



# INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST

Patrons Ken Livingstone  
Paul Preston

[www.international-brigades.org.uk](http://www.international-brigades.org.uk)

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**INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE MEMORIAL TRUST**  
37 Reginald Road, London E7 9HS  
Tel/fax: 020-8555 6674  
Email: [marlenesidaway@hotmail.com]  
Life President: Jack Jones  
Chair: Sam Lesser  
Secretary: Marlene Sidaway  
Treasurer: Nick Moreno  
Committee Members: Gerry Abrahams,  
Mike Arnott, Richard Baxell, John Callow,  
Geoff Cowling, Jack Edwards, Pauline Fraser,  
Mary Greening, Mick Jones, Jim Jump,  
Dolores Long/Hilary Jones, Manus O'Riordan,  
Alan Warren

Hello and welcome to our 17th issue, with lots of events listed to commemorate the ongoing 70th anniversaries of events in the Spanish Civil War in which the International Brigades participated.

On the back page are details of the annual memorial day in London. We're delighted that Billy Bragg can be with us this year, as we don't clash with Tolpuddle Festival (see "Events" P2), where Billy is a regular performer. We are also hoping that special guests from Spain including Román Márquez will be with us in Jubilee Gardens, and also we're welcoming two comrades from Germany, Harald Wittstock and Enrico Hilbert.

It is so encouraging to see the number of events that have taken place in all parts of the UK during the past year. Many of you have worked very hard to organise the conferences, exhibitions and memorials in your local areas.

This is how the Trust should work, with a network of members all actively supporting projects which will ensure that the ideals that inspired the International Brigades and those who supported them and the Spanish people in their anti-fascist war are not forgotten.

We are very sorry to be losing our Treasurer, Nick Moreno, who has indicated that he would like to step down at the Annual General Meeting (see p8) because of work commitments. Nick has been a brilliant Treasurer, I would like to thank him personally for all his help and hard work. We will miss him a lot.

Salud,

*Marlene Sidaway*



## Return to the Ebro

Friends of the Trust (pictured above) gathered by the Ebro near Asco on 12 May 2007 as the ashes of Michael O'Riordan, who died in May last year, were scattered on the river by his son Manus, daughter Brenda and other members of his family.

The spot was close to the point where O'Riordan – the last International Brigade veteran living in

Ireland when he died – had crossed the river in July 1938 as part of the spearhead of the Republican offensive in the last great battle of the Spanish Civil War. He had been selected by his commander to carry the flag of Catalonia into battle.

The occasion was marked by songs in Irish, English and Catalan and, in a poignant moment close to sunset, a scattering of red carnations on the river by members of the entire group.

● More details on page 5.

## Billy Bragg to join Jubilee Gardens commemoration

Singer songwriter Billy Bragg will be the guest of honour at the Trust's annual commemoration in London's Jubilee Gardens on Saturday 21 July.

He will lead the singing of the British Battalion's song, "Jarama", as well as giving a rendition of "The Internationale", the anthem known by International Brigade volunteers from around the world

during the Spanish Civil War.

The "Bard of Barking" – who appeared at an enthusiastically supported IBMT benefit concert in Manchester last October – has regularly performed "Jarama" on recent tours and has also recorded a version of "The Internationale".

This year's commemoration starts at 1pm at the International Brigade Memorial, which is next to

the London Eye. It will be followed by lunch at the adjacent Travel Inn. In the evening at the nearby Paper Moon pub there will be films – including the "No Pasarán" documentary about British volunteers in Spain premiered at the Battle of Jarama commemoration in London earlier this year – and live music.

● See more details on back page.

Professor Paul Preston (left) is presented with the "Gran Cruz de la Orden de Isabel la Católica" by Spanish ambassador Carlos Miranda at a ceremony at the Spanish Embassy in London on 24 May. IBMT Secretary Marlene Sidaway commented: "This is the latest of several awards Paul has received for his work as a distinguished historian and commentator on 20th century Spain. We are honoured to have him as our Patron, and grateful for all the work he does for the Trust."



# Brief notes



Congratulations to our good friends, the **Basque Children of '37 Association UK**, who organised what everyone says was an excellent 70th anniversary commemoration in Southampton on 26 May. Nearly 4,000 refugee children arrived in Britain in May 1937 and were cared for entirely by volunteers and public donations. Several International Brigaders and their families were involved in their upkeep (see Sol Frankel's obituary on the next page). Some of the surviving children are pictured above in front of a mock-up of part of their original camp outside Southampton, along with Scouts who erected the tents. Incidentally, the BC'37A has a new website: [www.basquechildren.org].

DVDs of the film "**Death in El Valle**" by CM Hardt are available from Nicola Seyd of London Socialist Film Co-op: 13 Foundling Court, Brunswick Centre, London WC1N 1QE; tel: 020-7278 5764; £11.99 including p&p. The film attracted a large audience at the LSFC screening in March. We were grateful that Helen Graham, at short notice, agreed to lead the discussion afterwards.

After organising the **memorials in Portsmouth and Southampton** and raising a total of £4,704 for the projects, Alan Lloyd has donated the surplus, £590.88, to the IBMT. Thank you Alan, Beth and all who helped to get such excellent and important memorials in place, and particularly to those who sent donations. We are very grateful.

The town council of **Benissa** (Alicante) is organising a contest of ideas for the creation and installation of a sculptural monument dedicated to the International Brigades. More details at: [www.bigadasinternacionales.uclm.es/modules/ini cio/concurso\_ideas.pdf=20].

