BILBAO HOSTS, FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, THE “EUROPEAN NEIGHBOUR'S DAY”

On may 28th Peñascal, one of Bilbao’s neighborhoods, housed the 2010 edition of European Neighbour's Day.
2010 has been the fifth consecutive year that Bilbao has host the “European Neighbours Day”. In 2006 more than 400 people from Ibarrekolanda district enjoyed and shared a pleasant time with their neighbours. 2007 was the year for Masustegi, Monte Karamelo and Camino Kobetas, while in 2008 was Otxarkoaga’s time to celebrate. In 2009 the “European Neighbours Day” arrived to Bolueta where hundreds of neighbours had a chance to meet and share. This is the perfect occasion to work together for all the associations in a neighborhood. The goal is to involve as many neighbours as possible to favour the coexistence and the European citizenry. The event was once again organized by the “Participación y Consejos de Distritos” area of the Bilbao City Council, which worked side by side with all the associations in Peñascal.

These where the associations which helped in the organization of this European Neighbours Day event: Asociación de Vecinos y Familias de Iturrigorri y Peñascal, Asociación de Jubilados y Pensionistas de Peñascal, Asociación de Formación de la Mujer de Peñascal, Asociación de formación de la Mujer de Peñascal, Asociación “Txikilandia” and Comisión de Fiestas de Peñascal.

The event was held in the Vaguada square, from 19 to 21pm. Two hours full of activities, so that everybody had a very agreeable time.
The Mayor of Bilbao, Mr. Iñaki Azkuna, took part in the event, and showed his satisfaction with the participation and the involvement showed by the neighbours.
The party begun with the youngest ones, who sang and danced for an audience of over 300 people. All of them meet in the marquee which was especially installed for the occasion on the Vaguada square.
Next it was held the premiere for the “Zu zara Peñascaleko Izarra” (You are the star of Peñascal”). A documentary on which the neighbours (all ages and condition) share their thoughts and experiences living in Peñascal.
Iturgarpe, a choir made up of neighbours from Peñascal, entertained the audience with traditional songs while wearing a T-shirt with the logo of the European Neighbour’s Day, especially designed for the occasion.
Few weeks prior to the event, a photographer took photos of the neighbours in different locations on Peñascal, using as background an old image of the neighborhood. This photos where displayed on the day of the event and when it finished each person took the photo home as a keepsake for the day.
There was also a photo-exhibition showing the evolution of Peñascal through the years. All this photos were provided by the neighbours who, this way, felt highly involved in all the process.
The day ended with a Barbecue. It was the neighbours who cooked and shared out the result of their hard work.
There was also a dj who placed the right music to keep a festive atmosphere at all times.