



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



June 2009

No 106

About the *Bulletin*

ISSN 1755-1617

Editor	Gosia Brykczynska
Proofreader	John Revell
Production Editor	James Hatts
Production Coordinator	Marion Marples

The *Bulletin* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The deadline for copy is the beginning of the preceding month.

Contributions for the *Bulletin* are welcomed from members – please contact the editor via the office (see back cover for details).

Please send copy by email to office@csj.org.uk and a hard copy by post if possible. Hard copy alone will necessitate retyping and delays will occur.

If you send an attachment please make sure that it contains the title of the article and the author's name.

Please present your copy as simply as possible. Please take care with the spelling of personal and place names and ensure that accents are included correctly.

For further guidance email the office for a style guide.



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin

106

June 2009

- 2 **Editorial**
Gosia Brykczyńska
- 4 **The Pilgrim Sea Voyage of 1999**
Jane Bradshaw
- 8 **What goes round, comes round**
Dermot Wynne
- 10 **Spring in Rabanal: A Joyful Wedding**
Paul and Cristina Spink
- 12 **Follow the dancing pilgrim**
Howard Nelson
- 13 **The Vézelay Camino**
William Pryse-Phillips
- 18 **Alejandro Uli Ballaz**
Translated by Maureen Measure
- 24 **Stained Glass in the House**
John Curtin
- 26 **Pullman Pilgrimage**
Michael Sadgrove
- 29 **Looking Back, Looking Forward**
Larry Boulting
- 33 **Refugio Gaucelmo News**
Graham Scholes
- 35 **Members' Page**
- 35 **Book Reviews**
- 40 **From the Secretary's Notebook**
Marion Marples
- 43 **Obituaries**
- 47 **CSJ Events**
- 51 **New Members**

Editorial

Gosia Brykczynska

Once a pilgrim to St James – always a pilgrim. It might be years between the completion of one pilgrimage and another – or maybe only several months. It might be that one completes only one camino to Santiago in a lifetime, and never takes to the pilgrim road again. No matter. Once the body, soul and mind have been successfully harnessed together to undertake the camino, something of a unique personal experience stays with us for the rest of our days. Not only does our unique experience stay with us but we are ever-afterwards sensitive to the clues and signs around us of fellow pilgrims. The uniqueness of the experiences along the camino prompts us to search out others who have also undertaken the pilgrimage. Uniqueness reaches out for communalities; personal reflection attempts to share a collective experience. The returning pilgrim's perpetual paradox.

And so it was that recently making my way to the airport, I found myself drawn to a gentleman who had a round red and yellow badge sewn onto his small bag. On the badge were the familiar words – *Camino de Santiago – Camino de Europa*. I approached the man and sure enough he was a fellow member of the CSJ and was making his way to France. Other times I have seen pilgrims on the London underground, or at Eurostar train stations and at small provincial airports in Spain. Each time as they note my small shell pinned onto my jacket or coat and they see me recognise them as pilgrims, after a confirming smile, a hasty conversation ensues – which camino, where did you start, how was it, how are you now...? Among all the crowds and throngs of people on the streets and trains and towns of Europe – something special has united us. St James.

As we approach summer and the feast of St James many of us are thinking of taking to the pilgrim road again, but probably a greater number are not so much thinking of undertaking an additional pilgrimage but are retreating into themselves and re-living the pilgrimage experience they once had several years ago. All these sentiments are present in this Bulletin.

We have articles recalling the impact of the camino on our daily

lives and we are reminded that one of the greatest blessings of the camino is pilgrim music and that pilgrim music and camino hymns make up much of our pleasure as we make our way down the camino. For advice and wisdom we listen carefully to tales of those who have already undertaken the camino. We reflect with the poet and we consider the thoughts of those pilgrims who have prayed their way up and down the camino – but not on foot or horse-back or bicycle – but in a coach. Who are we to say – that they are any less of a pilgrim? They might not be entitled to the traditional *compostela* from the Cathedral of Santiago Pilgrim Office but St James will still acknowledge them – and therefore so will we.

As the feast of St James approaches, we can imagine the monks and the Arch Abbot preparing for the great day in Rabanal. In Miraz in front of the statue of St James in the village church fresh flowers will be placed. In the many, many churches and cathedrals and monasteries dedicated to St James around Europe from Riga through Szczecin and Jakobów and Prague and Reading to London, Castres and Nuremberg and Constance and Rome and Salamanca – faithful followers of St James will be celebrating his virtues and his apostleship. As always on the feast of St James, prayers will be said for all CSJ members, especially those who have died or are in special need; for are we not a community of pilgrims, bound by the ties of pilgrimage and obligations of camino considerations? Finally, if St James is known as the son-of-thunder, what does that make us his faithful friends, followers and disciples? I wonder.

The Pilgrim Sea Voyage of 1999: Cornwall to Compostela

Jane Bradshaw

Men may leve all games, That sailen to St James

As Mike and I left Bodmin Parkway railway station on 7 May 1999 the heavens opened, which was, though we didn't know it at the time, a portent of what was to come. We were on our way to join the Pilgrim Sea Voyage organised by Hilary Shaw of the Bredereth Sen Jago, the Cornish organisation parallel to our own Confraternity. The voyage on two sailing ships, *Phoenix* and *Carrie*, aimed to recreate a medieval pilgrimage from Fowey in Cornwall to A Coruña in Galicia, then walking to Santiago along what we now know as the Camino Inglés.

There were three sections to this: (1) a group on *Phoenix* and *Carrie* as outlined above; (2) a group going by ferry from Plymouth to Santander, then by rail to El Ferrol and walking to meet the first group; and (3) a group starting by walking the Saints' Way across Cornwall from Padstow to Fowey, some of whom would then join group 1 or group 2 while others would finish at Fowey.

That was the plan...

Mike and I had opted for group 3 and then to continue in group 1. We were allotted to *Carrie*, a converted crayfish carrier which had starred as the *Dawn Treader* in the television version of the C S Lewis book. She was a beautiful little ship, owned by Ellie, captained by John and crewed by Ellie with Adrian as deckhand and Lisa as cook.

*Who would a pilgrim be
Let him not tarry.
Let him in luxury
Sail on the Carrie.
He need not fear the gales
With John to set the sails,
And Lisa to cook the meals –
Hooray for Carrie!*

Unfortunately the gales were very much in evidence. Having marched in good order through Fowey to the town quay, banging a drum and singing Mary Remnant's setting of 'Men may leve all games', we had a ceremonial send off by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall and various other important people. But we found ourselves waiting for a strong southwesterly gale, which had driven much larger ships than our two to take refuge in the Fowey estuary, to ease enough to let us actually start. It was a day later that we were able to depart for Falmouth and a day later again before we could set out across the Channel for *Carrie's* home port of Camaret in Brittany. Although the gale had eased all was not well.

*When the wind began to howl
Pilgrims fell ill-o.
Lisa brought each one a bowl
Sent each to his pillow.
And Ellie came to see,
And ginger pills were free
While Ade brought cups of tea:
Hooray for Carrie!*

Phoenix, a larger vessel than *Carrie*, square sailed and less nimble, arrived a day later. The weather having moderated, with high hopes we set off to cross the Bay of Biscay. Unfortunately the wind was against us, so we had to motor sail. Even more unfortunately a great sea serpent, disguised as a large piece of mooring rope, twined itself lovingly round *Carrie's* propellor and resisted all attempts to disentangle it. There was no option but to turn under sail and head for the French coast, in this case Belle Île by St Nazaire, where the rope was finally disentangled by the bosun from *Phoenix* who worked under water to free the propellor. It was yet more time lost.

The upshot had to be a revised plan. Regulations meant that *Phoenix* and *Carrie* had to keep within sixty miles of the shore, so we couldn't sail in a straight line across the Bay. After some strenuous work with mobile phones, ship-to-shore radio and the internet it was decided that we would head for Santander, where we would meet a coach arranged by friends in Spain (who had been meaning to meet us at A Coruña) and, after joining the ferry party at Ordenes eighteen miles from Santiago, we would do a last day's walk into Santiago. But the weather had not finished with us.

*When we came at last to Spain
The wind blew harder.
Bowls of grated cheese and cream
Fell out the larder.
But let not me affright!
For Santander's in sight,
And I still have the right
To be a pilgrim.*

We reached Santander and the coach, and after a beautiful seven-hour drive along the north coast of Spain arrived in Ordenes, where – wonderful to relate given all our trials so far – we met the ferry party led by Pat Quaipe and Francis Davey. The next day six heroic pilgrims caught the service bus to A Coruña to do the three-day walk along the Camino Inglés.

Mike and I decided that in our case discretion was the better part, and we set off with the rest of the party on the last lap into Santiago. It *poured* with rain.

*Onward to great James's town
All wet and soggy.
Rain in torrents lashing down,
Paths steep and boggy.
St James, now be my speed!
I'm very wet indeed,
Yet still I have the need
To be a pilgrim.*

To add to everything else a Spanish television crew kept materialising alongside us, heavily disguised as walking bin-bags. Mike and I never found out whether they did make a programme.

The last twelve kilometres of the Camino Inglés is, or was then, along the main N550, tarmac walking and too near the traffic for comfort. But we finally arrived in Santiago Cathedral just as the *botafumeiro* was being swung at the end of Mass. It wasn't really for us, but it felt like it.

*Hilary, Pat and Francis lead
Us through the traffic.
They have met our every need,*

*We think they're t'rrific!
Botafumeiro, swing!
Heaven's praises now I sing!
St James, my thanks I bring –
I am a pilgrim!*

Mike and I had opted to stay at the San Francisco, which was not, it seemed, used to pilgrims. The receptionist looked at us askance, but as we had a reservation he couldn't get rid of us. 'Did you come by car or taxi?' he asked coldly as we dripped on the mat. But Mike had not been a headteacher for nothing. 'We walked,' he said firmly. The receptionist gave in and handed over the room key.

I am glad to relate that the heroic six who walked from A Coruña arrived safely. At the Pilgrim Mass on 20 May we heard the words *inglés* and *barco*, so we knew we'd been recognised. When we returned to the cathedral for a prayer session for all our sponsors and helpers arranged in one of the side chapels, an English-speaking priest met us and offered to say Mass for us in English the next morning.

On the afternoon of 21 May we retraced our coach journey to Santander where we met up with *Carrie* and *Phoenix* for a very quiet journey home. Inevitably the wind had gone round 180 degrees so it was motor sailing again, but this time there was no sea serpent and no further adventures.

So what are our thoughts ten years on? First of all it's that it was the valiant efforts of all the organisers, notably Hilary, Pat and Francis, that got us to Santiago and back at all – and within the set time scale. Secondly it was unfortunate, to say the least, that the weather was so determinedly against us, though Mike and I, having spent many hours sailing on our own river Severn, were not particularly surprised or put out by this. Thirdly, the whole enterprise was a major reason why three years later, we walked to Santiago from Le Puy, feeling that we needed to say to St James, 'well, we succeeded in 1999 in spite of everything, but now we are going to make sure we do the pilgrimage all by our own efforts.'

PS A sad footnote: a couple of years later Ellie sold *Carrie* to a company who hired her to a television company which was making the Irish equivalent of *Big Brother*. Were they planning to throw the rejects overboard, one wonders? She was wrecked off the Irish coast. No-one was drowned, but *Carrie* was completely lost.

Note from Marion Marples: the civic reception planned at A Coruña and the emergency coach travel from Santander were arranged by 'Mac': see Obituaries.

What goes round, comes round

Dermot Wynne

The town of Moissac in the Department of Tarn et Garonne, in the central area of southern France, is one of those magical places which seem to evoke everything which is wonderful about southern France. The town's strategic position along the pilgrim route, the richness of the area and good river/road communications have meant that Moissac has caught the eye of every greedy prince and politician for the past 1500 years. Moissac was even an English town between the years 1361 – 1370 when Edward III was ensuring that his knights and bowmen were second to none throughout France.

The Abbey church of St Peter, with its incredible twelfth-century cloisters, was founded originally by King Clovis in 506 and the parish church of St Martin is, arguably, one of the oldest along the pilgrim route to Santiago. The history of Moissac and the changing fortunes of both town and abbey read like an excellent scenario for a Hollywood film.

I managed to get a bed at the recently renovated and re-opened Carmelite refuge. It is truly a splendid building with its own small cloisters and an almost semi-tropical garden. There is a terraced area which overlooks the Abbey and town. An ideal spot.

When I stayed there I walked into town to buy some postcards. As I was strolling along one of the principal streets I saw a young man sitting cross-legged on the pavement playing a small flute with his hat in front of him. The tunes he was playing were very jolly and as I'm a great fan of buskers I put a few coins into his hat, passed on and thought no more about it.

I spent a very pleasant evening in the refuge and was pleased to meet again three French cyclists I had met the day I left Le Puy. The following morning I left and made my way to Lectoure, passing through St Antoine where there is still one of the oldest resting places for pilgrims, and the marvellous medieval town of Auvillar.

Once in Lectoure I was fortunate enough to get the last bed in the refuge which was situated in the presbytery and run by the local priest, his assistant and a nun who acts as housekeeper. I also met two Frenchmen who were travelling to Santiago with their donkey. Dinner

was going to be a communal one with all the pilgrims, the priest and his staff. However, beforehand a few of us went into town for an *apéritif*. We were all chatting very happily when who should pass but the young man I had seen busking in Moissac. He seemed to know two or three of the pilgrims in our party and he stopped for a chat, and naturally he was asked to join us. To my surprise he was English and was cycling on a lady's bicycle with all his possessions in a large wicker basket fixed to the handlebars. Of course he had the obligatory pony tail and several ear and nose rings. He was also very tanned after weeks of exposure to sun and rain. I cannot remember his name but he was very jolly and seemed to be well acquainted with a couple of the pilgrims in our party. I asked him if he intended to complete the pilgrimage to Santiago, and he quickly denied the suggestion. It seems that he had discovered that there were, if not rich, adequate 'pickings' along the road to Santiago by befriending pilgrims, who presumably made the passing of time a little easier for him by making small donations towards his daily expenses!

There is always something adventurous about a busker or troubadour which makes him attractive to know. I like to give my few coins for their talents but one of the greatest patrons of the troubadour minstrel in the twelfth century was Eleanor of Aquitaine who befriended Bernart de Ventadour, himself the son of a kitchen scullion. The pilgrimage would be all the poorer without the sweetness of music and song. I had to reflect that things hadn't changed very much in 1200 years. In medieval times there were always people who would follow the pilgrims' route to beg, borrow or busk.