Once again I laid a wreath for the Trust at the **Soviet War Memorial** in the grounds of the Imperial War Museum, London, on Victory Day, 9 May.

Des Speight, author of "Australia's Spanish Night", and his wife Kate write to tell us of a ceremony in Canberra honouring the 70 Brigaders who went from **Australia**. They are now members of the Australian Friends of the IB. Contact their president, Sally Burns, through Des on: [des@dlkls.com].

*Marlene Sidaway*

# President's message

Seventy years ago, the war in Spain was being fiercely fought on many fronts. Courageous ordinary working people from Britain and Ireland and all parts of the world continued volunteering to help the Republic in its fight against the fascist uprising and invasion. Terrible atrocities were committed under Franco's orders, not least the destruction of the Basque town of Guernica.

Such violence against ordinary civilians stirred the conscience of many, not least my good old comrade Sol Frankel, whose funeral I attended recently. When Bilbao fell, Sol was working with the Basque refugee children in Southampton. He witnessed their anguish and was spurred to go to Spain. He later fought at the Ebro as I did, along with other good comrades like Michael O'Riordan from Dublin, whose ashes were taken back



recently by his family to rejoin that river where he had fought those many years ago.

We have lost a good few friends in the recent period and we pay tribute to them and the many others who made such a great contribution to the cause of

defending democracy and social justice.

Following the marvellous lecture in March, we look forward to our annual commemoration in July when Billy Bragg will join us in London to help make it a memorable day. Then there will be the Annual General Meeting in Belfast in October. We encourage all to attend both occasions to give a real boost to our movement, especially at this time when the change in leadership of the Labour government offers some hope at least of more intelligent and compassionate politics.

¡Salud y suerte!

*Jack Jones*

## Events

**Thurs 28 June 6.30pm:** Launch of Angela Jackson's novel, set during the Spanish Civil War, "Warm Earth", at Waterstones, 22-24 Sidney Street, Cambridge. Tickets from Waterstones (£3) which will be deducted from the purchase of the book.

**Sat 7 July 3pm at the Labour Hall, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing:**

Unveiling of a plaque honouring the men of Worthing who went to Spain. Reception afterwards hosted by Worthing members of the Labour Party. Members of the Brigaders' families will speak. All supporters of the Trust are welcome. For further information contact Joy Hurcombe: 01903-206 588.

**Sat to Mon 7-9 July, Quijorna, Madrid:** Conference, battlefield tours, museum visit etc to commemorate the Battle of Brunete. For information contact Angel Rodríguez Pérez at: [aro.per@hotmail.com]; also contact Severiano Montero for other activities in the area: [brunete07@gmail.com] or Alan Warren [warren.ofbooks@virgin.net].

**Sun 15 July, Tolpuddle:** A plaque commemorating those from the South West who died in Spain has for some years been in the South West TUC office in Bristol, but Regional Secretary Nigel Costley has decided it should be displayed in a more public place. At some time

during the festivities marking the Tolpuddle Martyrs (beginning at 11am), the plaque will be presented to a Brigade veteran and placed afterwards in the Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum.

**Sat 21 July 1pm:** Annual commemoration at the Brigade Memorial, Jubilee Gardens, London.

**Wed 1, Sat 4, Mon 6, Sat 11, Mon 13, Thurs 16, Mon 20, Wed 22, Mon 27, Wed 29 August:** Performance of a new play about the Spanish Civil War, "Human Remains", by John Bonfiglio. Concessions for IBMT members. Canal Café Theatre, The Bridge House, Delamere Terrace, Little Venice, London W2 6ND; tel: 020-7289 6056.

**Fri 7-Sat 8 September, Zaragoza and Belchite:** Conference to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Belchite. Julián Casanova (who gave the IBMT's Len Crome Memorial Lecture this year) is one of the main speakers. Further details from [cazarabet@masdelasmatas.com].

**Fri 7-Mon 9 September, Berlin:** International summer meeting of the German Friends of the Spanish Republic. Register interest by 30 June. Contact: [info@spanienkaempfer.de].

**Fri 21-Sun 23 September:** Ebro battlefield tour, limited to 15 people at

£200 per person without the cost of flights (to Reus, where participants will be picked up). All profits to the IBMT. For further information contact Alan Warren on [warren.ofbooks@virgin.net] or 01495-775 561 or 07966-631 286.

**Sat 20 October 3pm, Atlantic Inn, Porthleven, Helston, Cornwall:** Unveiling of a plaque to honour Christopher St John Sprigg (1907-37 – known as Christopher Caudwell – who stayed at the inn from August to October 1935, completing his classic work, "Illusion and Reality: A Study of the Sources of Poetry". He was killed at the Battle of Jarama in February 1937. Further details from James Whetter: [trellispen@care4free.net] or tel/fax: 01726-843 501.

**Sat 10-Sun 11 November, Marçà (Catalonia):** No Jubilem la Memoria weekend. Details to be confirmed. For further information and to register an interest contact Angela Jackson on [nojubilemlamemoria@yahoo.com].

● Some time towards the end of the summer, Joan Brown and Andy Ducker hope to unveil a plaque in a small peace garden in Rotherham town centre to mark the contribution of the four men from Rotherham, including hunger marcher and president of the local trades council, Tommy James. For information contact Joan: 01709-372 887 or Andy: 01709-325 747.

# Obituaries



## Frank Ellis

Frank Ellis, who died in January, was born and lived in Hucknall, Nottinghamshire. He had been married only a year when he went to Spain in 1937, aged 23.

After eight months of fighting he was captured by the Italians and imprisoned near Burgos, but was repatriated in 1938 in an exchange of prisoners.

