



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



December 2008

No 104

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

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Twenty Five Years On

An Editorial

Gosia Brykczynska

As the Confraternity's anniversary year draws to a close and as this Bulletin goes to press it seems appropriate that the final celebrations on the weekend of 22/23 November should be recorded in stop-press fashion to round off our activities. So, taking time off in between festive gatherings your Editorial team reports that on Saturday 22 November the annual Constance Storrs lecture was delivered by Dame Jinty Nelson on *Criticising and Defending Pilgrimage in the Early Middle Ages*. As Emeritus Professor in Medieval Studies at King's College, London, Dame Jinty is well equipped to lead her audience through Carolingian minefields of patronage and paradox. It is accepted Confraternity wisdom that there are as many motivating reasons for undertaking pilgrimage as there are pilgrims, and pending publication of the full text of Jinty's address she has challenged conventional thinking by suggesting that there might be as many allegedly wrong reasons for undertaking pilgrimage as there are would-be pilgrims! In a sweeping vote of thanks at the conclusion of Jinty's talk Chairman William Griffiths gained the acclamation of a capacity audience by rewriting history. It's all down to Charlemagne, he opined – all subsequent history bears the imprint of Charlemagne, and by a process of logical deduction the Confraternity itself was founded by Charlemagne! There is no doubt that an unsuspecting public will soon have launched upon it the Griffiths reworking of the Song of Roland!

But to return to earth, let us proceed to the following day Sunday 23 November. St Mary's Church, Clapham, provided an inspirational setting for our 25th anniversary commemoration service. Musically we were privileged to have with us Don Joaquin Barreira Pereira, the Cathedral organist from Santiago de Compostela, in association with the Confraternity's own choir conducted by Dr Mary Remnant. In the context of a moving and uplifting service it seemed as if the symbolism and ethos of the CSJ took on tangible form. Individual readings and prayers were rendered with the sincerity and commitment which comes from the physical and emotional experiences of the Way, but

the impact of the service lay in the integrity and simplicity of the whole – a sublime joint venture. The culmination came when our Chairman invited us to come forward and perform the Clapham version of the *botafumeiro*, each one of us contributing a few symbolic grains of incense to the ascending spiral of hope, memory and joy, while the choir and cantor sang *Himno al Santo Apostol* - popularly referred to by Santiago pilgrims as the *botafumeiro* song. The whole service was organised and arranged by the local organist and CSJ member John Rafferty.

After the service CSJ members and their families and friends retired to the local Spanish restaurant – *La Terraza*. Twice as many people showed up as was planned but the restaurant coped magnificently; there was plenty of excellent food and wine and everyone had a wonderful time.

This Bulletin has a rather prophetic tone as several of the contributors while reflecting on their pilgrimages simultaneously project to the future – considering work to be done and lessons to be learnt, especially the contributions from John Revell, Chris Masters and Stephen Hickman. Meanwhile Victor Hill leads us onto further pilgrimage trips and Pat Quaife and John Hopkins neatly tie up the dangling English thread. Finally, Anne Wolf reminds us that it is coming up to Christmas and so from the entire Bulletin Team, CSJ Chairman and Trustees and the Rabanal and Miraz committee members have a happy and reflective Christmas. ¡FELIZ NAVIDAD!

Honouring St James

A new hymn to the tune 'Amazing Grace'

James Cruikshank

CSJ

1983-2008

honouring

St James

CSJ

1. At journeys' starts
Where anxious hearts
Blend nervousness with cheer,
St James, do please
Put minds at ease
And pilgrims' footsteps steer.

4. Safe through your grace
In your embrace,
The stars ahead so bright,
Your own thoughts reach
To lessons teach
Of Way, of Truth, of Light.

D
E

S A N T I A G O

2. Along route's length,
As limbs find strength,
Minds find deep hopes fulfilled
Through thoughts of you -
Of Jesus too -
And how this all is willed.

5. At journey's end,
Dear James, good friend,
Now we've reached sacred site,
We seek that we
Shall ever be
Alert to wrong from right.

C
O
M
P
O
S
T
E
L
A

3. St James, it's true
Great honour's due
To you, so wise, so kind,
And in this prayer
We laud your care
T'wards Manandwomankind.

6. Now present/past
With future's cast,
Our spirits fused as one,
We of today
Upon shared Way,
Unending role begun.

CSJ

1983-2008

honouring

St James

CSJ

Dr Mary Berry CBE (Mother Thomas More) 1917-2008

Mary Remnant



When I was a student at Oxford, people spoke with great respect about a Cambridge nun called Mother Thomas More, who was a great authority on plainsong. Eventually I met her at a meeting of the Royal Musical Association and we had a brief conversation.

Some time after that there was a television programme about plainsong, and after showing French monks singing in their monastery the announcer introduced “Dr Mary Berry, a world authority on plainsong who directs the music at Newnham College, Cambridge”. Then this lady appeared and spoke with

great knowledge of the subject.

I was amazed. Why had I never heard of this person? It was only later that I put two and two together. This was the period when some religious orders were abandoning their habits, so perhaps she was Mother Thomas More – and she was.

She had already had a most varied, interesting and at times dangerous life. She was born in 1917 in Cambridge, where her father was the Vice-Master of Downing College. A visit to the Benedictine abbey of Solesmes in France instilled in her a great love of plainsong, so she studied it in Paris, particularly with the renowned musician and teacher Nadia Boulanger, before returning to further studies in

Cambridge.

She became a Catholic in 1938 before nursing for a time in Belgium, and in 1940 joined the Convent of the Canonesses of St Augustine at Notre-Dame de Jupille in that country. As the Germans approached, the nuns managed to catch the last train to Paris and spent most of the war in Portugal. In 1945 she made her final profession as Mother Thomas More and then returned to Cambridge to the convent of her order there.

She continued her studies and wrote a doctoral thesis on *The Performance of Plainsong in the Later Middle Ages and the Sixteenth Century* which was completed in 1968. However, by this time the second Vatican Council had caused considerable changes in the style of church music and in many churches the singing of plainsong was actually abolished. This even affected her own convent, so she was allowed to have her own house and private chapel at Barton near Cambridge where the liturgy could be performed by her and her followers as she wanted it. She always remained a nun although being known to most of her friends as Mary.

In addition to her academic work at the colleges of Girton and Newnham she gave numerous lectures and courses on plainsong in England and abroad. In 1975 she founded the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge, which sang for many of her events. A notable one was at Winchester in 1984, during an Anglo-Saxon Festival organised by Canon Paul Britton, to celebrate 1,000 years since the death of St Aethelwold, Bishop of Winchester. Her lecture there on Anglo-Saxon church music was followed the next day by the choir singing the office of the day in the Cathedral, resplendent in their cream-coloured choir robes.

Fortunately for us, she was one of several eminent scholars who have joined the Confraternity of Saint James and with her choir she gave us two notable performances. On 19 March 1994, they performed *A Field of Stars: a Galaxy of 12th-century music in honour of St James of Compostella* (sic) from the *Codex Calixtinus*, in the Romanesque church of St Bartholomew the Great at Smithfield, attended by representatives from the Spanish Embassy. Then on our patronal feast, 25 July 1998, their programme entitled *Journey's End - Vespers for St James* in All Saints Church, Cottenham near Cambridge was organised by our member Timothy Wotherspoon.

Meanwhile in 1995 she took the Schola by coach to Santiago and asked me to explain things on the way. The chaplain to the pilgrimage

was the American Cistercian Fr Chrysogonus Waddell, who sang Mass with the choir in the cathedrals and abbeys of Auxerre, Vézelay, Le Puy, Conques, Moissac, Burgos, León and of course Santiago itself. (When an accompaniment was needed it was played on my organistrum which was copied, as far as possible, by Alan Crumpler from the one sculpted at the top of the *Pórtico de la Gloria* there.) We also heard Vespers at the Abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos, where the monks had recently made a famous recording. At Aubrac we had lunch in the restaurant *Chez Germaine* and delighted Mme Germaine by singing the *Salve Regina* there.

We were very fortunate that our visit to Burgos coincided with one of Professor Father José López-Calo, SJ, the world authority on music at Santiago, who was then working in the Cathedral Library. He had dinner with us and he and Mary Berry had a very fruitful conversation about the music in the *Codex Calixtinus*. She said that she hoped to make a recording of its *Mass of St James* but unfortunately that was not to be. One lasting benefit to us from that journey was that three of her choir, Pamela Bacon and Mike and Jane Bradshaw, joined the Confraternity and are a great asset to our own choir.

Although she never had a chance to record the *Mass of St James*, probably by St Fulbert of Chartres, she produced many superb recordings with the professional cantors of the choir, such as that in honour of St Thomas Becket which was made in the Burgundian Abbey of Pontigny, where he spent part of his exile.

Apart from music, Mary Berry was very fond of birds and animals and had two Pekinese dogs. She once did a great kindness to me. When my cat Marmaduke went to Cambridge for radiotherapy, she invited us to her chapel where she had devised a special service for him. She wore her choir robes and we started by singing the *Veni Creator*. Towards the end she gave a beautiful blessing to "*hanc creaturam Marmaducem*" and during it Marmaduke *sang*. Although the treatment did not work and he peacefully did not wake up one morning, he had been well and truly blessed.

Mary had become a great friend of the Community of Jesus, an ecumenical community based at Orleans, Massachusetts, who were among her thousands of followers in the world of plainsong. Towards the end of her life when she became more frail, she was devotedly cared for by their member Sister Alicia who was an Episcopalian and to whom eternal thanks are due.

Dr Mary Berry's great work was rewarded by her being given the

Papal Cross *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* and being made a Dame of St Gregory, a Catholic Woman of the Year and a Commander of the British Empire. She had two funeral services. The first in the new rite was on Saturday 10 May at the church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge in the presence of Archbishop Mario Conti of Glasgow. The second was on Monday 12 May, at Dorchester near Oxford, where she wanted to be buried. As the Catholic Church there was too small to hold all the people who came, the service actually took place in the magnificent (now Anglican) Abbey Church, where we sang Mass in the Tridentine Rite. The celebrant was Fr Guy Nicholls of Birmingham Oratory and the music was directed by Philip Duffy, the former Master of Choristers at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King. The Funeral Liturgy was adapted from the medieval Dominican Rite. We processed down the main street of Dorchester in brilliant sunshine singing the Litany of the Saints, including many English ones, before arriving at the Catholic Church of St Birinus. There she was buried beside a small tree surrounded by flowers and we felt that she must have gone straight to Heaven.

Yet another sung Requiem Mass took place for her on 12 August during The Spode Music Week, of which she was a prominent lecturer and patron. The chief celebrant of the Mass was Monsignor Philip Whitmore, chaplain to The Music Week and the singing was directed by Jeremy White, together with David Bevan and Dominic McGonigal. It was Mary's wish that her work should be carried on under the expert guidance of Jeremy, himself a well-known singer, so the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge will continue to flourish and we look forward to hearing it again in the Confraternity of Saint James.

Prof George Zarnecki CBE

1915-2008

Patricia Quaife

Professor George Zarnecki, who died on 8 September, four days short of his 93rd birthday, was one of the Confraternity's most distinguished honorary members and the leading art historian of the Romanesque of his generation.

Shortly after his retirement from the Courtauld Institute, where he had been Deputy-Director for many years, he chaired the organising committee of the highly successful exhibition, *English Romanesque Art 1066-1200*, held at the Hayward Gallery in early 1984. This was only the second year of the fledgling Confraternity but having been invited by founder-member Dr Mary Remnant, George agreed to give us a lecture on 5 May 1984 on *A Twelfth-Century English Sculptor's Pilgrimage to Santiago*. He joined members for supper in the crypt of St James, Spanish Place, before delivering his fascinating lecture on the early 12th century journey of Oliver de Merlimond, steward of Hugh de Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore (Herefordshire), and an anonymous sculptor, to Santiago de Compostela. Over 70 members and friends attended the lecture, after which George accepted the Confraternity's invitation to become an honorary member, 'provided' he said, with a twinkle in his eye, 'I don't actually have to do anything'.

Being of a generous and outgoing disposition, he was nevertheless persuaded to give the 1996 Constance Storrs Memorial Lecture on *The Romanesque Sculpture of the Welsh Marches* ("not the 'Marshes' " as he gently reminded us when publicity posters were being produced beforehand). This second lecture, given on 27 April 1996, was in fact his last public lecture and we were all aware that the Confraternity was hosting an historic event. On this occasion he demonstrated, through a series of illustrations from English and French churches, the profound influence that the pilgrimage had had on no fewer than 25 surviving related sites in the West Midlands area.

