

the TUC about his project to create an archive of material relating to the International Brigaders from Dundee. He spoke of the passionate commitment of those who went, referring to the fact that some International Brigaders, in spite of being arrested in Perpignan and deported back to the UK, still returned to fight in Spain, such was their determination to oppose fascism.

In the next presentation, Andrew Ginger talked about some of the films of the post war period in Spain and the way in which they portrayed survival and oppression. He spoke about the importance of recorded image and sound to create a sense of shared memory and we heard a recording of the Falangist victory song "Cara al sol".

Alison Ribeiro de Menendez then gave a fascinating talk on the theme of "Remembering and Forgetting" in relation to contemporary Spanish fiction. She focused on "La Malamemoria" by Isaac Rosa, a bestselling novel in Spain, which tells the story of a writer who is commissioned to write a "fake" autobiography of Franco's hit man. It deals with the paradox of the archive as somewhere where something can be both uncovered and concealed, and the consequences of burying the past.

Next Bill Kidd spoke on how the third generation of descendants of the Retirada are taking an increased interest in their history in the Pyrenées Orientales, illustrated by the number of new memorials being erected.

He told the particularly inspiring story of a Swiss woman, Elizabeth Eidenbenz, who did a crash course in midwifery and turned a derelict chateau near Elne into a maternity hospital, where around 20 refugee women gave birth every month during those years of exile.

Steve Bowles then showed his very moving documentary "The Guernica Children" which vividly portrays the evacuation of several thousand children from Bilbao to Great Britain and includes interviews with several of the Basque refugees, now adults, who were involved in it.

The seminar concluded with an inspiring presentation from Daniel Gray of the National Library of Scotland, who played a number of archived recordings from those who were involved in the civil war. He talked about the way in which an archive could be compiled from even the smallest notes and recollections and how everything helped to build up the bigger picture.

## Further honour for Leah Manning

by Ron Bill

Dame Leah Manning, who was the MP for the Epping constituency, including Harlow, from 1945 to 1950, continues to be commemorated.



Leah Manning.

In 1998 a new building at Cambridge Regional College was named after her. In 2002 a square in Bilbao was named Plaza Mrs Leah Manning, to commemorate her efforts in evacuating the 3,800 children from Bilbao in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War.

The latest honour came on Friday 9 March 2007 when a room at Homerton College, Cambridge, was named the Leah Manning Room. Ron Bill and Stan Newens, authors of the book, "Leah Manning", spoke to assembled guests about her life and work, particularly in Cambridge and Harlow.

Natalia Benjamin spoke about Leah Manning's role in organising the evacuation of the Basque children, and how the children arrived at Southampton and were dispersed in "colonies" around the country. Some stayed at what was called the Leah Manning House at Theydon Bois and a number were in the Cambridge colony, initially situated at Pampisford Rectory and later moving to Station Road in Cambridge.

Antonio Gallego, who was one of the *niños* in the Cambridge colony, was a guest at the event.

Last year, 2006, was the centenary of Leah's enrolment as a student for teacher training at Homerton College. The college fellows and trustees agreed to commemorate this event with a room bearing her name. So, a century on, she is honoured and commemorated by her former college – a splendid and deserved gesture.

Leah was one of a formidable generation of women who made a major contribution to the political and social advances of the 20th century. She was a determined, resolute and persistent advocate, always willing to help the humble and do battle with the mighty. She wanted a better and fairer society and a

peaceful world. Our best tribute to her is to continue to work for the many things she campaigned for throughout her busy, interesting and worthwhile life.

## Film showings

There will be a showing of the documentary "The Guernica Children" on BBC4 on 25 April at 11pm. There will be a showing of the shortened version of film on BBC2 Wales on 5 April at 20.30.

## Articles

The April edition of *BBC History Magazine* has an article by Steve Bowles: "Meeting the Guernica Children". An article by Nicola Lisle will appear in the May edition of *Family History Monthly*, which will be on sale from 12 April.

## Registered charity: What does this mean?

On 25 August 2006 the Association became registered charity (number 1115920). This has several advantages:

### Funding opportunities

● This first advantage, which has already benefitted us, is a higher profile when dealing with governments and other institutions. We have received grants from the Spanish government for which registration with the Charity Commission was essential and have been promised a grant from the Basque government. Many grant-awarding trusts are allowed (or choose) only to fund charities.

### Tax benefits

● There are also taxation advantages. If we have funds on deposit at banks, we can now receive the interest gross without deduction of tax. The gift aid scheme allows the Association to also recover tax on subscriptions and donations received from individuals.

## Forthcoming events

### Oxford day school

A day school on the theme "Basque Refugee Children of the Spanish Civil War" is to be held at Rewley House, Oxford, on Saturday 28 April. To book a place, please telephone the course administrator on 01865-270 368. If you would