He recalled that he and his fellow repatriated comrades got a bill for £13 from the Foreign Office for the return fare – which was presented and unpaid for several years “before they gave up”.

During the Second World War (when the portrait above was painted) he was in the Royal Artillery, and trained as a glider pilot for the ill-fated Arnhem assault, which he survived unscathed. He was then posted to Burma, where he contracted malaria, and finally returned home in 1946.

Frank worked at the local colliery and became active as a National Union of Mineworkers delegate. He is well remembered for his calm manner and ability to hold a crowd at the many meetings he addressed during mining disputes.

After his retirement at 62, he could indulge his passion for gardening, and won many prizes for his chrysanthemums; he was also a very successful bee-keeper. He was a private, modest man, who never lost the humanitarian principles which shaped his life and actions and remains a great influence on his family and his many friends.

*Marlene Sidaway*



## Sol Frankel

Sol Frankel, who died on 19 May at the age of 93, grew up in London's East End, where he took part in the Battle of Cable Street against Sir Oswald Mosley's fascist

Blackshirts. Before going to Spain, he was a volunteer at the refugee camp outside Southampton for nearly 4,000 Basque children who had arrived in May 1937 following the bombing of Guernica by Hitler's Condor Legion.

Sol arrived at the British Battalion's base in Tarazona de la Mancha in December 1937 and, after training, was promoted to sergeant in the machine-gun company. He saw action in the Battle of the Ebro in July 1938 and was wounded in the fighting around Gandesa. Nerves and tendons in his right arm were severed and he remained in hospital in Barcelona for three months. His hand was left permanently partially paralysed.

His injury disqualified him from wartime military service – though he was a volunteer air-raid patrol warden in the Blitz – but not from resuming his work as a tailor. He became a shop steward for the

National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers and worked in East End factories, where he learnt to grip the cloth with his disabled hand clenched while sewing with his left hand.

After the war, Frankel and his wife Pearl moved to north London and, in 1958, to Crawley. In 1973, they moved to Wales and ran a guest house near Aberystwyth, before settling in Leeds until Pearl's death in 1999, when Sol returned to London.

*Jim Jump*

● A fuller version of this obituary can be viewed at [<http://news.independent.co.uk/people/obituaries/article2578443.ece>].



**Frank Graham (centre) leads International Brigade veterans at a 1939 rally in Newcastle.**

## Frank Graham

We have learned that Frank Graham died in a Newcastle nursing home aged 93 on 30 April 2006.

Frank was instrumental in organising the 14 volunteers from Sunderland who joined the British Battalion of the International Brigades. He was among the first group who arrived in Spain at Christmas 1936, and fought at Jarama in January and February 1937. Losses were very heavy, and Frank was deeply affected by the loss of two of his close friends from Sunderland.

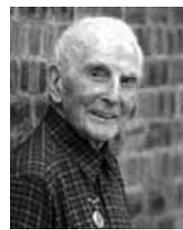
He returned to England in April 1937 to address meetings in support of the Spanish Republic before returning to Spain, where he fought at Brunete and Villanueva de la Cañada. He was seriously wounded at the fighting around Caspe in March 1938 and, after leaving hospital, contributed to Republican radio broadcasts in Barcelona.

In 1945 Frank trained as a teacher. He taught for 15 years, during which time he realised the need for scholarly but popular accounts of local history and culture and he became a successful small local publisher. Amongst his 387 titles (103 written by Frank himself), were the reprint of the 1938 official “Book of the XVth International Brigade” and two accounts of his own experiences in Spain.

A stalwart member of the IBMT, he and his wife Vera regularly attended events and gave us welcome encouragement and advice when the Trust was formed.

*Marlene Sidaway*

● A more extensive appreciation of Frank can be obtained from Don Watson at: [[donwatson@btinternet.com](mailto:donwatson@btinternet.com)] or in print from Marlene Sidaway (details on front page).



## James Maley

Born in Glasgow, James Maley died there, aged 99, on 9 April 2007. Raised in the city's East End, until recently it was thought James was one of six children,

but it has since come to light that three brothers died in infancy. In his teens he was given the last rites after contracting pneumonia but survived against the odds and in 1932, joined the Communist Party, emerging as a noted public speaker at Glasgow Green.

In 1936, James answered the call of the Spanish Republic after hearing La Pasionaria on the radio. He was in action at the Battle of Jarama in February 1937. Captured and sentenced to 20 years in jail, he was later released in a prisoner swap, but not before his mother spotted him in a Movietone newsreel in a Glasgow cinema, being paraded as a prisoner of war.

In 1949 James married Anne Watt, another Glaswegian. Nine children followed. The anti-fascist fighter became a family man, but remained passionately committed to socialist struggle. Eighty years down the line, the pneumonia he had shaken off in his teens came back for him.

*Willy Maley*

● See Hampden Park photo on the back page.



## Bob Peters

Bob Peters, a Welsh emigré to Canada, returned to Europe as a volunteer to fight fascism in Spain in February 1937, becoming a member of the British Battalion of the International Brigades.

He received a bullet wound in his lower back at Brunete on 7 July 1937 and spent some time in hospital before recovering to become a motorcycle courier. He left Spain in December 1938 following the withdrawal of the International Brigades.

Bob first became a friend of La Columna Spanish Civil War historical re-enactment society in August 2003, the first International Brigader to do so. He arrived in his Mac-Pap T-shirt, and shared stories of his time in Spain, including how at the Battle of Brunete the British Battalion captured fascist stores at Villanueva only to find boxes of brand new British army socks complete with arrow stamps on. Needless to say they helped themselves to a pair or two. Bob ended the story with a smile saying, “...so much for British non-intervention!”

