of the IBA and whose family inaugurated the memorial lecture.

The unveiling of the Ebro Memorial was a very moving occasion, and we are grateful to David Leach, Rachel Ritchie and Angela Jackson for organising the events of the 7/8 May so well, and to the Mayor of El Pinell de Brai, Pere Martí y Vinaixa, for his help and generosity.

Special thanks are due to Unison for funding the plaque, their General Secretary, Dave Prentice, made the comment that the memorial was not just a memory of the past, but a warning of the continuing struggle against fascism. We were delighted that Rodney Bickerstaffe was able to represent Unison at the ceremony and we also welcomed Geoff Cowling, the British Consul in Barcelona, and Colonel Mark Rollo-Walker, Military & Air Attache in Madrid, particularly as they were the first representatives of HM Government to attend any of our ceremonies.

Details of the Memorial Day are on the back page. John Pilger is our guest speaker, Liz Shirley will lead the singing, and it will be chaired by our esteemed President, Jack Jones. It promises to be a full and pleasant day, with lunch after the ceremony, and a social in the evening – make a weekend of it and enjoy meeting friends, as well as remembering old comrades.

Looking ahead, the Annual General Meeting will be in Liberty Hall, Dublin on 15 October. For more details, see back page. Salud,

Marlene Sidaway

Return to the Sierra de Pandols



Veterans (from left) Sam Russell, Alun Menai Williams, Jack Jones and Bob Doyle at the unveiling of a memorial to the 90 members of the British Battalion who died in the battle of the Ebro. See centre pages for the full story



On 11 June in Burncourt, Co Tipperary, in the presence of the last two surviving Irish fighters of the 15th International Brigade, Bob Doyle and Michael O'Riordan, a memorial was unveiled to Kit Conway (above) in his native village.

A hundred people listened as Mattie McGrath, Chairperson of South Tipperary County Council, spoke of how Capt Kit Conway had been killed in action during the Battle of Jarama on 12 February 1937 while commanding not only his own Irish company, but also two companies of British volunteers after their own commanders had already been killed.

IBMT committee member Manus O'Riordan welcomed the attendance of relatives of some others who had fought with Kit Conway. Those representing volunteers to Spain included the Mayor of Waterford City, Councillor Seamus Ryan, present in honour of his late granduncle Peter O'Connor, who had been the last surviving Irish veteran of the

Irish hero honoured

Battle of Jarama; Anne O'Hara who travelled from Glasgow in honour of her late father, Gerry Doran; Marie Edwards, from Dublin, whose late father-in-law was Waterford veteran Frank Edwards.

Four representatives came from Spain to pay tribute to Kit Conway. One of them, Severiano Montero, recalled that: "Before leaving Ireland he (Kit) said: 'Sooner than Franco's forces should win, I would leave my body to manure the Spanish fields.' And so it happened." The most moving moment of the ceremony came when Seve brought his speech to a close by sprinkling the ground around the Kit Conway memorial with soil that only two days previously he had brought over

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Brief notes

Correction! In the previous Newsletter we said that the *Amigos* (AABI) were finding it difficult to deal with all the requests for assistance from those wishing to **visit the battlefields**. Juan Carlos Poyan, Secretary of AABI, assures me that of course they can offer help and advice to any visitors to the Madrid area – particularly Jarama. As you'll read later, Kevin Cotgrave and members of La Columna (the Spanish Civil War battle re-enactment group) were greatly helped to explore the Jarama site. Contact Juan Carlos at [aabi@tinet.org]. Nevertheless, the *Amigos* cannot cover all areas in Spain, such as Catalonia or Albacete. We are trying to put together a database of friends in Spain who are willing to help visitors locate particular sites. We already have some contacts, listed below, but if any of you have any contacts in Spain willing to be guides, please let me know. In addition to this, Rob Adams has travelled widely in Spain, and has detailed information of each trip – again contact me.

● Albacete: Manuel Requena, Campus Universitario, Albacete 02071, runs **Cedobi** (Centro de Estudios y Documentación de las Brigadas Internacionales) at the University of Castilla-La Mancha. Cedobi has inaugurated a **website** [www.brigadasinternacionales.uclm.es] or contact [cedobi@uclm.es]. He also welcome donations of memorabilia for the archives in Albacete.

● Brunete: Study group for the Battle of Brunete: Ernesto Viñas Costantino +34-918 11 26 02; Angel Rodríguez Pérez +34-918 11 42 12; Jesus Vázquez Ortega +34-9686 37 37 95. Their web sites are [www.terra.es/personal/chechin] and [http://es.geocities.com/batallabrunete].

● Jarama: Contact *Amigos*, as above, or Jesus González (Curator of Museum in Morata dedicated to Battle of Jarama) [madrid1936@telefonica.net].

