

Report on a visit to Parliament

On February 21st Paco Robles and I were invited to attend Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons as guests of the Leader of the Opposition, Jeremy Corbyn.



For many years now Paco has had a close friendship with his local Labour MP Steven Pound, who has a long standing interest in Spain, its history, language, food and culture.

Jeremy Corbyn also has a long-standing interest in the Spanish Civil War and the Basque children refugees of 1937. When Steven Pound told Jeremy Corbyn about Paco, he was interested in meeting one of the surviving children and so a meeting was arranged. I was also invited, as a representative of the BCA'37 UK, to join Paco as his guest.

We met up with Steven Pound who looked after us and escorted us to a special part of the House of Commons chamber to view the proceedings of PM Questions.

At the end of the session we met Jeremy Corbyn and Steven Pound and together went to the Leader of the Opposition's office where we met a lot of other visitors - including a group of visiting Swedish Socialist politicians.

Things quietened down then leaving Jeremy Corbyn, Paco and I to spend time over a sandwich lunch. Paco recounted some of his memories and experiences of the evacuation and his time in various colonies. Jeremy Corbyn was both interested and knowledgeable about the historical context, and as he speaks good Spanish, the conversation flowed well. He was interested to hear about our association and I gave him copies of various of our books and DVD etc.



We were joined later by his son Seb, and *there* was the unexpected link (for me at least): his great grandmother and her sister were *maestras* at the Wickham Market colony. It is a happy coincidence that 24th March there is a major event occurring at Wickham Market commemorating the 80th anniversary of the arrival of 100 children to that colony. There will be the unveiling of a plaque, talks and an exhibition. See more details of this event at: <http://www.basquechildren.org/-/docs/wickhammarket1803>

Jeremy Corbyn later put out this Twitter. <https://twitter.com/jeremycorbyn/status/966369366605549568>

This led many to visit us at @basquechildren and resulted in a significant increase in our followers.



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All in all it was a very interesting and informative meeting, which Paco and I both greatly enjoyed. We particularly appreciated the generous amount of time that both Jeremy Corbyn and Steven Pound gave us in their very busy schedules.

See also this article in Diario de León:

http://www.diariodeleon.es/noticias/contraportada/nino-guerra-leones-corbyn_1229198.html