Spring in Rabanal

A Joyful Wedding

Paul & Cristina Spink

So many Confraternity members feel a special affection for the village and the people of Rabanal del Camino, the place of our first refuge on the Camino de Santiago. There is a feeling of contact with a real community on the historic Camino Francés, appreciation of the support we have received from so many and all that Rabanal means in the history of the Confraternity and the dreams of those who founded Refugio Gaucelmo in the heart of the village.



So we keenly follow the events that mark the life of the village and can take pleasure in the news of another very special event, a joyful family fiesta where almost everybody from Rabanal was involved – although the principal couple were Fidel and Pili, as they celebrated their wedding on a glorious spring day in March.

March the fourteenth was indeed a special day for the village and the Pérez family: Antonio and Nieves (owners of the Hostal El Refugio) and their children Antonio, Mari Cruz, María José, Pili the bride and Cristina, all looking their finest as the skies cleared to bathe the very beautiful bride in sunlight and banish for a while the cruel days of an exceptionally harsh winter.

El Refugio was closed for four days as family members came to join the celebrations. Its entrance was decorated in arches of leaves and flowers, for the bridal procession downhill to the church of San José. Flutes, drums and *gaiteros* sounded their support and the rockets, firework mortars and firecrackers added theirs to the community participation, not pausing even for the solemnity of the ceremony, as Antonio – as proud a father as any before him – walked with his lovely daughter into the church, followed by an extremely smart Fidel, as nervous a bridegroom as any before *him*.

The packed church saw the ceremony, a Nuptial Mass, conducted

by Prior Juan Antonio of the monastery and – a special touch - the parish priest whom Pili and her sister Cristina had known as children and had served at the altar of the village church opposite Gaucelmo – Nuestra Señora de la Asunción.

Cristina had been the one to organise the wedding, so that her sister could enjoy the whole occasion in tranquillity. This will come as no surprise to those of us who over the years have seen Cristina's remarkable ability to organise and to cope with problems, including the occasional crisis for the *hospitaleros* at Gaucelmo! On that day, far from the way we see her at work, tall and elegant in a beautiful dress, she looked gorgeous.

Outside the church in the sun the newlyweds greeted well-wishers and endured clouds of stinging rice and more photographs, then it was time for the whole village to stream to El Refugio for wine *pulpa* and congratulations. The downstairs dining room, stairs and entrance became an ocean of faces, familiar and new.

Invited guests then travelled to Astorga and an evening reception at the Hotel Gaudi for many family members and friends, including an impressive number of friends of the newly married pair and the younger family members. We marvelled that they have time to have so many friends, considering that they always appear to be working! The food and wines were very special and Gaspar himself, whom so many of us will know, made sure that all was as it should be for the meal and the service.

As you may know, Spanish wedding receptions normally involve neither speeches nor formal toasts, but many of the friends made up for this by enthusiastically and repeatedly following the tradition of calling for the newlyweds to embrace and kiss. “*Que se besen*” and the boisterous celebrations went on until meal and table talk were done and the large floor cleared for everyone to enjoy the dancing. As always, the younger guests lasted the longest at this part of the celebrations, finishing – it was reported – at 6am the following morning.

This was a wonderful celebration by Antonio and Nieves of the first marriage of any of their children. It was a super occasion, a landmark in the story of the village of Rabanal and we feel very privileged to have been invited by them as friends and to feel that this reflects on the goodwill felt towards Gaucelmo and the Confraternity. The Pérez family have without exception always been of tremendous help and support to the *hospitaleros* through the years and Gaucelmo is very lucky to have them as neighbours.

Follow the dancing pilgrim

Howard Nelson

*Follow the dancing pilgrim then
with magic staff in hand,
and empty out your baggage
of despair: leave all regret
(pain you may not leave, but
watch it turn to joy!)
Go light in body, light of heart,
and live, my friend, on air:
be drunk with words unheard*

*Take, for your companion,
solitude; for conversation,
bird-song and the wind.
Choose, as destination, a horizon
that you'll never reach.
Kneel, now and then, to emptiness
to light and silence, and
in humble gratitude - and all the more
because a bird has nested
in the bell-rope, and none come -
and when the waymarks fail
read signs invisible.*

*And even though your heart
is on the anvil, ringing,
go gladly on your way,
my friend; and singing.*

The Vézelay Camino

William Pryse-Phillips

A march along the camino is a kind of prayer which, like all prayers, needs repetition. Having walked the Spanish Camino Francés twice, it seemed right to me to try a different version. The Camino del Norte is rather heavy going, so I opted for the 1000km route from Vézelay to St Jean-Pied-de-Port, as the indispensable Chassain guide (see below) indicated that it was less rigorous. It was right.

I took it easy, stopping for a day sometimes, and spent 35 days as a pedestrian pilgrim (the story of my life) exulting in the beauty of central and southwestern France and delighting in the kindness of the French people all along the way.

This is a long country walk, lacking perhaps the intense emotional experience of the busy Camino Francés, but with many highlights from the first day to the last. For those who would like to try an alternative to the Camino Francés, here are some comments and bits of advice, born of my five-week experience on this lovely road.

1. From Paris Gare de Lyon, trains run fairly often (in the summer) to Sermizelles-Vézelay (usually with one change). When you arrive, the station may be uninhabited but there is a notice board outside with a couple of taxi numbers. Otherwise, try to arrive before mid-afternoon because you have a 10km walk to Vézelay.
2. Vézelay is a tourist resort; make sure that you have your accommodation booked if you arrive on a French Bank Holiday weekend, or use reserved pilgrim accommodation.

The monks and nuns at the Basilica chanted the most exquisite Mass that I have ever heard; to have missed that would have been an outrage. They elevated my spirits after a long flight from Canada and reminded me that I was beginning a walk with a purpose. The Basilica was thronged with tourists (like me) but most of them witnessed rather than participated in the service and I recalled Alexander Pope's lines:

... Some to church repair,

Not for the doctrine, but the music there.

3. Les Amis et Pèlerins de Saint-Jacques de la Voie de Vézelay publishes a guide in French - the *Itinéraire du Pèlerin de Saint-Jacques* by Monique and Jean-Charles Chassain - available with all possible details and maps, through the Confraternity bookshop at the bargain price of £24.00. To have it is essential because of the detailed data, advice and instructions for the route that it offers. However, both the French system of *Grandes Randonnées* and many local organisations dedicated to the Vézelay Camino have also put up waymarking signs, which unfortunately do not always correspond with those in the guide. You will get there in the end, but it can be frustrating. The maps here are to scale, unlike those in John Brierley's great guide to the Camino Francés and the instructions are very detailed, sometimes itemising course changes every 100 yards or so.
4. There are two possible routes from Vézelay taking the first ten days, but joining up for the last three weeks or so. I took the Northern route through Bourges as I wanted to see again the beautiful little town of La Charité-sur-Loire sixty years after my first visit as a boy. Most of the first day takes you through a huge forest, where the waywardness of the signage becomes evident. Getting lost is easy.
5. Take a compass - a GPS is useless under the forest canopy - and a cell 'phone; a twisted ankle and I would not have been found until All Saints' Day, given the absence of people!
6. The number of hostels and refuges continues to increase and you will not have much trouble finding somewhere to stay. There are on this route, however, many stretches of 20km or more without any habitation or which pass through hamlets without either shops or accommodation.
7. The first day is a 33km stretch and the second about 43km. Make sure that you are fit before you begin!
8. I am too old for communal living and prefer to sleep in the cheapest hotel or *pension* that I can find, calling one or two days beforehand to make a reservation. In my September/October walk this never failed and I stayed in some absolutely superb *chambres d'hôte* (CH) costing between 30 and 75 Euros for the night with breakfast, though on two occasions I was asked just to pay what I felt I could and in many instances

was invited to dinner with the family as well as having breakfast provided. Some of the houses (or *châteaux*, even) are magnificent!

9. The Chassain guide has a complete list not only of accommodation (with phone numbers) but also information about all sites of spiritual or artistic importance.
10. My walk was in late September and most of October. On the second day I met four Germans who were doing the route on bicycles with a support van; and a few days later I met one Dutchman, Pieter, who had started from Amsterdam in August and hoped to reach Santiago by December. I met nobody else walking the trail, although in the summer months it is much more populated.
11. The weather was wonderful – it rained for parts of three days out of thirty-five. Temperatures ranged between -3 and 30°C.
12. I estimate that 40% of the route is on paved roads, while the rest is on country paths through woods, forests, vineyards and open farmland.
13. Some of the things that I will not forget were:
 - The horological precision, comfort and speed of French trains.
 - The Vézelay basilica.
 - The Priory church and the street of the booksellers in La Charité.
 - Dogs, almost all barking, behind every fence.
 - The Cathedral in Bourges and its stained-glass windows.
 - The joy of eating cheese or pâté with newly-baked French bread in deep countryside and warm sun; and with a little beer or wine to hand.
 - Scores of curly-tusked wild boar in the forests leading to a moment of concern when first meeting them, and to the insights, first that one cannot climb a tree wearing a backpack and second (somewhat later) that they were as scared of me as I was of them.
 - My invitation to a superb lunch and tour of the farm and its awesome equipment at Diors.
 - The kindness of many hosts at CHs and of the owners of some small businesses, in letting me use their computers to access my e-mails on the Internet.
 - The bountiful produce in French open air markets.

- The magnificent welcome, dinner and accommodation at the *accueil pèlerin* of Mme de St Mars and her family at le Plessis, Velles.
- The twelfth-century frescoes in the crypt of the church at Gargillesse; completely unguarded.
- The Hôtel du Lac at Crozant, and the all-knowing octogenarian lady who kept the general store (selling almost everything) in the village a mile up the hill.
- The sun-speckled, trouty river deep in the forest valley floor after Crozant.
- Moto-cross riders, hardly slowing or swerving for a pilgrim climbing down the same rocky, wooded pathway.
- The trust of one hotel owner in Bénévent l'Abbaye who had had the front door unlocked and who left a note inside giving directions to a room made up for me on a day that the place was actually closed and which was, except for me, totally uninhabited; and the kindness of another who re-opened his hotel for me as a pilgrim, and prepared a fine supper.
- The number of English expatriates living joyfully in south-west France.
- The innumerable churches and other religious houses with special features that I visited along the way; their carvings, their windows, inscriptions and furnishings, and with such abundant evidence of prideful care, manifesting a distillation of belief sustained over centuries.
- In Sainte-Marie de Frugie, the large and welcoming convent imbued with the remembrances of the past ministrations of thirty nuns; not one of whom remained. And in Saint-Ferme the experience of *château*-living at the Manoir de James; Monsieur Dubois the perfect host.
- Byzantine cupolas roofing the Périgueux Basilica.
- The *vendage* continually around me during the last three weeks.
- My old boots; they had walked over the Camino Francés twice but on the Vézelay route at Sainte-Foy-la-Grande gave up the ghost and I almost slid down the steep and stony hill path to the Dordogne. The *cordonnier* could not repair the soles so I had to buy new boots, stupidly leaving my *carnet* – my trip diary - in the sports shop. When I

discovered that it was missing the next day, ten miles away, I called but it had not been found. The owners discovered it later, saw my daughter's Canadian telephone number in it and telephoned her, asking what to do. At her request they sent it on to me at home, trusting that I would pay the postage, which I was glad to do. I still keep up an e-mail conversation with Alain and Mariette. Their kindness and trust epitomise my impressions of the French people.

- The joy of meeting my daughter from Canada off the train at La Réole.
- The steady approach of the Pyrenean *massif* over the last five days.
- The joy of accomplishment on entering St Jean-Pied-de-Port from the north-east on foot rather than from the north-west by train; and the remembered view of the first part of that challenging 1200m climb up south out of the town into Spain, which had been made before but would not be required this time.
- The freezing, empty but welcoming pilgrim hostel in Ostabat, half a day from St Jean-Pied-de-Port, occupied while we watched van-based tourist 'pilgrims' snuggle into the local CH. But thank you again, Monsieur the caretaker, for the bottle of home-made *apéritif* that you left for us on the kitchen table!

To walk alone allows deeper contemplation and a keener appreciation of the environment passing by at walking pace, but to walk with one who is loved relieves one of the bittersweet chore of thought while deepening the relationship and the shared awareness of one's environmental context. After my daughter joined me for the last ten days, we bathed together in the experiences of the senses and of the emotions during this best of times; the perfect mix.

On the Camino Francés I had been captivated by its physical challenges, its history and its spirituality. On the Vézelay Camino, the history is there but it was the easy *rapprochement* with the welcoming people of France along a less taxing route that made me enjoy and learn from the experience of their beneficence in the present rather than from the myriad, millennial Spanish icons that illuminate the rest of the rocky road to the shrine of St James.

Conversation between a Senior Brother and the President of the Archicofradía Universal del Apóstol Santiago

Since his first pilgrimage in 1971 **Alejandro Uli Ballaz** (born in Sangüesa in 1924) has been an exceptional witness to the evolution which pilgrimage has undergone in recent years and which has led him to write books such as *¿Te vienes a Santiago?* (Are you coming to Santiago?) and *Vivencias Jacobeas* (Jacobean Experiences). When he arrived in Santiago last year, having walked from Roncesvalles, he had a conversation with the President of the *Archicofradía*, **Augustín Dosil** in the Pilgrims' Office. In this interview Alejandro Uli put on record what he thinks of the Camino and his preoccupations about the state of pilgrimage today.

Augustín Dosil: Good afternoon. Alejandro, I believe that you arrived in Santiago this morning. From where did you start walking?

Alejandro Uli: Today from Lavacolla, although I left home on 14 July. I went to Roncesvalles and started to walk the next morning from there.

AD: How many times have you done the camino counting the current pilgrimage?

AU: I have not kept count, but about thirty approximately.

AD: And do you remember the year in which you started making pilgrimages to Santiago?

AU: Yes, it was the year 1971.

AD: Alejandro, how did you first hear about the Camino de Santiago?

AU: When I was a child I lived in the parish of Santiago de Sangüesa and there, in the tympanum of the church, there is a statue of St James. From the left to the right there are two kneeling pilgrims and these I remember from childhood. I also remember that when I was very young pilgrims would walk by and the grown-ups of the town would tell me that 'There is a pilgrim going to Santiago'.

AD: Do you remember what that first pilgrimage to Santiago in 1971 was like?

AU: It is nothing like today's, nothing...

AD: What are the differences between the 1971 pilgrimage and that of 2008?

AU: Many things are different. There were no yellow arrows on the way; the yellow arrows date from 1982. There were no guide-books either because Elías Valiña's guide was not published until 1982. In many places people had lost the idea of the camino and when I told them that I was walking the camino they remembered that their grandparents had told them that pilgrims used to pass by. They sent me to the next town and this is how we went.

AD: Do you notice many improvements in the organisation and the care of the pilgrim?

AU: I don't know about improvements. Changes yes, because now the route is much better.

