Of Civic Matters

To say that normality reigned in Alqueria would be an overstatement. A return to the sectarian sniping and gamesmanship was somehow comforting after the recent turmoil in the village republic. The worldwide sales of Remitroot products brought in sufficient cash to keep Alqueria in relative comfort. Life returned to the daily grind of undeclared war between the village's two barrios.

As the days dragged by, government ministers became increasingly more lethargic. Manuela past her time trying to make Rodriquez choke by firing paper-clips into his open mouth as he slept. Poyato spent the empty hours trying to invent new Remitroot cocktails. He usually drank himself into insensibility by midday. Blythe Gruntmore improved his Spanish. Unfortunately the course was written for English speakers and not Geordies. His pronunciation of both the English and Spanish qualified as linguistic gems.

The high power inertia eventually transformed itself into low power endeavour after the acceptance of a resolution twinning Alqueria to another European town. Serendipity settled the question of which town and where. By a coincidence of unbelievable proportions a letter arrived at the Ayuntamiento from an independent republic within the borders of England. It suggested twinning. The Republic of Uggaby lay in a bend of the River Waveney. Not in Suffolk or Norfolk and subsequently disowned by the British Government, it now enjoys independence.

A series of wonderfully colourful telephone calls took place. Pidgin English versus pidgin Spanish, as the leaders of the two villages made the necessary arrangements. The three Alquerian leaders would visit Uggaby and vice versa. Manuela eagerly looked forward to the expedition but hoped the rumours about the prowess of British men were untrue.

The delegation had to travel through the United Kingdom to reach Uggaby which is landlocked and unable to afford an airport. There were initial problems with visas due to Alqueria's rather grey international status. The permissions were eventually granted as long as the group went straight through England and didn´t touch anything.

Gruntmore was apprehensive about returning to his native land. It appeared that a story he told about one of his relatives being awarded the 'Order of the British Empire' was in fact 'ordered out of the British Empire'. He was however needed as an interpreter despite the fact his Spanish was appalling and his Geordie accent was incomprehensible to anyone south of Middlesbrough.

What will befall the 'Iberian Three' as they prepare to embark for Uggaby?
What will the three elders from Uggaby make of dysfunctional Alqueria?
What will Manuela make of English men?
These questions and others will be answered here.