George clearly enjoyed his association with the Confraternity and so it was gratifying to be able, in small measure, to return the compliment, so to speak. In 1994 two CSJ committee members (Walter Ivens and Pat Quaife) had received the Spanish honour of membership

of the Orden de Isabel la Católica, with due publicity given in the *Bulletin*. Soon after his 'last lecture' George approached me on the subject, saying that he too had been offered the same honour 35 years earlier in 1961, for his work as chairman of the British Committee of a major international exhibition of Romanesque art in Barcelona and Santiago de Compostela. For various reasons he was not able to be presented with the insignia of the Order then, but now felt that the time was right for this to happen, if it could be arranged. Following an approach by the Confraternity to our Honorary President, HE the Spanish Ambassador, D Alberto Aza Arias, investigations were made, the presentation approved and a special ceremony took place at the Embassy on 28 May 1997 when George finally received his insignia in the presence of family members, colleagues and two Confraternity representatives, Laurie Dennett and Marion Marples. To mark the occasion, George presented the CSJ Library with a copy of the rare 650-page catalogue of the 1961 exhibition.

So a long and happy association has now come to an end. The Confraternity and its earlier members will always be grateful to George for his inspiring and pertinent lectures, (the basis of several CSJ visits to Herefordshire) as well as his numerous books and articles on Romanesque art and architecture. Our sincere condolences to his widow, Anne, and their son and daughter.

José Ricardo Rodríguez Morán

Michael Mannion

The family at *Albergue de Nuestra Senora del Pilar* in Rabanal are grieving the loss of José who died there on 29 October 2008.

Jose was born to Serafin and Esperanza in Rabanal forty-four years ago. Eventually his parents moved to Madrid where José undertook his schooling. Thereafter they returned to Rabanal where initially José was in charge of the family's flock of sheep. When they opened as an *albergue* for pilgrims José then became a *hospitalero* which duties he performed with cheerful energy until his untimely death.



Five years ago he married Teresa, herself a pilgrim and native of Murcia, and they lived very happily together at the *albergue*. They were planning to build their separate home on an adjacent plot. A number of CSJ members were privileged to be invited to the sumptuous wedding in Murcia with D José Antonio of the Rabanal monastery officiating at the church ceremony. Together with my wife Anja, we were invited to his wedding and I recollect that on the morning of the wedding, José called without notice at our hotel and with his future brother-in-law gave us a conducted tour of the city. This was typical of José's generous nature and Gaucelmo *hospitaleros* will also remember examples of the support readily given to them by José. If we ran out of Butane gas or other necessities, José could always be relied upon to come up with a solution.

He will be greatly missed by Teresa, his parents, by Isabel his sister and by all who knew him.

The Way to Compostela

Stephen Hickman

This summer I walked the classic medieval pilgrim route of the Camino Francés – the French way; a walk of 774km – nearly 500 miles, breaking into Spain from the small French town of Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, crossing the Pyrenees mountains on the first day.

Many people seemed very interested in this and asked me why I wanted to do it, but I could not give a full answer. I was at a point of transition in my life. I had moved to London four years previously, after leaving university, and in that time had worked in one school, going from a teaching assistant through to becoming a fully-qualified primary school teacher via an in-school graduate training programme. The class I left behind I had known for half their lives. I had also lived with one community of people, a rather crowded shared room, in a two-bedroom flat in a tower block. Moving schools, houses, and taking on work in the church was, for me, a huge change. And I needed some time to reflect on what had gone before. But why the camino, I could not say. I had no idea what I hoped I would find. I hoped it would find me!

There are many aspects of the camino that I could speak about, but I want to focus on just one. The rare opportunity it gives to look objectively at life, almost taking on the perspective of an outsider. The physicality of the Way *itself* seems to give a good reflection not only on the journey of our lives from birth to death, but of our experience of anything we embark upon, be it a job, a pass time, education, whatever. So I hope in this short summary to reflect on some challenges we all face along the road of any experience.

To enter Spain from France, the Pyrenees must be crossed. From Saint-Jean the path winds sharply uphill, ascending almost a mile in five hours. The scenery, reputedly spectacular, was on that day shrouded in a dense layer of fog and once or twice, keeping on the path was more a matter of making a sensible guess than following any signs. After a noticeable peak and three hours of steep descent through the forest, Roncesvalles is reached; a town dominated by a large monastery, a

couple of hotels and not much else. The pilgrims bed down for the night in monastery accommodation, with arguably the most arduous stage of the pilgrimage already completed.

But saying it is the most arduous stage is not quite right. On the first day you are full of the spirit of adventure. There is energy that drives you up the mountain and keeps you going. There is a desire to cross that mountain no matter what, to enter Spain and start the pilgrimage.

The next 300km were, for me, a slow process of acclimatising to pilgrim life. Twelve days where the way was beautiful – forests and river-valleys, hills and vineyards. But twelve days where I slowly realised that there was no stopping. That every day I will get up before sunrise, walk for seven hours in the heat of the Spanish summer, with twenty pounds of luggage on my back. Realising that most of the images of the pilgrimage I had had were really just that. Images. Illusions.

An extract from my diary on day 4: *The Camino allows you to look at life, perhaps because everything is just slightly more obvious. My physical needs (shower, aching feet, blisters, muscles) are taking precedence over everything else. But I feel this is ok. Our physicalities allow, no, are essential for our cooperation and life on the Camino. But by day 7 it was really starting to get to me: Once again, I write, and this seems to happen time after time, I am feeling a sense of futility and directionlessness. Why am I doing this? I am just rushing from place to place, looking after only my most basic needs, neglecting even prayer and psalms [I promised myself I would say], because I am racing to avoid the heat [and get to hostels before they fill up].*

But on consideration, this was a hugely important part of the process. I had to acclimatise, learn to pace myself, realise that this was not a sprint, but a marathon. Actually, getting close to walking a marathon every day for a month.

The challenge here is to allow ourselves to be broken in, to have the strength and discipline to overcome initial pains, but at the same time to enjoy the interest of starting out on something new and exciting. For me here, I was upset that I wasn't turning to God as much as I felt I ought to. But the task at the time was to be present in the real world. To engage with others and with myself. And that was OK.

The cathedral city of Burgos is about 300km from Saint-Jean, and after this the route moves on to the *meseta*. This is a flat section of the camino, about 250km long, and a place as close to walking in a desert as I have ever come. There are many small towns but the terrain all around is fields and fields of golden wheat, and not much else. The heat can be stifling, with temperatures routinely peaking around 35C. It is not arduous, it just feels empty. But in this there was a shift in my attitude. There were suddenly incredible opportunities for silence and thinking. Long, lonely meditative walks. I found I could pray much more easily, I had time and space for it.

The challenge here then is the tedium. The monotony. The medieval mystics saw it as a time of spiritual death. It is the stage in any endeavour where you have been broken in, so to speak, but with the excitement of beginnings behind you, and still in no sight of the end. With the external stimulus gone, how do we cope with it when the road seems to go on forever, but reaches nowhere? It might seem like a dry, barren place, but it is physically an easier time. A time to reflect on how everything is going and a time to keep on keeping on. I have to say that, if I were pressed to choose the most important section of the camino, for me it would be the *meseta*. A lot of realisations came to me in the loneliness. A lot of the things previously troubling me, burdens I had come with, slipped away.

The *meseta* really continues until the city of Astorga. After this the terrain becomes much more interesting again. The path becomes hilly, and as you cross the peak of O Cebreiro, you enter the region of Galicia; a green, verdant landscape with scenery and a micro-climate not unlike Wales. It was drizzly and cold - very welcomed after the scorching heat! It was seen by the ancients as the time of rebirth. The hills appear again, but by that time you are so used to walking that you barely notice them! The scenery comes back to life and for me I came out of myself, caught up with friends I had met right at the start, and began to look on, towards Santiago.

And this here is the timeless necessity of death and re-birth. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies," says Jesus, "it remains alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

The challenge here is to recognise and to rejoice in this re-birth stage. To appreciate the harvest of what seemed dead and gone. To thank God for, just like in the wonderful *Footsteps* poem, bringing us through the times when we thought we were completely alone.

I am not going to say too much about Santiago. A beautiful, ancient cathedral city. It is the end of the camino but really, I realised, it was just the beginning. The camino continues.

At the half-way point, about four days into the *meseta*, I saw a concrete bollard that was out of its base in the ground. I felt I needed to replace it, and almost the moment I did, the whole purpose of the journey fell into place for me. I was not really going to Santiago, I was coming home. But with my eyes more open than before. I felt a huge sense of accomplishment and contentment, the burdens of my previous year had slipped away. But I hadn't learnt anything more, I just recognised what I already knew.

To finish with, a few selected lines from *Little Gidding*, by T S Eliot:

*What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning
The end is where we start from...*

*... We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.*

La Voie d'Arles (GR653) out of Toulouse towards Pibrac

Victor Hill

Camino enthusiasts will know that the *Voie d'Arles* or *Via Tolosana* is the route of pilgrimage from Arles. For the most part, the way-marking is so comprehensive in France that one could almost walk the entire route without a guide book or map – though I would not recommend this. There are of course exceptions, such as the route out of Arles – a city much more concerned with bull-fighting than with pilgrimage. In fact the traditional beginning of the route at the *Alyscamp*, the Roman burial ground, is not even marked as such, or was not in 2005.

There is however, or has been until very recently, one important unwaymarked stretch of the GR653 – the missing link of the *Via Tolosana* – the route through and out of Toulouse itself. Coming into Toulouse the red and white *balises* disappear after Ramonville, at least three kilometres due south of Saint-Sernin; and leaving Toulouse is a major problem for those who want to do so on foot.

It is sad that the modern pilgrim has not been able, hitherto, to follow in the footsteps of our forbears through Toulouse given that this halt is amongst the most important for *Jacquets* on the way to Santiago. Saint-Sernin was one of the most illustrious shrines enumerated in the *Pilgrim's Guide*, offering the relics not just of the eponymous third century martyr but of countless minor holy men and the bones of no less than six apostles, including St James the Great, giving rise to *le tour des corps saints*. The crypt still contains one of the largest collections of religious artifacts to have survived the Wars of Religion and the French revolution. And on the other side of the Garonne, across the Pont Neuf, stands the Hôtel-Dieu St Jacques, the pilgrim hostel, which was one of the largest in the medieval world. The 17th - century building that one sees today is decorated with scallop shells and bears a large statue of St James over the main entrance. It now functions as a museum of medicine and municipal offices but is still rich in Compostelan associations. Moreover, Toulouse was the seat of the Dominicans and the reliquary of St Thomas Aquinas is to be found in the town. In the 12th and 13th centuries religion and pilgrimage were evidently at the centre of city life.

Nowadays Toulouse is a major commercial and industrial city, the fourth city of France with a population of over 800,000 including the extensive *agglomération* of satellite towns which have exploded in the last 25 years. Toulouse, or more accurately, Colomiers, is the home of Airbus, the largest commercial airline manufacturer in the world. Blagnac, once a quiet village, is now host to one of the busiest airports in France, though in the centre of the old town one could be almost anywhere in rural village Aquitaine.

The periphery of Toulouse has, according to your point of view, experienced rapid and extensive economic development on a massive scale, or if you prefer, wholesale destruction of a gentle, rolling, agricultural landscape. Colomiers, for example, was a sleepy parish of some 3,000 souls at the end of the Second World War, centered on the elegant *Bascule-Oratoire* of Sainte Radegonde. I have to declare an interest here. My sister and her family have lived in Colomiers and Tournefeuille for 25 years and I have been a regular visitor throughout that long period. Each time I visit I set out on my bicycle and am astonished (and saddened) by the spectacle of another swathe of abandoned farmland which has been asphalted and bedecked with suburban villas or designated as yet another industrial zone.

All this explains why the route out of Toulouse has not hitherto been considered walkable. On some maps, the line of the GR653 terminates in the centre of Toulouse and reappears at Cornebarrieu, with a variant path from Colomiers. These two "paths" merge in the woods just before Pibrac. I can now report, however, that some new waymarking has recently appeared between Saint-Sernin and Blagnac and, intermittently, between Blagnac and Cornebarrieu, and no doubt the GR653 will be fully waymarked from Saint-Sernin to Pibrac and beyond in the not-too-distant future. What follows is a description of the route from Saint-Sernin to Cornebarrieu along the GR653 which is not only waymarked with red and white *balises* but, from Cornebarrieu onwards, also with bright yellow panels supplied by the *département*. Be warned, however, if you are brave enough to do this walk, there are long stretches across a new residential development currently under construction and that the waymarking is (shall we say) incomplete and sometimes eccentric, if not downright capricious. You will benefit from an up-to-date local map and a lot of patience. What I describe below is the outcome of several forays along the route in both directions by bicycle during August 2008.