AD: When do you usually walk the camino? Do you prefer summer?

AU: Well, I have done it all. In 1993 I left Roncesvalles on 8 January, arriving at Santiago early February. Neither a drop of rain nor a flake of snow fell on us.

AD: Do you usually walk alone or accompanied?

AU: I have usually done it with small groups. I prefer it. However, I have done it alone six or seven times.

AD: And which of the two options do you prefer?

AU: Well, today I prefer to walk the camino in company because I no longer have the reflexes or the resistance of earlier days. I am always afraid that my determination will fail and that I could have a setback.

AD: But I understand that over the years you have never had a major setback.

AU: No, none. I have always arrived safely in Santiago.

AD: I suppose that there is a big difference in the standard of refuges between then and now...

AU: Then there was not a single one, not even parish refuges. The only place where we were slightly recognised was in Santo Domingo de la Calzada. When we got there our arms were sunburnt so we went to the

hospital and there the nuns asked us where we were going to eat and sleep. When we told them that we had walked 45 kilometres they said to us that they would take care of dinner. They said that there was a room in the hospital reserved for pilgrims walking to Santiago. It was a room with four beds with a single door that led through a passageway to the cloister.

AD: And now that we have so many refuges what do you think of the welcome in them?

AU: In this I have little experience. In former times I slept in hay lofts, cow sheds, police cells, even prisons, but nowadays I have a health problem and I don't use *refugios*. I have to get up frequently during the night and if one turns on the lights in the refuge everyone is disturbed and if one does not turn on the lights one risks falling over, so I sleep in *pensiones* and *fondas*.

AD: How old are you now?

AU: Well, I have now burnt up 84 years.

AD: What is the motive for a person, having walked from Roncesvalles to Santiago some thirty times and aged 84, to go yet again on foot to Santiago?

AU: I have always said that the camino hooks one. And then there are other things. I do it in order to get away from all the problems of life and to have time for reflection.

AD: For you then the camino is like a space and time of rupture from your daily life, and a time for spiritual exercise...

AU: Exactly. Further I see that the camino is a therapy. I am a professor of Latin. I taught in Tauste and in Zaragoza, and I remember that when the yellow arrows beckoned everyone asked me what I was going to do that summer. Year after year I replied 'The Camino to Santiago' and they asked me 'Again?'; so I turned round the question 'And you, where are you going to pass the summer?' 'I am going to Salou' and then I responded with 'Again?'

AD: And in the Capuchin community, what do they think when you tell them that you are going on the camino?

AU: I don't say anything; they accept it. St Francis of Assisi was one of the first pilgrims; he did the camino in 1212.

AD: I suppose that all the pilgrimages that you have made have had a

special significance for you. Tell us an anecdote about an experience during those times.

AU: Well, yes, every year has been different. Anecdotes – there are so many! One that I remember happened ten years ago. I had been diagnosed with cancer of the prostate and I decided to do the camino. I was going to ask St James if I could give in my resignation; I did not ask for anything else. I began my pilgrimage at Tuy and when I arrived at the Ponte das Febres I encountered a cross on which two little candles were alight and there was an inscription which said ‘Here San Telmo was taken fatally ill on his way to Santiago’. I was so impressed that the person who was accompanying me noted it in my face. After staying in Santiago I had another biopsy which was negative. I have always thought that either the doctor made a mistake or that St James had lent me a helping hand; perhaps both.

I also remember many anecdotes about people; I love to talk to people, especially if I am on my own. I remember that on one occasion my companions and I were carrying a wine container and we asked a family if they could sell us a little wine. They invited us to sit down and eat with them. On another occasion, waiting for the priest at the entrance to a church a man offered us water and began to speak to us. Soon he told us that he had two beds that were at our disposition.

There have been so many anecdotes, but age has caused me to forget them.

AD: But someone who walks the camino from Roncesvalles to Santiago has to be a young person!

AU: And from Le Puy and Bordeaux! I have also done the Vía de la Plata, and the Camino Portugués...

AD: When you started your pilgrimages there were very few people and no refuges; today all that has changed and hundreds of people are arriving every day. We have won in quantity, but how do you see today’s pilgrimage in terms of quality?

AU: Well, I see it as very ‘decaffeinated’; there are many cases of people who go to Santiago and don’t visit the cathedral unless there is the *botafumeiro*. Not one or two, but many. They take it as a cheap tourist attraction.

AD: What can organisations, like that to which you belong, the *Archicofradía Universal del Apóstol Santiago*, which began five centuries

ago, do to promote pilgrimage and the cult of St James? What can you do to improve this situation and to ensure that the pilgrimage is not corrupted?

AU: In today's associations, including the one I founded in Zaragoza, there are some 'decaffeinations' as well. One problem which I see exists, is that there is a real need to establish who is issuing *credenciales*. In many cases they hand them out indiscriminately.

AD: So you think that firstly we should be more careful with the issuing of *credenciales*?

AU: Yes, but it is very difficult. I think also that there should be some kind of preparation before giving out the *credencial*. I would suggest two informal chats, one about the pilgrimage to Santiago and the other about the logistics and the practicalities of doing the camino (signage, the state of the camino, suitable clothing, etc). The problem is that today many associations offer only the second.

AD: Tell me one thing, Alejandro, when someone comes to Santiago so many times and visits the cathedral, what does he say to the *Apóstol*?

AU: Ha ha ha. Many things. What would you wish me to say? I speak to St James as to you, as to a friend, about personal things. I make a request for the Church, for society and I ask a great deal for the pilgrims - for those who come and who do not know why or whence they have come. I ask that he holds out a helping hand.

AD: And what does he tell you?

AU: Well, I don't know. I believe that he pays attention to me...

AD: And when you say goodbye to this earth and arrive at the gates of heaven, who would you like to open them? St Peter or St James?

AU: That is a difficult question. I hope that St James will think so too...

AD: Alejandro, will you have enough energy to do the camino again in 2009?

AU: I think I must be realistic; my sight is failing and I often get tired. I am reducing my rucksack, but my 84 years weigh more than the rucksack.

AD: How heavy is your rucksack?

AU: This year's rucksack weighs 5½ to 6 kilos and I was lucky because

a friend of mine who has done the camino twice and who has been operated on for cancer asked me if he could accompany me for some days and, while I walked, he drove in his car carrying my rucksack and visited the most outstanding places. When he left me to go home at Burgos, another friend with whom I had walked the camino previously accompanied me and he also offered to carry my rucksack in his car. It was a great relief.

AD: In two years, in 2010, it will be a Holy Year. Are you going to resist walking?

AU: I am not sure if I will be able to do it walking. I had thought about doing it from O Cebreiro, but from there also there are complicated sections.

AD: So you think this might be your last pilgrimage?

AU: Nobody could say that, but I am thinking about it; I am sure that I will come, even though it be in a car, and I might be able to walk a part of the camino.

AD: And, out of curiosity, when you come to Santiago will you collect the *compostela*?

AU: Well, sometimes I ask for it and other times I don't. In the long run I don't know if I will have a *credencial*.

AD: To finish, Alejandro, how do you see the future of the pilgrimage to Santiago?

AU: The Camino to Santiago has a great future, but I believe that one must unite forces. In these days one notices a certain separation between society and the Church. Some institutions see the camino exclusively as cultural and economic, forgetting that it is also a religious way. Meanwhile the Church accentuates that the camino to Santiago is a camino of pilgrimage, forgetting also that it is an economic, social and cultural asset. What we must do is to work together.

Thus was finished the conversation with our Senior Brother, a conversation in which both sides resist the idea that this was his last pilgrimage to Santiago.

We await you in Santiago in 2009, Alejandro!

Stained Glass in the House

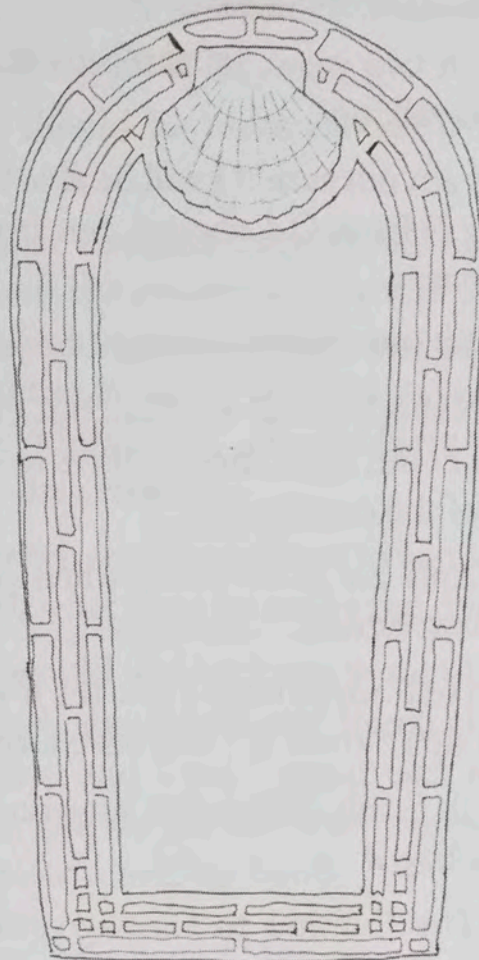
John Curtin

If the camino has taken hold of you, as it has us, then you may have several reminders about the house. Perhaps there is a framed *compostela* hanging up or a woven badge on your backpack? I am sure the CSJ website is on many favourites pages. Do you wear a discrete metal brooch or a lapel pin in the form of a scallop shell? Some will have a Miraz mug by the desk, an anniversary copy of *Roads to Santiago* on the bookshelf and maybe even a copy of *¡Que Aproveche!* in the kitchen.

It was when we moved house last year that we wanted to create a reminder of our adventures on the various routes to Santiago de Compostela that we've been fortunate enough to walk and bicycle over the years. The house has a beehive inglenook fireplace (shaped like a beehive from the outside) and there are two small arched windows with views to the garden on either side. We wanted to create stained glass for these.

We commissioned local stained glass artist, Amanda Winfield at Abinger Stained Glass (details below). We chose Amanda as we had seen her work for the Darnley Mausoleum in Kent and the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pырford.

If you are thinking of such a project the process works like this. The first stage is a site visit to discuss style, colour, to measure up and give a rough estimate of price. We had a good idea of what we wanted –



scallop shells as an image of the pilgrimage, rich ecclesiastical colours to give warmth, while at the same time a design that retained views of the garden.

We decided on one scallop shell crowning each arched window as any more would have cluttered the space. For the style of shell we thought of a stylised version, like the bronze ones imbedded in the pavements in Burgos (not the comic book version in yellow) but in the end choose a naturalistic style. We were after all looking for an image of a scallop shell and when the sun hits the windows it glows. For the surround we choose a rich blue and ruby border and the centre pane is clear.

A water-colour design, drawn to scale, was then produced (an alternative was included for comparison) along with samples of glass and a quotation for the work to include fitting. When the design was agreed and a deposit paid the next step was production of a full size drawing, known as a “cartoon”, which was brought to the house and placed in position for approval and the final choice of glass. Then it was back to the studio for cutting and connecting the pieces of glass with leading. Being local we were able to visit the work in progress and it was exciting to see it take shape.

Crowned with a scallop shell and bordered in rich blue and ruby with a clear centre pane, the windows give a view of the garden and as they face SE and SW we get an all day play of colour which is delightful.

Were I told in 2000, when we took our first steps, that the camino really begins when you finish the walk, I wouldn't have believed it. Maybe it is the same with stained glass.

Do I get something for the frosted window in the bathroom; what about the front door or maybe some hanging discs? To paraphrase Jane Austen, a window in possession of a good aspect, must be in want of stained glass.

Abinger Stained Glass, 2 Paddington Mill Cottages, Guildford Road,
Abinger Hammer Surrey RH5 6RL

Tel 01306 730617; www.abinger-stained-glass.co.uk

Visits by appointment only

Pullman Pilgrimage

Michael Sadgrove

My wife and I recently travelled by car along the entire length of the Camino or pilgrim road from Vézelay in France (where we have a house near the Basilica) to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, a round trip of well over 2000 miles. We wanted to follow the trail of pilgrims down the centuries who made this great journey to the shrine of St James, and to do this without hurry, taking the time to stop, visit and pray at the churches and shrines where they prayed. We wanted to probe the meaning of a journey that drew so many along the paths of Western Europe and even helped shape Christendom itself.

For us, this was a journey of faith, prayer and discovery. We recited the daily office, attended Mass, offered a daily pilgrim prayer. We met other pilgrims and shared stories. In Spain, pilgrims were constantly alongside the road in city centres and deep countryside. Their presence was part of our own pilgrimage. It was unforgettable to visit not only the great cathedrals and monasteries on the way, but also the many simple, remote country churches that radiate centuries of prayer and devotion. I was not prepared for the overwhelming sense of arrival at Santiago. To touch the pillar of St James in the Cathedral's *Pórtico de la Gloria* as pilgrims do when they arrive, to embrace his statue behind the high altar, to attend the pilgrim Mass at which the legendary censer or *botafumeiro* was swung (to congregational applause!) was all extraordinarily moving. It was as if St James had become our fellow-traveller and friend, his *coquille* or scallop shell a symbol of our common journey of discipleship.

But were we 'real' pilgrims? This question occupied our thoughts as we drove westwards towards Santiago. Those of us who work in cathedrals are familiar with the well known irregular verb that conjugates: 'We are pilgrims; you are visitors; they are tourists.' The camino carries an assumption that 'real' pilgrimage to Santiago means doing it under your own steam: walking, cycling, riding. To obtain your *compostela*, or pilgrim's certificate, you have to show that you undertook your journey in one of these ways. Those who drive, or fly, or travel as part of the coach party are not officially regarded as

pilgrims, whatever their motives. They (we) are tourists, sightseers. This gives the Santiago pilgrimage a different feel from those to Jerusalem, Rome or Lourdes where no-one questions that modern forms of transport will carry the vast majority of pilgrims.

Why is the pilgrimage to Santiago a special case in this respect? To medieval people, there was no mystique about walking: there was simply no choice about it except for the wealthy. Today, the choice to walk may involve different motives, not necessarily religious. These have been extensively studied by Nancy Louise Frey in her book about the camino¹. They include nostalgia for a simpler lifestyle, the wish to make a counter-cultural statement and dispense with the polluting and corrupting effects of modern forms of transport, and the opportunity afforded by walking or cycling to take time for personal search, 'soul-making' and transformation.

I have huge admiration for those who take on the real ordeals of walking the camino. Many of those we met did not think of their journey as a religious pilgrimage, but none were simply out just for exercise or sightseeing. A German woman who had suffered from a serious illness had vowed to walk it if she recovered. A young Australian woman was looking for a change of rhythm from her demanding job in a caring profession. An elderly French married couple, fervent Catholics, were seeking spiritual growth. Two Americans were walking for the seventh time because the camino was 'in their blood'.

