



Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee

The Story of the Oxford International Brigade Memorial

“At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.” The words spoken at a thousand World War memorials across the British Isles each year on Remembrance Sunday. And we should remember the fallen of the International Brigades as well. But a memorial to the volunteers who went to Spain to defend democracy and freedom against the tyranny of Franco’s fascist coup means more than simply remembrance. It also means the reaffirmation of the principles of anti-fascism that inspired so many in the 1930s, principles that remain relevant today in the continuing fight against bigotry, injustice and exploitation.

The journey to erect a memorial in Oxford to the volunteers of the International Brigade was, in the end, a longer journey than any of us could have imagined. It began at the tail end of 2013 and the memorial was finally unveiled on 10th June 2017, a period longer than the duration of the Spanish Civil War itself. But it was a journey of fellowship and sustained commitment to the anti-fascist principles of the International Brigade. This is the story of that journey.

Chris Davies and the Oxford and District Trades Council came up with the idea of an Oxford memorial and, with the International Brigade Memorial Trust (IBMT) and using their database of local members, a steering group was set up. It comprised:-

- Colin Carritt (that’s me). My father, Noel Carritt, was a Brigade member from October 1936 to November 1937 and my uncle, Anthony, joined the brigade in March 1937 and was killed in the battle for Brunete in July 1937. He was just 22 years old. It was agreed that I would chair the group. My background is a lifetime in local government as a Roads and Traffic Engineer and as an elected councillor and town mayor for Woodstock Town Council
- Chris Farman, (Chris F) Chris was a journalist with *The Guardian* and *Telegraph Magazine* and later worked as an editor for Time-Life, the US media giant. He has published widely on modern history and is the author of a highly acclaimed book on the 1926 General Strike.



- Chris Davies (Chris D), is originally from the North-East, but has been a long-standing resident of Oxford City. He is a social worker, a stalwart of the Oxford Communist Party, a trades unionist and member of Oxford & District Trades Union Council. Chris has a sharp sense of humour and his quick witted asides kept us all amused and lifted our spirits when times seemed tough.



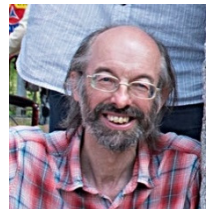
- John Haywood was Head of Student Services at the University of Northampton. He is Chair of the North Oxfordshire Green Party and one-time Green party parliamentary candidate for Banbury. John is also voluntary Fundraising Officer for the Banbury and District Samaritans



- Ed Ayres's great uncle, George Leeson, was a section commander at Jarama where, on day two of the battle, he was captured. He then survived a period of almost unendurable treatment at the hands of the fascists before an exchange of prisoners saw his release. He continued to serve with the Brigade until its disbandment in November 1938.



- Later we were joined by David Chanter a retired civil servant with the Treasury office and more recently engaged in gardening and landscaping from his home in the hamlet of Ledwell.



The committee's first meeting was held in a Woodstock pub, The Kings Head, on 31st January 2014. We were a good team. We each had strengths and areas of expertise (or at least experience) and we happily allowed each other to get on with those parts of the project that matched their particular skills. John proved to be a prolific organiser of social and fund-raising events, on which we came to depend in order to create the high public profile we needed and which in turn would generate income from ticket and merchandise sales. I thought of John as our events impresario! Chris D used his contacts within the trades union movement to provide us with substantial one-off donations from the likes of the NUT, Unite, Unison, T&GWU and NAPO and others. Chris kept us on the political straight and narrow. He was our political commissar! Chris F was our resident academic. Chris had the task of identifying who qualified as an Oxfordshire volunteer and who didn't. Together with local historians Liz Woolley and Valery Rose he began to put together a complete biography of the volunteers, a brief background to the Oxfordshire network that supported the volunteers throughout and beyond the conflict, and a summary of the historical background to the war itself. They identified a total of 31

volunteers with Oxfordshire connections, six of whom were killed in action. Eventually, this research became the book *“No Other Way: Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War 1936-1939”*, some 700 copies of which have been sold to date. Ed was our Oxford University contact. My experience lay in my lifetime’s work in local government. I knew my way around the City Council, the planning rules and regulations, and the bureaucracy generally.

Our first big decision was thrust upon us almost by accident and long before we had anticipated. A memorial masonry company in Banbury offered us a “one-off cut-price deal” for a monumental piece of granite. It was offered at the “reduced price” of £3360 and measured 2.35m X 1.0m X 0.3m and weighed in at 2.3 tonnes. It was rough-hewn on all sides except the front face which was smooth and polished. Unlike Cornish or Irish granite, which is a very dark grey or black colour, or Aberdeenshire granite, which is reddish pink, this Chinese granite is a pale grey. It is not as severe and bleak as the darker granites.



Our first sight of the granite monolith

We thought it would be an ideal stone for a memorial, hard wearing, not susceptible to weathering and attractive and inviting for passers-by to take an interest. Of course, we had no clear idea as to whether the price offered was, indeed, reasonable, but comparisons with Purbeck limestone seemed to suggest it was about the right price. We took the plunge and bought it.

Suddenly, we had the bones of a template for the memorial that gave the project a sense of urgency. Our next steps were to identify a suitable site in Oxford; to design the text to go on the memorial; to begin a PR exercise to raise awareness of the project; to secure political support from the City Council; and, most importantly, to raise the funds to pay for it.

Things began to move swiftly, particularly as the IBMT had identified Oxford for its next Annual General Meeting on the weekend of 5 to 7th September 2014. With the optimism of rank amateurs we aimed to get our planning application approved and the book *“No Other Way”* published by the time of the AGM so that we could raise funds on the back of a positive planning decision and an established historical/literary record. John pencilled in a date for a big social gathering on the evening of the IBMT AGM and Chris F set about organising a public panel meeting on the Oxfordshire brigadistas on the evening before the AGM.

We decided early on that our preferred location for the memorial was Bonn Square in the heart of the City's busy shopping area. Bonn Square has a "democratic" feel to it. It is neither "town" nor "gown". It's a popular meeting place for young and old, close to the Westgate shopping centre but not "of it". It is always busy, 24/7. It has had a chequered recent history as the haunt of winos and drug addicts. It was unkempt, strewn with litter and worse, and no one in their right mind lingered there for long. And then in about 2006 the City Council gave it a makeover, with smart new paving, benches and lighting. They cleaned up the old "Tirah" war memorial that commemorates the first Afghan war of 1895, and Bonn Square was transformed. It made sense to us that this very central and vibrant place should be the location for our memorial.



We set up a meeting at Bonn Square, through Peter McQuitty, the City Council's Head of Culture, with Michael Crofton Briggs, a senior City planner, and his colleague, the Conservation Officer. I sensed they were not altogether supportive of the proposal. There were concerns about the listed building against which the memorial would stand, but they were not ruling anything out, and the grapevine told us that there was strong political support within the Labour controlled City Council.

So we proceeded to submit a formal planning application. Our design followed the pattern of many other IB memorials across the British Isles. A straightforward rectangular piece of stone (that much we were already committed to) with the IBMT logo of the three-pointed star, and engraved text expressing, as succinctly as possible, what the volunteers of the International Brigades stood for, and the sacrifices they made for their principles. I began preparing our planning application



IN MEMORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OXFORDSHIRE WHO
DEFENDED DEMOCRACY AND FOUGHT FASCISM IN THE SPANISH CIVIL
WAR OF 1936 TO 1939. ALONG WITH 2500 OTHER FROM THE BRITISH
ISLES AND THOUSANDS MORE FROM AROUND THE WORLD, THESE
VOLUNTEERS FORMED THE LEGENDARY INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

OF THE 28 VOLUNTEERS FROM OXFORDSHIRE SEVEN GAVE THEIR
LIVES

EDWARD BURKE

ANTHONY CARRITT

LEWIS CLIVE

FRANCIS DEWHURST

HERBERT FISHER

RALPH FOX

JOHN RICKMAN

"THEY CAME BECAUSE THEIR OPEN EYES COULD SEE NO OTHER WAY"

C DAY-LEWIS

on that basis. As with all planning proposals, there were complications. Bonn Square stands on an old medieval cemetery, so we had to commit to a shallow foundation that would not disturb the resting residents. We finally submitted our first application on 17th April 2014. There were many delays and it did not finally come before the planning committee until the 8th October 2014, unfortunately after the IBMT AGM at Ruskin College Oxford. We went to the committee hearing and I presented our case. It seemed to be well received, although we knew, by then, that the planning officers were going to object.