John Corcoran has sent a detailed report of a trip he and Don Watson made to the **Jarama** front. There are good pictures of the area including the remains of the "Clenched Fist" memorial we featured in Issue 10 (page 5). There is also a memorial placed by French Brigadier François Mazou – the second one he erected. Immediately after the battle, as many of the bodies which could be retrieved were buried in the local cemetery. Once the Franco regime was established, these remains were removed and scattered on the waste ground behind the cemetery walls. Mazou was appalled to discover that the resting place of so many of his comrades had been defiled, so he returned later and placed the second memorial stone at the far end of the cemetery. Other photos of John and Don's explorations are of a building used by the British and Irish and referred to as the "Cookhouse". It is now once again a restaurant, and the entrance and surrounding walls are very much as they were then. There is also a photo of the wall memorial to those who died at Jarama at

Irene Burnell has sent this photograph of the memorial in Morata cemetery, and points out that Morata de Tajuna is about a half-hour drive from Madrid, or a bus ride from Atocha Station. See the piece below about John Corcoran's visit to Jarama.



the back of the cemetery in Morata de Tajuna. See more on their website [www.comms.dcu.ie/sheehanh/photos/jarama.htm] or contact John Corcoran at [johngee59@eircom.net].

Allan Christiansen sends greetings from veterans and friends in Denmark, and also gives directions to the remains of the **Clenched Fist Memorial** – at a crossroads a few miles west of Morata de Tajuna.

Kevin Cotgrave also sent a detailed report of a trip he had made to Madrid with other members of La Columna. They were delighted that their guide, Juan Rey of the AABI, had a first-rate knowledge of the Spanish Civil War and the area around **University City**. Juan also introduced them to Angel Rojo who has a collection of SCW artefacts, and they were able to purchase from him some equipment to help improve La Columna's educational presentations. They also met Jesus González (see above) and they all found the visit to the area round the Jarama battlefield very moving, particularly as they were there on the anniversary of the battle. Jesus's parents fought for the Republic and suffered under Franco's dictatorship. Kevin sums up the trip as being superb, made even better by the hospitality of Juan, Jesus and the others who gave up their free time to guide them around. If you would like details of the travel arrangements etc contact Kevin at [mili-ciano36@yahoo.co.uk].

Jo Cranswick and Bernard Gilbert sent a cutting from the *Euro Weekly News* which they spotted while on holiday in the Costa del Sol. The article tells of 60,000 **Malaga** residents forced to flee their homes in February 1937 and escape to Almería – 5,000 of them died on the way, attacked by Nationalist troops from the sea and air. A new memorial has been unveiled in Torre del Mar to mark the event.

Charles Jepson, Secretary of the national Clarion Cycling Club, found the minutes of a meeting in January 1938 in which it was proposed to hold a

relay **cycle ride** in aid of the Spanish Republic. As well as carrying messages of encouragement from various localities, the ride raised £136. Does anyone have any further information? Would anybody be willing to take part in another cycle relay to mark the Anniversary in 2008? Or organise it on behalf of the IBMT? Contact Charles at Aysgaard, Beardwood Brow, Blackburn BB2 7AT.

A CD, "The Planet Tilts", a selection of 28 poems by IB veteran **David Marshall**, beautifully read by nine well known actors is available now for a donation in aid of the IBMT. The CDs will be on display at Jubilee Gardens on 16 July (see back page) or contact me. There will also be a book out in late summer with more of the poems.

Scott Ripley of Eastbourne would like to thank all who sent information, advice, letters and other documents to help him with his book. He said: "My book could simply not be done without all the helpful input from yourself and members of the IBMT."

Gert Hoffman, one of five or six surviving **Austrian Brigaders**, sends warm greetings to all comrades in the Trust and he was sorry he could not attend the Ebro Memorial unveiling in May, as he'd hoped. It is good to be in touch with veterans from other countries. We send our greetings to them, and hope they might be able to attend some of our events – particularly the re-union meeting on 16 July.

Don Watson, IBMT member, gave the Edward Allen Memorial Lecture to the North East Labour History Society in Newcastle on 25 May. His subject was "Politics and Humanitarian Aid: Basque Refugees in the North East and Cumbria During the Spanish Civil War".

Badges: Don't forget that our IBMT badges are excellent value at £2 or by post for £2.50.

Marlene Sidaway

Obituaries

Charles Matthews



Charles Matthews, who was featured in our Newsletter Issue 9 with his wife, Jean, died on 14 January this year. After fighting at Aragon and the Ebro, Charles

was captured on 23 September (the same day of the announcement that the International Brigades were to be withdrawn) and was eventually sent to the notorious San Pedro de Cardenas prison. Charles and other prisoners were finally exchanged and repatriated early in 1939. He had been reported killed, and an obituary had appeared in the local paper, so it must have been a wonderful surprise for his family to hear of his release.