Travelling by car does not involve the same degree of effort or sacrifice. When I applied for funding to support the costs of the journey, my proposal (which was accepted) was dubbed the 'Pullman Pilgrimage'. This does not mean, however, that it is easy. We did not stay in *paradores*. If you are not going to cheat by using motorways, you have to navigate across miles of often minor roads. You have to negotiate the ordeals of driving through (and parking in) large, busy, city-centres. You cannot use the *refugios* open to walkers. You are strangers (literally, *peregrinos*) in places where few people speak your language, and you are without the support-systems and infrastructure enjoyed, at least on the Spanish section, by those who walk or cycle.

What is more, to drive the camino is to commit yourself to the return journey. For almost all walkers, the pilgrimage is a one-way journey. Exit from Compostela is by plane or train, an abrupt change of pace from the gentle rhythms of the walk, and decidedly not in the spirit of the medieval pilgrimage where going home was as much part of the journey as setting out. The real purist would begin the

pilgrimage from his or her own front door (leaving the mobile phone behind), and return in the same way. I met someone in Cahors who had done this. For us, Santiago was not the end of the journey but the half-way stage. The thought of turning round and driving another thousand miles back to France was daunting. It gave just a hint of what further effort the medieval pilgrim would be called upon to make when the time came to say goodbye to Santiago.

It's clear that medieval pilgrims adopted whatever means of transport they could to enable them to reach their goal as efficiently as possible. English pilgrims often saved themselves a long walk across France by taking the sea-route to Bordeaux. Where wheels or a horse were offered they were accepted. The pilgrim journey as an end in itself clearly *mattered*; but perhaps our forebears were not too self-conscious about how they accomplished it. I recalled a novel by David Lodge² which ends on the camino. Following Kierkegaard's classification of religious types, he has 'aesthetic' pilgrims who do it for a good experience, 'ethical' pilgrims who worry about doing it 'properly', and 'religious' pilgrims who just do it. Is there too much of the ethical about the way the Santiago pilgrimage is promoted? Who is to say that you can't 'just do it' by car or coach or plane as authentically (and spiritually) as a walker or cyclist?

It may be important to sanctify modern means of transport by putting them to the ancient use of pilgrimage. The internal combustion engine is an ambivalent gift: polluting the environment, responsible for deaths and injuries, capable of great abuse, an excuse for ignoring our bodies' needs for exercise – and yet indispensable to most of us. Pilgrimage by car is an opportunity to drive slowly, responsibly and reflectively along the world's ancient routes, try to press modern technology into the service of a genuinely holistic spirituality. I may walk or cycle to Santiago (and back) one day; but I shall never regret the joy and exhilaration of making the journey for the first time as a pilgrim of my own century – by car.

The Very Revd Michael Sadgrove is Dean of Durham.

1 Pilgrim Stories: on and off the road to Santiago, University of California Press, 1998

2 Therapy, Penguin, 1996

Looking Back, Looking forward

My Camino Ten Years On

Larry Boulting

Imagine. Imagine you are one of those larks, hovering on fluttering wings, high above the undulating, poppy-peppered wheat fields, on the way to Hontanas and the camino beyond... Look down now with the sharp clarity of that bird's eye, but not on that lovely scene – see, instead, the cluttered squalor of the slums of Manila, in the Philippines. See and smell and hear the pollution, the decaying shacks and houses, the flashy, chrome-clad Jeepneys hurtling down the choked-up avenues, crammed with humanity, squashed together like sardines and on their way, back and forth to... where? And amidst all this noisy confusion, see an anomaly standing there – a brand new building, painted an absurdly livid yellow, rising up from the middle of all the food-stalls, vendors, begging children, the sheer crush of mankind struggling to survive. Look closer and find Room 304 of this 'Condotel': it is spotlessly clean; an air-conditioner burrs; a fridge hums; the bed is laid with fresh white sheets. A man is sitting there, watching a DVD on the TV attached to the wall. He is watching images of the Camino de Santiago – watching a film he made but has not seen since it was screened at BAFTA by the Confraternity of St James some years ago. In a way, he is watching his own life. The man is me – ten years on from walking my camino. Where has it taken me...?

I walked from St Jean-Pied-de-Port to Compostela in June 1999 – some four years before we finally managed to make the film "Within The Way Without". But to say that my camino started then is as inaccurate as it is to say that it ended 35 days later at the shrine of Santiago. One could say that the actual doing of the camino is merely the concrete physical expression of a process that has been incubating for much longer (for which, in retrospect, one can see so many traces and signs) and which continues equally long after. It is "the chosen moment", as it were, for this act of outward and inner renewal. And its ending is also its beginning. In this sense, it is a compass point, to which we can always make referral and take measure to see where we are going. In no way is it a closed circuit,

exclusive to itself.

Back in England after my camino, one of my brothers mused that the intensity of the camino experience would fade and after a few months I would consign it to memory. How wrong he was: to say that the camino marked a profound turning-point in my life would be an understatement; but to see it as a summation of my past life and a preparation for the ensuing one might be much closer to the truth. Indeed, to say the camino is vitally present with me today can be witnessed by the fact that, not only am I sitting here in the slums of Metro Manila, but writing and thinking about the camino as I do so. It is irreversibly within me.

But, don't get me wrong – this is not Saul becoming Paul, there is no evangelical paintbrush at work here: I am simply aware of the fact that I can no longer imagine a life without having made that extraordinary, joyous, yet sometimes fearful walk. It stands outside time, yet paradoxically seems to define me all the time. It takes little effort on my part to recall so many memories that accrued on the camino. Places, faces, smells, tastes, emotions, pains, intense joys – all these come back to me in random order, not so much as memories but as vivid pointers in the here and now. They speak to me, caution me, remind me, comfort me almost as if they were angelic forces. Thus they can make me laugh but also cry: in its singular manner, the camino focuses us all on the temporality of our existence and the dilemma of Being. In this way, it can be most assuredly said that it brings us closer to God, in that it so enlarges our inner space and reaches us out towards that infinity which we name God.

By God, I refer to a concept – for I am not a practicing Christian; I belong to no faith; I worship in no temple. By God, I refer to the enormous and magnificent mystery of Creation and the overwhelming sense that within its order there lies a meaning so absolutely beyond our understanding, so unattainably huge that it can only be sensed as a presence forever beyond our reach. If this makes me “religious”, so be it. And the camino did nothing but enhance this without leading me in the direction of any particular faith. It acted as a reinforcement of that sense of mystery, simultaneously tempering the steel we all need in order to survive, yet guarding also the values of open-mindedness and vulnerability.

In particular, it taught me to do without – because how vividly it shows us how much there is outside and around us, already filling and nourishing our lives. It helped me to go beyond ‘looking’ and start ‘seeing’. It led me to respect detail and complexity in the smallest of things. George Herbert wrote: “Give me simplicities that I may live” and rightly understood that to achieve simplicity is no small task – for it involves staying as close as possible to the essence of things. I believe that the camino encourages us to do likewise; certainly, it makes us review our priorities.

But look, with the sharp-eyed vision of that lark again: I am not saying that it has made me a better person, or even necessarily a very different one. Yet a tiny shift in degree has significant consequences – alter the compass setting by as little as one degree and the destination where you end up is very different indeed from the one you were originally heading for. And I believe that the camino effected such a small shift in me. But *where* I am going I have yet to see...

At the moment, the continuation of my camino beyond Finisterre has brought me for the fourth time to the Philippines – an archipelago of 72 islands which I never imagined I had the slightest desire to visit. Perhaps, without some of the austerities one must put up with on the camino itself, I would have found the wretched deprivations and miseries of so many millions of Filipinos completely unendurable. Perhaps, without those moments of sudden recognition and communality that come in lightning flashes between pilgrims, I would not have been able to perceive and respond to the sense of human fellowship offered in a smile, a laugh, a gesture of kindness that these kindly, sweet-natured people (of whom 25 million live on one US dollar a day) extend so easily. Perhaps, without having learnt to jettison the excess baggage and strip down to the essentials on the camino, I would not have realised how close to *real* life those who have nothing can sometimes be. Despite the vicissitudes, the brute carnality, the corrosive degradation of poverty, there is nevertheless a light in the eye, a gentleness of demeanor which suffuses the atmosphere in these open-sewered, decaying alleys where so many eke out their lives. There is care, there is humility, there is simple love – a faith that, over and above the ghastly hardship they endure, there is a purpose and meaning to it all.

Around my neck, hanging on string, I wear three bits of “ju-ju” – a zinc scallop shell given to me by a *hospitalera* called Virginia in Torres del Rio; a curious Indian totem which Geronimo (also of Torres del

Rio) urged upon me and finally a Templar medallion, which Tomás of Manjarín pressed into my hand after the Spanish premiere of “Within The Way Without”. They have come a long way with me and keep me connected to the camino. Not that I really need them for that, for Santiago is here too: in the optimistically named Harmony Hills slum the roadside food stall I alighted upon was called ‘Santiago Eatery’. When a raging tooth had to be pulled, I felt no qualms when I learnt that the name of the dentist, with pliers poised, was Dr Santiago. And now, searching on the Internet for a cheap place to stay, I have come across an establishment called ‘Larry Santiago’well, surely, doesn’t that *have* to be the one for me....?

I am here and now in Manila. But I am also there and then on the camino – I can hear the sound of my boots on the dusty track and see the wheat fields swaying lazily in the breeze as I walk into the setting sun towards Hontanas. Another pilgrim lies curled up asleep at the wayside. He has an almost seraphic smile on his face. I leave a stone at his side and walk on my way... He is here now, in this room, with me in these Manila slums...He is the Santiago in all of us...and he is everywhere...and he is always...



Peter Garlick

Refugio Gaucelmo News

2009 Hospitaleros

April:	Michael Krier and Charles Bidwell Etienne & Nelly Van Wonterghem
May:	Michelle Peyrot and Ann Piggott Martyn & Pat Singleton

Over the winter period the upstairs pilgrims bathroom has been refurbished with three new washbasins, new non-slip granite tiles next to the shower trays and an extractor fan that automatically switches on when the humidity of the room rises above a preset level. Hopefully these improvements will ensure that hospitaleros no longer have to contend with the growth of mould on the ceiling.

The servicios in the entrance way has also had a new non-slip granite step fitted in place of the broken tiles and the toilet flush mechanisms have been replaced.

A temperature gauge has been added to the main water boiler (in anticipation of the new health requirements which will possibly entail daily recording of the temperature of the hot water). An additional outside sink has also been installed.

All of the plumbing work has been carried out to a high standard with very little mess left behind – much to the relief of the Working Party and somewhat different to when the windows were replaced!

A new shed has been constructed next to the wood store providing a bicycle storage area and also an enclosed space to keep the lawnmower and tools and equipment, which were previously stored in the barn. Also, Dexion shelving has been installed in the shed to accommodate the combustible materials i.e paints etc., which used to be stored under the stairs and were identified as a health and safety risk.

The 2007 planting, with the exception of one fruit tree, has survived the winter. Due to the high winds earlier this year, two of the fruit trees had to be staked.

The spring working party this year comprised Alison Raju, Trevor Curnow, Sue Hemmings and Graham Scholes. With both Michael Krier and Charles Bidwell, the hospitaleros opening up Gaucelmo this year, arriving early to also lend a helping hand.

The grass was given its first cut of the season and the green sun-



screen mesh was re-fixed onto the top of the pergola, as the planting of the clematis and jasmine around the base still has not reached a sufficient height to provide shade for the pilgrims

The patio area was weeded and selections of large stones found in the huerta, were used to make a pavement over a well-worn area of grass at the bottom of the steps leading into the huerta from the patio area.

The meeting with our El Bierzo partners was held in Ponferrada this year and Paul and Cristina Spink, along with Alison Raju attended. It was a successful meeting with discussions centered on the new statutory health requirements for refugios in Galicia.

It was lovely to see Etienne and Nelly Van Wonterghem back as hospitaleros at Gaucelmo again. They were the first ever hospitaleros back in 1991.

The hospitalero rota for the remainder of 2009 and 2010 is now complete. If you would like to know more about the role, or wish to volunteer for 2011, please contact the Refugio Gaucelmo Hospitalero Coordinator via e-mail at r-wardens@csj.org.uk.

NB: Please contact r-wardens@csj.org.uk if you might be interested in being a hospitalero for the first two weeks of September.

Members' Page

From Stuart Bexon

I was pleased to receive *Bulletin* 105 and fascinated to read Bishop Michael's prayer on page 11. This was a prayer he specifically wrote for a 120 mile pilgrimage walk around Gloucester last June to celebrate the county's Millennium. I was one of the ten pilgrims who walked with him and then later walked with my wife from St Jean-Pied-de-Port to Santiago in July/August. I carried cards with me on the camino showing Bishop Michael's prayer and I wonder if the editor picked up from the one I left at Refugio Gaucelmo on the walk or did it arrive at the CSJ office by another route? I would be pleased to know. We were planning to do more of the camino either at Easter or summer, this time in France, but a pending house-move following my wife's ordination might preclude this - we might wait until 2010 and try and see the botafumeiro at that time.

Editor's note: The Prayer arrived at CSJ office via our Pilgrim Record secretary, Doreen Hansen, who lives in Cheltenham, Glos.

Book Reviews

A Pilgrim's Guide to the *Camino Portugués*:

Lisboa – Porto – Santiago

John Brierley, Findhorn: Camino Guides, 2009, ISBN: 978-1-84409-157-7, 288pp, £12.99.

This is a new, revised edition of the author's guide first published in 2005. Physically smaller in size and with the reliable route-finding information and accommodation and services details of the first edition updated, the present volume differs from the earlier one in two distinct respects.

As its title indicates, the guide now contains information for pilgrims wishing to start their journey in Lisbon, an option, despite a considerable amount of road-walking, that is now feasible since this route has now been fully waymarked. The author provides only thumb-nail maps of this camino as far as Porto (after which there are larger ones, corresponding to each daily stage) but gives full route-

finding instructions along with details of accommodation, services and the main points of interest along the way. A further new edition is planned for 2010, however, when it is intended to provide fuller mapping and description of the section from Lisbon to Porto.

The other significant way in which this second edition differs from the first is, as the notice on the cover tells us, its “*mapas y textos básicos en español*”. The “Notes to the 2nd edition” (page 7) inform us that “this bilingual edition also acknowledges the true international fellowship of the camino and affords an opportunity to acquaint us with another language as an aid to better communication”. The logic seems very curious here, though.