- The memorial was too close to the listed wall of No 1 New Inn Hall Street. No 1 New Inn Hall Street is a somewhat unremarkable newsagents and small convenience store that has seen better days. It has no particular architectural value and is listed purely by virtue of its considerable age. The listed wall in question is a random rubble wall of which there are thousands upon thousands of better examples.

Our first design

- They also objected on the grounds of the intrusion into the architectural integrity of the area of Bonn Square. This objection seemed to us even less sustainable than their concerns for the listed building at No 1 New Inn Hall Street. If ever there was a mish-mash of architectural styles it is the area round the Square. There is the old, and unattractive medieval shop in New Inn Hall Street; there is a faux-classical Baptist Church, probably of nineteenth century origin; there are several Victorian buildings displaying the tastelessness of that particular period; and there is the massive Brutalist monstrosity of the Westgate Shopping Centre.
- They were also concerned about the use of granite as a preferred material, suggesting we look at more local stone, such as Oolitic "Cotswold" limestone. But Oolitic limestone is notoriously frost and weather susceptible and it degrades very badly.
- Where there was some merit in their objections was that the memorial might impede the free circulation of people in Bonn Square. It is a small square and is presently taken up with valuable seating, trees and, of course, the Tirah

memorial itself. Some judicious rearranging of the seating could, we believed, have resolved the issue.

- The planners also grumbled that our memorial would “reduce the opportunity for further seating.” An opinion we refuted with vigour.

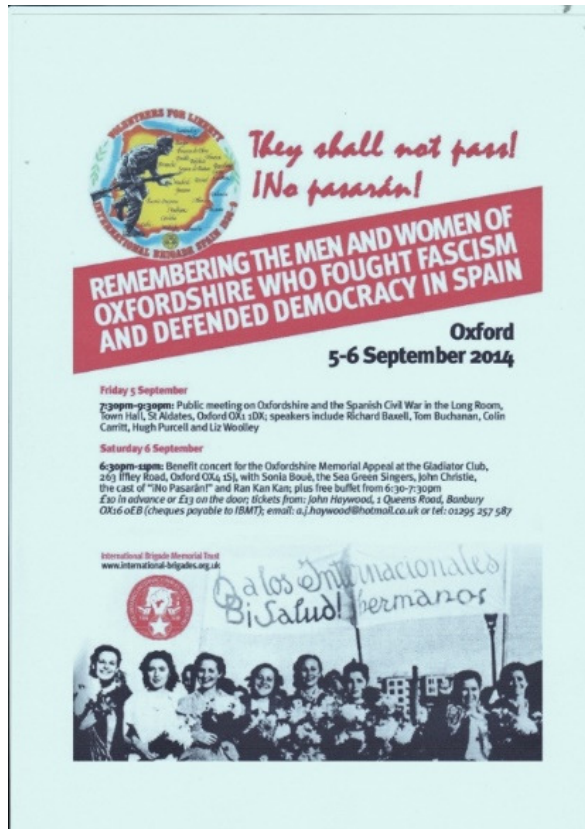
Although the elected members of the planning committee were reluctant to go directly against the advice of their officers, there was almost universal support for the concept of an International Brigade memorial. And then Cllr Colin Cook, wise old bird that he is, took the floor. “I want to see an International Brigade memorial in Oxford. The City needs more public art. But I don’t want to buy a pig in a poke. I move that we defer, rather than approve or reject, this application, and ask the Oxford International Brigade Memorial Committee (OxIBMComm) to come up with something more imaginative. Something more compelling. Something the City can be proud of.” There were mutterings of agreement around the chamber although one or two were willing to vote to approve our application there and then. But Colin Cook spoke again. “I suggest we ask the Design Council panel to come to Oxford to advise officers and the OxIBMComm on a better design, and as an indication of the Council’s good will we should pay for the services of the Design Council. A revised plan can then be brought back to the Planning Committee for consideration.” It was an inspired proposal and met with, I think, universal support from councillors.

We came away heartened by the positive statements from the planning committee and its apparent willingness to over-rule at least some of their officers objections, but we also had to recognise that this decision meant a considerable delay and a possible hike in costs. Nevertheless it seemed as if we had solid support for the principle of a memorial in Oxford and that the officers would have to recognise the political reality of the situation and co-operate with us to find the right solution.

The next step was clearly to encourage the City Council planners to convene an early meeting with the Design Council Panel. We worried that leaving it to the officers alone to arrange a meeting might lead to lengthy delays. So we kept the pressure up and a date was arranged for 6th November 2014

In the meantime, John and Chris F had opened our fund-raising and profile-raising campaign with two phenomenally successful events. With the IBMT AGM being held at Ruskin College on 6th September we had a captive audience of delegates. So on the evening before the AGM Chris Farman masterminded a panel meeting of speakers at the prestigious Oxford City Hall.

Speakers were:-



- Richard Baxell, Research Associate at the LSE and Chairman of the IBMT. Richard is the author of the acclaimed book on the British volunteers of the International Brigade *“Unlikely Warriors”* published in 2012. Richard presented an overview of the Spanish conflict and the role of the International Brigades.

- Hugh Purcell, formerly a maker of history programmes for the BBC, is now a professional biographer. He talked about Balliol graduate and Brigade member Tom Wintringham whose biography, *“The Last English Revolutionary”*, he has written.

- Tom Buchanan is Director of Studies in History and Politics at the Oxford University Department of Continuing Education and an expert

of the Spanish Civil War. He talked about brigade members Ralph Fox and Lewis Clive, both of whom had local Oxfordshire connections.

- Liz Woolley is a freelance local historian and part-time tutor at the University's Department for Continuing Education. Liz spoke about Oxford's Aid Spain movement.

- And me, talking about my father Noel Carritt, and his brother Anthony, both of whom were volunteers in the International Brigade

The meeting was so successful that we had to turn many people away. We had already admitted several more than the fire regulations allowed and the City Council officers were insistent that we drew a firm line. Many delegates were disappointed.

And on the evening following the afternoon's AGM John had organised an evening of music at the Gladiator's Club in the Iffley Road. Again, it was filled to capacity, with everyone



letting their hair down to the music of the socialist Sea Green Singers; Oxfordshire's very own radical baritone, John Christie; music performed by the cast of the musical "¡No Pasaran!"; and the Oxford Cuban big band Ran Kan Kan; all overseen by our Master of Ceremonies, Chris Davies. A good friend of the IBMT Robert Maycock provided food and John Haywood kept everyone up to date with progress on our memorial project. The evening ended with a moving rendition of La Pasionaria's famous speech on the disbandment of the International Brigades in September 1938 in Barcelona by IBMT committee member Marlene Sidaway and Felicity White. In a side room a screening of Oxford IBMT member Sonia Boue's artistic and moving tribute to Brigadier Alec Wainman was set up. Ticket sales, food and drink, and a raffle netted a substantial sum to start off our campaign, especially now that it seemed likely that a more sophisticated memorial was going to be needed to persuade the City Council planning committee.

The meeting with the Design Council panel was soon upon us and it was successful beyond our wildest dreams. The panel were good listeners, as well as professional artists, architects and designers. We had prepared our case well and from the outset of the meeting we stressed the significance of the outpourings of wonderful propaganda posters produced for Spain's Popular Front government in the 1930s and then during the Civil War itself. They were completely taken with the idea and it generated considerable enthusiastic discussion, including several panel members busily accessing the internet on their phones to find examples and inspiration. There was a universal feeling that the art of the 1930s could be a starting point for selecting a memorial design. We talked to them about memorial materials and they seemed quite relaxed about the pale granite we had selected, effectively negating the planner's suggestions that we use Purbeck or local Oolitic limestone. They talked about other possibilities, such as a Belfast-style mural, and they suggested we proceed to invite designs from recognised public art artists in a design competition.

And so we did. By Christmas 2014 I had written to eight sculptors inviting them to send in their ideas and costs for designs based upon a brief that I had sent them¹. The response was poor. Several complained that they were too busy. Others wanted a commission without a competition! In the end, we had just three viable designs.

Giles MacDonald's design was attractive and beautifully prepared, but bore no real relationship to the art of the 1930s, or specifically to Spain as a conflict zone. Giles is a superb letter-cutter and his plaques around Woodstock's town centre are wonderful, but his design bore hardly any reference to the brief.