Cyril Sexton



Cyril Sexton died at his home in Los Gigantes, Tenerife on 9 April, aged 91. Cyril was in Spain for two years, from January 1937 to December 1938. He

was wounded at Jarama in February 1937. Following his recovery, he was with the British Battalion at Brunete and went on to fight at Aragon, Belchite, Gandesa and the Ebro, where he was wounded again. After treatment at the cave hospital he made his own way back to England by train, arriving slightly later than the main party of Brigaders.

● Many members will be very sad to hear that **Owen Hardisty** died on 15 May. He first became interested in the Spanish Civil War as a youth of 14, and has been a very active, enthusiastic and helpful member of the Trust. In Issue 9, we noted that Owen, an active member of University of the Third Age, Luton branch, had written an article about William James (Joe) Gough who left Luton on 15 October 1936 and joined the Thaelmann Battalion in Spain. Owen's article highlighted the importance of telling the stories of ordinary, committed volunteers for Spain to a wider audience, so that their names and deeds will live on. He will be greatly missed.

President's message

I was honoured to be invited to the recent Elche exhibition and conference and to the unveiling of the Ebro plaque, and send my heartfelt thanks to David Leach and all those who worked so hard to organise the latter event. It was a wonderful occasion. In my speech there I talked about how easily Spain has taken to democracy, about how the Republican struggle had not been in vain, and how as we continue to remember the past,



we must also look to the future. I look forward to our Jubilee Gardens commemoration in July and to the AGM in Dublin in October. I know our Irish

comrades will make this a truly memorable event. I have every intention of being there, health permitting, and encourage as many people as possible to join us.

And finally we remember the comrades who have passed on and salute their memory. I extend greetings to all relatives and friends of the International Brigade, and not least to my fellow Brigaders.

Salud!

Jack Jones

Crossing the Pyrenees in 2006

Plans are moving ahead for the commemorative crossing of the Pyrenees scheduled for April 14-17 2006 (Easter weekend). The cost of hotels in Perpignan and Figueras should be about €70 for a twin/double room. Train fares to Perpignan return are currently in the region of £120, but I expect to get a discount for a block booking. For three nights in hotels, plus train fares, costs would be in the region of £250, exclusive of meals. The proposed itinerary is:

- Good Friday 14 April: Travel to Perpignan, arrive around 9.30pm. Overnight in hotel in Perpignan
- Saturday 15 April: After breakfast, coach to Las Illas; rally by the plaque commemorating Spanish refugees on the Hostal dels Trabucayres; light refreshments; 11am, begin 13km crossing of the Pyrenees; 2pm, rally at Col Mannett by the memorial to Luis Companys, President of Catalonia; 3pm, refreshments at La Vajol; 4pm, coaches take us to our hotel in Figueras; evening meal in the hotel.
- Sunday 16 April: Morning rally at Castell de Sant Ferran, mustering-point for all volunteers intending to join the International Brigades; optional tour of the Castell; afternoon and evening free. Overnight in the hotel.
- Monday 17 April: Return by train.

The itinerary will be firmed up as details of train times become available. Those wishing to travel by air should choose return flights to Perpignan which will dovetail in with these arrangements, returning by train to Perpignan with the rest of the party.

Participants will be sent a sponsorship sheet. The target is to raise a minimum of £100 per person, but the more people can raise, the more that can be donated to the Trust. There will be certain expenses that will have to be taken out, such as coach hire, guides and refreshments en route.

Walkers must ensure they have suitable boots and outdoor all-weather clothing. They must also provide evidence of up-to-date travel insurance.

I have personally checked out the hotels in Figueras, primarily for accessibility for people with limited mobility. The intention is to hire a 4x4 to take older participants across. IBMT members Maggie and John Comley will check out hotels in Perpignan.

If you wish to take part but have not yet contacted me, please do so. My details are: Pauline Fraser, 90 Roding Lane North, Woodford Green IG8 8NG; tel: 020-8506 0088; email: [pauline@fraser4219.freeserve.co.uk].

Pauline Fraser

Irish hero honoured

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from Kit's place of death on the Jarama battlefield.

The chief organiser of the event was Sean Kelly, Treasurer of Relatives and Friends of Waterford International Brigaders, who had also been the driving force behind the erection of the International Brigade monument in neighbouring Waterford in July 2004. An illustrated Kit Conway memorial brochure was produced by Annette O'Riordan, with articles by Sean Ua Cearnaigh, Bob Doyle and Michael O'Riordan, and a repro-

duction of the the contemporary account by Kit's comrade-in-arms Jim Prendergast, "How Kit Conway Died", that the Irish IB leader Major Frank



Ryan had published in Madrid in 1938, as editor of "The Book of the XV Brigade". Copies of this brochure were eagerly taken up by all present at the ceremony.