The route follows the Garonne on the right bank until just south of old Blagnac and then takes the iron bridge across the river and follows

the left bank until level with the lovely church of St Pierre, Blagnac, with its miniature copy of the spire of St Sernin.

Once over the bridge to Blagnac you make a sharp right turn down to the water's edge and follow a dirt track shaded by willows along the left bank of the Garonne until you reach the pleasant Parc des Ramiers. A reassuring waymark will prompt you left, down steps, along a gravel path and up some further steps into old Blagnac. You are waymarked right and then, at a critical juncture you are left to fend for yourself. Fear not, for all you have to do is take a left turn as soon as you see the distinctive church of St Pierre into the Place Intérieure de l'Eglise. If you are still with me you will begin to think it has been worth the effort as you might think yourself back in *la France profonde*, even though you are almost on the perimeter of a major international airport. All you have to do now, having visited the church, if it is open (and do not expect a *tampon*) is to head up the rue Levigne (high street) and the rue Pasteur.

You are now in new Blagnac and are very much confronted with the 21st century. In August 2008 what unfolded were scenes of almost indescribable roadwork chaos and traffic disruption since Blagnac, as elsewhere in France, is to be blessed by a new state-of-the-art tramway system. There is a waymark just after you cross into the rue Belisaire, which sends you right and then leaves you stranded in some kind of municipal housing estate. The key is to find the old brickworks (*la briquière*, which functioned until 1941 – all the local churches and probably Saint-Sernin were constructed with bricks made here over a period of 1,000 years). Then find your way from there to the landscaped entrance of the Parc du Ritouret which is adorned by a waymark. Before you rejoice, take heed that there are no more waymarks for over a kilometer and you have to traverse this pleasant park in a north westerly direction, partly along the edge of the lake to find the northern (unwaymarked) exit into the Avenue des Pins.

Proceed northwards along the Avenue des Pins until you reach the *patinoire* (skating rink) and then bear left up the Avenue du General de Gaulle which takes you via the Place de Catalogne to the Holiday Inn. Bear right out of the Place de la Revolution Française and up the Avenue Leonardo da Vinci until you come to the newly created and attractively landscaped Parc du Grand Noble. Here there are waymarks that direct you around the perimeter of the park through an avenue of pine trees. The underpass under the road from the Parc du Grand Noble to the green space on the northern side was, though waymarked, impassable when I made this journey, so I had to extemporise. In the

event it was not too difficult to find one's way along the edge of a small stream and then along a new cycle path until one comes to a newly constructed square with no visible name where there is an Ecole Maternelle. Bear right out of the square in the direction of the Cimetière Parc de Blagnac. I was obliged to take a narrow marked footpath at the side of the bus lane which eventually became a cycle path. You are now entering the *Zone de Développement Andromède* – a colossal housing estate on which construction has recently started that will boost the population of Blagnac by another 20,000 people.

This stretch of the route requires forbearance as it seems as if you might be gobbled up by a cement mixer at any moment, but with courage, you will find a gravel track that leads you northwards parallel to the motorway and, in time, a beautiful new hemispherical footbridge looms into view which will take you across the motorway and back into waymarked territory. Scramble up the slope and cross the pristine new bridge. You will catch sight of the gargantuan hangars of the Airbus complex which lie at the northernmost tip of Blagnac Airport. Follow the cycle path, bearing right at the intersection with a new road and the first waymark appears since the Holiday Inn. From hereon in it is pretty plain sailing, or rather plain walking, for the next five kilometres to the edge of Cornebarrieu, given the beautiful cycle path which is separated from the road (the D1) for long stretches by an ingenious kind of screen made of concrete terraces filled with earth from which wild grasses grow.

At the roundabout signed Cornebarrieu Centre, turn left down the narrow road, past an old farmhouse and then look out for the sharp hand turn down a grassy track shaded by trees that could be the route of an old railway line. After about 800 metres, this track comes to an end at a travellers' camp. On my first foray I was quickly surrounded by a gaggle of suspicious children and a disapproving matriarch roused from slumber. Instead, take a sharp left at the end of the lane and follow the waymarks along a gravel driveway across a main road and then all the way down to the Parc de Cornebarrieu where you will pick up the Aussonnelle, a pretty stream that will be your companion all the way to Pibrac.

From Pibrac the route is very comprehensively waymarked. The delights that await you on the route to come are more exquisite and numerous, as Aimery Picaud might say, than there are words to tell. But let it never more be said that the *Voie d'Arles* may not be walked every step of the way from start to finish without resort to mechanical (or miraculous) intervention.

A Different Kind of Christmas

Anne Wolf

Shortly before Christmas last year a friend my son had made during his gap year in New Zealand called by. "You were on the camino when I last heard about you. Did you finish it?" he asked. He asked in such a manner that I guessed he knew something about the route. It transpired he had attempted the Camino Francés but was one of those who went too far, too fast, with too heavy a load and he came to grief after a couple of weeks. He will have another go some day. But, whereas my own family have accepted the completion of my pilgrimage without much 'ado' he had an understanding of what I had been through.

During our Church Carol Service I whispered to my husband that it was a more intense and poignant experience than I could recall since childhood. Behind the choir there was a large wall hanging - Mary and Joseph en route to Bethlehem with a donkey in black relief against a dark blue sky - with a small village in the distance to which they were journeying. As I gazed on this during the carols I was reminded of my own journey earlier that year. As I stared at the small village in the distance I remembered countless tiny villages I had seen on countless horizons during my pilgrimage. I reflected that often when I was *very* fatigued, the village in the distance I *so badly* wanted to reach never got nearer quickly enough. And then there were the times when the *refugios* I hoped to stay in were full and I had to keep going.

I felt closer to the Christmas story - so close I experienced something of childhood awe and wonder at the familiar readings - the relief that Mary must have felt to lay herself down in a stable; the three wise men arriving at their destination. 'Oh yes, dear reader' as Jane Austen might say, 'there comes a time when a roof over your head is all that you desire'. *Oh yes!* Can't all we pilgrims just testify to that?

When I arrived in front of Santiago Cathedral in June I shed uncontrollable tears and when I looked around me I saw others similarly affected. These strong emotions caught me by surprise. Indeed, I had underestimated the elation of arriving at the place I had been trudging towards for so long... tears of joy, of weariness, of gratitude, and countless other less definable emotions. Perhaps Mary

had cried too when she reached that welcome stable?

After the Carol Service I reflected some more. I recalled some of those I had met along the way. The delights of shared moments. The kindness of others. One of my favourite questions was to ask fellow pilgrims what item they were carrying which they considered to be a luxury. It was a fascinating exercise. My own luxury was my lipstick ... others had chosen hair-driers, razors, sketch book and water colours. There was even a student carting along the entire works of Shakespeare. One woman had her husband carrying her huge vanity case full of lotions and potions - though since she wasn't carrying it herself I was never convinced *that* really counted. (I reckoned her husband was *her* luxury since he carted nearly all of her gear.)

But now I'm home again I travel through daily life with a very different luxury. A luxury which is the lightest luggage of all - the camino experience. Someone said to me one day, "You start off by embracing the idea of walking the camino. But by the end it is the camino which embraces you." Never a day passes but I don't recall some vista, or special moment, or kindness. And when I lay my head on the pillow at night I don't bother counting sheep. I often trudge off along some lonesome path through France or Spain with the sun at my back and the wind in my hair. ¡Ultreia!

Returned Pilgrims I

A Personal Perspective

John Revell

October 2004	Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire
November 2005	Ampleforth, Yorkshire
October 2006	Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire
November 2007	Ampleforth, Yorkshire
October 2008	Loughton, Essex

In continuation of the initiative established in 2004 the Confraternity this year held its Gathering for Returned Pilgrims on 18 October in the environs of Epping Forest. The venue for the day was the Methodist church in Loughton and our host was the Reverend Tony Morling, himself fresh from his conquest of the Camino Francés in the spring of this year.

The morning programme was entirely given over to a walk in Epping Forest, and in filtering autumn sunshine we were fortunate to have as our guide and mentor Dr Chris Pond who in addition to his local expertise – or perhaps as a result of it – is currently serving his twelve months (and his community) as Mayor of Loughton. If, by the time one o'clock came, we were not acknowledged experts on pollarding and coppicing and Iron Age forts and lost-and-found ponds it was through no fault of Dr Chris's. A friend of mine recently offered a new perspective on autumn by describing the feeling of fallen leaves at ankle level as like walking through cornflakes; and our leafy progress through Epping Forest was enhanced by occasional glimpses of county folk from the Victorian era – gentlemen suitably side-whiskered and ladies in long frocks giving us an amiable "good-day" as we passed. This experience of a retreat into history turned out to be a rehearsal of an annual re-enactment by students from the University of Essex of the saving of the forest in 1878 when the present 6,000 acres were acquired by the City of London.

After such a varied morning our shared lunch back in Loughton was readily consumed and it was noticeable that plates of *chorizo*, alpine-cured ham and Basque cheese went down with relish. Later in the afternoon our reflections in church were led by minister Tony in visual form with a screened kaleidoscope of colour from the Camino

Francés and accompanying words ranging from the humorous to the profound. In an attempt to recapture this range I recall how Tony set the scene with his departure from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port on 1 April (the proto-type *poisson d'avril* as the villagers on the French side of the Pyrenees would have seen him) with his newly christened sleeping bag. The christening/baptism/whatever of the said bag (Tony chose his words with great delicacy) was performed by a stray cat who found refuge while Tony was absent from the dormitory; feline comfort and relaxation knew no bounds and the cat gave vent to an appreciative outburst without let or hindrance. Tony drew a veil over how he coped with the aftermath, but the cut and thrust of his message was that after such an auspicious start the camino could only get better. And – as we all agreed – it always does.

Fifteen of us were present at the afternoon service – the majority were newer members of the Confraternity – and most of us contributed in one way or another to the continuity of thought. Prior to the formal (but not too formal) service Marion Marples led a round-table discussion (without the table!) focussed on the thought of hospitality on the camino, and the theme of what-comes-next? Somehow the two strands fused together from the immediate past to the eloquent present in that Tony's experience on the camino earlier in the year translated itself into the hospitality which he was extending to us at that moment. And later as we left he provided the supreme example of a follower of the servant-king as he took to the vacuum cleaner with devotion to see off the last of the *bocadillo* crumbs and the cheese fragments.

It would be fitting to finish with that mind's eye picture of the ministering pilgrim/pilgrimining minister but I can't resist a further closing thought. Some of us finished the day with a happy hour at the Wheatsheaf, just off Loughton High Road. I have a vague feeling that our *Bulletin* Editor, gazing soulfully at the late afternoon sun glinting on her glass of red, murmured something about a theme for future editions; was it possibly to do with Paws and Claws on the Camino? Time will tell.

Returned Pilgrims II

Pippin the Pilgrim?

Maureen Measure

I went to the returned pilgrim meeting at Loughton Methodist Church on 18 October. After a beautiful walk in Epping Forest, with the sun shining on the autumn leaves we shared a lunch in the church hall. Then we sat in a circle to share our experiences and reminiscences. We moved into the church and during the service I read out the following short extract from JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of The Rings*.

...The day's march promised to be warm and tiring work. After some miles, however, the road ceased to roll up and down: it climbed to the top of a steep bank in a weary zig-zagging sort of way, and then prepared to go down for the last time. In front of them they saw the lower lands dotted with small clumps of trees that melted away in the distance to a brown woodland haze...The road wound away before them like a piece of string.

'The road goes on for ever,' said Pippin; 'but I can't without a rest. It is high time for lunch.' He sat down on the bank at the side of the road and looked away east into the haze, beyond which lay the River, and the end of the Shire in which he had spent all his life. Sam stood by him. His round eyes were wide open – for he was looking across lands he had never seen to a new horizon...Frodo was silent. He too was gazing eastward along the road, as if he had never seen it before. Suddenly he spoke, aloud but as if to himself, saying slowly:

*The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the door where it began
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with weary feet,
Until it joins some larger way,*

*Where many paths and errands meet,
And whither then? I cannot say.*

‘That sounds like a bit of old Bilbo’s rhyming,’ said Pippin. ‘Or is it one of your imitations? It does not sound altogether encouraging.’