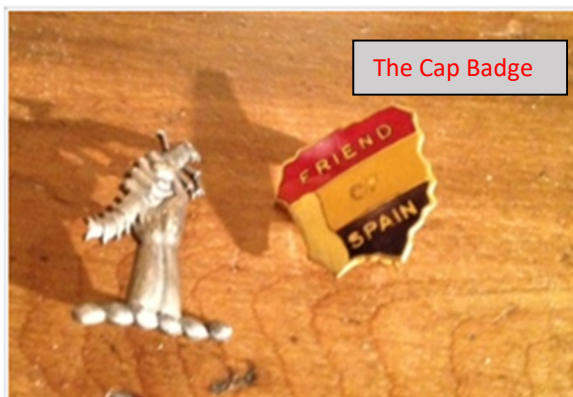
¹ See appendix for the Design Brief



Sculptor and IBMT member Frank Casey, true to his militant outlook on life, produced a design that certainly reflected some of the more militaristic Civil War posters of the 1930s. But it would not have been popular. It would have been seen as unnecessarily militaristic and aggressive. Frank’s design was of a Brigadista standing astride in full military uniform with rifle in hand and planes dropping bombs above his head. Good old Frank. No compromise “¡No Pasaran!”

Charlie Carter (pictured left) had clearly thought about our brief very carefully and produced a design that was relevant not only to the 1930s but also to issues of the early 21st century. Fortuitously, an exhibition of Spanish Civil War art was taking place at the Pallant House gallery in Chichester, not so far from Charlie’s then home in Hampshire. He spent some time absorbing the paintings, artefacts, sculptures and texts of the period. In the end, he found his inspiration from a soldier’s tiny cap badge on display in the exhibition.

In Charlie’s own words:- *“The design uses the block of granite already secured by the International Brigade Memorial Trust. The size of this block is dramatic and I wanted to capitalise on the presence that it has in itself by using the raw unpolished face as a canvas for the applied images and text. Areas of the slab would be worked up to a degree of finish sufficient to engrave the names of the fallen but leaving the stone largely raw would add a sculptural quality that a uniformly polished surface would lack.*



The bold design of the raised fist grasping a scorpion is derived from a small cap badge recently displayed in a touring exhibition of art produced during the Civil War.

I felt that this image encapsulated the determined ideological resistance to the poison of fascism shown by the

International Brigades and that it would continue to speak to our own time which has disturbing echoes of the political turmoil of 1936. This design will be cast in relief using a bronze resin. The relief will give it a semi three-dimensional quality and the bronze finish will weather over time to achieve a patina similar to many public memorials of this kind. Using bronze for the plaque at the foot of the monument [this detail was later modified] will echo the material quality of the fist.

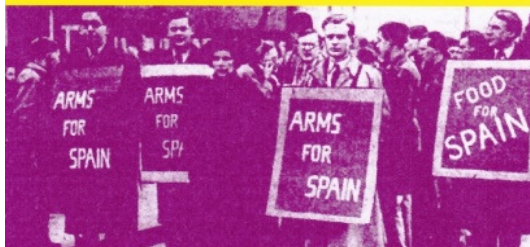
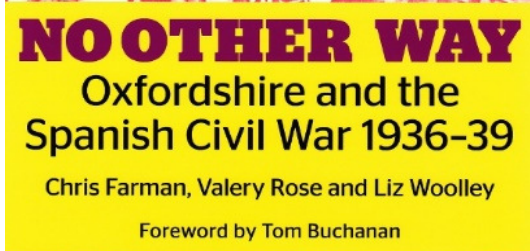


Charlie's impression of the memorial as it would look in Bonn Square

At the top of the granite slab is the three-pointed star emblem of the International Brigades which will be cast in resin-pigmented to achieve a subtle red colour. It will provide a highlight contrasting both with the surrounding grey granite and the bronze colour of the fist and refers to the colour of the original emblem. The two cast elements applied to the granite face will be fixed into the stone using a resin anchor and will therefore be resistant to any attempt to remove them. The names will be cut into flattened areas of the stone face and picked out with black paint.

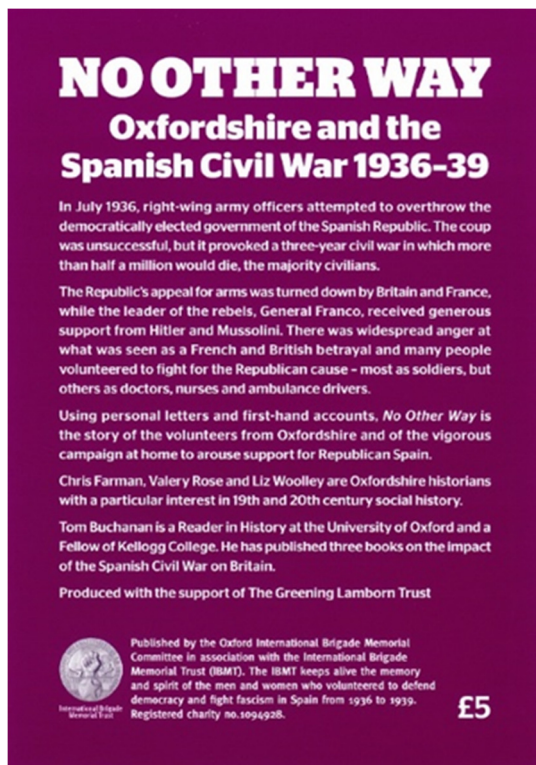
In the assembly of all these elements I will be aiming for a sense that the applied images and names are embedded into the surface of the granite and that they seem to grow from the stone rather than appearing stuck on.

Within our committee there was no contest. Charlie's design won hands down, though it was not without criticism in some quarters for its lack of an overt peace message. We tried to counter this argument by acknowledging that, although the



role of peace activists and pacifists is important and should be respected, the illegal overthrow of a democratically elected Popular Front government by force, could not have been resisted without an armed reaction. We felt that Charlie's design represented that armed resistance without being overly militaristic. We unanimously endorsed Charlie's design and prepared to re-submit our planning application for the Bonn Square site. This was done on 26th April 2015.

Just a few days beforehand, Chris Farman, Valery Rose and Liz Woolley launched their book "No Other Way: Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War". It is a thoroughly professional and meticulously researched book, running to over 120

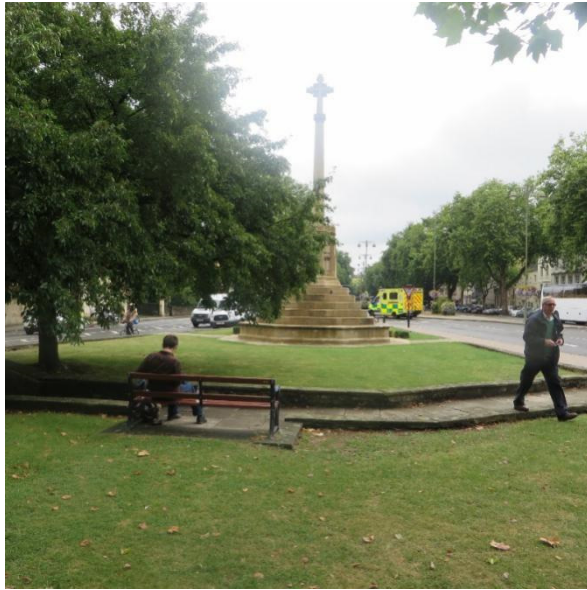


pages, with biographies of the 31 Oxfordshire volunteers, many photographs published for the first time, and with much background information on the Aid Spain support movement in Oxfordshire and the Civil War itself. There is a foreword by Professor Tom Buchanan from the Oxford University Department for Continuing Education. It was launched in grand style on 14th April on a beautiful spring evening in the hallowed halls of Oriel College, coincidentally my father's *alma mater*, and also coincidentally, the venue in 1939, for an exhibition of 68 of Pablo Picasso's original sketches for his iconic painting, "*Guernica*". The launch was well attended and a good number of copies of the book were sold.

In June 2015, Ed Ayres arranged for Richard Baxell and me to give a talk on Oxford's involvement in the Spanish Civil War to the Oxford University History Society that we hoped would encourage interest in the memorial project throughout the undergraduate community. It was a hope that went largely unfulfilled.