First of all, only the “overview” sections of each daily stage and their general information on the places concerned are translated (into Spanish) while the route-finding and accommodation and services details – the real “bottom line” of any guide book – are only given in English. This “bilingual” edition would therefore be no help at all to a Spanish-speaking user with no knowledge of English. Secondly, in a guide describing a route where 18 of its 23 daily stages are in Portugal (not Spain), the logic of providing a translation into Spanish (and of only certain sections of the guide) seems very hard to understand.

This second edition also retains one of the shortcomings of the first – the lack of any information on the history of the pilgrimage (as opposed to the history of Spain and Portugal) (“Historical Snapshot and Brief Chronology,” pp 22-26). Many of those who walk the Camino Portugués are first-time pilgrims, however, not *coleccionistas de caminos* who have already “done” other caminos in Spain, and they are neither provided with this type of background, with anything on the architecture, Jacobean iconography or topography of the Camino Portugués, nor pointed in the right direction in the bibliography (pp 196-197). Hopefully these aspects will be remedied in the third edition planned for 2010.

The English-speaking user of this guide will not get lost, however, will be able to find places to sleep and eat and find the thumb-nail photographs a useful aid in identifying places along his/her way.

ALISON RAJU

Pilgrimage: A Spiritual and Cultural Journey

Ian Bradley. Oxford: Lion Hudson, £20.00, 2009, ISBN 978 0 7459 5270 3.

Early in the book the author establishes that a long walk may be a pilgrimage, but a pilgrimage is never just a long walk. As he states, 'Pilgrimage is perhaps best defined as a departure from daily life on a journey in search of spiritual well-being'.

The book is a timely publication for in the late twentieth century an increasing number of people were embarking on pilgrimages. For example, in 1986 2,500 people made the trek across northern Spain to Santiago de Compostela. By 2004 the annual traffic along the route had risen to 180,000. Some were travelling by bicycle, but most were on foot. Pilgrimage to sites of Christian significance is now more popular than at any other time since the Reformation.

The book is delightfully illustrated throughout, and the first part looks at the history and development of pilgrimage in the Christian church. Numerous Irish monks crossed Scotland in the 6th and 7th centuries and ushered in the golden age of Celtic Christianity. There is also a good chapter on the main period of pilgrimage – the 500 years from early 11th to early 16th century when the Catholic church was supreme across Europe and pilgrimages to sites of religious significance were an essential element of religious life. The main site was Jerusalem, but Rome, Santiago and St Andrews were also very important at this time.

The second, and larger section, describes some of the major and most interesting pilgrim centres and routes that have developed in Europe. They are described in roughly chronological order beginning with the three shrines established to house the supposed relics of key apostles – Rome (St Peter), Santiago (St James) and St Andrews. These chapters give a very readable overview of the importance of pilgrimage to these sites, as well as providing a snapshot of the experience of visiting these sites in their heyday.

There are further chapters on the other main pilgrim sites in Britain and in mainland Europe. It is not an exhaustive list, but reflects a range of different types of pilgrim sites visited nowadays. It also draws on the personal experiences of Ian Bradley who has undertaken many of these pilgrimages in recent years.

ALAN TRICKER

Pilgrimage: A Spiritual and Cultural Journey

Ian Bradley. Oxford: Lion Hudson, £20.00. 2009, ISBN 978 0 7459 5270 3.

Ian Bradley is a Church of Scotland minister who is a Reader in Practical Theology and Church History at the University of St Andrews. His career occupations converge in this book. It contains reflections of a moral and spiritual kind about the demands of a pilgrim's life and the pilgrim way, together with some practical theology on how to be a pilgrim, and plenty of church history about pilgrimages from the time of the early church onwards. It is thus a rich and diverse book, full of information and full of variety. It is also beautifully illustrated: it is too serious to be a coffee-table book, but it is a delight to handle and look at.

The author has made some longish pilgrimages himself, notably the Norwegian pilgrimage to the shrine of St Olav at Nidaros (Trondheim), and (twice) the Scottish-Northumbrian journey from Melrose to Lindisfarne known as St Cuthbert's Way (although Cuthbert, who was Bishop of Lindisfarne, is buried at Durham). At other times he has visited pilgrim sites and made shorter journeys, some arduous, and some far less strenuous: disarmingly he confesses that his experience of the Camino Francés was as a guest preacher on a Radio 4 programme about it, in which the production team enjoyed creature comforts very properly denied to most of us (spiced octopus in wine, forsooth!).

Do not be put off by the spiced octopus. It is part of the modesty and charm of this book, which has a lightness and delicacy of tone that conceals a great deal of historical knowledge and a fine sense of the spirituality that initiates and accompanies a pilgrimage. These form an underlying accompaniment to the descriptions of many places, some of which all of us will have heard of – Rome, Canterbury, Iona – but others that will be new to many, such as Medugorje in Bosnia and Częstochowa in Poland. The inclusion of many different places allows the reader to sense not only the vibrant culture of pilgrimage that exists in various countries, but to compare them: Rome, with its vast churches, is obviously a very different experience from the misty Croagh Patrick in Ireland or the remote Pennant Melangell in Wales. All of them, however, are places to which the pilgrim travels in hope and humility in search of a world beyond the everyday materialism of ordinary time and place.

Members of the Confraternity will not learn much from this book about the pilgrimage to Santiago. But they will find a great

deal here about other pilgrimage destinations; and they will certainly sympathise with the sense that this book gives of pilgrimage as an important activity, and sometimes an uncomfortable one: 'at heart', writes Bradley, 'what I have learned about pilgrimage has more to do with putting up with your own blisters and other people's snoring than some of the more high-minded spiritual thoughts or beautiful images that appear in the following pages.' His book balances the two sides of pilgrimage very nicely. It will give pleasure and encouragement to anyone contemplating a pilgrimage, and to anyone who needs to be convinced that undertaking a pilgrimage would be worthwhile. To those who have made their pilgrimages, this book will revive memories and strengthen the sense of an endeavour that is individual but also collective. It is a book that anyone interested in pilgrimage, past, present, or future, will be happy to have on the shelf.

DICK WATSON

Guide writers wanted

We are looking for writers to take over the rewriting and updating of the CSJ guides to the Arles and Paris routes. These guides were first researched, walked and written up by Maurice and Marigold Fox but we now need new editions, ideally ready for the Holy Year in 2010.

We can supply the prospective new guide writer with the Word files of the latest edition but he/she would need to walk the entire route (five to six weeks, thought not necessarily all in one go), taking detailed notes to provide an up-to-date route-finding description following the waymarked route and up-to-date information regarding accommodation and services. On the other hand, however, the historic information, heights, distances and what to see and visit will not need a great deal of work. A good knowledge of French is essential.

Arles route

A single writer prepared to cover the entire route would obviously be preferable but as the present edition is in two parts, Arles – Toulouse and Toulouse – Puente la Reina, it would be possible to split the work between two people prepared to coordinate and cooperate with each other.

Paris route

The route-finding description would require a considerable amount of work as the Paris route was not waymarked at the time Maurice and Marigold prepared their guide and the present day (waymarked) route differs considerably from the one they described.

If you have already walked one of these routes and think this project might interest you, please contact Alison Raju to discuss it further:
alisonraju@btopenworld.com

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

Computer woes

Since the end of April the office has been working without a fully operational computer – it seemed that every time one problem got solved, something else would crash or not work properly. Apologies if you have had to wait longer than necessary for a reply to an enquiry or book order.

Become a Friend of Santiago Cathedral

A new organisation, Fundación Catedral Santiago de Compostela, was set up in summer 2008 under the patronage of the Archbishop of Santiago, to promote, encourage, help and develop the artistic and cultural heritage of Santiago cathedral and to contribute to the conservation of the building. They also plan new publications and events, meetings and talks about the cathedral. There is individual and corporate registration, for which contributions from 50 euros (100 euros for corporate) are invited. Please contact the Office for more information and a copy of the application form.

European Health Insurance Card

Some people have been receiving reminders to renew these credit card style cards; others have been taken by surprise to discover that their cards are no longer valid. You can renew free online www.ehic.org.uk (make sure you have the correct UK site – if you are asked to pay you are on the wrong site), by phone 0845 606 2030 or collect a form from the Post Office.

CSJ Publications – Help needed

COMPUTER DESIGN SKILLS

Covers: James Hatts who has designed most of the covers of CSJ publications finds he no longer really has time to devote to this task. We are therefore looking for a volunteer to design simple but striking covers for the new editions of Guides and produce designs for new publications as and when they appear. In addition we would really like to produce a smarter version of the CSJ photocopied leaflet which we

needs now to be a bit more glossy, use colour and have an map which indicates the extent of the caminos throughout Europe. If you would be interested in helping Marion with this task please email her at office@csj.org.uk or phone to discuss possibilities.

GUIDE WRITING

Two Guides which really need rewriting, ideally for 2010, are the ones from Paris to the Pyrenees and Arles-Puente le Reina. Please see the special note from Alison Raju about Guide Writers. In addition Marion Marples has a file of information on the Paris route as well as the French Rando Guide Le Chemin de Saint-Jacques de Paris aux Pyrenees which should make updating easier.

Bulletin 102

For some reason we have no copy left of *Bulletin* 102 for the Library archive or indeed any copies at all. Are there any members prepared to donate their copies back to CSJ? Please send to the Office. Thank you.

St James's Priory Bristol

St James's Priory is one of the oldest buildings in Bristol. The church dates from 1129 and has some lovely Romanesque arcading on the west front. It is said that one of every 10 stones brought by sea from Caen for the building of Bristol Castle was used for the Benedictine priory. Following the medieval tradition of the priory, located on the now covered-in quay of Bristol where pilgrims and travellers would have been welcomed and accommodated, the church has for some time had a ministry to the homeless. For many years they were able to sleep in the north aisle of the church. In the 1996 two houses were opened offering treatment for people with addictions and longer term accommodation as part of rehabilitation. In February 2009 the St James Priory Appeal was launched with a target of £2 million for conservation and development works to the church and improving the external environment for travellers and visitors. In March they were awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £3 million to include additional training facilities for residents and interpretation of the building for visitors. www.stjamesappeal.org.uk

Camino Travel Center

Our friend Ivar Rekve who runs the *www.pilgrimage-to-santiago.com* website has a new venture to help pilgrims in Santiago and Galicia as a whole. He has established *www.caminotravelcenter.com* with information about the Galician stages of the Pilgrimage, a luggage storage facility in Santiago, hotel and transport booking service and other useful information. At present he is happy to take enquiries about Galicia but maybe in time he will expand his work area to points further east.

Sending Luggage Ahead

Meanwhile Emily Tyrie has done some research on posting belongings ahead from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port (France) to Santiago (Spain): general conclusion-don't! She advises against taking advice from La Poste about Correos who don't know the system in the other country; French tracking codes do not work in Spain as parcels go via Madrid and receive a new code; it is expensive; Correos only now hold parcels for 2 weeks (last year we had advice that they are held for 4 or more weeks for pilgrims/peregrinos). Instead she advises to send things within Spain (perhaps to towns 2 weeks ahead, much cheaper); remember to put a return address.

New Pilgrim Record Secretary needed for 2010

Doreen Hansen would like to step down from this role. A new Pilgrim Record Secretary needs to be available throughout the year (short holidays allowed!) and with a little time each day to process applications. More information from Doreen Hansen or Marion Marples.

Obituaries

Anthony Richard Wilson 1939-2008

In 2000 Richard semi retired from his work as a company solicitor. Having spent many holidays in Spain and speaking French and Spanish he and his wife Anne began planning the fulfilment of a long held desire to walk the Camino to Santiago. Encouraged by Alison Raju, a family friend, they started the Camino from Le Puy in October 2001. After training in rather flat Cambridgeshire and as very new pilgrims they were surprised to be photographed as real 'pilgrims' by 30 Japanese tourists in Le Puy.

They walked in beautiful warm weather, feeling mostly elated, not suffering too much from blisters, finding the gites mostly open, with few pilgrims.

In Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port they were advised to walk the road route through Valcarlos due to high winds, fog and icy sleet. In Pamplona they learnt that they had a new granddaughter, born in Paris.

In September 2002 they returned to Pamplona and walked for 5 weeks to arrive in Santiago on 19 October, experiencing all the emotions: the achievement, the friendships, hardships, tears and laughter.

In order to give something back to the Camino Anne and Richard volunteered as *hospitaleros* at Gaucelmo in autumn 2004 and 2005.

Richard had since his early teens felt a 'calling', vocation, for ministry in the Anglican church. He had worshipped faithfully and helped with administrative work at Hexham Abbey and latterly at St Mark's Church, Newnham in Cambridge. During his Camino, mostly in France where there more times of solitude and reflection he realised the Lord was calling him. He decided to study for a degree of Bachelor of Theology in Cambridge, with the full support of four married grown up children and wife. He received his degree on his 67th birthday in 2006.

In October 2006 Richard and Anne went to live in Girona and worshipped at St Stephen's church Madremanya, within the chaplaincy of St George's Barcelona. Here he worked towards ordination in the Anglican Diocese of Europe and organised Lent Groups, prayer groups and home groups in Girona and on the Costa Brava.

They also studied Catalan in Girona and were founder members of the Catalan Pilgrim Association Els Amics de Sant Jaume de Galicia.

Richard started walking short stages of the Catalan camino from Girona cathedral in January 2007. He had reached Montserrat.

Very suddenly he was diagnosed with kidney cancer in late January 2008. Despite excellent treatment in both Girona and Cambridge he died in Cambridge on 2 July 2008 before he could complete his earthly pilgrimage towards ordination in October 2008.

ANNE WILSON AND MARION MARPLES

For information on the route from Girona see www.camigironasantiago.com

Bernard McDonnell 1919-2009

Bernard was born and educated in London. By the beginning of WWII he was a novice at the Benedictine Abbey of Belmont in Hereford. When his brother was killed in action, he left the Monastery and joined the RAF serving as a navigator in Greece. In 1949 he married Margaret, the cousin of Mary McDonnell (no relation but married to Dominic McDonnell (d 2008). They moved to Englefield Green in 1954. Bernard worked as an air traffic control officer at Heathrow. He was a faithful and committed Catholic and Eucumenist.

In 1985 he fulfilled his ambition to go to Santiago, travelling with Dominic. They travelled by car taking three weeks and arriving on the eve of the feastday. They treated it as a true pilgrimage, staying at Benedictine monasteries wherever possible and at the seminary when they arrived at their destination. It was an important religious experience for them both.

One of the symbols on Bernard's coffin with his prayerbook and rosary was a scallop shell. He sent money every year to the refugio at Rabanal and enjoyed the annual meetings of the Confraternity.