This is in Chapter 3 of the first book, when Frodo, Sam and Pippin are leaving the Shire at the start of their long journey. You may remember that Pippin and his friend Merry are the light-hearted element to contrast with Frodo’s and Sam’s serious mission. They are incautious and are often told off by Gandalf. When Gandalf reprimands Pippin, as in the case where he drops a stone down a shaft in the Mines of Mordor and disturbs something unspeakably dark and evil, he calls Pippin by his formal name – Mr *Peregrin* Took.

Peregrin? Is this one of Tolkien’s many cultural references? Are there any Tolkien scholars in CSJ who might enlighten us?

Returned Pilgrims III

Carla the Pilgrim

John Revell

The art of story-telling reached a high peak at the Confraternity's 2004 Annual Meeting when Hazel Bradley captivated her listeners so much that they pleaded for more. In the same vein, but with rather less flair, I would like to think that the tale I told later in 2004, and again at the Gathering for Returned Pilgrims in October of this year, was a worthy successor. It is the story of a pilgrim from the Netherlands named Carla and what happened to her in Retjons on the Vézelay route. The village of Retjons is the first staging post as you enter the French area of the Landes. In many cases the routes in the Landes follow the line of railways of long ago – so in addition to the echoes of pilgrim footsteps from the Middle Ages you might also hear an occasional whistle down the line from forty years ago. I was in Retjons in September of 2004 and for me it is memorable for two reasons. Firstly it has a sizeable resident population of man-eating mosquitoes. The insect spray is located on a high shelf just inside the entrance door of the refuge so that you don't really find it until the morning after the night before. But secondly at Retjons you find in the golden book at the refuge the story of Carla. The story was originally written in French and then translated into English with one or two minor blemishes which only serve to enhance the story. In its way Carla's experience is a defining one which I think helps all of us who walk the way to pinpoint what we are about and what we hope to find. It runs like this:

*Once upon a time... in October some time... on a road
in les Landes...*

Carla dropped her rucksack more than she let it down. She was worn out. She had left La Haye (which in her own language she would call Den Haag and we in English The Hague) seventy days earlier, walking at the pilgrim's pace towards Santiago which seemed so far away. But once she had crossed the River Garonne, she

had walked for too long at a time, and she was exhausted and ill with an unbearable pain in the knee. Providence was there to lead her to Retjons, in an ultimate effort. And when she was ready to give up, she unexpectedly finds in this isolated village not only a place where to rest peacefully but also a friendly welcome and hospitality she had never met all along the two thousand kilometres she had previously walked. Many are those who spontaneously try to communicate with her in spite of the obstacle of the language, to give help, compassion and support.

As she needed time to recover and be able to resume her pilgrimage Carla started sculpting a shell on a block of stone which had been generously provided. Some other people managed to find the necessary tools, whereas at the same time others initiate her to local life and traditions. But Carla is the happiest when sculpting in the school covered playground surrounded by the children. By the time she finished her masterpiece, she had recovered enough strength to be able to leave. Tomorrow is the day of departure. During the night, and as a surprise, the block she had just finished sculpting was erected at the crossroads in the village square. When she arrived the following morning and saw it already standing there she started crying. Her tears were of gratitude: there had been mutual forbearance and respect.

Carla arrived in Santiago on 17 December. We can be sure she had had a thought for us all, we who live in “such a small village but peopled with great men” as she used to say.

Some Medieval Pilgrims to Santiago

John Hopkins

The twelfth century was the golden age of English pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The first known pilgrim was Ansgot of Burwell in Lincolnshire who returned some time between 1093 and 1123; at the same period, Richard Mauleverer went from Yorkshire. St Godric of Finchale, former pedlar, sailor, merchant and possibly pirate, visited Santiago en route from Jerusalem. In the mid-twelfth century, Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester, Abbot of Glastonbury and a brother of King Stephen, made a pilgrimage. Matilda, daughter of Henry I, went to Compostella in 1125 and was said to have been given a hand of St James as a relic for Reading Abbey, which house she made the centre of the Santiago cult in England.

It is possible that close ties with France and the influence of the Cluniac order facilitated English pilgrimage to Galicia by land, though the direct sea route seems to have been popular too. The murder of Becket in 1170, and his subsequent canonisation, made Canterbury a major shrine for English pilgrims, but for those wanting a more demanding experience, Santiago, Rome and Jerusalem remained prime goals. Henry II vowed to go to Santiago as a penance after 1170 and requested a safe conduct from Ferdinand II, King of León, though Henry never in fact went.

The Archbishop of York in 1222 and the Bishop of Worcester in 1271 both journeyed to Compostella. In 1283, a priest of Chichester was ordered by the Archbishop of Canterbury to travel to Santiago as a penance. After a conviction for adultery, Mabel de Boclande was given the choice around 1330 of making a pilgrimage to Galicia or enduring six floggings.

A charter recorded in a Duchy of Lancasteroucher book (held at the Public Record Office in Kew, ref DL 42/2) records a gift by Ranulph II, Earl of Chester, of Wattleia (is this present day Wheatley, in Nottinghamshire?) to his elder half-brother, William Roumare,

Earl of Lincoln, on the latter's return from pilgrimage to Santiago – “...redivit de itinere sancti Iacobi apostoli in crastina die post festum sancte Crucis, quod celebrantur mense Septembri...” He returned from his trip to Santiago the day after the feast of the Holy Cross, which is celebrated on 15 September. There are transcripts of this deed in the Harleian MSS, Lansdowne MSS, Dugdale MSS, Rawlinson MSS and Towneley MSS.

William had been made Earl of Lincoln in 1140 or 1141 and had an active political and military career. *The Complete Peerage* states that his pilgrimage was in 1152 or 1153, without giving any reason or source. Geoffrey Barraclough argued that “this suggestion has little to recommend it”. Judging from the witnesses to the charters, and what we know of their active years, William's pilgrimage may have been some years earlier. One witness, Robert Grevesac, is not known of after 1146.

Waleran of Meulan, Earl of Worcester from about 1138, is known to have been to Santiago in 1144 or 1145 - he announced his intention in a charter relating to Bec in Normandy and referred to his pilgrimage (*peregrinacio*) in an order issued to the sheriff of Worcestershire. *The Complete Peerage* suggests that it “might not be fanciful to suggest that Earl William went at the same time”. Waleran went on a crusade in 1147 to 1149, surviving a shipwreck off southern France. He was a benefactor to several West Midlands religious foundations, such as Worcester Cathedral, Gloucester Abbey and Leominster Priory in Herefordshire.

In Herefordshire, there developed in the twelfth century a fine school of church decoration. Rivalries among Norman marcher or border lords may have prompted competition to build impressive churches in the new style and to impose the new regime and develop its cultural credentials. At Wigmore, Lord Hugh Mortimer appointed as his chief steward Oliver de Merlimond who supervised work on several churches in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire. After major works were planned at Brinsop and Shobdon, Oliver “had the great wish to undertake a pilgrimage to Saint James and entrusted to a knight, Bernard, all the responsibility for the work with the necessary funds”, according to the chronicle of Wigmore Abbey. He made his pilgrimage in 1139 (R Trubshaw's website says it was made in 1130) and probably returned via western France as he is known to have stayed en route at the abbey of St Victor in Paris, from where two canons were sent to assist in the consecration of Shobdon church. It

is likely that he had gone to Santiago with a sculptor to make sketches of the stone carvings at the cathedral, or brought some sculptors back with him to Herefordshire.

At the Romanesque masterpiece of Kilpeck in the southern part of the county, some of the chancel arch figures bear a strong resemblance to forms in the Puerta de las Platerias at Santiago Cathedral. Uwe Geese, however, saw any strong influences here as being “largely drowned out by the decorative idiom of the English Romanesque, and little can be established of their provenance”. However, he cites Bredekamp’s view that the sheela-na-gig at Frómista was the inspiration for that at Oliver’s church at Kilpeck, and that Oliver probably saw the Spanish carving on his journey. Kilpeck’s carvings are in fact not typically Norman - there are Celtic and Norse influences and the style has pagan elements and uses plant forms. A juggler figure on the stringcourse at Kilpeck is similar to several carvings in France and Spain. De Merlimond founded several St James’s churches in Herefordshire. There are about ten in the county, mostly in the east. It remains one of the finest areas in England for enjoying twelfth century church architecture and sculpture. It is a happy thought that a Santiago pilgrimage may have inspired this.

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Hardy, Field Workers and Pilgrims

Chris Masters

Some four generations ago, in *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, Thomas Hardy created a work in which there was “a strange sympathy between Tess and her world” with “no separation between what the characters feel and the setting in which they feel it”.

These words, from the critic A Alvarez, are to me resonant of my modern experience of pilgrimage, in which my main preoccupation has been to link myself physically and spiritually with the landscapes through which I travel. Hardy seems to believe that the female is better able to achieve this connection than the male. Of the field workers of the 19th century he says, “A field man is a personality afield; a field woman is a portion of the field; she has somehow lost her own margin, imbibed the essence of her surrounding, and assimilated herself with it.”

That we should respond to the difficulties or pleasures imposed by the landscape and climate whilst travelling out in the open is obvious but the suggestion is that there is potentially a deeper, more soulful connection available to us. Maybe Hardy felt the woman achieved this more easily because instead of setting herself against the land, she allowed herself to be absorbed into it; earth being a female element, not a male one.

Yet the business of allowing ourselves to be absorbed by our surroundings is not the only thing that qualifies us as pilgrims. The man who takes, for example, magic mushrooms, may surrender himself to the moment, merge himself with his surroundings, without having any particular destination in mind. While a specific sacred destination seems to be a prerequisite of pilgrimage it is arguable that many of the same goals may be achieved by simply “wandering with God”. So, what are, and what have been, the reasons for pilgrimage?

Pilgrimage, like the crusades, often had the purpose of asserting its version of Christianity in a region which had been or was under threat from another religion; perhaps Catharism, or later Protestantism which didn't believe in it, or Islam which did but its own version. Considerations of the afterlife were highly relevant of course, but I doubt that much was said about merging mind and body with

landscape, although it doubtless happened.

Nowadays, we are unlikely to be looking to assert our religion or secure the afterlife, we are more likely to be hoping to better understand ourselves by setting ourselves this particular arduous task, this physical journey. We may also be looking to conserve a tradition from the past, which will involve recognising and enjoying, perhaps paying a kind of tribute to, the landscapes, art and architecture of the route. It may be that the modern pilgrim doesn't want to feel superior to the tourist yet is uncomfortable with the idea of seeing himself as one, and hopes to add something more to the idea of unity of person and place in the form of spiritual and symbolic components, so that his or her journey becomes a more complete work or story. The truly sacred nature of this journey may be achieved by this sense of completeness, or perhaps the sense that it fits well into the grander scheme of things, forming part of a satisfactory and illuminating pattern. If this sense of completeness is to be achieved then the nature of the return becomes vitally important, for the final destination is home, not the point of pilgrimage. Once home, the pilgrim may start to consider his next journey, hoping to add something to the first, or maybe improve upon it. Hence the journey may become something like a work of art, perhaps with good fortune acquiring a sacred quality.

The fascination of this for me is that I find I can always add another layer to what I have written, or express it in a slightly different way, in the same way that I can always add to my journeys.

I wonder if unifying person and place is a necessary first step in the process; must we first take to the road, walk until we become the road and then introduce prayer or meditation (or even expect to it to happen automatically)? Or will the latter come before the former? Then, what of our understanding of the history, traditions and symbolic elements? These surely involve some preparation and study before we embark. The man-made objects, principally architecture and sculpture, much of which are closer to folk art than religious art, are to me a perennial source of interest having their own symbolic meanings; a relevant part of the belief system behind the pilgrimage, part of its history, part of its wealth. Finally, what of the human encounters; for many pilgrims a vital part of the experience leading to a greater understanding and appreciation of pilgrimage? These may be the most random, least predictable and most rewarding experiences of all.

The Great Shield of Mesía (Galicia)

May 1999 to August 2008

Patricia Quaife

One wet May morning of the 1999 Holy Year, the Confraternity walking pilgrims (who had started in Ferrol) made their way by bus and on foot from Ordenes to Hospital de Bruma, a tiny but important village on the Camino Inglés. They had hoped to meet up there the day before with the sailing pilgrims who were coming by boat from Fowey (Cornwall) to the pilgrim port of La Coruña. But bad weather and bad luck had delayed the sailors so much that they had had to put in to Santander instead, so the planned reunion in Bruma could not take place.