However, it soon became clear that, despite the councillors on the Planning Committee not being opposed in principle to the Bonn Square site, the planning officers were digging their heels in on the matter. I approached an old comrade on the City Council, John Tanner (he had been Lord Mayor of Oxford during my time as Town Mayor of Woodstock and we'd enjoyed a number of mayoral junketings together). John's advice was sound. He warned that councillors are reluctant to go directly against the advice of their officers. They are willing to stretch a point here or there, or to ignore minor points of detail, but wholesale rejection of officer's advice is rare. It didn't sound good. We began to think we would have to find an alternative location and, to be fair, it was the planning officer handling our case, Felicity Byrne, who came up with a new site.

St Giles is a broad street immediately to the north of the City Centre. It is tree-lined and occupied on both sides by prestigious university buildings. At the northern end, St Giles splits and becomes Woodstock Road on the west and Banbury Road on the east. Between them is a long triangle of green open space. At its northern end is the Parish Church of St Giles, with its ancient and tranquil graveyard. As the triangle narrows at its southern end there is an area of open grass leading to Oxford's memorial to the two World Wars. Felicity suggested that the area of grass between the churchyard and the war memorial could be an ideal site for our



The St Giles site and the World Wars I and II Memorial

International Brigades memorial. The downside, from our point of view, was that, although clearly still within the City centre, it is not the bustling and essentially “democratic” area of the City centre. It is undeniably more “gown” than “town”. On the other hand, the IBMT see WW2 as an inevitable consequence of the failure to defeat fascism in Spain in 1936 - 1939, and as such, memorials to the Spanish conflict and to the wider world war are complementary. Such views are seldom recognised by the mainstream political establishment, who continue to regard the volunteers of the International Brigades as people who defied the law of the United Kingdom and as less worthy of recognition, despite the common enemy of fascism.



The St Giles site looking towards the churchyard

The St Giles site is a pleasantly tranquil area, despite its proximity to two busy main roads and the bustling Little Clarendon Street and we agreed to accept Felicity’s recommendation. I then set about preparing a completely new planning application for the St Giles location. Our new application was submitted on 27th September 2015 and we felt confident that, with the backing of councillors and now of the planning officers, our proposals would be successful.

And then all hell broke loose. For reasons that were never clear, the vicar of the Anglican St Giles parish church objected to our plans. Presumably, he thought it was OK to fight fascism in the 1939-45 war but somehow not to fight the same enemy in 1936 to 1939. Less surprising was the wave of vitriol that erupted from the pulpit of the nearby Catholic Oratory church. Entirely false allegations of the Republic’s treatment of Catholic priests and nuns were circulated and taken up, not least of all, by a local and influential Liberal Democrat City Councillor Liz Wade. Liz had the decency to admit that the Catholic Church were far from an innocent party

to the conflict. But the truth of the matter is that the allegations were without foundation. Such crimes as were committed within the Republican zone, and they were far fewer by far than those committed as a deliberate act of policy by Franco's forces, were perpetrated largely by the fringe anarchist militias and to a lesser extent some sections of the Partido Obrero de Unificación Marxista (the POUM) and other splinter groups outside the control of the Republican government. Certainly the government never sanctioned such atrocities and indeed they condemned them and, where possible, took action against those responsible. The International Brigades were certainly not implicated in such actions and it is outrageous to suggest that they were. Of course, in the aftermath of Franco's coup d'état there was an break-down of law and order given that many of the hated Guardia Civil had betrayed the government and defected to Franco's forces. During the period before the government restored some semblance of order some lawless groups ran riot and committed crimes that would have been inconceivable had the coup not taken place.

Nevertheless, this "fake news" caused a quite unjustified backlash against our plans that we found difficult entirely to overcome. But we were determined not to be dissuaded by lies and false accusations and we persevered, spurred on by the sense that Council officers and councillors were behind us. I set up a meeting with Liz Wade and a number of other North Oxford residents under the auspices of an old friend, Sir Hugo Brunner. Sir Hugo was the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire when I was Town Mayor, and our paths crossed on many occasions. Sir Hugo is a thoroughly decent man with a liberal outlook, though he is, of course, a pillar of the establishment and the establishment hate it when the boat is rocked. And Hugo, being a near neighbour to the North Oxford objectors, was naturally inclined to take their view. But I trusted Hugo to give us a fair hearing and to allow us to express our outrage at the inaccuracies being broadcast by the Catholic Church. The Catholics sent their representative Oliver Miles, a retired senior diplomat serving mainly in the Middle East but ending up as Ambassador in Greece from 1993-96. Professor Tom Buchanan was also present. Tom is, without doubt, Oxford's most knowledgeable academic on the Spanish Civil War and on the International Brigades. Tom wrote the foreword to the Farman/Rose/Woolley book "No Other Way". Tom has been a reliable supporter of the International Brigades (though he properly guards his academic independence). But he had taken against our project on the grounds that he did not like the design of the memorial, claiming that the clenched fist is too aggressive a symbol. Frankly, all the evidence is against him and it has been a disappointment to our committee that Tom should have taken such a public position on his views. To be fair, he corrected some of the wilder accusations; for example, that the International Brigade three-pointed star was a communist star (in fact, the communist star, if there is one, is, like the US stars and stripes, five-pointed), but his opposition continued to be an obstacle. As for Liz Wade and Oliver Miles, there was really no meeting place and they were not prepared to accept the evidence that Chris F and I presented. Hugo kept quiet and didn't really declare

himself one way or another. But they had clearly made up their minds and while we parted without acrimony, the meeting was, in the end, a waste of time.

There was no going back on our planning application. Why should we? We were the victims of false allegations. We had to defend our integrity. There was no indication that the planners or the Councillors were moving against us. And when Felicity Byrne requested an arboricultural report on the effect of our proposals on the nearby trees, I took it as an indication that the Council were still intent on seeing the application through. Or, in hindsight, was it a delaying tactic while they found some other reason to reject our proposal? If it was a delaying tactic it backfired because, having received the request for a forestry report on 7th December I had a full professional survey on the planner's desks by 31st December, despite the Christmas holiday period. But it cost us another £450.

And then the City Council caved in. Whether it was Felicity Byrne who moved against us, or whether it was a nod and a wink from councillors, we will never know. I don't blame Felicity either way. As an ex-local government officer I know how you can be on a hiding to nothing if you press doggedly on in the face of significant opposition, however ill-founded. Elected councillors have a habit of suddenly deserting a cause, mindful always of their electoral support base, effectively leaving officers (and applicants) high and dry. So Felicity Byrne asked us to withdraw our application.

We were, of course, angry at the inevitable further delays, the abortive costs, and the unfounded allegations which were a slur on the integrity of our group and of the

IBMT. But we knew we would lose if we dug our heels in and demanded that our application proceed. We could have done so, but it would have undermined the goodwill that we had from so many of the Oxford City councillors. Instead, we asked for a meeting to be facilitated by a friend of our group, Cllr Alex Hollingsworth. At the meeting we agreed to withdraw the application on condition that we didn't have to pay another £195 fee for a subsequent application. The Council agreed. We asked for a reimbursement of the £450 forestry survey since they must have known when they asked for it that it would be wasted. They said they would consider it. We heard no more! We told them that we already had an



alternative site lined up. We felt we needed to keep up the momentum for the project. Our proposed new site would be at South Park.

Throughout all of these shenanigans, our fund-raising efforts continued unabated and undaunted. On 21st September we were selling merchandise, promoting our campaign and I presented a talk to the Ruskin Fellowship. The Fellowship are the alumni of Ruskin College and are, of course, natural supporters, so it is always good to take our campaign to Ruskin.



IBMT Treasurer Charles Jepson and me at a bench memorial to the International brigade in Edinburgh



IBMT members on the sponsored bike ride to Aberdeen at the IB memorial in Dundee

And in October 2015 John organised our second major fund-raising social event, this time at the West Oxford Community Centre in Botley Road. It was a similar line up to the one we had enjoyed at The Gladiators, with the Oxford Cuban band Ran Kan Kan, the Sea Green Singers, and John Christie. This time we also had local folk singer Maeve Bayton, a long-time supporter of the IBMT, to entertain us as well. As with all our fund-raising concerts and public meetings, John prevailed upon his graphic designer daughter, Zoe, to produce some sensational posters and promotional materials, always hearkening back to those wonderful 1930s propaganda posters for the Spanish Republic.