On the day of his visit, Bob accepted honorary life membership of La Columna. He died in London on 15 January, aged 92. Gracias, Camarada, for all your support and encouragement. Though we knew you only briefly we all feel we have lost a true friend.

*La Columna*

# News from home . . .



Poet Lemn Sissay (far left), actor Maxine Peake (left) and Brigadier Sam Lesser (right) in action at the “No Pasarán” evening in London in February. See “Jarama in verse, song and film”.

## Confronting the neo-revisionists



The IBMT’s Len Crome Memorial Lecture at the Imperial War Museum, London, was this year delivered by Julián Casanova (left), Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Zaragoza, on 3 March.

During a wide-ranging and illuminating lecture, Professor Casanova outlined the appalling violence generated by the Spanish Civil War. As he stated, the internationalisation of the war only increased its ferocity.

It also ensured its victor. As Casanova succinctly explained, despite continuing efforts of revisionists and neo-Francoists to deny it, the explanation of why Franco won the civil war is very simple. In addition to having the best troops, economic power and the support of the church, Franco was supplied with vast amounts of men and material by Mussolini and Hitler, which the farcical non-intervention agreement allowed to continue virtually unchecked. This far exceeded that supplied to the Republic.

Within contemporary Spain, the uncovering of the graves of victims of the civil war had forced Francoist supporters to confront the issue of murders by the regime. Professor Casanova explained how they had responded by returning to the long-discredited argument that the left provoked the uprising, at the same time as disputing the number of opponents killed in Franco’s Spain.

To confront this neo-revisionist onslaught, Professor Casanova argued that it was vital that the struggle to look for truth and information must continue. And this could only continue if the documents and books that described and explained the history of Spain were preserved. Archives, museums and education in schools must all play a part for, as he concluded, “with no archives, there is no history”.

This sixth annual lecture, named after the Chief

Medical Officer of the International Brigades, was chaired by IBMT Patron Professor Paul Preston.

*Richard Baxell*

*The text of Julián Casanova’s lecture, “The Spanish Civil War: History and Memory”, is now available, price £3, as are the other five lectures in this series. Contact Marlene Sidaway (details on front page).*

### Polish legacy under threat

According to a report in El País on 23 March: “The columns of the tomb of the unknown soldier in Warsaw no longer record the fallen in the battles of the Ebro, Brunete and Jarama. It is part of the policy of cleansing any vestige of communism in Poland, taken up by the new conservative government. The Spanish Senate has reacted to the intention, within this same policy, of withdrawing the pension from the Polish International Brigaders who fought in the Spanish Civil War and will ask the Spanish government to put the diplomatic services at the disposal of these 90-year-olds in order to give them all the necessary material and legal aid.”

Mike Hancock, MP for Portsmouth South, raised the issue of the Brigaders in Poland within the first hour of the opening of the spring session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

He asked that the assembly look seriously at the issue that was starting to spread across Europe: the way in which war graves and memorials to people who gave their lives fighting Nazism and fascism were being systematically demolished or subject to plans to be moved and said that it was sad that in Poland pensioners, many in their 90s, were being denied pensions granted under the old system in Poland because of their efforts in fighting fascism.

The IBMT has written to the Spanish Embassy in London and asked them to pass on our concerns to the relevant Polish authorities and to indicate our support to the Spanish government.

The letter said: “We are proud of those who went to fight against fascism in Spain and believe that

their sacrifices and struggle should never be forgotten. We owe a great deal to that generation of brave men and women who realised the threat of fascism in Spain and later went on to fight it in the rest of Europe against Nazi Germany.”

*Marlene Sidaway*

### Jarama in verse, song and film

On the 70th anniversary of Jarama, the IBMT joined with T-shirt company Philosophy Football and the GMB to host a celebration at North London’s Offside Bar.

Film-maker Simon Green had prepared a special introductory film to set out the history and context of the Spanish Civil War. With haunting images and explanatory text there could be no better way to start the evening. With a mix of poetry from Lemn Sissay, readings from Maxine Peake, Marlene Sidaway, Stefany Tomalin and Jim Jump and protest songs from Leon Rosselson, Robb Johnson and Tracey Curtis, the night was a brilliant mix of culture and history.

Veterans Jack Jones and Sam Lesser were the guests of honour and made memorable speeches.

### Wales and the Spanish Civil War

The exhibition “Wise and Foolish Dreamers: Wales and the Spanish Civil War” opened on 11 May at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea.

This major Heritage Lottery funded-project was organised by the Welsh Centre for International Affairs. The opening Dreamers’ Festival comprised several events of film, music, poetry and literature.

The exhibition which will tour Wales with a specially produced book and video, and a Wales and the Spanish Civil War education pack is being produced.

The exhibition was launched by guest speaker Hywel Francis, MP for Aberavon, author of “Miners Against Fascism: Wales and the Spanish Civil War”, and he gave an interesting and informative talk.

All seats were taken and many people had to stand around the hall. Festival events ranged from readings of Lorca’s poetry to a showing of “The Colliers

# ...and abroad



Crusade" (1979) which features interviews with many of the Welsh Brigaders.

This was a unique chance for people to appreciate the contribution of Wales to the Republican cause and for young people to learn about the significance of these links between Wales and Spain and their relevance to current events throughout the world.