Throughout their pilgrimage the Ferrol walkers had been greeted warmly and given receptions and small gifts by local Galician mayors and musicians. A civic reception had been planned at Bruma by three of the local mayors to celebrate the reunion of the sailors and the walkers. On hearing the change of plan two of the mayors, quite understandably, pulled out but the mayor of Mesía, the *concello* area in which Hospital de Bruma is situated, decided that he would go ahead, despite the appalling weather and the non-appearance of the sea pilgrims.

When we arrived at the village, soaked to the skin from walking there from Mesón do Vento, it was a great relief to find the little chapel of San Lourenzo open and ready to receive us, along with a TV crew from the *Voz de Galicia's* video unit, Emilio and Escravitud, the chapel keyholders who live next door (in the former hospital itself), the Mayor of Mesía and his deputy and a group of Galician *gaiteros* with their instruments. Another visitor was a long-standing local CSJ member, Magdalena Stork de Yepes who had come with her husband Valeriano and her Bruma friend Alicia, the aunt of Escravitud.

Inside the chapel the Mayor welcomed us very warmly, gave us a brief history of the area (much fought over in the past) and then presented me with a fine wooden shield bearing the coat of arms of Mesía. Handsome, but oh so heavy – there was no way we could carry the shield on to Santiago in our rucksacks. Luckily Magdalena came to the rescue and offered to transport it home in her car, an offer which

I accepted with alacrity.

I have to confess that in the nine years that have elapsed since that day I have not given much thought to the shield of Mesía. But thanks to Magdalena again, and with my blessing, the shield has now, in the autumn of 2008, returned to Hospital de Bruma to the care of Alicia, a Bruma resident and a most appropriate recipient and guardian of it.

When Magdalena wrote in August mentioning this possibility, she also enclosed the gracious typed note from the Mayor which had been presented along with the shield. It reads:

Es para nosotros un honor, recibir en nuestras tierras a este grupo de peregrinos, que empujados por la fe, cruzaron mares y caminos, con la ilusión de postrarse ante el sepulcro de Santiago Apóstol, al que llama su himno, el amigo del Señor.

Son Ustedes hoy, con su presencia, los continuadores y herederos, de aquellos antepasados suyos que siglo tras siglo, venían a Compostela. Era grande su mérito, y era grande su premio, aumentado éste, cuando en el año 1119, el Papa Calixto II, creó el Año Santo Compostelano, que es aquel, en el que la Festividad del Apóstol, coincide en Domingo, y que como el iobel hebreo, al que recordaba, era el año del gran perdón.

Les deseamos una estancia feliz, en esta Galicia, que les recibe con los brazos abiertos.

So if next spring or summer you find yourself in Hospital de Bruma and see an elderly lady in or near the chapel of San Lourenzo, do ask her if she is Alicia – I'm sure she will be delighted to show you the great shield of Mesía.

Report on VIII Congreso Internacional in Zaragoza

23-26 October 2008

Marion Marples and William Griffiths



Laurie Dennett participates in the *mesa redonda*

The Congress was held in the grand surroundings of the headquarters of the Government of Aragón and the former building of the Faculty of Science and Medicine of Zaragoza University. It was organised by the *Federación de Asociaciones of the Amigos del Camino de Santiago*.

The first paper by Professor Giovanni Cherubini and Professor Robert Plötz dealt with the early history of the pilgrimage. This was followed by a *Mesa Redonda* - Round Table - with a theme of *Espacio de Encuentros* - for representatives of the Cathedral, the Associations and the Federation. It was chaired by Don Angel Luis Barreda, the President of the Federation and Laurie Dennett was invited to speak at the last moment (due to the non-arrival of the expected contributor) about the CSJ and the work at Rabanal and Miraz. Her exposition of the many encounters that take place at the refuges - between pilgrims and *hospitaleros* and in particular with the people living along the way drew warm applause. Don Jenaro Cebrián, canon in charge of the Pilgrim office since 2006, spoke about its work of welcoming pilgrims

and issuing the famous *compostela*.

The second major session was delivered by Professors Vicente Bielza and Andres Precedo of the University of Santiago - *The ways of looking at the camino have changed*. In the 1960s it was seen as a religious and national phenomenon. In 1982 the Pope's visit built up the European dimension and in 1987 the cultural aspects were developed by the designation of the route by UNESCO as the first European Cultural Itinerary. By the 1993 Holy Year the cultural and religious aspects were both prominent as there was an explicit marketing campaign. And the network of refuges began to develop. In 1999 and 2000 there were increased numbers of pilgrims and by 2004 the focus began to be on other new routes. The professors produced figures to show that villages on the camino are becoming depopulated at a slower rate than other villages.

The Round Table on *albergues* which followed this was rather bad-tempered. Manuel Fuente, a representative from the Government of Castilla y León outlined the new regulations for *albergues*; some private refuge owners felt that they were being prevented from fulfilling their useful role.

The third major session was on *The Cultural Heritage of Aragón* and dealt mainly with the historic monuments on the 165km route from the Somport to Puente la Reina. The building of the Yesa reservoir and the removal from village churches of large quantities of wall paintings to Jaca and Barcelona still leaves plenty for the pilgrim to enjoy, especially at Ruesta and the Hermitage of St John, Undués, Sangüesa and Eunate. Shorter papers followed, including a detailed study of the monastery of Sta Susana de Maella, 120km downstream on the Ebro valley route.

Next came *The Spiritual Dimension of the Camino* given by Dr Gonzalo Tejerina Arias from the Pontifical University of Salamanca; we hope to have a translation of his paper for the *Bulletin* in due course.

The morning ended with a moving audio-visual compilation of photographs, music and poetry by Kuni Bahnen, lately Secretary of the *Deutsche-Sankt-Jakobus-Gesellschaft*.

In the evening there were talks by Vicente Malabia and Carmen Pugliese about modern pilgrims. Don Vicente spoke about how the inner life of pilgrims has changed over the years and Carmen Pugliese, known to many through her work on the refuge at Torres del Rio, discussed the perennial question 'who is a pilgrim?' In her opinion it had nothing to do with distance walked or weight carried or means

of going, but to do with motivation. She has just launched a new magazine called *El Camino de Santiago*, to come out six times a year to cover news of pilgrim interest and concern.

The final lecture was *Los Santos en el Camino de Santiago: Espiritualidad, Hagiografía e Iconografía* given by Wilfredo Rincon of the *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*. He distinguished the saints of the camino eg Santo Domingo de la Calzada and San Juan de Ortega from the saints *on* the camino eg San Genadio, San Morando, Santa Bona, Santa Brigita etc. The stories of the saints are examples of living faith to inspire pilgrims on the way.

Zaragoza itself is known for the great pilgrimage devotion of *Nuestra Señora del Pilar*. The basilica faces on to a magnificent rectangular 'square', closed at each end by modern water features and had been recently cleaned ready for the 2008 EXPO. Tradition has it that St James and his disciples, discouraged in their evangelising of Spain, had a vision of the Virgin Mary descending on a jasper column. The column, now surmounted by a small statue, is at the heart of the basilica. It is sometimes described as the first Marian shrine. The steady stream of Spanish pilgrims, young and old, attested to her continuing popularity. We noticed that there is a daily timetable for the passing of children, before the age of First Communion, under the mantle worn by the Virgin. You have to look behind the chapel in order to see the special opening through which one can venerate the column.

The conference closed with a Mass celebrated in the *Basilica del Pilar* for which the Bishop of Huesca and Jaca presided and preached. He reminded us that the camino had the power to draw us out of ourselves and not simply our homes and daily routines. This allows us to hope in something greater than ourselves - the love and mercy of God. The conference drew to a close with a farewell meal, for which we were joined by pilgrims who had come from Barcelona and who sang pilgrim songs in Catalan.



Basilica del Pilar, Zaragoza

The Mantegna St James in Islington

A Restoration Appeal

William Griffiths

FATHER-KING : The most beautiful images of St James were painted by Mantegna at Padua.

GIACOMINO : When can we go to see them ?

FATHER-KING : They were destroyed !

GIACOMINO : It's always like that. First they're made, then they're unmade.

FATHER-KING : But, in this case, between making and unmaking, photography was invented...

GIACOMINO : A prolongation of the internal sense of memory !

FATHER-KING : So, the images of Mantegna survive in photographs, and are reproduced in many books.

GIACOMINO : Will you buy me one ?

FATHER-KING : Certainly, when you're a little older.

(From the opera "Compostella" by Peter Serracino Ingloft and Charles Camilleri).

Everyone knows that Mantegna's cycle of paintings of the Life and Legend of St James, painted in 1451 in the Church of the Emeritani, Padua, was almost totally destroyed by bombing in World War II, but can still be seen in pre-war photographs (one such book is in the Confraternity's Library). Less well known is the fact that London has a painted copy of one of the cycle, "St James baptizing the repentant sorcerer Hermogenes", in the Catholic Church of St John the Evangelist, 39 Duncan Terrace, Islington, N1 8AL. The church, built in 1843 by the architect J.J. Scoles in Romanesque style (earning the wrath of Pugin who wanted it Gothic) has a baptistery chapel on the right as one enters. Besides the font there are three paintings which allude to the Sacrament of Baptism : one of the Baptism of Jesus, one of the Raising of Lazarus, and the third is the Mantegna copy. The church also contains a statue of St James, with shell and staff, which once formed part of a Transfiguration group.

The Church of St John deserves to be visited by many of our

members. (From Angel Underground station, turn right, right and left. The strip of garden in front of the church covers the New River, that once brought water to London from Hertfordshire). It also deserves our support. The church, badly decayed, is conducting a restoration appeal, and you will see when you visit what wonders have already been achieved. There are also excellent informative displays and leaflets available. The cost of restoration of the baptistery chapel is £25,293. The restoration of the St James painting will cost £3,653.

Your Committee voted unanimously in July to send a small contribution of £250 to this important work. Please send your individual contributions, made out to "Church of St John Restoration Appeal" to the aptly named Parish Priest, Fr Howard James, at the address above. For further information, ring 020 7226 3277 or email islington@rcdow.org.uk.

*"Between making and unmaking, photography was invented ...
and so was the art of the copyist... in Islington... if we preserve it."*

Book Reviews

Ich bin dann mal weg: Meine Reise auf dem Jakobsweg

Hans Peter Kerkeling, Piper Verlag, Munich 2006

ISBN 978 3 89029 312 7, 346 pp hardback, £21.56

This book, whose position as Germany's No 1 bestseller was reported in 2008, is likely to be published in English in 2009 with the same reported title of *I'm off for a bit then*.

The author is an extremely well-known comedian and television personality. Germans will know him as a *promi*, while British readers do not know him as a *celeb*. He will therefore strike them differently from his original audience.

These differences show up particularly on two matters: German humour and German attitudes to cleanliness. The author's form of humour is to find something to say which is obviously silly and still say it. So the photograph caption "Who might doubt the existence of St Jean-Pied-de-Port?" is not a musing on the start of his journey but a reference to a booking clerk who failed to find it in her timetable. Cleanliness is gone into at great length. The caption to his Pamplona picture records that he became "one who leaves without paying his score" in protest at an unsavoury dish of tuna.

He makes much of the discomfort caused to his knees and how he consoled himself by staying in guest houses and using train, bus and hitch-hiking for a quarter of the journey. One night in the *refugio* at Santo Domingo de la Calzada produces a comic lament, though the early exit which led to being trapped between the inner and outer exit doors must count as a genuine trauma.

The narrative takes a serious turn "somewhere in nowhere beyond León" and then on the approach to Rabanal del Camino. It almost becomes a joint production with "Anne from Liverpool in the FC-Barcelona T-Shirt" and Sheelagh from New Zealand. "Nowhere" is where he encounters what he variously describes as Love, the Self and God. This emerges from his existing religious position, "a kind of Buddhist with Christian superstructure". Anne turns out to have studied under a Rinpoche with the Dalai Lama at Daramsala. The three journey together from Rabanal to Santiago, having decided that Rabanal, Nepal and Tibet are much the same place.

They travel with a system of "night shift pilgrimage" whereby one person goes ahead, overcoming the horrors of high season by

early morning bookings. There are also three acts of dog liberation, culminating in the endowment of a place in an animal refuge for a dog found tied up.

The photographs, made with a disposable camera, are a pilgrim's eye view of the camino at its best and its most demanding.

To read this book is like going on an extra pilgrimage - fascinating and totally different.

EVAN RUTHERFORD

Once is not Enough

Barbara Cameron, Black Isle publication, Black Isle 2008

ISBN 978 1 905787 13 5, 153pp, pbk £8.00

This book is very interesting for anyone who has walked camino routes or been a warden. Also it would be very informative for a pilgrim 'wanting to give something back' by becoming a warden.