The 2015 IBMT AGM was held in Aberdeen and it seemed like a good opportunity to raise some more cash through a sponsored bike ride from Edinburgh to Aberdeen. Joining me for the three-day ride were IBMT Treasurer, Charles Jepson, and IBMT members Stuart Walsh, Manuel Moreno, Martin Perfect, Sid and Pippa Sherriff and the irrepressible Lynne Hurst, who was our back up driver for the three days to Aberdeen. None are local to Oxford so it fell to me alone to raise sponsorship funding. In the end I raised £1000



Two views of the St Clements site. Top: the grass triangle at the junction of Morrell Ave. and Headington Hill and bottom: the view from South Parks (the site is beyond the fence line in the far distance, emphasizing how little the view from South Parks would be affected by the memorial as proposed)

Back again to the design and planning of the memorial, our attention turned to the new proposed site at South Park. South Park lies just to the east of the city centre. Although it isn't quite "of the centre", it has other attributes that made it an excellent site for an International Brigade memorial. The South Park site very much represents the conjunction between the university area of the city and the industrial, working-class community of Oxford. We had been increasingly aware, throughout our campaign, of the unique place in Oxford's history represented by the 1930s anti-fascist movement. It was a

coming together of "town" and "gown" as never before, and the South Park site epitomised that cultural togetherness. South Park itself was given to the City by, I think, the Morrell family, Oxford brewers of many generations. The park is held in trust by the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT), a worthy charity that holds much of Oxford's public spaces and protects them with much love and care. Our chosen site, however, was outside the park on a large triangle of grass itself designated as highway land. It is some 45m at its widest by 30m long and tapering at its apex at the junction of the heavily trafficked A420 Headington Hill and Morrell Avenue, a busy local road, bus and commuter route. As such, there can be few more high profile and "visible" locations for an IB memorial anywhere in the City. But, somehow, South Park didn't seem quite the right name for the location and we switched to the City Council ward name of St Clements.

I immediately set to work preparing new detailed plans and, with the support of Alex Hollingsworth, we met planners and key officers to discuss our ideas. Once again our proposals were met with initial enthusiasm at the City Council. I met the County Council officers to agree a precise location, since they are the highways authority and the site is all designated as highway land. We met with the City Council's direct services team, who offered to install the memorial and to provide paving and seating around it. It was hoped that the cost of the seating and some landscaping would be underwritten by the City Council but we would be required to fund the installation and the paving. Quotations were provided.

We were advised to contact the OPT as our site was immediately adjacent to South Park. We did so and met their representative on site but she was remarkably reticent about giving any indication of their likely response.

Throughout this period of intense activity on the planning front, we continued with our fund-raising efforts. On 15th March 2016 we held our first fund-raising dinner. We chose as our venue the Spanish restaurant and Tapas bar Al-Andalus in Little Clarendon Street, not a Molotov Cocktail's throw away from the now doomed St Giles site. Our speaker was Rodney Bickerstaffe, a patron of the IBMT, General Secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (later UNISON) and, in his retirement, leader of the Pensioner's Forum. Rodney's affection for the IBMT stems in part from his childhood reading of the scrapbook his mother kept of newspaper cuttings of the Spanish Civil War. As the child of a single mum, he would have been close to her interests in the Civil War and, by extension, in politics in general. The evening was a sell out and it was a wonderful evening and it was generous of Rodney given that he was, and remains, in extremely poor health. IBMT Chairman, Richard Baxell also spoke of the Trust's support for our project.

Three months later, an altogether different fund-raising event was organised by Ed Ayres, our committee representative for the Oxford University. Ed had approached "Sixteen Films", the film production company run by Ken Loach, and Ed asked if Ken would be willing to come to Oxford to present his seminal film of the Spanish Civil War, "Land and Freedom", and to take part in a post-film "Question and Answer" session. Ken equivocated. He's a busy man. Ed approached the Phoenix Cinema in Walton Street, Oxford as a possible screening venue, but their charges to hire the cinema are not cheap, and without the certainty of Ken as a draw for ticket sales it might not have raised much money (especially given that Land and Freedom is far from being a recent release). The committee was nervous, but Ed pressed on and secured support from the Magdalen Film Society as a possible venue and Ken Loach's attendance began to seem more certain. In the end, the film was screened on 10th June 2016 to a sell-out audience. Or was it a sell-out? The Magdalen Film Society had reserved a couple of dozen seats for its members, few of whom bothered to turn up. It was a minor shame, as a number of our supporters missed out on tickets as a result. Ken, of course, was his usual quietly spoken, but radically combative self, and the venue was ideal for the screening. We took £850. Some

IBMT members regard Land and Freedom with contempt for the negative portrayal of aspects of the International Brigade's actions against the POUM militias. There is no doubt that the POUM's radical agenda threatened to undermine the Republic's war effort (though almost certainly they were not in league with the fascists as was suggested by some Stalinists of the day). But the film sees events through the eyes of the POUM and, as such, is a valuable, and important, though fictional, account of the Civil War.

In December 2016, radical playwright, actor, and singer-songwriter, Neil Gore came to Oxford with his incredible Townsend Theatre Company for a performance of "Dare Devil Rides to Jarama". This is the story of Brigade member Clem Beckett, international speedway rider and stunt motorcycle rider. Clem was a larger-than-life character and briefly, when in Spain, a friend of my father's. Clem was killed at the Battle of Jarama. Neil's play was commissioned by the IBMT and though it was not directly part of our OxIBMemComm campaign, it helped to raise our profile and encourage local support for the memorial. It was a terrific production, hugely theatrical, funny but also deeply moving.

We submitted our fourth planning application on 5th December 2016. A day or two before Christmas I had a rather "coy" email from Debbie Dance, director of OPT, saying that she would be formally objecting to our plans but that she would not reveal her objections "because it might spoil my Christmas". I said I was made of sterner stuff, but still she didn't reveal her hand.

The OPT objections soon became apparent. Their main objections were:-

- That the views of the City of Oxford from the higher ground within South Park would be compromised by the memorial
- That the views of South Park from St Clements would also be damaged by the presence of our memorial
- That the memorial would detract from the Eric Gill monolith, set into the park fence line a hundred yards to the north-west.

The view of the Dreaming Spires of Oxford from the high ground in South Park is truly magnificent (I have a beautiful panoramic photograph of that view under snowfall). But the memorial would be all but invisible without binoculars from the high ground in South Park. And even lower down in the park, the memorial would not impair the view whatsoever.

As to the view from St Clements, it is already compromised. St Clements itself is a busy urban main road shopping environment with pubs, cafes, charity shops and other, mostly low-budget, shops. As you approach the large grass triangle at the junction with Morrell Avenue, the view opens out, but is cluttered with street lights, a speed camera, a pole mounted CCTV camera, traffic signals, traffic islands, road name signs and other street furniture. And the large grass triangle itself lacks anything to give it focus or to attract the eye away from all the clutter. A handsome memorial would provide a useful focal point for the triangle and lead the

eye upwards to the wider panorama of South Park itself. Far from detracting from the view of South Park from St Clements it seemed to us that the memorial would enhance the overall view.



And then there was the issue of the Eric Gill monolith. This is a large, and yet largely ignored, block of Portland stone built into the fence line 100 yards or so from our memorial site. The stone has weathered badly and the lettering is hard to decipher. In the past it has become overgrown and un-cared for. It's only claim to fame is that it was created by the English sculptor, typeface designer, and printmaker, Eric Gill, who was associated with the Arts and Crafts movement. It is not one of his best works. Even so, the two monoliths

are entirely compatible and are not really inter-visible anyway. Gill, as a man of progressive politics, would in any event, have welcomed the IB memorial.

The OPT expressed other concerns of a minor nature, but this time the planning officers stood their ground.



Our application came before the City Planning Committee on 21st February 2017 and the committee room was packed. Surely there were not this many Oxford citizens objecting to our plans? But we were quickly reassured when we realised that the application before ours was for a major rail development by Network Rail and most of the angry delegates were there on account of those plans, not ours! Once Network Rail's plans had been dealt with the numbers in the committee room

thinned out considerably, although it was also clear that we still had more than just the OPT to deal with.

