

Forum Report - Spanish Conversation – February 2022 meeting

One member, diplomatically, had a favourite husband, son, daughter, and one granddaughter in Spain and one in England, so covering all the bases.

Another chose her mother's 90-year-old cousin, Joan, who has lived in Melbourne since 1952 and lost touch with the family. She recently reconnected and has shared fascinating stories of the cousin's lives when they were young.

Great Aunt Nelly was another favourite, shockingly captured smoking in a 1920 wedding photo and caused scandal by acquiring a toy boy in 1930's. She escaped the strict Chapel village to set up a B&B by the sea. As a child in the 50's he visited Nelly and remembers with joy the exotic lifestyle there, eating chips from the newspaper, late nights playing Bingo and Sundays making sandcastles and eating ice cream.

Another remembers going to live with his admired Communist grandmother in an industrial area, the smell of sulphuric acid in the air. The terrace had no toilet, no hot water and no music was ever played. Grandmother worked from dawn to dusk bringing water from the well, growing vegetables and flowers in the garden and keeping a pig and chickens for eggs. Stale bread was hardened and ground to feed the chickens. The pig was preserved to make hams, black sausage and salted pigs' feet.

Another's Uncle Herbert was a wounded hero from WW2, who became an Anglican priest and curate at St Martin-in-the-Fields in London. Whenever he visited, wearing his flamboyant robes, he gave the 3 children a pound to share and so they loved his visits. He acquired a posh accent and snobbish manners, eventually becoming the Rector at Southampton University, where he befriended rich widows, many of whom left him their fortunes!

March topic is "Do I regret my career choice?"

Stay safe

Lusia McAnna