*Mary Greening*

## On the road with Bob Doyle

"Rebel without a pause" Bob Doyle returned home after three weeks of travel that included a visit to the Jarama memorial to honour the memory of International Brigader Charlie Donnelly who died at Jarama aged 22.

Bob and Harry Owens joined a group that travelled from Coalisland, Donnelly's home town. On their return, after a meeting in Galway, they travelled to Dublin to meet IBMT members Sid Sherriff and Lyn Hurst from Leicester who then drove Bob and Harry to Cork for a reception with the Lord Mayor. In the evening the venue was Cork University where, after a showing of "The Spanish Earth", Bob gave a speech and answered questions from the large and welcoming audience – who then queued to buy copies of "Brigadista".

After Cork, it was a drive to Coalisland for the annual Charlie Donnelly weekend at the Craic Theatre, which included music, film and debate followed by a ceremony at the Donnelly memorial.



Hywel Francis opens the "Wise and Foolish Dreamers" exhibition in Swansea in May. See "Wales and the Spanish Civil War".



Brigader Bob Doyle (second from right) and Manus O'Riordan (right) of the IBMT during a session on Ireland and the Spanish Civil War at the Connolly Festival in Dublin March. See "On the road with Bob Doyle".

Bob planted a shrub brought back from the Jarama valley, the perfect finish to an excellent weekend.

On 23 March, a packed audience in Dublin's TGWU Hall heard Bob and Manus O'Riordan of the IBMT speak on Ireland and the Spanish Civil War, at the Connolly Festival organised by the Irish Labour Party's affiliate, Labour Youth.

*Lyn Joe Hill*

## Ebro tour

More than 40 members and friends of the Trust visited the Ebro battlefield in May. On Friday 12 May they attended the opening of an exhibition in Marça organised by the Catalan organisation No Jubilem la Memoria, "Prelude to the Last Battle: The International Brigades in the Priorat 1938". Introduced by the organisation's founder, Angela Jackson, Moira Gray spoke of her memories of her two brothers, Edward and Thomas, both of whom died in the Civil War.

Angela then led the group to the grave of John Cookson, an Abraham Lincoln Battalion Brigader, who is buried nearby and whose headstone, commemorating his death on 11 September 1938, had been carefully hidden for many decades. Cookson's is the only known marked grave of the almost 200 members of the International Brigade who fell in the battle of the Ebro.

On Saturday the group moved on to Gandesa, the tantalisingly unrealised objective of the Ebro offen-



Some of the group who toured the Ebro battlefield in May at the "lost" memorial erected in 1938 to Battle of the Ebro dead. See "Ebro tour".

sive, where they explored the ruined village of Corbera, heavily shelled in the battle, and then visited the memorial on Hill 705 unveiled by Alun Menai Williams in 2005.

For the fittest, the highlight of the weekend came later that day when, led by Alan Warren, organiser of the trip, and Geoff Cowling, former British Consul in Barcelona, 20 of them climbed the hill to the still secret location of the "monolith" constructed there in July 1938 by Percy Ludwick to commemorate those who fell in the Battle of the Ebro.

*Brian Ferris*

## Charlie Donnelly sculpture

A very successful social event took place at the Black Lion Inn, St Albans, on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Jarama to launch the Charlie Donnelly memorial sculpture.

There were readings of Donnelly's poems and those of his contemporaries. Music was provided by local musicians, Ali MacFarlane and friends. A full-size plaster replica and working drawings and maquette of the memorial design were on view.

The event, supported by local trade unionists and socialists, marked the start of a number of fund-raising activities to cover the costs of the sculpture. The North Staffs Miners' Wives Action Group, in association with St Albans artist/sculptor Frank Casey, are working together to memorialise the heroic sacrifices made in the history of resistance to fascism, both in the mining community and beyond.

Contact Frank Casey at: [frank.eileen@yahoo.co.uk] for details.

## Perthshire volunteers

"Not to a Fanfare of Trumpets", the story of the International Brigade Volunteers from Perthshire in the Spanish Civil War was told in words, pictures, song, poetry and music at the Perth Museum and Art Gallery Thursday 10 May 2007.

The story of the Perthshire volunteers was brilliantly narrated by Paul Philippou. Each part of the story was supported by poetry, music or readings from letters, poetry and speeches from the era. A

*Continued on page 7*

# Can you help?

*If you do not have an email for replies, contact Marlene Sidaway (details on front page) to forward messages and correspondence. Please note that some information from the database cannot be sent by email and has to be posted. Members requiring this service should send self-addressed stamped envelopes. When we know how much data needs to be sent, we can advise on postage.*

● **Barrington Nevitt Ryerson** (Mike), volunteered some time in November 1936. Good at languages, he was sent to liaise with a French group. He was found on a roadside on the Cordoba front, hospitalised in January 1936 and eventually repatriated when his wife (née Brenda Swann of London Trades Council) gave £10 to Joe Scott of the AEU who was visiting Spain. If anyone has any information, please contact Mike's son, Peter Ryerson at [pryerson@hotmail.co.uk].

● **George F Gorman**, born in Derry, Ireland, died at the Ebro 22 September 1938. His family had moved to Dumbarton, Scotland, in 1917 but he left in 1920. Very little is known about him except that he was living in Folkestone when he volunteered. He was married and had four daughters. If anyone has further information, please get in touch with nephew Gavin Fletcher, at [GF606397@aol.com].

● Loraine Osbourne has found out that her father, **Ernest Osbourne**, attended the Lenin School in Russia before he went to Spain. She would like to find out more about the school. If you can help, contact [loraineosbourne@hotmail.co.uk].