The objectors to our application turned out to be a motley crew. Some were clearly exercised by the disinformation that had been circulated by the Catholic Church at the time of the St Giles application. Some were residents, who felt that the memorial and any associated benches would attract late night alcoholics and drug dealers. And of course, OPT and their director, Debbie Dance, were there to complain about the views of South Parks and the glories of the Eric Gill monolith. The objectors made the mistake of all wanting to speak and the chairman of the committee, Cllr Louise Upton insisted that the total time allowed would be, I think, six minutes. This gave each of them so little time that their arguments were disjointed and unco-ordinated. By contrast, speaking in support of the application there was just me and one other, Cllr Tom Hayes. I spent much of my three minutes outlining the advantages of the site and rebutting the objections of OPT, as well as, briefly, demolishing the false accusations made by the Catholic contingent. And then Tom got up to speak. Tom is young, but he is clearly wiser than his years would suggest. I had no inkling of what he would say and it was a revelation. Tom had taken the time and trouble to knock on doors and to ask residents in the immediate area what they thought of the idea for a Spanish Civil War memorial at St Clements. Most, Tom said, had no view one way or another. When pressed, and when Tom showed them a photo of our artist's impression of what it would look like in-situ, some warmed to the idea and said they thought it a good idea and that they would welcome it. No one – not one person – objected or thought a memorial inappropriate. Tom's argument was convincing.

Helpfully, the City Council planning officers had prepared a huge portfolio of photographs that helped to undermine the OPT's unreasonable objections concerning the views of and from the park.

There were some good contributions from Councillors, particularly from Jennifer Pegg, Colin Cook, John Tanner and Steven Curran. We were disappointed that Liberal Democrat Jean Fooks fell into line with her fellow Lib Dem colleague, the ubiquitous Liz Wade, and spoke against our plans. Surprisingly, and disappointingly, the committee chair, Labour Councillor, Louise Upton, voted against, but nevertheless, we won the vote and our application was approved. The only small setback was that the committee took on board the local resident's concerns about late night drinking, and agreed not to provide any seating in the vicinity (though it was clearly hinted that this might be reconsidered in a year or two in the light of experience gained).

After more than three years, we had formal approval to install the memorial on the highway land at St Clements. All that remained was the small matter of sculpting the memorial, getting the letter-cutting done, moving it from its temporary resting place at Honeybourne, near Evesham, installing it on properly prepared foundations, completing the paving and landscaping works, arranging a suitably impressive

unveiling ceremony, and organising a public meeting and conference and a final celebratory social event. All this and our target date was 10th June 2017.

That left just 3½ months to get a great deal of work completed. There were invitations to be sent out. The Lord Mayor of Oxford was to be asked to be our guest of honour and to unveil the memorial. We needed to contact many other VIPs and to send them personalised invitations, including our many donors, local councillors, historians and academics, and the many artists, musicians and others who had often given of their time for little or nothing in order to help us raise funds. We wanted to encourage sympathisers from further afield to join us on 10th June and to do that we needed to lay on a programme of events to make their traveling worthwhile. We decided upon another public panel meeting on the evening before the unveiling and a celebratory social event on the evening of the 10th, after the unveiling.

We needed to arrange speakers for the panel meeting, speakers for the unveiling, and artists, musicians and performers for the social event. We needed publicity materials and press interest. Everyone moved into a higher gear.



In the midst of the rush to complete everything we had a pre-arranged fund-raising dinner at Spanish restaurant Mezzeto (sister restaurant to Al Andalus) on 28th March 2017. This time our guest speaker was Professor Valentine Cunningham, former Professor of English Language and Literature at Corpus Christi, Oxford, where he is now an Emeritus Fellow. Valentine has long been a supporter of the IBMT and has written much about the art and literature of the Spanish Civil War, as well as editing *“The Penguin Book of Spanish Civil War Verse”*. Ticket sales were slow but picked up nearer the date and we ended up with a reasonable profit on the evening and

a wonderful speech by Valentine which linked the sometimes ephemeral literature with the hard reality of “stone and metal” memorials.

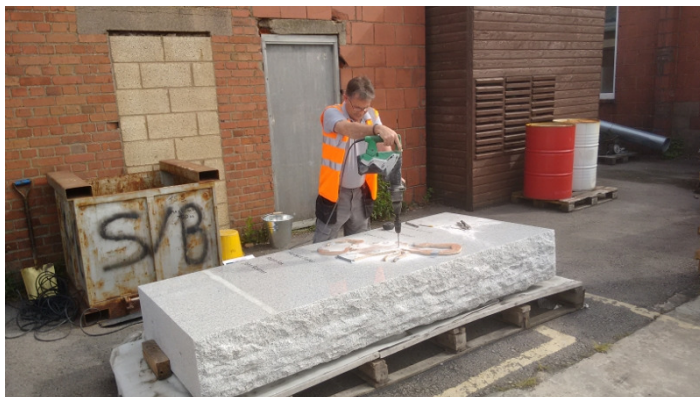
We sent out our invitations. Our first problem was that the Lord Mayor, Cllr Jean Fooks, declined our invitation to unveil the memorial. Jean is an old colleague of mine from local government days and I was disappointed that she turned us down. She had, of course, taken the Lib Dem party line and voted against our application at the planning committee in February, but I’d hoped that, as Lord Mayor, she would

be above such party political considerations. Or maybe she simply had another engagement. So she asked her deputy, Cllr Christine Simm, to do the honours and Christine was to prove an able and enthusiastic replacement. So far as the other invitations were concerned, although we had asked for people to RSVP, few did so, and tickets for the evening events were slow to sell. So we sent out reminders, as well as helpful tips for parking and public transport links. We sent out publicity about the public meeting and social evening. But we still had no idea how many people would turn up on the Friday or Saturday. John and Chris, on whose shoulders the evening events rested, were worried, but we all tried to reassure each other that it would all be alright on the night.

Meanwhile, work on the memorial itself picked up rapidly now that we had given Charlie the green light. A quick exchange of documents provided him with the formal commission from IBMT for the work, and he put in hand arrangements for the casting of the resin bronze images, the clenched fist and scorpion, the red IB star and the explanatory plaque for the rear face of the memorial. Charlie was also now in a position to instruct the masons at Willcox, at Honeybourne, Evesham, to prepare the letter-cutting of the names of the fallen.

Fortunately, my tasks for the memorial installation were eased by the help I received from the City Council's Direct Services team, who fitted in with our tight schedule for the foundations, and for the installation and paving without the slightest qualm.

Such qualms as there were seemed to be shared mainly by us. Charlie Carter, long experienced in public art projects, seemed relaxed. In the long period of gestation for the memorial project, Charlie had taken semi-retirement and had moved from Hampshire to Cahors in southern France. His passion was now his garden, his vegetables, walking his dog, and enjoying the relaxed pace of life that is rural France with his partner Lou. But to us, here in Oxford, it all seemed eleventh hour stuff, with no room whatsoever for delays or problems. Less than a fortnight before the unveiling, Charlie drove to the UK in his camper van and with eight days to go was camped in Honeybourne and working with the masons at Willcox stone yard cutting the letters for the names of the fallen on to the granite monolith. With that



Preparing the memorial at Willcox masonry yard

completed, the stone had to be turned over (a nerve wracking event in itself since no one had seen the reverse side of the 2.3 tonnes block before – it was not something you could simply toss over to have a look at the other face at the drop of a hat). The reverse side needed some preparatory work in order to be ready to

receive the plaque that was to be pinned to the granite.



Back in Oxford, the City Council had made a start on the foundations that had been carefully designed by our consulting engineers, Peter Bretts. Topsoil was stripped, excavations dug, and concrete poured, including two pre-formed sockets on to which the memorial with its two protruding 20mm x 200mm stainless steel pins, would be lowered.

Then, with just five days to go, a local haulage company, David Beecroft Ltd., were contracted to collect the memorial from Honeybourne and transport it, offload and lower it on to the already prepared concrete foundations. Beecroft, and their driver, Wayne, were obliging and careful and, despite poor

weather, the operation went almost without hitch. There was a slight problem with the sockets for the stainless steel pins being insufficiently deep so that the pins had to be shortened by about 50mm. But the City Council redeemed that minor error by placing a substantial amount of extra concrete round the base of the memorial.

Unveiling-day-minus-four and Charlie was working under a tarpaulin to protect himself from the lashing rain and strong winds as he fixed the artwork (the fist and scorpion, the red IB star, and the resin bronze plaque to the granite monolith).

Unveiling-day-minus-three saw the City Council Direct Services put the tarmac base course on the areas of paving and unveiling-day-minus-two saw completion of the top surfacing layers. Then on the final day they cleared the site, removed the fencing and left the area pristine for our unveiling event the following day. Our committee breathed a collective sigh of relief.