MARY MCDONNELL

Barry McGinley Jones

It was with great sadness that I found out about the death of Barry Francis McGinley Jones. I was even more distressed to know that this had occurred some eighteen months ago. Communication is so easy these days yet we had not been in touch for so long.

Mac, as he was known to us, was a great character. He had left Australia as a young man to go to London. He studied commerce but when in need of a job he did an EFL course and went to teach in Spain. I think this was meant to be a temporary job but he stayed for the rest of his life. He married a local girl, Alicia, and they had a son and daughter. Mac became the local representative for the Australia

Spain Business Association. He was “Presidente” of the Amigos group in A Coruña and worked to promote the Camino Inglés. Among many other interests he was involved with a group in Ireland trying to preserve relics of the Spanish Armada which have survived shipwrecks off the coast there. Some of his forebears may well have been in the area at that time!

When we were about to walk the Camino Inglés in 2004 Marion Marples gave us his email address as he had offered to help members

of the CSJ who were going on that route. There was little time as we were leaving home the next day but we sent a message and had a reply straight away. When we arrived at the airport there was this pleasant Australian waiting to take us to the city in his car. He recommended a hotel and after we had settled in he took us on a tour of the town. He was, as Laurie said, as proud of that place as if he had been born and bred there. He certainly whetted our appetites to visit its many attractions when we had time to do so. Everywhere in A Coruña he seemed to be known by all as “Señor Mac”.

For this Holy Year of 2004 Mac, with the local Amigos, had arranged to have plaques made, “Dedicated to pilgrims who visit this site on their way to Saint James of Compostela.” They were of polished granite and were ready to be put up in several places. He asked that we should help to inaugurate this at the church of Santiago in A Coruña which had been the starting place, in Galicia, for those who had arrived by ship from England. We were happy to do this in the evening before the Mass. Most pilgrims now begin in El Ferrol because A Coruña is under 100kms from Santiago but we wanted to go from this historic place. Later we would return from Hospital de Bruma to El Ferrol and complete that branch of the route. We kept Mac informed about our progress and when we arrived in Santiago there was a message. He had made arrangements for unveiling the newly placed plaque on the church at Neda and would like us to take part in the ceremony. He would drive us to Neda and back again. We were very willing to help though slightly concerned because as well



as important local officials there would also be press and television crews. However all went well. It was an appropriate place to unveil the plaque because members of the CSJ had visited Neda in 1996 when Pat Quaife and Marion Marples had planted trees outside the old pilgrim hospice on the Camino Real. We were pleased to see that these had grown well!

I regret that I had not known about Mac's death earlier. He was a man of great charm and energy. We remember him fondly with gratitude for his help to us and his generosity to pilgrims on this special route for English pilgrims.

MARION CLEGG

Fr John Kelly, PP St James Coatbridge

Fr John was a great host for Scottish Practical Pilgrim days for a number of years. Often the day, usually around 17 March, began in church with a mass of St Patrick. The 1961 church has a statue of St James, stained glass of pilgrim staves and scallop shells and other pilgrim iconography. He had led the parish in a number of (coach) pilgrimages to Santiago and we were always received with true pilgrim hospitality. Fr John paid a quick visit to this year's Practical Pilgrim day in Moodiesburn, with his colleague Fr Michael Briody. He once arranged for us to visit Old Monkland Church, one of the oldest Church of Scotland churches, founded originally in 1170 by the monks of New Battle Abbey who gave Monkland its name. It is sited on the route between Edinburgh and Glasgow and may well have cared for passing pilgrims.

MARION MARPLES

Further to Gerry Greene (Bulletin 105)

Publicity during the 1999 Jubilee Year triggered Gerry's decision to bring together his interest in European history and culture with enthusiasm for cycling by doing the Camino. It would also complete the triad of medieval pilgrimages-Rome, Jerusalem and Compostela. Gerry cycled the Camino Francés in 2000, and the Camino Portugués in 2001 and again in 2002, after which he wrote a detailed account for personal use. His article for the CSJ *Bulletin* of March 2004, "St James and the Royal Scots" was later translated into German for publication in Die Kalebasse.

With thanks to ELIZABETH GREENE

CSJ Events

Sunday 5 July

Tea Party

Miraz Fund raising tea party, 4pm-7pm, £10.

By Invitation of Priscilla and Mark White, London SE15.

See full details in Miraz Newsletter

Thursday 23-Friday 24 July

Walking Pilgrimage

Walk 2 days along the final stages of the Pilgrims' Way from Charing, Kent. Thursday overnight at Wye (B&B), Friday at Canterbury (venue tbc)

Saturday 25 July

St James's Day Programme

- Morning visit to Pilgrimage Exhibition, St Thomas's RC church and St Martin's church (oldest parish church in England in continuous use)
- 3.15pm Evensong for St James's Day in Canterbury Cathedral
- 5pm Lecture Recital in Cathedral Crypt (ends c 6.30pm).
- Dr Mary Remnant and CSJ Choir: the Musical Road to Santiago de Compostela. Free, donation requested.

Followed by a Meal for those would like to stay.

Sunday 26 July: 9.30am Mass at St Thomas's church, 4.5km walk on what is now the *Via Francigena* to Patricxbourne church (fine 12th c S doorway and other Norman features).

To join in any of these Events please contact the Office asap , especially if you would like to join the walk and accommodation is required. For Saturday's events at the Cathedral please apply in advance to the CSJ Office for a special sticker to facilitate entry.

Saturday 25 July-Saturday 1 August

Exhibition

The exhibition, curated by Sally King, consists of panels about the origins and development of the pilgrimage to Santiago, sections on France, Spain, hospitality, slide show of Susie Gray's horse pilgrimage from Canterbury in 2002 and information the pilgrimage tradition in Canterbury itself. Eastbridge Hospital, 25 High Street, Canterbury. Open daily (Mon-Sat), 10am-5pm. The exhibition is being staged in the 12th century undercroft where pilgrims to St Thomas were

accommodated. Free. www.eastbridgehospital.org.uk

Any member who would like to help Sally during the week would be most welcome; meet potential pilgrims, spread the word, be involved with artistic activities. Phone Sally on 07766 902589.

Saturday 26 September

Office Open Day

10.30am -3.30pm office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Monday 19 October

Lecture Recital

An illustrated Lecture Recital Pilgrims & Music on the Way to Walsingham, by Dr Mary Remnant and the CSJ Choir at Ealing Abbey, 7.30pm. For directions see www.ealingabbey.org.uk, nearest tube/train station Ealing Broadway.

Saturday 31 October

Office Open Day

10.30am -3.30pm office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 31 October-Saturday 7 November Poland

Visit to Southern Poland. A couple of places are left for this visit. In search of St James from the Romanesque church of St James in Sandomierz following the line of St James's churches along the Vistula valley - the Małopolska St James route - to Więclawice (Kraków), and their church of St James. The trip will include a visit to the medieval (but still functioning) Salt Mine of Wieliczka. Price to be confirmed, but between £500 and £600 pp. Please check with the Office if places are still available.

Friday 20-Sunday 22 November

Retreat

Post-Pilgrimage Retreat at Ampleforth Abbey, led by Fr Ben Griffiths (CSJ member, pilgrim and parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes church, Ilkley). A restful weekend in comfortable surroundings on the North York Moors to talk with other pilgrims about the insights gained and life lessons learnt from the camino. Single and double rooms available, £110 pp, please send deposit of £50 to the Office to reserve your place.

Saturday 28 November**Office Open Day**

10.30am -3.30pm office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 28 November**Spanish 'Lunch'**

Arranged by popular demand: 4pm at La Terraza, 27-31 Bedford Street, London SW4 7SH. Booking via the Office.

Saturday 5 December (provisional)**Storrs Lecture**

Looking Ahead to the 2010 Holy Year**Saturday 31 January 2010****AGM & Party**

23-25 July 2010**Worcester**

Lectures, Visits and Exhibition in Worcester Cathedral on Pilgrimage and The Worcester Pilgrim

July or September tbc Walking Pilgrimage with Amis de Saint-Jacques Normands from S London-Newhaven (part of Vanguard Way) and Dieppe – Rouen

31-31 October International Conference in Belgium

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Vlaamsgenootschap van Sint-Jakob. Topics include

- the historical meaning of the cult of St James and the pilgrimage to Santiago
- the rediscovery of the roads to St James in the 20th century
- the development of new St James's roads in Europe
- the roads of St James as a source for a new spirituality

All are welcome to contribute or attend. There will be simultaneous translation to and from Dutch, Spanish, German, English and French.

Other Events

Sunday 21 June

St Birinus pilgrimage

Annual summer pilgrimage converging on Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester-on-Thames. Full details from www.stbirinusilgrimage.org.uk or phone Dorchester Abbey office 01865 34007

Friday 17-Sunday 19 July

St Arilda's Weekend

Oldbury on Severn in South Gloucestershire is celebrating its patron saint once more, and the Confraternity is warmly invited for some or all of the following programme:

- Friday 17 July: 7.30pm Roman Catholic Mass in St Arilda's church, Oldbury on Severn. Preacher: Revd Brian Torode from Cheltenham, who is very knowledgeable about holy wells.
- Saturday 18 July: 3pm Walk from St Arilda's church to the well (approx. 1 mile) for a shared picnic and singing of the saint's hymns. 6pm Dinner in the restaurant at the Anchor Inn, Oldbury on Severn. Pre-booking is essential as summer Saturday evenings are busy at the Anchor. Names to Jane Bradshaw.
- Sunday 19 July, St Arilda's Day: 6 pm Patronal festival in the church.

N.B. There is no public transport to Oldbury, which is north of Bristol some 3 miles west of Thornbury. Motorway access is good, for details please contact Jane Bradshaw, The Bank House, Oldbury on Severn, S.Glos. BS35 1PR. Tel. 01454 413199 Email: bradshaw@uwclub.net

Tuesday 15 September

Poland

Meeting of Polish Associations of Saint James
Polish Conference of Associations and Parishes of St James
Częstochowa, Poland

New Members

Information is for members' use only.

LONDON

Mr Damian Arnold & Mr Alex Delfanne 31 Nicholson House Brandon St London SE17 1ED	
Mr Nicholas Bodington Flat 1 10 Frognal Lane London NW3 7DV	020 7435 8308
Mrs Lesha Clark 32-A Madeley Road Ealing London W5 2LH	07942 576840
Ms Lucy Coggle 82 Howell House Hall Place London W2 1NG	07974 391404
Miss Emma Corbet-Millward 72 Albany Mansions Albert Bridge Road Battersea London SW11 4PQ	07890 647079
Ms Ann Duncan 5 Westminster Gardens Marsham St London SW1P 4JA	07789 501722
Mr Jason & Mrs S L Gambitsis Flat2, 11 Agate Road Hammersmith London W6 0JA	07765 651030
Mr Lee Harding 105 Willingdon Rd Wood Green London N22 6SE	07771 720067
Miss Ann Marie & Miss Agnes Hendry 121 Walmington Fold Finchley London N12 7LH	020 8346 4228
Mr John Howard & Mr Adrian Wakefield 1 Alexandra Road Chiswick London W4 1AX	020 8995 3561
Revd Clive Lee & Ms Wendy Ackeman St Thomas More 9 Henry Road London N4 2LH	020 8802 9910
Mr Hing Man 75 Westwick Gardens London W14 0BS	020 7602 8280
Mr Graeme Mc Donald & Mr Sam Atkinson 17 Midland Terrace London NW2 6QH	07768 526690
Miss Anita McConnell 51A Ham Park Rd Stratford London E15 4HE	020 7894 6027
Mr Jean Schemel 71 Pine Road Cricklewood London NW2 6SB	07725 730922
Mr Adrian Smith & Mr Jeff Cant 50 Anson Road London N7 0AB	07973 126963
Mr Robin Stacey 32 Kelly Street London NW1 8PH	020 7813 1737
Dr & Mrs Willie Steyn & Mrs Hetty Esselen 62 Aslett Street London SW18 2BH	07853 178432
Miss Majella Walsh 61 Queens Road Bounds Green London N11 2QP	07969 831201
Miss Frances Watt & Miss Rebecah Anderson 14 Broadlands Avenue London SW16 1NA	07525 158753

HOME COUNTIES NORTH

Mr Clive & Miss Harriet Betteridge 01344 450260
2 Bramber Cottages Terrace Road North Binfield Berks RG42 5JH
Miss Mel Cunningham 07884 264956
21 Bannister Close Oxford OX4 1SH
Dr Stephen Fleming 01635 299646
11 Byfields Road Kingsclere Newbury Berks RG20 5TG
Mrs Jill Fowler 01481 628686
10 Baron Way Kingwood Henley-on-Thames Oxon RG9 5WA
Mr David Holberton 07887 852987
1 Warfield Court Station Road Hampton Middx TW12 2AU
Ms Caroline Mathieson 01763 252868
15 Titchmarsh Close Royston Herts SG8 5DD
Dr Giles Robertson 01865 513379
83 Southmoor Road Oxford OX2 6RE
Ms Alison Summers & Mr James Laurenson 01844 217149
61 Ludsden Grove Thame Oxon OX9 3BY
Dr Joseph, Mrs Madeleine & Miss Claudia Suttie & Mr Anthony
Kendrick 01865 200226
5 Alan Bullock Close Oxford Oxon OX4 1AU
Mrs Susan Wall 01707 884614
28 Salmon Close Welwyn Garden City Herts AL7 1TR
Mrs Klara Wells
24 Rose Gardens Stanwell Staines Middx TW19 7UH

HOME COUNTIES SOUTH

Revd Canon Katrina Barnes 020 8467 1351
St Augustine's Vicarage Southborough Lane Bromley Kent BR2 8AT
Mrs Anne Bisson & Mr Stephen Bowser 01735 503683
12 Uridge Crescent Tonbridge Kent TN10 3EB
Revd Chris Butt 01634 231071
The Rectory 4 Drewery Drive Gillingham Kent ME8 0NX
Mr David & Miss Natalie Collins 01795 660645
163 High Street Queenborough Kent ME11 5AQ
Canon Edward, Mrs Sarah & Mr Jerome Condry 01227 865228
15 The Precincts Canterbury Kent CT1 2EL
Mr Robin Dalton-Holmes 01580 240923
The Old Vicarage Benenden Cranbrook Kent TN17 4DL
Dr Catherine Ferguson 01483 306189
37 Trodds Lane Merrow Guildford Surrey GU1 2XY
Mr Paul Fisher 01843 585765
The Basement Flat 25 Bellevue Road Ramsgate Kent CT11 8JT
Mr Brian Guinnessy 01892 532877
99 Newlands Road Tunbridge Wells Kent TN4 9AR
Mr Ben Harding 01243 784948
12 Turnbull Road Chichester W Sussex PO19 7LY
Mr Andrew Keith 01825 791070
The Millers Freshfield Lane Scaynes Hill W Sussex RH17 7NP