I was impressed by the number of occasions Barbara Cameron has acted as a *hospitalera* and by her tact during numerous events. The book gives a very good idea of the joys and trials to be met during this duty. It brought back keen memories of my own experience in sharing unorthodox meals with pilgrims met along the road. Don't read the book when hungry unless you have a store cupboard with ingredients so that you may try the recipes.

I also remember the generosity of local people, for instance when the priest of Belorado came in with a basket full of cherries donated by a parishioner. That hostel features in this book.

The last half of the book was read in one sitting as I was wanting to see if Barbara Cameron introduced anyone I had met and she did mention many of the 'camino characters'.

For me the overall result of her account was to arouse a desire to walk the camino again and experience the changes that have occurred since 1995 when I completed my pilgrimage on the Camino Francés. Barbara wrote this account to raise money for her church of St Andrew's, Fortrose, and in this I wish her all success. It has a map and numerous colour photographs. It is very well produced, my only criticism being that one has to hunt for the pictures referred to by the text as the page numbers under the photos do not always refer to the correct page.

CHRISTINE PLEASANTS

Members' Pages

From Vincent Kelly

I have seen a "pub" game played in the Maragateria which consists of pitching round metal (lead) discs at the top of a table (obviously of very sturdy construction) which is fitted with "hooded" and numbered holes. I wonder if any members have seen this game and, if so, do they have any photographs of the game in progress? It is known as *La Rana* because the "hood" of the highest value is in the shape of a frog. The successful discs fall through into a drawer in the table-top which is divided into correspondingly numbered sections thus facilitating the calculation of the score when the drawer is pulled out.

From Gosia Brykczynska



I know Marigold Fox writes wonderful guide-books, especially from Arles, but I did not realise she already has a street named after her!

From Joe Patterson

A PILGRIMAGE TO ROME FROM THE SOUTH

In December 2007 the *Bulletin* kindly published an invitation from my friend Alberto Alberti in Italy to join him and others on a pilgrimage walk from Formia to Rome. He has now published details of his proposed walk for 2009. On this occasion the walk will start at Castelforte/Scaura on 15 April 2009. Overnight stops will be at Minturno, Formia, Terracina, Fossanova, Sezze, Bassiano, Sermoneta, Cori, Velletri, Castel Gandolfo to enter Rome on the evening of 28 April 2009. Accommodation is in hotels, convents etc and luggage will be transported for you. Interested? Then email me or Alberto (he speaks English) for further details. Joe Patterson pilgrim2001@uwclub.net or Alberto Alberti ro_albea@hotmail.com

From Dave Jones

I would like to thank all those who attended the Tapas Lunch on a surprisingly sunny afternoon on 23 November. I feel it was a great success which raised almost £200 towards the Miraz Appeal. We must give special thanks to Geoff and Edwina Rees for a fantastic

tapas meal which they cooked and paid for themselves and also gave an excellent slide show and talk on their pilgrimage to Santiago. So thank you Geoff and Edwina for your hard work and generosity. Colin Jones gave an update on the Miraz Refuge and the forthcoming coach pilgrimage to Santiago in May 2009.

From John Hatfield

Planning to give a talk about your pilgrimage? Why not use the CSJ slide library to help you?

Did you know that the CSJ's growing collection of over 3300 slides, available to UK members, covers not only the Camino Francés, but also the other main routes in France and Spain.?

Please give at least a month's notice so that a catalogue can be sent to you and your choice made. As soon as I hear from you, I can reserve the slides and dispatch them two weeks before your talk. I can be contacted at: 9 Vicary Way, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0EJ; Tel: 01622 757814

From John Revell

FACT OR FICTION?

US member Margaret Brown has sent a copy of her Canadian-published book *A Pilgrimage Story* as a gift to the Confraternity Library. Her story takes the form of a fictionalised account of a pilgrimage on foot from Roncesvalles to Santiago; and as one of the first CSJ members to read it on this side of the Atlantic I confess to a temptation to draw a dividing line between acknowledged fiction and implied fact. The fictional backbone of the story is a marriage in midlife malaise – kids grown up and erstwhile committed parents thrown back on their own resources – and so, let's try the camino as a reconciliation exercise. So far, so fictional. But the unwinding tale is told against a backdrop of pilgrims met along the way (described in minute detail) coupled with conversations shared and meals consumed. Which takes precedence – the fact or the fiction? And in the early stages of the narrative the reader could be forgiven a furtive hope that the disaffected might resolve their inner tensions by following their own separate paths for a while as an antidote to the conjugal cold war of silences and misgivings. An added incentive (or disincentive?) to a prospective reader might be an assurance that the book contains no references to ley lines or mythical companions of the psyche. It is a solid narrative with a beginning, a middle and an end.

CSJ Pilgrim Record requests 2009

Doreen Hansen

If you are planning your pilgrimage around **3 – 23 April 2009** please apply as soon as possible in the New Year. I intend to be in Canada for Easter, and so will be unable to respond to requests between those dates. Giving me at least 28 days notice for a Pilgrim Record (PR) always means you will not be disappointed. In 2008, I issued 650 Pilgrim Records – thank you to all those members who were organised well ahead. Please do not apply until you have ‘paid up’ your membership dues for 2009. This is always checked. Pilgrim Records are only issued to paid-up members and it takes 5 -7 days for the payment to be processed.

The only details I need (printed clearly) are:

- your name, and the names of anyone else travelling with you / joining you
- your membership number (including I/J)
- the location of the actual start of the pilgrimage (e.g. ‘Sarria’)
- your month of departure

Postage

- do check the postage costs for the return of your PR/s with the CSJ website
- send a SAE size A5, A4 if for 4 or more PRs - stamped with the correct postage
- Reminder - if you send an A5 or larger envelope to me, the postage costs increase and I do not pay excess postage, under-stamped envelopes are returned to you 3-4 weeks later by the Post Office

For overseas members the details of requesting a PR are available on the website, all the above notes apply other than those for envelope size and postage.

Send requests for PR to: Doreen Hansen (CSJ PR) 1, Kingscote Close, Cheltenham Gloucestershire, GL51 6JU, UK

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

New Honorary President

We are delighted that the new Spanish Ambassador in London, H E Carles Casajuana, has accepted our invitation to be Honorary President of the CSJ. He notes that the CSJ 'represents a remarkable link between Spain and the United Kingdom' and he hopes to be present at our Annual Meeting in January. He has been posted to Bolivia, Philippines, USA and Malaysia in his diplomatic career and he has also published a number of novels.

Pilgrimage on the Northern Route and to Miraz

Colin Jones is leading a pilgrimage from Tuesday 12 to Tuesday 19 May along the Camino del Norte from Oviedo to Santiago, following the north coast to Ribadeo, visiting Mondoñedo and Miraz to stay for 3 nights at the monastery of Sobrado. The price is £739pp in a shared room. Please see booking information under CSJ Events.

New CSJ Publications

Eric Fernie's Storrs Lecture 2006 *The Four Routes to Spain and the Architecture of the Pilgrimage* is now published as CSJ Occasional Paper no 9, price £5, available by post (UK 52p/42p) or through the online Bookshop.

Pilgrim Guides to Spain

As an experiment we are making new Guides 7. Camino Inglés and 5. Camino Portugués downloadable from the CSJ website as well as in hard copy editions. Those downloading are invited to make a donation to CSJ. The Camino Francés 2009 will be available in January 2009 in hard copy only.

New Initiative by French Associations

A group of French associations are planning to restore the church of St John the Baptist at Villalbal, just before Burgos, for use as a refuge with small oratory. Anyone interested in helping in any way is asked to contact jean.derrey@free.fr or mikaeli.redregoo@free.fr

Website Developments

The occasion of the 25th Anniversary Service and Galician Lunch was a good opportunity to arrange a meeting with Ivar Revke, who runs the website *www.pilgrimage-to-santiago.com* and Piers Nicholson who runs *www.santiago-compostela.net* to see how the links between the sites could be strengthened. Happily, the sites are complementary in many ways. The CSJ site has information on all routes and the resources of the Bookshop and the Library. Piers's site has pictures of all the routes and Ivar's site has a strong pilgrim discussion forum. Each webmaster has increased the number of links between the sites, particularly on the information pages, so, for instance, pilgrims asking questions in the Pilgrim Forum can now link directly to the CSJ bookshop to buy our Guides. And those wanting to know about the terrain or difficulty can check Picture Pages.

Advance Notice

To celebrate their 25th anniversary the Flemish Confraternity of Santiago de Compostela is holding an International Conference in Belgium on the weekend of 30 -31 October 2010. The themes will be

- 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.

Valiña Prize 2008



Picture from
www.santiago-compostela.net

We are pleased to record that the annual Valiña prize awarded by the Xunta de Galicia has been won by the Refuge in Fuenterroble de Salvatierra on the Via de la Plata. The parish priest D Blas has worked tirelessly, with the help of pilgrims and others, to build the refuge and restore the parish church of Santa Maria la Blanca. The village is just under halfway between Seville (464km) and Santiago (536km) and 50km south of Salamanca.

Anniversary hymn

Cards of James Cruickshank's hymn which was written to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the CSJ and which is printed for the first time in this *Bulletin*, will be made available for a small *donativo* at the CSJ office and during the 2009 AGM, with proceeds going towards the Miraz Appeal. We are extremely grateful to James for writing the hymn and look forward to singing it upon many an occasion over the next quarter century!

Revd Ricky Yates

As you may already know, one of our trustees, Revd Ricky Yates has taken up a new post as chaplain to the Anglican community in the Czech Republic. He therefore has had to resign as a trustee of the CSJ, but of course still is an active member of the CSJ and no doubt we will soon be hearing of pilgrimages in honour of St James in the Czech Republic. He wishes to send his best regards to all CSJ members. Next time you are in Prague you can see if he is around to show you St James churches... Email him on chaplain@anglican.cz or write to him at The Revd Ricky Yates - Chaplain of St. Clement's Anglican Episcopal Church, Prague Pat'anka 2614/11B, Flat 7, 160 00, Praha 6 - Dejvice, Czech Republic, tel. 00420 233 310 266

CSJ Library – translators needed

Translators wanted to translate articles of interest to CSJ members and inclusion in the *Bulletin*. We have many foreign bulletins and journals. Mostly they are in Spanish and French but also in Italian, Dutch, German, and Norwegian. The work would involve looking through a Journal and a) deciding if there was an article that would be of wider interest to CSJ members, checking with the editor if it is needed and then translating it or b) noting any small pieces of information eg dates, books published etc that could be used in the *Bulletin*. Most journals come quarterly. Please contact Marion if interested.

CSJ Library – the Pilgrim Diaries Database

One of the main strengths of the Confraternity Library is its collection of some 650 personal accounts of the pilgrimage, mainly unpublished. The collection is an invaluable resource for the study of the pilgrimage, and we have long wanted to be able to analyse it in greater depth than the Library catalogue allows. We are in the process of setting up a database to achieve this, and are looking for volunteers to help us.

We envisage a two-stage process:

1. Entry of the basic data from the catalogue
2. Analysis of the pilgrim diaries themselves, in order to fill out the basic entries.

As a first step (Stage 1) we are looking for a team of 5 or 6 people to enter the basic data. You need to have your own computer, with Microsoft Excel (or other spreadsheet program which can be converted to Excel), but you can be located anywhere in the world.

We would like Stage 1 to be complete reasonably early in the New Year, so that we can call for volunteers for Stage 2 – a much lengthier process – when the March 2009 Bulletin goes out.

If you'd like to help with Stage 1, please e-mail howard.nelson@wanadoo.fr, saying which spreadsheet program you have on your computer.

Volunteers for Stage 2 won't need a computer, since the work will involve filling out datasheets by hand, for keying in the Library; but since it will involve reading the diaries themselves, and they will have to be sent to you by post, it might be safer if the Stage 2 team were based in the British Isles. If you'd like to register an interest in helping with Stage 2, please get in touch (as above) anyway, even though the work probably won't start until Stage 1 is complete.

HOWARD NELSON AND JOHN CURTIN, CSJ LIBRARY

CSJ Events 2009

Saturday 17 January Rabanal Hospitaleros Training

At John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 By invitation from *grahamscholes2@yahoo.co.uk*

Saturday 31 January Annual General Meeting

See enclosed AGM Papers for all details

Saturday 7 February Miraz Hospitaleros training

At Wordsley, by invitation from *alan@cutbush35.fsnet.co.uk*

Saturday 21 February Practical Pilgrim Day

London. See enclosed AGM papers

Saturday 21 March Practical Pilgrim Day

Scotland. See enclosed AGM papers

Saturday 14 March Practical Pilgrim Day

Location to be confirmed.