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th June 2017

Our public panel meeting was held at the Friend's Meeting House in St Giles Oxford City centre. It was a sell-out. Speakers were:-

- Richard Baxell, Research Associate at the LSE and Chair of the IBMT. He is the author of the acclaimed book of the British volunteers of the International Brigades "*Unlikely Warriors*" published in 2012
- David Boyd Haycock (who stood in for an incapacitated Paul Preston) studied Modern History at St John's College Oxford and then Art History at Sussex



University and a PhD at Birkbeck. He wrote, *"I Am Spain: The Spanish Civil War and the Men and Women who went to Fight Fascism"* which was published in 2013. His special interest is the way in which art and artists responded to, and supported, the Republican cause in Spain.

- Valentine Cunningham was formerly Professor of English Language and Literature at Corpus Christi Oxford where he is now Emeritus Fellow. He edited the *"Penguin Book of Spanish Civil War Verse"* and received an OBE in the 2017 New Year's Honours list for services to scholarship and the understanding of humanities.

- Carmen Negrin is the grand-daughter of the last Prime Minister of the Spanish Republic.

It all boded well for a successful weekend and an appropriate climax to more than three years of campaigning.

Saturday morning found us busy preparing the memorial site for the unveiling. The City Council had left the site clean and tidy and the memorial wrapped in an old green tarpaulin of mine. We had been fortunate in securing the loan of a historic Spanish Republican Flag in which to drape the memorial pending the unveiling. During the Civil War the Telefonica Building in Madrid was the centre of contact with the outside world for the press and the Republican authorities. Throughout the relentless bombardment of the city by Franco's forces, the Republican flag flew proudly and defiantly on the Telefonica building. As Franco's troops entered the city and defeat seemed imminent, a young Liverpudlian, Jimmy Shand, a member of the International Brigade who had been broadcasting in English during the last hours before Madrid fell, sprinted up to the roof and removed the flag for posterity. At the outbreak of WW2 he gave it to a Liverpool comrade, Hilda Baruch, to look after and she, in turn, donated it to the Working Class Movement Library in Salford. We were honoured to have this historic flag on our memorial for the unveiling. More mundane matters also required our attention such as seating, wreaths and flowers for the memorial.

And sooner than we could have imagined in was twelve noon and people began to arrive. The weather had been wet and windy all week, but was now dry and warm and by noon the sun was shining and it was a perfect summer's day. In the end well over 200 people came to the unveiling. The press were represented and it was

a resounding success. I chaired the day's events and introduced the speakers and proceedings.

- Richard Baxell, Chair of the IBMT
- Robert Wilkinson from the Oxford and District Trades Union Council and a leading local supporter and donor.
- Carmen Negrin, the grand-daughter of the last Prime Minister of the Spanish Republic, Juan Negrin, who laid a wreath to the six fallen volunteers on behalf of the campaign committee.
- Neil Gore, actor and playwright, who read C Day Lewis' poem "*The Volunteer*" a line of which is featured on the memorial and
- Cllr Christine Simm who unveiled the memorial

The pictures of the event say much more than words and a selection of these appear on subsequent pages.



**LIVE MUSIC
& DANCING**

RAN KAN KAN
CAMINO DEL FLAMENCO
NA - M A R A

LA PASIONARIA'S FAREWELL SPEECH
THE INTERNATIONALE

BAR OPENS 7PM
MUSIC 7.45 - 11.30PM

SATURDAY 10TH JUNE
A Concert in tribute to the men and women of Oxfordshire who fought for freedom in the Spanish Civil War 1936-39. All proceeds to the Oxford Memorial to be erected in honour of the Volunteers from Oxfordshire.

ADVANCE TICKETS £15
BY 5TH JUNE OR £20 ON DOOR.
Payable to IBMT. Available From:
John Haywood, 1 Queens Road, Banbury,
OX16 0EB ajhaywood92@gmail.com
Tel: 07785235715

West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, OX2 0BT.
5 minutes from Railway Station. Plus car park.

The final chapter of our story was the celebratory evening of music and dance at the West Oxford Community Centre in Botley Road.

Although a little thinly attended it was nonetheless a terrific finale to more than three years of campaigning. Brigadista beer was on sale while we enjoyed the music of Na-Mara who have long specialised in folk stories from the Iberian Peninsula; our old favourites, Oxford's Cuban band Ran Kan Kan; and, sensationally, the music and dance of Camino del Flamenco. The Caminos are a dance troupe who teach flamenco to children and all ages. We were rewarded with a superb exhibition of high quality flamenco performed mostly by young

teenagers, accompanied by a top flight professional flamenco guitarist.

OxIBMemComm member David Chanter's friend Cristina and another friend Leire Olabarria gave a moving rendition of La Pasionaria's farewell address to the International Brigades on the final parade at their disbandment in Barcelona in November 1938. Cristina and Leire alternated between the original Spanish and an English translation.

And then it was all over. Kingston upon Hull are next in line for a memorial. We wish them well.

Text by Colin Carritt on behalf of the Oxford International Brigade Committee:-

Ed Ayres

Colin Carritt

Charlie Carter

David Chanter

Chris Davies

Chris Farman

John Haywood

See appendices for:-

1. list of donors;
2. design brief sent to artists and sculptors;
3. summary of expenditure and income.

PHOTOS OVERLEAF



Clockwise from top left:-

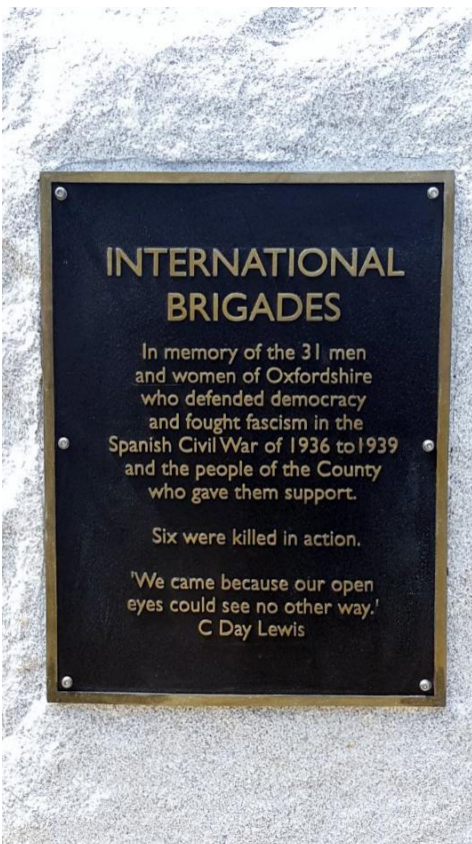
The memorial before the unveiling, draped with the historic Spanish Republican Flag from the Madrid Telefonica

Colin Carritt, chairing the unveiling ceremony and introducing speakers

Richard Baxell, Chair of the IBMT



Clockwise from top left:
Robert Wilkinson of the Oxford District Trades Union Council
Neil Gore reads Day Lewis' poem "The Volunteer"
Carmen Negrin, grand-daughter of the last Prime Minister of the Spanish Republic



Clockwise from top left:

Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr Christine Simm unveils the memorial

Carmen Negrin lays the wreath to the fallen

The crowd join in an enthusiastic rendition of "The Internationale" led by Neil Gore

The plaque on the reverse face of the memorial







Chris F, Charlie, Chris D, David (kneeling), Ed, John, Colin

Appendix 1

List of Donors to the Oxford IB Memorial (with apologies for any omissions)