A PDF version of the brochure is obtainable on request from [moriordan@siptu.ie].

...and home

and press coverage both in Spain and Britain and by the many local people who attended the event, not only from the Terra Alta region but from as far away as Barcelona.

Jim Jump

... and return to the cave hospital

Events on the day after the unveiling of the Ebro memorial began with a visit to the tiny, picturesque cemetery of La Bisbal de Falset, north of the town of Corbera, where the remains of Harry Dobson are buried.

Harry, a miner from South Wales, was injured in the Battle of the Ebro and, despite treatment at the nearby Santa Llucia cave hospital, died of his wounds.

This was the first time that Harry's fellow International Brigader and great friend Alun Menai Williams, also a former Welsh miner, had visited the grave.

The highlight of the ceremony was when Alun, a first-aid man during the war, knelt in the sunshine at Harry's grave and laid upon it a piece of coal he had brought with him from the Welsh valleys where both of them had worked.

The mayor of La Bisbal, Lluís Masip, the British Consul General in Barcelona, Geoff Cowling, and Alun's son Robert all gave speeches and, in keeping with the Welsh theme to the day, the Cardiff Red Choir sang a song of peace in Welsh.

The party then moved into the cool shade of the cave hospital, just up the road in the stunning hills of the Montsant area, where Brigaders and local victims of the fighting on the Ebro were treated.

Among the many local people present was Enric Masip, who shared his memories of the hospital from the village perspective and outlined plans for a permanent exhibition of wartime photographs in the cave.

Two elderly women who had been treated in the

cave during the war came all the way from Reus in a taxi especially for the event.

Robert then read extracts from his father's memoirs "From the Rhondda to the Ebro". In them, Alun evocatively describes himself as having had "a kind of worm's eye view of the bloody proceedings" on the Ebro which made him "an expert in the taste and texture of the Spanish earth".

Jack Jones, who was injured in the battle and was treated by Alun, spoke of his experience as a patient in the cave before the party made the short trip up into the village of La Bisbal de Falset for lunch.

In the late afternoon, a group went with Alun to a spot near the village of La Torre de Fontaubella where he and other Brigaders were photographed by Robert Capa in 1938, marching and carrying the British Battalion flag. Photos were taken of Alun in the same spot, 67 years on from his first heroic adventure in Spain.

Gideon Long

With friends in Elche

The lovely palm-fringed town of Elche near Alicante in the Valencia Region is now host to the magnificent travelling exhibition "Volunteers for Liberty" organised by the *Amigos de las Brigadas Internacionales* in Spain. All aspects of the great contribution made by the International Brigades are covered in this beautifully designed exhibition.

Jack Jones, IBMT President, attended the opening at the end of April along with George Sossenko, a US Brigader, in the San Juan Exhibition Centre.

This was followed by a short conference on the role of the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War which concluded with two interesting talks. One by Gabriel Jackson, the eminent American historian, about Juan Negrín, Prime Minister during the war. The other was by a courageous *Amigo*, Javier Ortíz, who works voluntarily to help discover the graves of the victims of Franco and identify them for their bereaved families via

DNA testing. The audience were shown many graphic slides indicative of murder and torture.

During the course of the meeting Jack had some inspiring meetings with relatives of Spanish Brigaders and joined in some hearty singing. Our heartfelt thanks are extended to the organisers of this event from the university at Elche and the *Amigos* for their marvellous work and hospitality.

Mick Jones

Committee in Belfast

Earlier this year a group of interested activists met to erect a memorial to the fallen volunteers born in Northern Ireland. This committee, the International Brigade Commemoration Committee, will erect a statue in 2006.

The memorial will list the 20 men who died, plus Jim Haughey who died in World War II. Additional names may also be added as the research and plans continue. In addition it is intended to commemorate the other 50 plus men (no women) from Northern Ireland who served in any capacity for the Republican cause.

The IBCC is based at the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre, 45/47 Donegal Street, Belfast BT1 2FG. A newsletter will be produced in the next couple of weeks; copies can be obtained by contacting the Secretary or by emailing our researcher, Ciaran Crosse, at [cpcrosse@hotmail.com]. Membership is £10; £1 for unwaged; organisations can contact the Secretary.