● Mark Derby, researching the New Zealand contribution to the Spanish Civil War, is seeking information about **Mick Morgan** aka **Edward Dighton**. It is known that he served with the militia in Madrid in 1936/7 but no more is known of his time in Spain. His children remember him using certain Spanish phrases, and his lasting admiration for Spain and its people, but he was a quiet, man and never talked about his time as a Brigadier. Contact Mark on [markderby@paradise.net.nz].

● Neil Barrow has compiled an article about the "Saddleshworth men in the Spanish Civil War" (See facing page) but would also like to find out more about the following Saddleshworth Brigaders: **Clem Beckett**, **Joe Buckley**, **Albert Charlesworth** and **William Jackson**. He would be grateful for any unpublished photos, diaries, letters etc which contain references to the men. He would also like information about the journalist **Henry Buckley**, particularly his birthplace and origins, obituary or archive of his papers. Contact Neil at [neilbarrow@diggle47.fsnet.co.uk].

● Anthony Williams is researching his great uncle **Sidney James**, born in Treherbert, South Wales, on

24 December 1905. Sid arrived in Spain in February 1938 and joined the British Battalion of the International Brigades. After a short training he took part in the crossing of the Ebro in July 1938. He was seriously wounded during action at the Sierra Caballs and died on the way to hospital. If anyone knows of any reference to him, please get in touch with Anthony at [tina@tronk.fsnet.co.uk].

● Roy Yuval-Bourne was a pupil of **Alan Gilchrist** (Commissar of the British Battalion), at Hanley Castle Grammar School in Worcestershire. James Gilchrist was in the same class as Roy and he would be delighted to get in touch with James or any relatives of Alan, who was living in Essex with his two sons when they last met in 1978. Contact Roy at [royuval@freesurf.ch].

● **AJJ Albrighton** (Jim) wrote a diary of his experiences in the Spanish Civil War which his son-in-law Karl Wood has scanned and made available as a word or PDF file. Karl would also be interested in any references to Jim which may exist in material produced by others connected with the war. Jim mentions meeting many people during his involvement, for example Willie Gallagher, Harry Pollitt, John Cornford and Tom Wintringham, and would like to corroborate these references. Contact [kiw@ntlworld.com].

● Sue Coles is researching **Robert Trail** who was born in Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, Tynemouth on 28 September 1909. He was in the Communist Party and went to Moscow in 1933, returning to London in January 1936. He married a White Russian émigrée, Vera Gauthkoff, and they had a baby daughter (whom Robert never saw). He went to Spain and was killed on 7 July 1937. Contact [street.trees@talktalk.net] if you can help.

● IBMT researcher Jim Carmody is researching the following and would appreciate any information. Send it to [jamescarmody@yahoo.co.uk].

– **Joseph "Jock" Cunningham** apparently became a vagrant after the Communist Party refused to let him return to Spain to take command of the British Battalion. He was a very important volunteer, one of the first to fight in Spain and was with Frank Ryan at "The Great Rally" at Jarama.

– **Alec Bonner**, from Glasgow, is listed in the British Battalion roll of honour as having been killed at Jarama on 27 February 1937. He is on all the Jarama casualty lists and is on a list of Scottish volunteers who arrived home on 27 July 1937.

– Likewise, **Barney Shields** was thought to have been killed during the retreats, but a letter allegedly written by him from England to a pal in Spain, which arrived after his supposed death, suggests otherwise.

– **Barton (Nick) Carter**, an American who fought with the British, had lived in London prior to going to Spain and was killed trying to make his way back

across the Ebro after Calaceite. Nick Wright is researching his story and has letters written by **Alan Douglas Logan** telling how others from the British Battalion were killed behind the lines when trying to reach Republican territory. Logan, a POW, was from Pinner, Middlesex. He disappeared after his return in 1938. Does anyone know anything about Carter or Logan?

● Ruth Barriff is looking for information on her uncle, **Rudolph Stender**, born in Hamburg in December 1899. Forced to flee Germany in 1933 because of his political activities, he was smuggled on a Russian boat to Odessa where he studied at the West University. He went to Spain in 1936 as Siegmund Nielsen, was wounded in the defence of Madrid and was later in charge of German groups in Albacete. In 1938 he was again at the front line with the XI Brigade, possibly the Edgar André Battalion. Ruth's father, Werner, then living in London, received a letter from Rudolph/Siegmund written on 9 May 1939 telling of the retreat from Spain, into France, where he was interned in several camps: Cyprien, Gurs and Camp Vernet. Tried by the Gestapo, he was sent to a forced labour camp and died of exhaustion and starvation on 18 May 1945. Ruth particularly wants to trace the movements of his group as they left Spain. In his letter, he mentions Bisania in the Pyrenees, Palafrugell and La Bisbal. Contact [rmstender1@aol.com] if you can help.

● **Archibald Dewar** from Aberdeen was killed in the Aragon retreats in March 1938. Reports indicate that he had distinguished himself in action during the fighting, and it is believed he is buried somewhere around Calaceite. If anyone has more information, please contact his great-grandson, Derek, at [derekdewar@btinternet.com].

● Audrey Canning is trying to find any information on **Joseph Rainford**, born 1917 in Liverpool. She was told that he died in Spain but he is not on the list of British dead. She has also searched public death registers, including consular records. If anyone can help, contact Audrey at [jpowles@gcal.ac.uk].

● James Somers would like information about **Peter Daly**, an Irishman who fought with the British Battalion and died in Benicasim on 5 September 1937. He had left Ireland as a young man and worked on building sites in London. He is thought to be an ex-IRA and Republican Congress member. Contact James at Oulartard, Ferns, County Wexford, Ireland or on +353 (0)53-936 6347.