Tuesday 24 – Monday 30 March Miraz

SPRING WORKING PARTY AT MIRAZ

Getting the *refugio* ready for the pilgrim season, painting gardening and any other DIY tasks that we can manage. The working party will be self catering, members will be responsible for their own travel arrangements and costs. If you would like to know more and are interested in joining the working party please contact Peter FitzGerald on 01243 7856681 or email Peter at *peter_of_chichester@tiscali.co.uk*

Saturday 28 March Office Open Day

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

Saturday 18 April**Chichester Local Meeting**

For local members but all CSJ members are invited. Chichester is a delightful cathedral city founded by the Romans. It is suggested that members who arrive in the morning might like to look around the cathedral first, meeting at 11.30 at the main entrance of the cathedral. If the weather is fine members can have a picnic lunch in the Bishop's Gardens or go to a pub.

The meeting in the afternoon is at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms at the rear of St Richard's Catholic Church, Cawley Road, PO19 1XB – not far from the railway station. Being Saturday, car parking could be difficult, but there are public car parks in the area. The theme of our meeting will be pilgrimage: refugios and hospitality. Please bring with you your photographs, slides and most importantly stories. After the meeting you may like to go to the Saturday evening Mass at 6pm at St Richard's or attend Evensong in the cathedral, followed by an evening meal before heading back home. There are several excellent eating places in the area. Contact Peter FitzGerald as above.

Saturday 25 April**Office Open Day**

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

Tuesday 12-Tuesday 19 May**Pilgrimage****PILGRIMAGE ON THE NORTHERN ROUTE AND TO MIRAZ**

Colin Jones is leading a pilgrimage along the Camino del Norte from Oviedo to Santiago, following the north coast to Ribadeo, visiting Mondoñedo and Miraz to stay for 3 nights at the monastery of Sobrado. The price at present is £739pp in a shared room. To reserve a place please send a deposit of £90 per person (plus insurance premium of £27 pp if required) to Pax Travel Ltd, 152-156 Kentish Town Road, London NW1 9QB, tel 020 7485 3003.

Saturday 25 July**St James's Day**

To be confirmed: a 2-3 day walking pilgrimage to Canterbury

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

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 to 7 November**Poland****VISIT TO SOUTHERN POLAND**

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. More information will be made available during the AGM and in the March Bulletin No 105. Please send £50 deposit, payable to Confraternity of St James, to the Office if you are interested in joining this trip, max 20 people.

Friday 20-Sunday 22 November**Retreat****POST - PILGRIMAGE RETREAT**

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 8 November**Office Open Day**

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

Other Events

Saturday 7 February

Rome Practical Pilgrim Day

Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome

Practical Pilgrim Day see www.pilgrimstorome.org.uk for details

30 April - 20 May

Jakobusweg Pilgrimage 2009

JAKOBUSWEG PILGRIMAGE 2009 NÜRNBERG - KONSTANZ

Each year Gerhilde Fleischer, in conjunction with the *Deutsche St Jakobus-Gesellschaft*, organises a group of pilgrims to walk the *Jakobusweg* and update the waymarking as and when required (though with time this is needed less and less). The pilgrimage takes place over a three-week period, starting in Nürnberg on Thursday 30 April and finishing in Konstanz (on the Swiss border) on Wednesday 20 May.

Pilgrims interested in joining the group do not have to participate in the entire journey but can join/leave the route in Nürnberg, Nördlingen, Ulm or Bad Waldsee, i.e. the places printed in **bold** in the programme. Accommodation is in guest houses and small hotels and prices per day per person (including a copious breakfast) is in the region of 30 euros per person per night (note that there are *very few* single rooms). Participants pay for their accommodation and meals as they go along and carry their own rucksack (there is no back-up vehicle). Daily distances vary somewhat according to the availability of accommodation but are normally between about 20 and 25km (the route is not particularly strenuous) and the group walks at a moderate pace. Many members of the group come from different parts of Germany but there are frequently participants from other countries as well, such as Britain, Holland, Sweden and Australia. An ability to speak German is obviously a great advantage but is not essential.

The programme next year will be as follows:

Thursday 30 April travel to **Nürnberg**, Friday 1 May Nürnberg – Schwabach (23km), Saturday 2 Schwabach – Abenberg (15km), Sunday 3 Abenberg – Kalbensteinberg (16km), Monday 4 Kalbensteinberg – Gunzenhausen (15km), Tuesday 5 Gunzenhausen – Markt Heidenheim (17km), Wednesday 6 Markt Heidenheim – Oettingen (18km), Thursday 7 Oettingen – **Nördlingen** (26km), Friday 8 **Nördlingen** – Neresheim (25km), Saturday 9 Neresheim – Giengen (22.5km), Sunday 10 Giengen – Nerestetten (24km), Monday 11 Nerestetten – **Ulm** (27km), Tuesday 12 **Rest Day in Ulm**.

Wednesday 13 **Ulm** – Oberdischingen (20km), Thursday 14 Oberdischingen – Maselheim (27km), Friday 15 Maselheim – Muttensweiler (24km), Saturday 16 Muttensweiler – **Bad Waldsee** (26km), Sunday 17 **Bad Waldsee** – Weingarten (20km), Monday 18 Weingarten – Brochenzell (23km), Tuesday 19 Brochenzell –

Markdorf (16km), Wednesday 20 Markdorf - **Meersburg/Konstanz**.

Anyone interested in taking part should contact Gerhilde *in writing* by 15 March 2009 at the latest (either by letter or fax - she speaks excellent English): Gerhilde Fleischer, Postfach 1229, D-88306 Isny, Germany, tel/fax 00-49-7562/55 385

If you would like more information in general about this “German Camino” you may or may not know that the Confraternity publishes a guide to the route, describing the places it passes through and the many sights of Jacobean and pilgrim interest, as well as details of accommodation and services and full route-finding instructions: *Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through Europe to Santiago de Compostela* series, 2. *Nürnberg to Konstanz*, £5.00

Alternatively, for a brief introduction, you can find a short description of this route either on the CSJ’s web site (“Other Routes” section) or in the CSJ’s *Which Camino?* booklet.

Why a Pilgrimage ... in Italy?

Saint Francis and Saint Anthony, the Seraphic Founder and the Learned Apostle (*meo episcopus*) of the Franciscan Order, are the two great figures who have stirred the engine of humble and simple Franciscan spirituality; they are the perpetual source of energy for all people who are suffering from existential aridity. Thanks to these suppositions, the wish to offer a pilgrimage was born, aimed at fulfilling these new spiritual requirements. Differing from the past, this pilgrimage is the search of “movement”, where the pilgrim explores *in primis* original experiences in order to open himself to the compassion of that Love “*that moves the sun and the other stars*”. On one level the purpose of the pilgrim is to walk to Assisi, but in reality “he advances towards himself” to join the Divine within. The Pilgrimage to Assisi is not a recognised pilgrimage as you might suppose, but it is the fusion of many other short traditional pilgrimages that already exist locally. (eg to La Verna, Casella, Cerbaiolo, Montecasale, Montepaolo). These pilgrim ways are linked to particular devotions, and will give a new boost to the interior search, renewing the very essence of Francisco’s doctrine. It is not only the stones which will testify to the stranger His Teaching, but also a renewal of the original Franciscan fraternity along the pilgrimage way and in the community of Assisi itself. In July 2007 the councillors of Santiago de Compostela and Assisi decided to twin these two ancient towns because of common cultural and spiritual affinities, re-proposing the pilgrimage as a real source of a new evangelisation. For more information see: www.camminodiassisi.it

New members

Information is provided for members' use only.

LONDON

Mr Ruber Carbonere

45 St John's Estate Tower Bridge Road London SE1 2XE

Mr John & Mrs Cate Connell

020 8346 2914

88 Windermere Avenue Finchley London N3 3RA

Mr Colin Jennings, Mr John Burman & Mr Evan Weatherup

11 Mandalay Road Clapham London SW4 9ED

Ms Siobhan Mackay

07984 935116

Flat 5 16 Capstan Way London SE16 5HG

HOME COUNTIES NORTH

Mr Kevin & Mrs Susan Bryan

01923 237730

121 Mill Way Bushey Herts WO23 2AE

Mr John Warren-Saunders

0118 947 3448

2 Valentine Crescent Caversham Reading Berks. RG4 5JJ

HOME COUNTIES SOUTH

Mr Chris & Mrs Ruth Abrahams

020 8644 4204

64A Sunningdale Road Sutton Surrey SM1 2JS

Mrs Barbara Collins

01483 233747

23 Johnston Walk Guildford Surrey GU2 9XR

Dr Nick Creagh

07779 159068

137 Woking Road Guildford Surrey GU1 1QX

Mr Cunningham

01273 486084

1 Manor Cottages Swanborough Lewes E Sussex BN7 3PG

Mr Tony Hunt

01843 570684

23 Orchard Close Ramsgate Kent CT12 6QR

Mr & Mrs Bill Palmer

01273 888875

72 Waldegrave Road Brighton E Sussex BN1 6GE

Miss Kerry Powell

01580 201890

6 Campbell Cottages, Church St Ticehurst Wadhurst TN5 7AH

Mrs Marilyn Simmons

01306 730547

Coltsfoot Crest Hill Peaslake Surrey GU5 9PE

Mr Graham Tipper

01243 780384

4 Mill Close Fishbourne Chichester PO19 3JW

Mrs Juliette Webb

01483 424219

Winton Copse Field Lane Godalming Surrey GU7 3JT

SOUTH WEST

Mr Grant Baldwin

07774 249178

Bleu Beau, Bristol Marina Hanover Place Bristol BS1 6UH

Mr John Beirne

0117 952 1373

242 Fishponds Road Eastville Bristol BS5 6PX

Mr Evan Davies	01364 73544
The Sheiling Springfield Road South Brent Devon TQ10 9AW	
Mrs Maggie Matthews	01326 562869
33 Church Street Helston Cornwall TR13 8TD	
Mr Gerry & Mrs Helen McCann	01749 672113
12 Henley Lane Wookey Wells Somerset BA5 1JN	
Mrs Philippa Osborn	01837 849028
Andrews Cottage Belstone Okehampton Devon EX20 1RA	
Mrs Hetta Pagella	01837 840224
Calynx Belstone Okehampton Devon EX20 1RD	
Mr Steve & Mrs Vicky Phelps	01275 375831
59 Church Road Abbots Leigh Bristol DS8 3QY	

SOUTH

Mr Andrew Lievesley	01252 690223
3 Kingfisher Close Church Crookham Fleet Hants GU52 6JP	

EAST MIDLANDS

Mr Naropa & Mrs Muriaina Craske	01332 768453
11 Brunswick Street Derby DE23 8TP	
Dr Graeme & Miss E Feggetter	01780 782421
Forge Cottage 1 Mill Road Yarwell Northants PE8 6PS	
Mr Roger Lazenby	01280 840873
143 High Street Brackley Northants NN13 7BN	
Miss Sarah Perry & Mr Glen White	07815 609120
80 Cranmer Street Leicester LE3 0QA	

WEST MIDLANDS

Mr Terence Arthur	01902 845636
92 Ravenhill Drive Codsall Wolverhampton WV8 1BW	
Revd Robert Barlow	01886 821339
White House, Antreardine Hill Knightwick Worcester WR6 5PR	
Mr Raymond Collins	0121 453 2585
88 Ormscliffe Road Rednal Birmingham B45 8SY	
Revd Andy Delmege	0121 693 0217
St Bede's Vicarage 77 Doverslea Road Birmingham B14 6NN	
Mr Peter Herlihy	07709 771210
2j Lion Street Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 1UE	
Mr Geoffrey Hulland	01905 330503
Woodlands 11A Cyril Road Worcester WR3 8JP	

EAST ANGLIA

Mr Ron Richardson	01603 626866
74 Normandie Tower Rouen Road Norwich Norfolk NR1 1QS	
Mr Alesandro Vidal-Alvarez	020 8597 0648
78 Lymington Road Dagenham Essex RM8 1RS	

NORTH EAST

Mr Tony Lee & Mrs Renna Benson 01423 866622
99 Boroughbridge Road Knaresborough N Yorks HG5 0LZ
Mr Nicholas Unsworth 07706 198933
10 Station Road Burley-in-Wharfedale W Yorks LS29 7JL

NORTH WEST

Mr Stephen McCormick 07756 732881
2 Gatclif Road Clubmoor Liverpool L13 9BX
Mr Joe Tucker 01204 300192
733 Blackburn Road Bolton Lancs BL1 7JJ