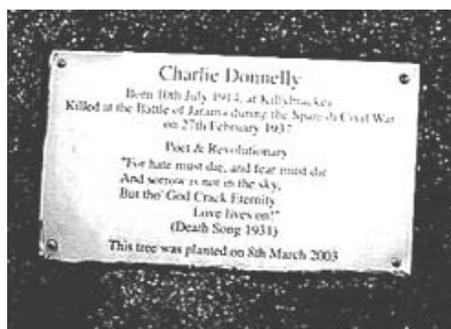
In 2003, a memorial to Charlie Donnelly was erected in Coalisland, near Dungannon. To date it is the only specific memorial to a dead Spanish volunteer in Northern Ireland. He left London on 23 December 1936 with a group of others, but travelled through France on his own and joined up with the rest of the group in Spain on 7 January 1937. In the battle of Jarama he was killed by an explosive bullet and his body lay for four days on the battlefield before it could be recovered. A political activist, he has become well known for his poetry.

A Welsh tribute

On Sunday 24 April a crowd gathered on the hillside between Ebbw Vale and Tredegar in Blaenau Gwent to pay tribute to everyone from this beautiful valley that supported the Republican cause.

Among those gathered were Alun Menai Williams, the International Brigader and author of "From the Rhondda to the Ebro"; Andrew Rogers, the organiser of the event; Alan Warren of Warren & Pell book publishers, Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent; Hywel Francis, historian and

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Above: The memorial to Charlie Donnelly (see "Committee in Belfast").

Left: Jack Jones (centre) with Gabriel Jackson (left) and George Sossenko at Elche.

Can you help?

If you are not on email and can answer any of these queries, contact IBMT Secretary Marlene (see details on page 1) and she can pass your message on.

● Alan Lloyd is researching the involvement of individuals and organisations from Hampshire in the Spanish Civil War. He would be grateful for information about:

- W Beales, Newport, Isle of Wight, killed Ebro August 1938;
- Ray Cox, Southampton, killed Boadilla December 1936;
- HD Fisher, Romsey, killed Ebro July 1938;
- Ivor Hickman, Petersfield, killed Ebro September 1938;
- JA Moore, Portsmouth, died of wounds February 1938;
- Harold Laws, Southampton, killed Teruel February 1938;
- CJ Simmons, Portsmouth, killed Jarama February 1937.

According to Alan, organisations with information could range from trades councils, union branches, political branches and organisations to local WIs organising humanitarian aid. If you can help, contact Alan at 1 Charden Court, York Drove, Southampton SO18 5LZ.

● Dan Carrier's great uncle was International Brigader Nat Cohen, a textile worker who cycled to Spain for the 1936 Olympiad and stayed to fight. Dan has always been fascinated by the Spanish politics of the period, and would like to find out more about his great uncle's time with the Brigades.

● Richard Baxell, a historian on the committee of the IBMT and author of a recent book on the British Battalion, is currently researching the experiences of the British brigaders during the Second World War. Any information would be welcome, whether or not they served in the armed forces. In particular, he wants information relating to:

- ex-volunteers who were refused admission into the armed forces or who were accepted but experienced prejudice due to their service in Spain
- those who did not, at first, wish to serve, but changed their mind after the German invasion of Russia.

Richard Baxell can be contacted either by e-mail: [rbaxell@yahoo.co.uk] or via the IBMT.

IBMT Newsletter

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● Anti-Fascist Voices Project is working on a series of interviews with anti-fascists from 1930s to the present day. Dave Hann would like to interview any surviving members of the International Brigades. He also hopes to include veterans of Cable Street, members of the 43 and 62 Groups and activists from lesser known groups such as the V Corps and the Yellow Star Movement. The project will hopefully appear in book form, or on a website. Contact [dave@disnc.freeserve.co.uk] or by post at the School of Historical and Critical Studies, University of Brighton, 10-11 Pavillion Parade, Brighton BN2 1RA; tel: 01273 230 295.



● Elizabeth Boe has sent a photograph (above) of her uncle, Thomas Kerr, in Spain with a Spanish lady. She also sent a sad letter informing Tom's mother that he had died of typhoid in hospital in Vich, Catalonia in October 1938. It is signed by Peter Kerrigan who visited Tom about 10 days before he died. Tom joined the IB on 5 January, 1937. If anyone has any further information, or knows where he is buried, please contact Elizabeth at Apt 51, Edgewater, Lisburn BT27 5PZ

● Doreen Walden has sent a copy of a photograph taken on Tyneside in 1937/8. It advertises a Spanish Cabaret in a marquee to raise funds for a refugee ship. She also sent copies of letters from Winifred Bates dated January 1939 in which she notes that the news is not good (from Spain) but "the fight goes on. We are not beaten yet..." Mrs Bates had written a letter to the local press in Newcastle telling of a terrible experience she had had while motoring in Barcelona the previous year. Forced to take shelter from the bombs, she witnessed a beautiful town being demolished, the fleeing inhabitants gunned down by machine guns from swooping planes. When she saw dead children being carried out of ruined buildings in Barcelona, she vowed to do what she could to get food sent to the suffering families. There is also a letter dated February 1942, from Nancy Newbigin of Tyneside Council of Social Service telling of a little Spanish boy, Joachim, obviously traumatised

by his experiences and sent to London for psychological treatment. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Joachim?