● **Eric Noel Brookfield** volunteered direct from the sixth form of Maidstone Grammar School and was killed at the Ebro in 1938. Alan Leonard was at the same school and would like to know more about him, Contact Marlene sidaway at: [marlenesidaway@hotmail.com].

# Books etc

## Now in paperback

Richard Baxell's book, "British Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War", is now available in paperback (Warren & Pell, £14.99; post free to IBMT members).

The book examines the composition and motivation of the 2,500 British and Irish volunteers who fought in the British Battalion of the XVth International Brigade and their role, experiences and contribution. It traces the volunteers' experience within Spain and the creation and development of the International Brigades and examines some of the more contentious issues surrounding the role of the volunteers in the British Battalion.

In his review, Paul Preston said: "If I could keep only one book on the subject it would have to be this one. No one before or since has managed to weld the huge volume of disorganised and confusing memoir material into a clear and coherent political and military chronology and geography."

## In brief

● Ciaran Crossey has written a new 40-page pamphlet entitled "**Jim Haughey**" about the eponymous Lurgan volunteer. It deals briefly with Haughey's early life before going on to his time in Spain, then as a prisoner of war and finally to his time in Canada and death in the Second World War. Copies are available at £2.50 from Ciaran; email: [irelandscw@yahoo.co.uk] or from: 2nd floor, 13 Lombard St, Belfast BT1 1RB.

● Ciaran Crossey also informs us that his Irish

Spanish Civil War website now includes some images of the **Irish memorials**, with plans to include more. View it at: [www.geocities.com/irelandscw/Images/ibmtMapIreland.htm].

● Richard Thorpe and his pupils from North Axholme School, Scunthorpe, have produced an excellent booklet about **Jarama**. The comprehensive account gives a brief historical background to the conflict, details of the soldiers, the commanders, the weapons, with many photographs and maps and personal interviews with Brigaders, historians, writers and others. For a copy, email Richard: [thorpe.ortiz@tiscali.co.uk].

● Neil Barrow's article, "**Saddleworth Men in the Spanish Civil War**", based on files held in the Working Class Movement Library in Salford and the researches of Edmund and Ruth Frow, Freda Millett and Jennifer Clark, appears in the Saddleworth Historical Society Bulletin and is available from Neil Barrow: SHS, Carr Farm Cottage, Diggle, Saddleworth OL3 5ND; £2.50 including p&p.

● There's an article online about the **National Library of Scotland's** recent exhibition on the Spanish Civil War written by Dan Gray, who is researching a book on the Scottish Brigaders. See: [www.nls.uk/about/discovernls/issues/discovernls\_03.pdf].

● "Wales' Last Brigader", a documentary film about **Alun Menai Williams** and made by Blue Egg Productions for BBC Radio Wales was short-listed for the Celtic Media Awards in Skye In March 2007. Congratulations.

## Perthshire volunteers

From page 5

large screen showed a computerised compilation of photographs, battle maps and art from and about the struggle. It was one of the best events I have attended: the material was moving, funny and inspiring, the performers spot on and every seat was taken.

The occasion was to raise awareness of the Spanish Civil War and the contribution of the volunteers from Perthshire to the war. It is hoped to raise sufficient funds for a memorial in Perth to the local volunteers.

Edward Brown, John Gordon, Robert Malcolm, Hugh MacKay, James Moir, Ann Murray, George Murray, Tom Murray and George Steele, all connected to Perthshire, went to Spain during the Spanish Civil War.

Paul quoted from Richard Baxell's "British Volunteers in the Spanish Civil War"; the songs included "Jarama", "Viva la Quince Brigada" and a song for the Perthshire Volunteer James Moir which was written especially for the event by Jim Carruthers and Heather Reid.

The evening started with a bagpipe medley and finished with the pipes rendering "Flowers of the Forest". The Burns poem "A Man's a Man for a

that" made clear the historic dimension of the concepts of liberty, equality and fraternity for which the International Brigaders fought.

*Margaret Sampson*

*Paul Philippou adds: The event was supported by the IBMT, Amicus and raised £328.50 for the IBMT. Amicus paid for the hire of the hall and the production of the programme. I would like to apologise to the few people who were turned away because the hall was full: we underestimated the response to the event. For information contact me at [passionariabooks@blueyonder.co.uk].*

## In brief

● Mike Arnott spoke on Dundee and the Spanish Civil War to the Abertay Historical Society on 9 May. A commemoration of those from the city who fell at Brunete is being held on 6 July at 12 noon at the International Brigade Memorial, Howff Cemetery.

● IBMT researcher Jim Carmody will host a discussion on research methodology at the Spanish Civil War archive at Glasgow Caledonian University on the evening of 4 July. Contact Mike Arnott at [dundeetuc@hotmail.com] for more information.

# Plans for our 2007 AGM in Belfast

The programme for Saturday 13 October and Sunday 14 October is being prepared. It will include a public event on the Saturday in Belfast City Centre, as well as the Annual General Meeting, a social in the evening, a bus tour plus lunch on the Sunday.

● **Accommodation:** The Days Hotel has agreed to hold 40 rooms for us for the 12 and 13 October for £65 per room single or double including breakfast (all rooms are either double bed or two single beds); wheelchair access. These rooms have to be booked before 31 August. This is a city centre hotel and is within walking distance of the day and evening venues. Book by phone: 028-9024 2494; email: [mail@dayshotelbelfast.co.uk]; fax: 028-9024 2495; by post/cheque to Days Hotel Belfast, 40 Hope Street, Belfast BT12 SEE. When booking the hotel room quote the following reference: BTAGM. Budget accommodation is available at the International Hostel 028-9031 5435; Linen House Hostel: 028-9058 6400. Both these are quite cheap and city centre based.