Mrs Kim & Master Reece Pattenden 10 Lancaster Court Eastgate Banstead Surrey SM7 1RR	01737 850742
Mr Jerry Shadbolt 24 Heathshott Friars Stile Road Richmond Surrey TW10 6NT	07788 951083
Mr Chris & Mrs Eve Showell 3 Broad Oak Close Brenchley Kent TN12 7NG	01892 723247
Mr John & Mrs Angela Vickerman Sandford 2 Clifford Manor Road Guildford Surrey GU4 8 AG	01483 568536
Mr Colin Wharton 21 Greencroft Trinity Place Eastbourne E Sussex BN21 3DA	01323 647665
Mr Nick Wiseman The Prospect St Martin's Lane Lewes BN7 1UD	01273 472883
Mr Stephen Woodward 99 Gillmans Road Orpington Kent BR5 4LD	01689 833682

SOUTH

Mr John & Mrs Caroline Dales 52 High St Chapmanslade Westbury Wilts BA13 4AN	01373 832610
Mr Matthew & Miss Kitty Guillaume Pump Cottage, 42 The Green Wilcot Pewsey Wilts SN9 5NS	01672 563390
Mr Matthew Horsfield & Mr Neil Casson 15 Rawlings Court Andover Road Ludgershall SP11 9GJ	
Mr Osborne 36 College Road Ringwood Hants BH24 1NX	01425 476327
Mr Peter Rocchiccioli Ludlow Copse Lane Hayling Island Hampshire PO11 0QA	023 9246 7695
Revd Glyn Williams 24 Felders Mede Hook Hampshire RG27 9TX	07846 123701

SOUTH WEST

Ms Heather Jenne 8 Clifton Park Road Clifton Bristol BS8 3HL	0117 973 3451
Mrs Nutty Lim & Mrs Valerie Roystan Kilmarth Nr Par Cornwall PL24 2TL	01726 815247
Mr Roger Matthews 146 Bodmin Road Truro Cornwall TR1 1RB	01872 276639
Mr Bernard McTernan Four Winds Shute Lane Long Sutton Somerset TA10 9LZ	01458 241851
Mrs Effie Romain 7 College Fields Clifton Bristol BS8 3HP	0117 973 9312
Ms Sarah Underhill 29 Mill Stream Meadow Chudleigh Devon TQ13 0PG	01626 859157

WALES

Dr Juliette Day & Prof Kirsti Juva Cae Pedr, Llanddewi Brefi Tregaron Ceredigion SY25 6RS	01974 299222
Mr Gareth Jones Bryb Gwyn Gaerwen Anglesey LL60 6BN	07969 456202

EAST ANGLIA

Dr Sara Booth Cox & Miss Olivia Cox 01799 599833
"Blackwater House" Ashdon Road Radwinter Cambs CB10 2UA
Mr Trevor & Mrs Susan Carter 01353 740419
6 Bury Lane Haddenham Ely Cambs CB6 3PR
Mr Mark & Mr Nicholas Champness 01245 472299
10 Isaac Sware Great Baddow Chelmsford Essex CM2 7PP
Mr Richard Davison-Fenn & Mr Lewis Griffin 01480 389543
51 Crosshall Road Eaton Ford St Neots Cambs. PE19 7AB
Mrs Jennifer Day 01223 245429
30 Torcliffe Way Cambridge CB1 8SH
Miss Katrina Harrison 07815 960998
6 Jernington Avenue Clayhall Ilford Essex IG5 0UG
Mr Andy & Mrs Sonia Hayward 01353 740966
Wymbourne, 17A The Green Haddenham Ely Cambs CB6 3TA
Mr Paul Kirby, Mr Chris Booty & Mr Paul Irving 07939 676297
4 Back Lane Lexden Colchester Essex CO3 4DQ
Mr Gerald McDonagh 020 8550 2053
94 Eheriton Avenue Clayhall Ilford Essex IG5 0QL

EAST MIDLANDS

Mr Simon & Mrs Marianne Bicket 07941 264758
Tunnel Hill House Blisworth Northants NN7 3DB
Ms Jan Butterworth & Mr Jim Moulton 0115 962 6898
86 Birrell Road Nottingham NG8 6LT
Mr Peter Revill 07810 555706
175 Wagstaff Lane Jacksdale Nottingham NG16 5HN

WEST MIDLANDS

Mrs Gwyn Klee 01684 562114
34 Clerkenwell Cres Malvern Worcs WR14 2TX
Mr Richard Pickard 01694 731672
The Haven, Frodesley Dorrington Shrewsbury SY5 7EY
Mr Simon Pickering 0121 707 2773
136 Gospel Lane Acocks Green Birmingham W Midlands B27 7AD

NORTH EAST

Mr Tony Brockley 07772 188470
9 Pierremont Crescent Darlington Co Durham DL3 9PA
Mr Rick Currie 01943 600908
43 Bridge Lane Ilkley Yorks LS29 9EU
Mr Paul Dix 01423 509697
11 St Mary's Walk Harrogate Yorks HG2 0LW
Revd Wilf Gowing 01423 331177
20 Springfield Place Great Ouseburn York YO26 9SE
Mr Michael Hall 0191 487 6832
23 Springfield Ave Eighton Banks Gateshead Tyne & Wear NE9 7HL

Mrs Jill Harrison	0114 235 9590
6 Cobnar Road Woodseats Sheffield S Yorks S8 8QB	
Mr John & Mr Paul Hattam	01904 421345
46 Oakland Avenue York YO31 1DF	
Ms Susan Joerning	07739 976129
72 Manor Drive Bennetthorpe Doncaster Yorks DN2 6BT	
Ms Anna Lewall	07870 994569
113 Canning Street Newcastle NE4 8UH	
Revd Roy Shaw	01423 359003
32 Westfield Road Tockwith York YO26 7PY	

NORTH WEST

Mr Ian Clough	01204 693024
Heather Hall, Matchmoor Lane Horwich Bolton BL6 8PW	
Mr Jason Dalby	01204 571667
26 Weaver Chase, Stoneclough Radcliffe Greater Manchester M26 1RF	
Mr William Kelly	01204 577174
72 Darley Street Farnworth Bolton Lancs BL4 7QY	
Mr Tim Redmond	0151 722 6312
33 Score Lane Liverpool L16 6AN	
Mr Tim Rutt	07931 704224
24 Osborne Road Altrincham Cheshire WA15 8EU	

SCOTLAND

Mr Frank Burns, Mr G Crampsey & Mr Bob Rigby	07799 645420
89 Mossiel Road Glasgow G43 2DA	
Ms Rona Connolly	01312 296429
25/3 Roseneath Place Edinburgh EH9 1JD	
Mr Ian Galloway	01292 313843
10 West Grove Troon Ayrshire KA10 7BG	
Mr Glen Lamont	07742 632112
28 Gardener Crescent Whitburn West Lothian EH47 0PE	
Dr Martin Orr	07789 376967
Flat 2 / 8, 28 Turnbull Street Glasgow G1 5PR	
Ms Julia Payne & Miss Julie Connaway	01316 671308
70/1 Findhorn Place Edinburgh EH9 2NW	
Mr David Rainey	01389 841033
Rossadillisk, Carmam Rd Cardross Dumbarton G82 5JZ	
Prof John & Mrs Anne Simmons	01314 414205
24 Spylaw Street Colinton Edinburgh EH13 0JX	

EUROPE

Ms Linda Leisner	0045 6127 1888
Flintholm Alle 51.2.TV Frederiksberg 2000 Denmark	
Ms Eva-Kaarin Bell	046 8540 5258
Marsatravagen 17 Akersberga 18463 Sweden	
Mr Olov Edvardsson	0046 1310 6086
Backgatan 4 Linkoping 58245 Sweden	

Mrs Britte Montigny 0046 4223 4098
Gladaborgsvagen 4 Hyllinge SE - 26061 Sweden

CANADA

Mr George & Mrs Antonia Plaxton 001 519 657 2927
150 Whiteacres Drive London Ontario N66 4N2 Canada
Mr John & Mrs Lynne Sihvonen 001 807 577 8996
#301-780 Gordon Street Thunder Bay Ontario P7E 6S1 Canada

SOUTH AMERICA

Mr Bruno Melo 0055 218 111 7478
Av Atlantica 828/1006 Rio de Janeiro 22010-000 Brazil

AFRICA

Mr Mark Boyes & Mrs D Raymond
101 Berea Park Road Musgrave Durban 4001 S Africa

ASIA

Miho Kuroiwa 0081 9 5013 6271
6-31-302 Tamagawa-machi Minami-Ku, Fukuoka-Shi Fukuoka-Ken
815-0031 Japan

AUSTRALIA

Mr John Davis 0061 2 4464 1615
PO Box 44 Berry NSW 2535 Australia
Mr Peter McGowan 0061 2 9602 4947
10 Maddecks Avenue Moorebank NSW 2170 Australia
Mr Alan Pearce 0061 2 6342 5292
4 Wahroonga Street Cowra NSW 2794 Australia
Mr Don & Mrs Laura Riddell 0061 2 9498 6823
36 Buckingham Road Killara NSW 2071 Australia
Mrs & Mr Jennifer Sipos 0612 49810997
1 Sylvia St Shoal Bay NSW 2315 Australia
Miss Helen Williams
3/27 Mc Cowan St Ashmore Gold Coast 4214 Australia
Mr Patrick Wright & Ms Rosemary Nicholls 0061 3 93911875
46 Percy St Newport VIC 3015 Australia
Mr Tony, Miss Eve & Mr Oscar York, Ms Donna Dransfield 0061 8
9384 536
10 Eric Street Cottesloe WA 6011 Australia

NEW ZEALAND

Dr Rob & Mrs Anne Aspden 0064 4478 3215
3 Hillview Crescent Paparangi Wellington 6037 New Zealand
Mr Alfred Mürrle & Miss Kylie Boxall 0064 021 2690076
1 Palliser Road Roseneath Wellington 6001 New Zealand
Mr John Rutledge 0064 4 385923
Apt A27, Sanctum 10 Ebor St Wellington 6011 New Zealand

Editors of Confraternity Publications

available from Registered Office:
27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY
telephone (020) 7928 9988 fax (020) 7928 2844
or through our secure online bookshop at www.csj.org.uk/bookshop

The editors of our guides are always keen to receive feedback. If you have recently been on any part of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, have used one of the guides listed below, and wish to pass on the benefit of your experience to those who may come after you, please contact the relevant author/s:

Pilgrim Guides to Spain

- 1 *Camino Francés* William Bisset
editorcf@csj.org.uk
- 2 *Camino Mozárabe* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
alisonraju@btopenworld.com
- 3 *Finisterre* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
alisonraju@btopenworld.com
- 4 *Los Caminos del Norte* Eric Walker, 4 Gawthorpe Avenue, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire BD16 4DG
(01274) 562559
- 5 *Camino Portugués* John Walker
johnniewalker-santiago@hotmail.com
- 6 *Madrid to Sahagún* Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH
(01763) 244525
- 7 *Camino Inglés* John Walker
johnniewalker-santiago@hotmail.com

Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through France

- 1 *Paris to the Pyrenees* Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH
(01763) 244525
- 3 *Le Puy to the Pyrenees* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
alisonraju@btopenworld.com
- 4 *Arles to Puente La Reina* Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH
(01763) 244525

Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through Europe

- 2 *Nürnberg to Konstanz* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
alisonraju@btopenworld.com
- 4 *Via Gebennensis* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
alisonraju@btopenworld.com

Practical Pilgrim Notes *for Walkers*
for Cyclists
for Riders
Winter Pilgrim
Which Camino?

Contributions to these and other publications should be addressed to the Office.

Confraternity of Saint James

Registered Charity number 1091140

Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, number 4096721

Information and Publications available from Registered Office:

27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY

usual opening hours Thursday 11am to 3pm (other times by appointment)

telephone (020) 7928 9988 fax (020) 7928 2844 email office@csj.org.uk website www.csj.org.uk

Honorary President H E The Spanish Ambassador

Secretary Marion Marples
45 Dolben Street, LONDON SE1 0UQ

Pilgrim Record Secretary *Please apply with SAE (quoting membership number) to:*
Doreen Hansen, 1 Kingscote Close, Hatherley, CHELTENHAM GL51 6JU

Committee 2009 Charity Trustees and Company Directors

Chairman Dr William Griffiths, 8 Glenville Road, KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES,
Surrey KT2 6DD (020) 8549 2080 w.griffiths@ukonline.co.uk

Vice-Chairman Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
alisonraju@btopenworld.com

Colin Jones, 13 Dunsley Drive, Wordsley, STOURBRIDGE, West
Midlands DY8 5RA pacharan@btinternet.com

Other Members Gosia Brykczynska, Roger Davies, Susan Goddard, Paul Graham,
Catherine Kimmel, Mary Moseley, Angelika Schneider,
Cristina Spink, Graeme Taylor, Eileen Terry

Rabanal Committee

Chairman Paul Graham, Somer House, The Street, CHILCOMPTON, Somerset
BA3 4HB p.graham2712@btinternet.com

*Wardens' Coordinator,
Refugio Gaucelmo* Roger Davies, West Wing, Down Hall, Bedford Place, BRIDPORT,
Dorset DT6 3ND (01308) 427295 r&j@rogerdavies.go-plus.com

Other Members Trevor Curnow, Laurie Dennett, David Garcia, Michael Krier,
Marion Marples, Alison Raju, Graham Scholes

Miraz Committee

Coordinator Colin Jones

Other Members Alan Cutbush (*hospitaleros*), Peter FitzGerald (property),
Alison Raju, Alison Thorp, Keith Young, Maureen Young

Other Officers

Finance Manager Alison Thorp, 18 West Farm Avenue, ASHSTEAD, Surrey KT21 2LG,
alison.thorp@virgin.net

*Treasurer
and Company Secretary* Tony Ward, Syracuse, ST NEOT, Cornwall PL14 6NJ
Work (01579) 343215 mail@tonyward.biz

*Librarian
and Website Manager* Howard Nelson, 71 Oglander Road, LONDON SE15 4DD
howard@csj.org.uk

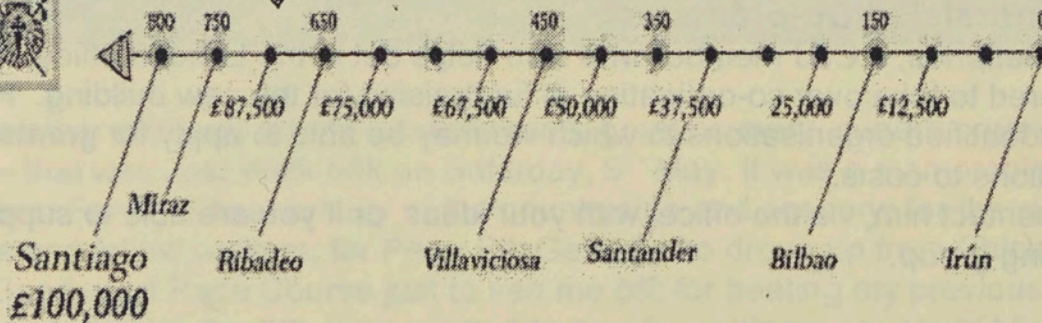
Slide Librarian John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ
(01622) 757814

*Members wishing to borrow slides should make their selections
from the catalogue four weeks in advance.*

Digital Library Manager Michael Krier, Hyde, Temple Guiting, CHELTENHAM, Glos GL54 5RT
krier@btinternet.com



How has the gaitero progressed?