● Richard Boast is trying to find out more about his uncle, Robert, who he believes was an IB volunteer and was a conscientious objector during World War II, spending the war mining coal in Wales. He may have used a different name in Spain, but maybe someone knew him in Wales? Contact Richard at [richardboast@kensingtonswan.com].

● Mike Arnott, Secretary of Dundee Trades Union Council, 141, Yarrow Terrace, Dundee DD2 4DY is researching Dundee's contribution to the Spanish Civil War. He found, in the archives of the *Dundee Courier* for August 1938, obituaries of four men killed in Spain – John Ness, Malcolm Smith, Charles McLean and Alexander Edwards. The last two names were unfortunately left off the memorial which is now in Albert Square when it was unveiled in 1975, but Mike hopes to rectify this during refurbishment of the memorial. Smith and Ness, along with George Jackson from Cowdenbeath, were killed at the Ebro in 1938 and their names are commemorated on the memorial which was unveiled this year on 7 May near Gandesa. Mike is also keen to find out more about those who came back from the SCW, or who may have settled elsewhere on their return.

● Does anyone know of Gaston G Gilly, an Argentinian volunteer, who settled in England after Spain, was in the RAF (Belgian Section) during the war, married an English lady and had two daughters? If you have any information, please contact Prof Juan Carlos Cesarini at [renato@lanusmunicipio.com.ar].

● William Valentine Mealey is seeking information about his grandfather, of the same name, from Liverpool. He is not on any of our lists. If anyone knows him, please contact William at [mherons@aol.com].

● Julie Allsop is trying to find information on a family member who died in Spain, surname Cawkwell, born in Clowne, Derbyshire, between 1902-1915. Contact Julie at [julieallsop@fmail.net].

● Frank Ward is interested in seeing a memorial erected in Inverness or the Highlands and Islands. If anyone knows of any IB volunteers who originated from the area (Moray, Inverness, Lochaber, Ross-shire, Sutherland, Caithness, any of the Islands, Orkney, Shetland etc), please contact Frank at [gobbledegook@ukonline.co.uk] or by post to St Barr's, Bishopfield Road., Dornoch, Sutherland IV25 3LJ; tel. 01862-811233.

Books, articles, films . . .

Don't forget the **Book Exchange** scheme – contact Chris Hall if you are looking for a book, or if you have any to spare on the Spanish Civil War, or related subjects: [christoff_hall@yahoo.com] or by post: 286 Brantingham Road, Manchester M21 0QU.

A Dutch company of international booksellers is seeking a copy of **“In Defence of Liberty: Spain 1936-9”** by Solly Kaye. Contact Chris Hall, as above, if you have a copy.

Nick Cuddihy is trying to find a copy of Jack Coward's book **“Back from the Dead”**, published by Merseyside Writers in about 1986. Has anyone got a spare copy? Contact him at [ncuddihy@supanet.com].

Neville Jones has five editions of **“Spain Today”** from the 1950s: Vol.V, No 4, 1951; Vol. V1, No 4, 1952; Vol.V1, No 6, 1953; Vol.V1, No 7, 1953; Vol.V1, No. 8, 1953. Neville would like to find a home for them; any public or private libraries interested please contact him at [nev@skipman.fsnet.co.uk].

Jose Ignacio Garcia Muniozgueren has translated George Wheeler's book **“To Make the People Smile Again”** into Spanish. Jose is not a professional translator but he did it “because I thought George's story had to be known in Spain”. Jose is open to suggestions to translate memoirs from other IB volunteers. Contact him at [jose.ignacio.garcia@garrigues.com].

Helen Graham (who gave the Len Crome lecture for us in 2003) has written **“The Spanish Civil War – A Very Short Introduction”**. It is part of a series which aims to provide stimulating ways into new subjects and is published by Oxford University Press [www.oup.co.uk/vsi] at £6.99. The ISBN no. is 0-19-280377-8 and it comes highly recommended by Paul Preston.

Tish Collins has also written a pamphlet of **“Background Notes to the Spanish Civil War”**, published by the Marx Memorial Library in their Occasional Series. It is available from the MM at £1.50: 37a, Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DV; tel: 020 7253 1485.

Wendy Lewis has copies of **“In the Footsteps of the Spanish Civil War – a guide to the South Wales memorials to the International Brigades”**. It contains vivid personal accounts from Welsh Brigaders and previously unpublished photos and maps of where to find the memorials. £3 plus £1 p & p. Contact Wendy Lewis at [wendy.lewis2@aladdinscave.net] or tel: 029-2088 9514 or by post: 172 Pandy Road, Bedwas, Caerphilly CF83 8EP.