● **Travel:** There are flights to Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport from Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Bournemouth, Edinburgh, Exeter, Doncaster, Glasgow, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Newcastle, Manchester, Southampton, London Heathrow, Gatwick, Blackpool, Isle of Man, Cardiff, East Midlands, Cork (check with your travel agent). City Airport is nearer to the city centre, but both airports have regular bus services into town. By sea, there are ferries via Stranraer, Fleetwood, Liverpool, Cairnryan, Troon, and Holyhead. Via Dublin, flights and ferries are also available, but travel to Belfast will have to be arranged – about 100 miles by bus and trains, which are very frequent. A general rule is: the earlier the booking the cheaper the flight. Belfast flights can be quite expensive if left until the last minute.

● **Contacts for the organising group** are Lynda and Ernest Walker and Mark Davison; email [lyndaernest@btinternet.com]; tel: 028-9077 9394 or 07751-951 785; by post: 44 Cedar Avenue, Belfast BT15 5AT.

## IBMT Newsletter

Editor: Geraldine (Gerry) Abrahams

Email: [gerry@reelscoop.freemove.co.uk]

Production: Jim Jump

Email: [jimjump@mac.com]

# International Brigade Memorial Trust

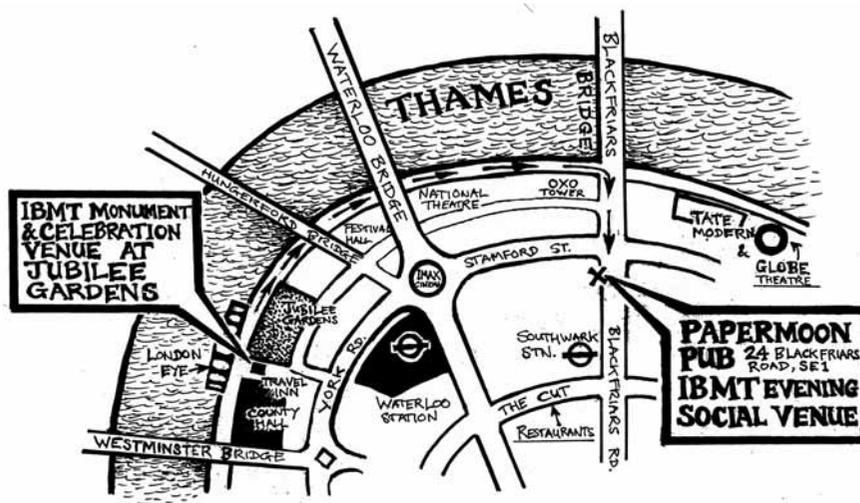
## Annual commemoration at Jubilee Gardens, London SE1 1pm Saturday 21 July 2007

A ceremony to honour the 2,300 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

**1pm-1.30pm:** Commemoration at the International Brigade Memorial, Jubilee Gardens (next to the London Eye). Speakers will include Jack Jones, President of the IBMT and Billy Bragg, who will also lead us in the singing of "Jarama" and "The Internationale".

**1.45pm-4.30pm:** A social in the adjacent Travel Inn with an optional buffet lunch available for £10.

**5.30pm-midnight:** At the Paper Moon, 24 Blackfriars Road, SE1 from 7pm we will be screening the new "No Pasarán" film and Margaret Dickinson's "Memories of the Future", after which there will be live music and dancing. The Paper Moon serves pizzas and there are many other restaurants nearby.



Glasgow Celtic football fans gave International Brigader James Maley a big send-off on 15 April when they unfurled these banners, saying "James Maley RIP. No Pasarán" at the Scottish Cup semi-final against St Johnstone at Hampden Park. Maley, an avid Celtic, fan had died only a few days previously, at the age of 99. See his obituary on page 3.



This superb T-shirt featuring the British Battalion's banner has been produced in a range of sizes by Philosophy Football and can be ordered online for £19.99 plus postage from [www.philosophyfootball.com] along with other Spanish Civil War T-shirts and the acclaimed "Poems from Spain" anthology.

## IBMT membership

The IBMT continues to grow. Another 35 new members have joined since the beginning of 2007, bringing membership to over 700.

We now have new subscription rates: £15 (standard) and £7.50 (concession). If you pay by cheque, you will receive a membership reminder with the Newsletter for the part of the year in which your membership falls: February, June or September.

To reduce paperwork and expense, it would be helpful if cheque payers would consider paying by standing order. Contact me for a form. If you prefer

to pay by cheque, it would also be helpful if you could send your cheque before receiving a reminder. Make cheques payable to "International Brigade Memorial Trust" or "IBMT".

Members living outside the sterling area who have no mechanism for paying in sterling will have received an insert with this copy of the Newsletter detailing the special arrangements that have been made so that they can continue to receive it. Let me know if you have not received these details.

Please note my new email: [paul.balf.paul@googlegmail.com].

*Pauline Fraser*

## IBMT Treasurer

We're looking for a new Treasurer to take over from Nick Moreno. It is not too onerous a position (a few hours each month), but some knowledge of basic finance is an advantage.

Are there any volunteers among our 700 members? Nick will fully brief the new Treasurer, but please email him at [nick3737@hotmail.com] if you have any questions about what is involved.

If you would like to put your name forward, please contact Marlene Sidaway (see details on front page).