Ash	Linden	Limerick	IBMT
Banbury and Bicester	CLP	Lenihan	Denis
Basque Children of 37 Assoc		Ling	Kevin and Barbara
Bibb	Barbara	Littlemore History Group	
Blinman	Jonathan	Magdalen College Oxford	
Boue	Sonia	McCallum	Andrew and Maria
Burton	Hugh	McKrell	Michael
Carritt	Colin	Moreno	Manuel and Alison
Challis	Peter	Morgan	Anne and Richard
Coates	Ruth & Charles J	Morley	Tomiko
Communist Party of Britain	Oxon	Murdoch	Catherine
Cooper	Julian	NAPO	TV Branch
Crofts	Paul	NUJ	Oxford and Dist
Crome	Peter	Oxford and Dist T U C	
Darke	Jane and Roy	Oxfordshire Green Party	
Davies	Chris	Packwood	Sally
Dodds	Anneliese	Pollentine	Simon
Duhajska	Petra	Poskitt	Elizabeth
Farman	Chris and Mary	Queens College Oxford	
Ferriman	Margaret	Radley History Group	
Goode	Chris	Richardson	Robin and Ben
Greening Lamborn Trust		Ruskin Collge Fellowship	
Greer	Steven	Segens	Adrian
Hall	Chris	Sellwood	Mathew
Hamman	Suzanne	Solo	Joe
Hampson	Vernon	Taylor	Philip S
Haywood	John	Thompson	Paul
Hemp	Dr J and Mrs	Thompson	Sheila
Hillside Hotel	Montrose	TUC	SE Region
Hogden	Sally	U3A	Marlow
Hutton	Will	UNISON	Oxon County
Lord Faringdon Foundation		UNISON	Oxon Health
IBMT		UNITE	RMA Branch
Jacob	DJ & B	Walsh	Stuart
Jay	Peter	Williams	David
Jones	Rosalind	Witney	CLP
Jump	Meirian	Young	Bruce
Kenyon	Jill and Jack	Yoxall	Brian and Sue
Kilsby	Steve	Buchanan	Tom
Knight	Frances	Horn	Tom
Lavery	Gerry	Chislett	William
Purcell	Hugh	Patten	Margaret
Suckling	Beryl	Rose	Valery
		Unison	South Lanarks

The International Brigade Memorial Trust – Oxford Memorial

Design Brief

Background

Between 1936 and 1939 over 2500 men and women left these islands to defend the Spanish Republic against the fascist insurgency of General Franco. They did so as volunteers. They went as volunteer soldiers, doctors, nurses, ambulance drivers and stretcher-bearers. Over 500 were killed. Many more were badly wounded, imprisoned and beaten. They were a cross section of British and Irish society; labourers, the unemployed, skilled workers, professionals and students. Their motivations were both political and humanitarian, but above all they were anti-fascist, and were angered that Britain and the other democracies were doing nothing to help the Spanish Republic. They foresaw the further spread of fascism and anti-Semitism across Europe unless Franco's uprising in Spain was halted. In the words of poet Cecil Day-Lewis "We came because our open eyes could see no other way". They were part of the 35,000 strong volunteer forces from 53 countries around the world that formed the International Brigades.

The International Brigade Memorial Trust (IBMT) is a UK registered charity number 1094928 committed to "keeping alive the memory and spirit of the men and women from Britain, Ireland and elsewhere who volunteered to defend democracy and fight fascism in Spain from 1936 to 1939". Throughout the British Isles there are more than 100 memorials to the International Brigade volunteers and many of these can be viewed on the IBMT website at www.international-brigades.org.uk

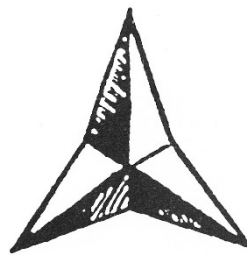
The Oxford Committee of the IBMT is looking to provide a memorial to the 31 volunteers who lived, worked or studied in Oxford and Oxfordshire before they went to Spain. Six did not return, killed in action.

The Oxford Committee has secured support in principle for the project from Oxford City Council Planning Committee. The preferred site is Bonn Square, a prime public location in the heart of the historic city of Oxford. A planning application was submitted and received warm support. However, a final decision was deferred to allow time to consider more imaginative designs and to allow professional design advice to be sought. In October, with Oxford City Council planning officers, we met with a design panel from the Commission for Architecture in the Built Environment (CABE). It was a constructive and fruitful meeting and from it we have prepared this design brief for artists to submit designs for the memorial.

Design Brief

1. We have sourced a block of pale grey granite approx 2.4m high, 1.0m wide and 0.3m thick. It is polished on its front face only.

2. The preferred location is at the back of Bonn Square against the rubble Cotswold stone wall of No 1, New Inn Hall Street. See Heritage statement attached.
3. It will be secured with a suitable reinforced concrete foundation approx 0.4m into the ground and the surrounding stone paving reinstated. It cannot be fixed to the rubble stone wall as it is a listed building. Installation will be undertaken by others and should not be considered part of the design brief but is for background information only.
4. The memorial is to include the 3-pointed star emblem of the International Brigades. And the following text.



INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE

In memory of the men and women of Oxfordshire who defended democracy and fought fascism in the Spanish Civil War of 1936 to 1939.

The following gave their lives.

Edward Burke

Anthony Carritt

Lewis Clive

Herbert Fisher

Ralph Fox

John Rickman

'We came because our open eyes could see no other way'

C Day Lewis

5. The main body of the memorial is to incorporate a striking image that captures the spirit of the Spanish Civil War and its often idealistic volunteers. The CABE design panel drew attention to the many posters published during the Civil War

that drew on the art-deco and modernist designs of the period. It was suggested that these posters might form the inspiration for a suitable memorial design, although we do not seek to be prescriptive about this. Many of these posters are viewable at <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/visfront/intro.html> or by searching “Spanish Civil War posters”

6. The Oxford Committee of the IBMT wish to emphasise that many of the volunteers were not combatants but were doctors, nurses, drivers and providers of other humanitarian services. The design might usefully reflect that diversity of skills within the volunteers.

You are invited to submit your design(s) for the memorial to incorporate the text and emblem as set out in this design brief.

Please indicate your approximate design and sculpture fee which, if your submission is successful will be subject to detailed approval and adjustment should unforeseen additional expenses or savings be identified. This project will be financed by fund raising. We have so far raised £6500 but have to take into account installation and the materials cost of the granite. We hope to find further sources of funding but at present, we are unable to provide a clear indication of the sum available for design and sculpting.

Please submit your designs, preferably in digital format to The Secretary, International Brigade Memorial Trust, 6, Stonells Road, London, SW11 6HQ by no later than 25th January 2015. Please direct any queries about this project to Colin Carritt, Oxford Committee IBMT., at 83 Manor Road, Woodstock, Oxford, OX20 1XS, 01993 811977 or 07891 639 126.

Please also find attached for background information the following:-

Design and Access Statement submitted with the original planning application (note: the text has since been amended). Design and Access Statement for a Memorial in Bonn Square.pdf

Heritage Statement submitted with the original planning application. Heritage Statement for a Memorial in Bonn Square.pdf

Location plan for Bonn Square, Oxford. IBMT Location Plan 1.jpg

CC - December 2014

83 Manor Road, Woodstock, Oxford, OX20 1XS,

Tel. 01993 811977 or 07891 639 126.

Appendix 3
Income and Expenditure

International Brigade Memorial Trust - Oxford Committee					
Income and Expenditure for Memorial at St Clements at 30 June 2017					
	OxIBM Comm. Figures	OxIBM Comm. Subtotals	Income	OxIBM Comm. Figures	OxIBM Comm. Subtotals
No Other Way - Book					
Printing 700 copies	1217		Greening Lamborne donation	500	
Design costs	500		Book Sales	3029	
Chris F - software expenses	100				
subtotal		1817	subtotal		3529
Donations			Donations pre-Nov. 2015 (excl. Greening Lamb)	4829	
			Recent (post Nov 2015) donations Lord Faringdon Trust	5650 incl	
			subtotal		10479
Fund Raising			October 2014 concert	2620	
			2015 WOCC Social	1964	
			Cycle ride sponsorship	1000	
			Al Andalus Dinner	925	
			Mezzetto Dinner	380	
			Proceeds from Ken Loach Film	850	
			Panel meeting at FMH	644	
			Opening ceremony costs	190	
			2017 WOCC Social event	1205	
			Raffle - Local Lottery	660	
			Sale of CDs and Tee-Shirts	2135	
			Fees for public speaking	160	
			subtotal		12733
Memorial costs		4057			
Cost of granite monolith	3360				
Transport	325				
Paving and installation	9931				
Landscaping	0				
Planning Fees	595				
Sculptor's fees	3000				
Casting and modelling	2450				
Sculptor's Incidentals	220				
Structural Design	480				
Wilcox masonry fees	720				
Resin bronze plaque	1050				
opening ceremony costs	incl				
Landscaping and seating	2000				
subtotal		24131			
Totals		30005		26741	26741
				-3264	-3264

Summary at June 2017		
Category	Costs	Income
Fund raising	4057	12733
Memorial	24131	
NOW Book	1817	3529
Donations		10479
Totals	30005	26741
		Shortfall
		-3264