Jim Jump is making progress with the compilation of an **anthology of poems** written by International Brigaders during and after the Spanish Civil War which the IBMT hopes to publish next year. He is still keen to receive copies of any poems in Brigaders' family archives. Contact him at [jimjump@mac.com] or 6 Stonells Road, London SW11 6HQ.

Berkeley photographer Richard Bermack has produced a 121-page picture book **“The Front Lines of Social Change: Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade”** which follows the veterans from their revolutionary youth to old age. It includes portraits taken by Bermack since the early 1980s and archival photos showing the Brigaders in Spain and taking part in political actions at home in later years. The book presents the Lincolns as models for an old-fashioned but durable style of political action. It is published by Heyday Books, tel +1-510-549 3564; [www.heydaybooks.com].

During the Spanish Civil War Belfast milkman **Joe Boyd** defied orders to drive his field ambulance into no-man's-land to collect wounded from both sides. Once back home he was more committed to peace than ever, going to extraordinary lengths to make his point. Joe was taken prisoner in October/November 1936. His daughter, Liz Shaw, paid a moving Father's Day tribute in the *Belfast Telegraph*, Saturday 18 June 2005; see [www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/features/story.jsp?story=647797].

John Corcoran has written an online article on the **Rev Robert Martin Hilliard** (1904-1937), who is mentioned in the Christy Moore ballad “Viva la Quince Brigada” in the lines: “Bob Hilliard was Church of Ireland pastor / From Killamey cross the Pyrenees he came”. In this new document, John Corcoran uses a lot of previously unseen material and letters to examine that unlikely recruit to the International Brigades, questioning how it was that an ordained Church of Ireland minister from Killamey ended his days fighting fascism in Spain. See [www.geocities.com/irelandscw/IBvol/Hilliard2005.htm]. It can also be accessed on the Ireland and the Spanish Civil War website [http://members.lycos.co.uk/spanishcivilwar].

Scottish film company Pelicula Films has been commissioned to make a film regarding the exploits of **Ethel McDonald** of the FAI/CNT during the war. The company previously made a Bafta-nominated documentary on George Orwell's time in Spain. Ethel McDonald, from Bellshill, became a Radio CNT Barcelona presenter during the war and was arrested and imprisoned around the time of the May 1937 disturbances in Barcelona. The film will be shown next year on the 70th anniversary. The producer of the film is Alison Murphy who can be contacted on 0141-300 3014. She is looking for anything which might help with the film.

On 24 April, the History Channel showed a film, **“Franco's Forgotten Children”**, a disturbing film that revealed one of Spain's darkest secrets: the kidnapping and fascist indoctrination of the children of Republican prisoners, and the separation of families as a result of the Spanish Civil War.

The BBC is making a film about the **children of British communists**. Does anyone want to share recollections about what it was like to grow up in a communist family? The programme makers are also looking for home movie footage of the Spanish Civil War and old communist rallies and events. Contact Helen Nixon on [helen.nixon@bbc.co.uk] or tel: 020-8752 7292.

A Welsh tribute

Continued from page 5

author of, amongst other works, the highly recommended “Miners Against Fascism”; Michael Foot, the former MP for Ebbw Vale, and many friends and relatives of Brigaders.

The event started with a performance by the Côt Cochion, the Red Choir, with Spanish Republican songs and “Bandiera Rossa” and “The Internationale” sung in Welsh and English. After that we listened to emotive words of Llew Smith,

and Hywel Francis. Then Alun Menai Williams, the last surviving Brigader still living in Wales, unveiled the memorial plaque to “All men and women who supported the Republican cause during the Spanish Civil War”, remembering those who went to fight with the International Brigades as well as those who contributed and took part in Medical Aid Committees or sent food to the Spanish Republic.

Antonio Díez, author of “Cartas desde España” about International Brigaders from Greater Manchester, spoke on behalf of the Spanish Republican people and then Pauline Fraser laid

flowers next to the monument on behalf of the IBMT.

The Blaenau Gwent and Rhymney men who served or made a significant contribution to the International Brigade were James Brewer (Rhymney), Leslie Brickwell (Tredegar), Robert Cox (Sirhowy), Ivor Gale (Abertillery), Bedlington Jones (Tredegar), Clarence Lloyd (Cwmtillery), Harold Lloyd (Cwmtillery), William Nash (Nantyglo), Philip Phillips (Tredegar), Bertram Vranck (Abertillery), Terry Badem-Skinner (Tredegar), P Abraham (Bryn-mawr) and Bob Jones (Tredegar).