Appeal Total £87,560 - THANK YOU

- Miraz Development News
- New Miraz T- Shirt
- Summer Garden Party Sun 5 July
- Angelika's 60km walk
- Sponsor-a-Week

*** *Miraz Development News* ***

Planning Progress

In early May we heard that the first level of planning permission for the proposed new extension at Miraz was to be approved, subject to carrying out a geological survey. The main objective of this was to check the availability and access to local water supplies. All went well with the survey so we now have the equivalent to the UK outline planning approval.

Our architect, Campelo, is now working on submitting the next level application, the "*Basico*", and will then obtain tenders for the work from builders.

Grants

We have applied for a grant from the *Xunta de Galicia* and expect to hear by the end of June whether we have been successful.

*** *The Miraz Appeal* ***

History - In May 2005, the Bishop of Lugo gave us use of the *Casa Rectoral* (priest's house) in the village of Miraz in Galicia, to provide a pilgrim *refugio*. Whilst structurally sound, the building needed to be renovated, equipped and perhaps extended, if pilgrim numbers justified it (which, as it turns out, they definitely do !) We originally aimed to raise £100,000 to cover both these and future running and maintenance costs.

New Fundraising Co-ordinator

Richard Jefferies, a CSJ member who also helps out in the London office, has kindly volunteered to take over co-ordination of fundraising for the new building. He has already identified organisations to which we may be able to apply for grants and contributions to costs.

Please contact him, via the office, with your ideas, or if you are able to support the fundraising group.

*** *Thank You* ***

Our grateful thanks go to all those of you who have made possible the establishment and running of the Miraz refuge, by contributing so much, not only your donations and your time, but also your interest and support. We are very lucky to have received several significant donations; however, it is the smaller amounts which make up over 90% of the total raised so far and do make a big difference. Thank you everyone.

And pilgrims appreciate it too:-

"A pilgrim paradise"

"Muchas gracias para todos que cuidan esta casa" (aged 10)

"Numero 1 des albergues recontrees sur le chemin depuis France"

**** Just Walk 60km - 9th May 2009 ****
South Downs, West Sussex



Sunny weather with only a light westerly wind, great scenery, superb organisation and backup – that was Just Walk 60k on Saturday, 9th May. It was a memorable day in many ways: For the sheer beauty of the countryside and scenery; for the support of the marshals and fellow walkers; for Peter FitzGerald who drove up from Chichester to the start at Goodwood Race Course just to see me off; for beating my previous time by half an hour and to finish the 60k in exactly 10 hours; for getting a couple of blisters in places I didn't think it was possible to get any; for the climb up Bignor Hill after having just eaten the hot meal provided by the organisers (tip: either eat very little, or walk up very slowly, your stomach will thank you for it!).

Thanks to all those who sponsored me for this enjoyable but tough walk. The total raised stands at £340 plus gift aid *.

I can thoroughly recommend this walk, and for those who might be interested in taking part: The organisers offer a variety of distances with 10k, 20k, 40k and 60k. The next event will take place on 15th May 2010, check out www.just-walk.co.uk for more details.

Angelika

*Ed: * That makes a total of more than £1,500 that Angelika has raised from the 3 charity walks that she has undertaken in aid of Miraz. Thank you Angelika - a wonderful contribution - and thank you to all of you who supported her.*

Invitation to a

Merienda & Summer Garden Party

By kind invitation of Priscilla and Mark White

In aid of Miraz Refugio de Peregrinos



Sunday 5 July 2009

4pm -7pm

London SE15 5NZ

£10 per head to include a glass of Cava and
home made *Tapas y Pasteles*

**New Miraz T shirts and Books for sale
Bring & Buy Camino Classics
Raffle**

Nearest station Peckham Rye (South Eastern: London Bridge/Victoria)

Bus 36, 436 from Victoria, 63 from King's Cross, 345 from South
Kensington

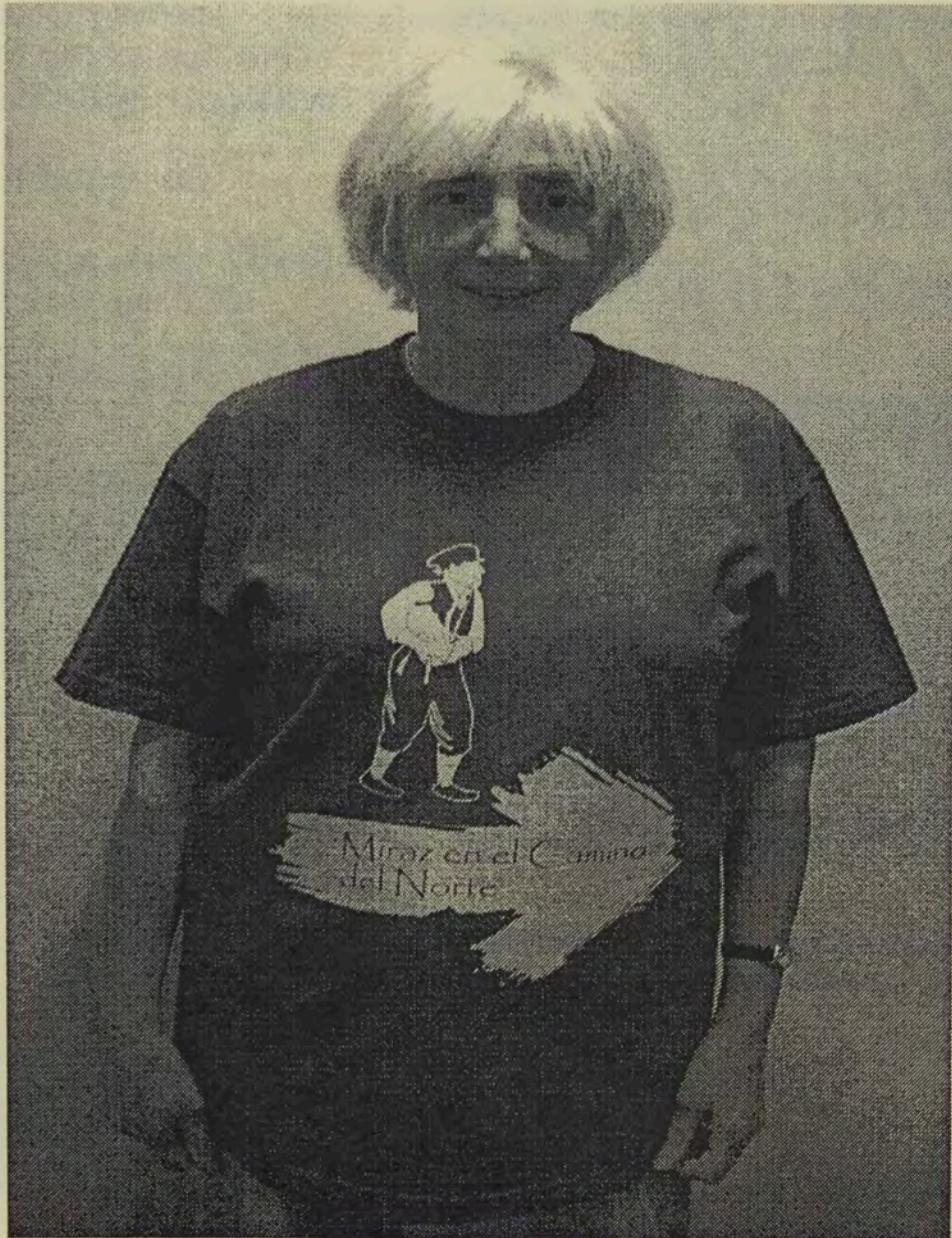
For more details please contact Priscilla on

020 7708 5121

Or pawwhite@hotmail.com

TV available for watching coverage of Wimbledon Final!!

***** The New Miraz T-shirt *****



Initially available in Royal Blue.
The gaitero is in white. the arrow in yellow.

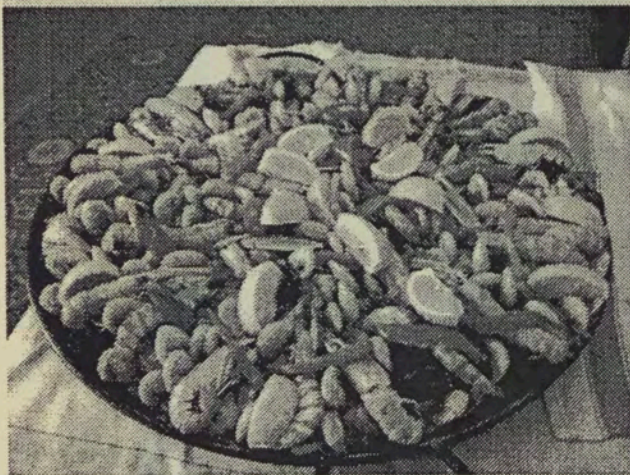
To see in glorious technicolour, please visit the CSJ website

Price £10.00 + p&p
Sizes S to XXL
(sizes are generous)

Please order using the form on page 8 or via the website www.csj.org.uk

***** Back by Popular Demand *****

*¡Que
aproveche!*
Recipes from Spain



Confraternity of Saint James

Sold Out!

The first edition of the
“*Que Aproveche!*” recipe book
produced in aid of the Miraz Appeal

But Don't Panic!

The 2nd edition is in production with
more new recipes added

Available from July

Check the website bookshop and / or
the September newsletter for more
details

***** Other Fundraising *****

Up to now the most popular events have been those which have
included food,
either staying in for a meal or a coffee morning
or eating out at a local pub or restaurant.

Other members have raised funds by

- Selling CD and book accounts of their camino
- Being sponsored for events (see page3)
- Offering their holiday cottages at special rates to members
- Giving talks about the camino
- Holding concerts
- Leading walks to local places of interest

*If you have ideas for future fundraising,
please let us know via the office.*

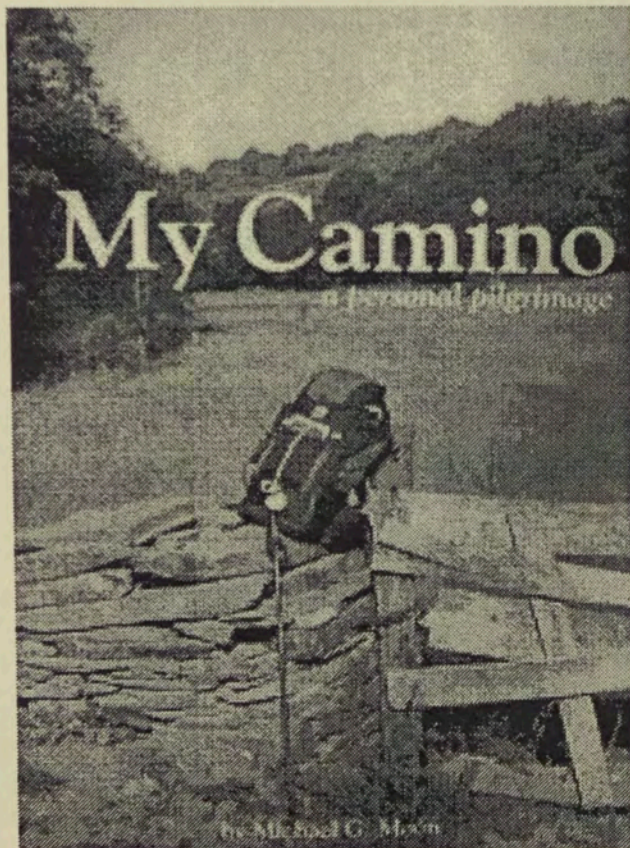
* Sponsor-a-Week *

This scheme was introduced in the early days of Refugio Gaucelmo to allow pilgrims to support and keep in touch with events in Rabanal by sponsoring-a-week for £50 (or £25 if you share with a friend), You can also sponsor-a-week at Miraz and you will receive a letter from the *hospitaleros* telling you the pilgrim news for your week, and will know that you are helping pilgrims too.

Please use the form on page 8, or contact Alison Thorp

email: alison.thorp@virgin.net or Tel: +44 - (0)1372-274398 for more details

* "My Camino : a personal pilgrimage" *



Michael Moon's book following in the footsteps of his ancestor who walked from St Jean-de-Pied-de-Port to Santiago in 1280AD.

Many colour photos.

Cost: £12.99 + p&p

(includes £6.50 per copy to Miraz.)

Please order using the form on page 8, or via the CSJ website Bookshop.

*** Miraz Contacts ***

If you have any suggestions, offers or comments, or need more information, please contact the following by email or via the office

Co-ordinator	- Colin Jones	- pacharan@btinternet.com
Fundraising	- Richard Jefferies	- office@csj.org.uk
Operations/Hospitaleros	- Alan Cutbush	- alan@cutbush35.fsnet.co.uk
Property	- Peter FitzGerald	- peter_of_chichester@tiscali.co.uk

Order & / or Donations Form

CSJ Member no. (if known)

Name

Address

.....

Tel or email address :

I wish to :-

Order : ---- (number) Miraz T-shirts
Size : S / M / L / XL / XXL
Cost : £10 each
+ P&P : UK £2.00, EU £2.20, ROW £3.70 per shirt -----

Order ---- copy/ies of "My Camino" - cost £12.99 each
+ P&P : UK £1.00, EU £2.20, ROW £3.95 per copy -----

Help pilgrims at Miraz by sponsoring the
week shown below for £50 (or part week for £25) -----

(Date)

Make a donation to the Miraz Appeal -----

Total £
=====

Payment

I enclose a cheque made payable to "Confraternity of St James"

I authorise the CSJ to charge my credit card as follows
(NB: Credit cards will be charged **actual** postage)

Visa / Mastercard Number - - - - / - - - - / - - - - / - - - -

Expiry Date - - / - - Security Code - - -

Signed

Date:.....

Please send the completed form to :
CSJ - Miraz Appeal, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY