

## Forum Historical Environment Report: July 2020

In these difficult times it was a joy to receive the June historical snippets from a number of our group members. These are now on the website if you wish to view them in full. I also sent a copy to all U3A members who are on email. If any member who did not receive these would like a hard copy, please let me know and I will post one out to you. Here is the first item by way of a taster. Thank you to Terri and all the other members who contributed:

'In 1957 I was on holiday in San Sebastian in August at the same time as General Franco was also holidaying there.

On the day he arrived by yacht the promenade was lined with many people eager to get a glimpse of him. In my innocence I decided to take a photograph of him as he alighted the steps at the quayside. Lifting the camera up to my eyes I suddenly felt myself being lifted by my elbows and my feet leaving the ground. On looking round I saw two Spanish policemen either side of me indicating I could not take a photo of him. He was feared by many people, and during the two weeks of my holiday the sound of car sirens could be heard regularly indicating his motorcade was passing through the town. On returning home, recounting my experience I realised just how lucky I had been.'

(Terri Irvin)

Less positively, we have reluctantly decided to cancel the July and August group meetings, while we are holding fire on the proposed September visit to the Auckland Project. In the meantime watch out for a July/August challenge – as a hint, start swatting up on the life and times of the Duke of Windsor (Edward VIII).

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