In brief

Jack Brent plaque approved

Dumfries & Galloway Council's planning committee has approved the proposal for a plaque in honour of Jack Brent, the Whithorn veteran of the Mackenzie Papineau Battalion. Jack was one of only two men from Dumfries & Galloway who travelled to Spain to fight the fascists, the other being Robert Grierson of Annan who was killed in action at Aragon in 1938. The local organisers would like to thank Julia Muir-Watt and Janet Butterworth, the trade unionists and others who have supported the proposal. There is an appeal for funds to pay for the plaque. Any surplus will be donated to the IBMT. Make cheques payable to the "Whithorn and District Business Association" and send to: Julia Muir-Watt, Whithorn & District Business Association, c/o Pend Books, 55 George Street, Whithorn, Wigtownshire DG8 8NU.

Plaque unveiled at Cambridge

A blue plaque to commemorate the Basque children's colony at Cambridge (1937-1939) was unveiled at Jesus College on 15 May 2005 by Prof Eric Hawkins. The colony, which housed 20 *niños*, was in a nearby house owned by the college. The unveiling was organised by the Basque Children of '37 Association. There were speeches from Prof Hawkins, then a young language student, who helped at the colony, the Mayor of Cambridge and a representative of the Basque Government. The Spanish Embassy was also represented. The Cambridge colony was one of the best organised, and certainly one of the best staffed, – a famous Spanish concert pianist took the music lessons. Many *niños* attended the event and were delighted to see film and photos of their younger selves.

La Columna at Osterley Park

The La Columna battlefield re-enactment group has been invited to an event at Osterley Park to commemorate IBER Tom Wintringham on 6/7 August when the National Trust will be hosting a "Home Front" day. Part of the focus will be the role of Tom Wintringham and the Home Guard training camp established there in 1940. Displays will be staged by La Columna and Home Guard groups.

Expohistórica 2005

On 22-23 October a multi-period living history display will take place at Castellón. Among those taking part will be ¡Ay Carmela!, a group dedicated to reviving the memory of the Republican forces during the Spanish Civil War. Members of ¡Ay Carmela! have already taken part in the memorial events at the Ebro in 2003 and at Hill 705 this May. The British-based SCW Living History group will be represented in Castellón.

Jersey Liberation Day 2005

Rob and John Smith, sons of International Brigader Chris Smith, laid wreaths on behalf of the IBMT at the monument to the slave-workers, including many Spanish Republicans, who were forced to build the underground hospital while Jersey was under Nazi occupation. The ceremony is now an established part of the island's Liberation Day.

International Brigade Memorial Trust

A ceremony to honour the 2,100 men and women who left these shores to fight side by side with the Spanish people in their heroic struggle against fascism 1936-1939 and to remember the 526 who did not return

Saturday 16 July 2005 at 1pm

at the International Brigade Memorial (adjacent to the London Eye), Jubilee Gardens, London SE1

Chairman: Jack Jones, President of the IBMT

Guest speaker: John Pilger

Singer: Liz Shirley



Afterwards there will be a social in the Travel Inn, London County Hall, with an optional Spanish-style buffet available for £8. Contact Marlene for details of disabled access.

In the evening there will be a social at Carol Street Workshop, 43 Carol Street, London NW1 0HT (close to Camden Town underground station: turn left into Camden Road, then second right into Camden Street and second right again into Carol Street). It starts at 8pm; refreshments and drinks available; entertainment by Bob Doyle Jnr and band; admission £4; concessions £2 – includes first drink.

Annual General Meeting in Dublin

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in Liberty Hall, Dublin on Saturday 15 October.

Annette O'Riordan has negotiated hotel accommodation for 30 rooms in Jury's Inn, Parnell Street, at a rate of €122 per room (about £83). Each room has a double bed and a single bed, and can therefore accommodate up to three people. Breakfast is extra, at €11 per person (about £7.50).

The rooms will not be held beyond the last week in August without confirmed bookings. Annette will be required to supply a complete list of room occupants to the hotel by then, so it is essential that all those wishing to avail themselves of this accommodation should directly inform Annette as soon as possible, but certainly by Friday 26 August at the absolute latest.

It should also be specified whether one or two nights are required. Contact Annette at email: [annette@nestron.ie] or by post to Annette's home address: 13 Finglas Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.

The hotel will then require credit card details. Jury's Inn of Parnell Street is situated in the very

centre of Dublin City, around the corner from the top of O'Connell Street, while the AGM venue of Liberty Hall on Eden Quay is around the corner from the bottom of O'Connell Street.

Election of the committee

Nick Moreno has offered to take up the post of Honorary Treasurer when Peter Crome steps down at the Annual General Meeting in Dublin, and his nomination has been endorsed by the IBMT committee, who met him on 4 June.

Some committee members will be standing down at the AGM, and the constitution could also be changed to increase the number on the committee, if the membership so decides. Anyone wishing to stand, please tell IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway (see details on front page) as soon as possible, with proposer and seconder.