SCOTLAND

Mr Jim & Mrs Aurora Drennan 01563 533596
22 Woodlands Grove Kilmarock Ayrshire KA3 1TZ

EUROPE

Mr Daniel Berthault
3 Allée de la Haute Place Noisy le Grand 93160 France

USA

Mr Roy Hill 001 713 851 8644
PO Box 667107 Houston Texas TX 77027 U S A

CANADA

Ms Helene Dahl & Mr Nick Jones 001 613 747 6900
75 King George Street Ottawa Ontario K1K 1V4 Canada

AUSTRALIA

Mr Kevin & Mrs Sue Burrows 0061 8 8278 6246
17 Brigalow Ave Blackwood SA 5051 Australia
Mr Bob Dixon 0061 3 9953 3456
64 Sharon Road Springvale South VIC 3172 Australia
Mr R & Mrs Berenice McLellan 0061 7 3278 1465
PO Box 442 Corinda Brisbane QLD 4075 Australia
Ms Lyn & Ms Jessica Meier 0061 7 3355 2528
197 Lloyd Street Enoggera QLD 4051 Australia
Ms Marian Nolan & Mr Kieran O'Brien 0061 7 3262 4951
PO Box 473 Clayfield QLD 4011 Australia
Mrs Barbara Royston 0061 7 3257 4505
7/435 Gregory Terrace Spring Hill QLD 4000 Australia
Mr Greg & Mrs Anne Smith
PO Box 700 Wynyard Tasmania 7325 Australia
Mr Paul & Mrs Dinnie Truebridge
37 Kriewaldt CeT Higgins 2615 Australia

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* New edition forthcoming
- 6 *Madrid to Sahagún* Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH
(01763) 244525
- 7 *Camino Inglés* New edition forthcoming

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

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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 2008 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

Rabanal Committee

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

*Wardens' Coordinator,
Refugio Gaucelmo* Graham Scholes, 56 Chapel Road, Billingham, STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
TS23 1DX grahamscholes2@yahoo.co.uk

Other Members Trevor Curnow, Roger Davies, Laurie Dennett, David Garcia,
Michael Krier, Marion Marples, Alison Raju, Paul Spink

Miraz Committee

Coordinator Colin Jones

Other Members Alan Cutbush (*hospitaleros*), Peter FitzGerald (property),
Alison Raju, Alison Thorp (fundraising), 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

Gift Aid Secretary Rosemary Wells, 154 Rivermead Court, Ranelagh Gardens
LONDON SW6 3SF

Slide Librarian John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ
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*Members wishing to borrow slides should make their selections
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Practical Pilgrim Form 1

Saturday 21 February 2009, London

John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY
10am-6pm

Programme includes:

10.30 am Introduction –why go on pilgrimage?
11.00am Question & Answer: general topic /Camino Francés
12noon Specialist groups for walkers and cyclists
1-2pm Lunch –may be available/ bring picnic, drinks available
2.15-3.15pm Talk on a Pilgrimage Route –speaker tbc, Tea
4.30pm Local Walk around Bankside, Tate Modern, Globe
6.00pm Meal at local Restaurant

I am a walker **I am a cyclist**

I am a new **returned pilgrim**

I will attend: morning afternoon all sessions *(please circle)*

Meal (c £15-£20)

Number of people (specify number)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel (with code) _____ **email** _____

The charge for the day will be £5 per head, payable in advance.
Please return whole form with an sae, to CSJ Practical Pilgrim London,
27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Practical Pilgrim Form 2
Saturday 21 March 2008, Scotland
Venue tba in Glasgow/Edinburgh area
10am-3pm plus possible walk, meal

Programme includes:

Question & Answer: Camino Francés
Specialist groups for walkers and cyclists
Talk on the Pilgrimage

Possible Local Walk

Meal at local Restaurant

I am a walker **I am a cyclist**

I am a new **returned pilgrim**

I will attend: morning afternoon all sessions *(please circle)*

I am interested in an evening meal £10-£15

Number of people (specify number)

Name(s) _____

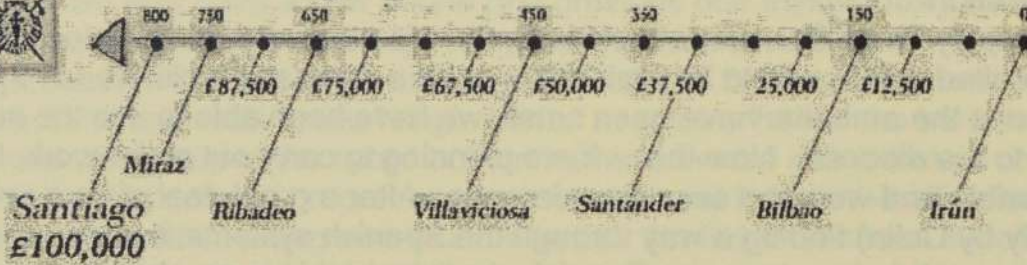
Address _____

Tel (with code) _____ **email** _____

The charge for the day will be £5 per head, payable in advance.
Cheques payable to Confraternity of Saint James.
Please return whole form with an sae, to Practical Pilgrim Scotland,
CSJ, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY



How has the gaitero progressed?



Appeal Total **£83,769 - THANK YOU**

- Miraz Development News
- Autumn in Miraz
- How you can help
- Sponsor-a-Week

*** Miraz Development News ***

Planning Applications

Plans for extending the accommodation at Miraz were drawn up earlier in the year. Since the building is owned by the Lugo Diocese we had to wait for the agreement of the new Bishop and this was given in the summer. The plans were then submitted to the local *ayuntamiento* and, in October, they were forwarded to the *Patrimonio* who need to approve all applications to buildings close to a Camino.

The Bishop of Lugo's Visit.

The Bishop and PP Don José Ramón made a low-key visit to the refuge and local church in September and spent some time talking with both pilgrims and *hospitaleros*. Colin Jones was able to pass on the refuge's pastoral guidelines as had been requested at their earlier meeting.

Grants

Colin and Maureen (Young) have been to see the Head of *Xacobeo* in Santiago for help in approaching Spanish companies for funds to develop Miraz. He revealed that there was a vast building programme under way to cope with the expected Holy Year pilgrims and he had suggested that the CSJ might consider taking over the running of one of these. There may also be *Xunta* and *Camino* funds available to help with Miraz although we do not yet know what conditions would be attached to such grants.

Tax Registration

In order to apply for utility accounts etc in Spain it is necessary to have local tax reference called a NIF, and to be resident in or be a company registered in Spain. Up to now, because the amounts have been small, we have been able to use the number belonging to the diocese. Now that we are planning to carry out major work, this is no longer possible and we need our own reference. After a great deal of time spent (particularly by Colin) finding a way through the Spanish systems, it seems that permission may be given to a non-Spanish charity and this is now being investigated further. We are hopeful that this will be sorted before we are ready to start any further building work.

*** 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 / Newsletter	- Alison Thorp	- alison.thorp@virgin.net
Operations/ <i>Hospitaleros</i>	- Alan Cutbush	- alan@cutbush35.fsnet.co.uk
Property	- Peter FitzGerald	- peter_of_chichester@tiscali.co.uk

*** Autumn in Miraz ***

Bob Mullen and I were at Miraz in October, as the last wardens of the season before the winter caretakers arrived,

Yes, pilgrims were still arriving at that time of the year and we had a total of 48 in the two weeks. 15 Germans, 14 Spanish, 9 French, 2 each from Holland, Hungary, Argentina and the USA and one each from Austria and Poland. Interestingly a surprising number were doing their first Camino and hadn't already "done" the *Camino Francés*.

The large number of Germans was probably due in part to the new (2008) edition of the yellow guide in their "Outdoor" series, whose new editor had visited Miraz during the previous winter. He has done a very favourable write-up, having stayed when Bob, who was the winter caretaker at the time, gave him all the "low down" on the *refugio*,

Donations totalled 299.28€.

Weather - gorgeous for the first few days, then more typically Galician - damp, drizzle, cold at night, The new de-humidifier is working well and makes a big difference to the dining/common room. We didn't do meals as such but as we had to feed ourselves anyway and as it was so chilly and damp in the evenings we made industrial quantities of *caldo gallego*, much appreciated by pilgrims to accompany whatever else they had brought with them to eat.

In the refuge, we now have a new phone (the previous one mysteriously disappeared and was replaced). The other change is that we now have 12 beds in the main dormitory instead of 10. When we arrived we found that the bunk structure in the office had been split in half, making two "single beds," so the top half of the bunk in the 2nd bedroom was put on top of the spare bottom half and moved into the main dormitory. As a result there is now a lot more room to move around in both the office and the 2nd warden's room. Another change we found was that the fridge and food supplies had been moved into the second warden's bedroom - an arrangement which seems to be working well.

We were given a tour of the village social centre by María Carmen (the schoolteacher who lives opposite) and shown the very nice (large) desk/table and chairs used for village meetings that were purchased with the donation from the CSJ. She explained that they wanted to have "something to show" for the money (i.e. not just use it towards the new roof or toilets) and perhaps put up some sort of plaque saying where the gift had come from. The next stage in the renovations (paid for by the money they get from the nearby quarries) is to put in a new WC and small shower.

José Manuel, the taxi driver from Parga, had had a heart attack and so couldn't take us home when we went shopping there, but has now been given the "green light" to start work again. November 1st (a public holiday in Spain) brought a lot of people back to the village, the cemetery full of flowers and the church overflowing at the midday mass. Jesús (the sacristan) was in Lugo with his nephew so we didn't get to see him but he is apparently doing very nicely, thank you - not short of friends there either and even, we heard, "tiene novias"!!! [has girl friends...] Not bad, for someone past/pushing 90...

Alison Raju

Helada

*El silencio del rocío
es como un conto
a la humedad
de la mañana,
que hace que
el nuevo día nazca
con los cantos
de la pájara
y el amor de la
mañana,
aún nuevo día.*

*The silence of the frost
is a measure
of the humidity
of the morning,
which permits
the new day to be born
with the songs
of a bird
and the love of the
morning
of a still new day.*

Written by Victor Javier Gómez
- a pilgrim at Miraz

Translated by Robert Mullen

*** Thank You ***

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so much to the appeal, in terms of not only their donations and their time, but also their interest and support. We are grateful for all contributions and have been very lucky to have several larger donations. However, it is the smaller amounts which make up about 90% of the total raised so far and do make a big difference.

People have found many ways to contribute e.g, by giving talks, showing films, leading walks, making pendants, selling artwork as well as simply making a donation (sometimes in memory of past members). Pages 5 to 7 show some of the ways to raise funds and do please contact us if you have any ideas for us or for the newsletter, or if you would like to host an event and need any advice or support from us.

*** From the Miraz Visitors Book ***

"A place that makes pilgrims smile"

"Wow! The Camino works in mystical ways - help when you need it most and when you least expect it"

"The first hot chocolate for 4½ weeks!"

*** *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, it turns out, they definitely do !) We originally aimed to raise £100,000 to cover both these and future running and maintenance costs.

*** How you can help ***

** Miraz Spring Working Party **

The next working party will take place between Tuesday 24 and Monday 30 March 2009 inclusive. We will be getting the *refugio* ready for the pilgrim season, painting, gardening and any other DIY tasks that we can manage.

The working party will have to be self-catering and members are responsible for their own travel costs and arrangements.

If you would like to know more and are interested in joining the working party please contact Peter FitzGerald on 01243 785681 or email peter_of_chichester@tiscali.co.uk

** 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. For the first time, Miraz will be also be open to pilgrims through most of this winter into 2009 so there are plenty of weeks to choose from. .

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.

** Meet other New and Returned Pilgrims **

How? - by organising a local gathering

Why? - to exchange your experiences or pass on advice to those who are still only thinking about going to Santiago.

Where? - a local pub, restaurant, your home

What about Food? - supplied by venue or ask everyone to bring a dish with them

Who? - local members. Just send us the details of your event and we will circulate members in your area.

Cost ? - up to you depending on your choice of venue. Plus a donation / contribution towards the Miraz Appeal.

** For Sale in aid of the Appeal * -*

*¡Que
aproveche!*
Recipes from Spain



Confraternity of Saint James

Over 60 mouth-watering Spanish recipes
contributed by CSJ members.

Cost: £6.50 plus p&p

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

Here's a simple taster taken from the book-

Monkfish with Herbs in Wine Sauce

Ingredients:

- 1 kg / 2 lb monkfish in pieces
- 1 medium onion sliced
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- sprigs of thyme and rosemary
- 1 lemon
- 4 fl. oz white wine

Method:

Place onion in a baking dish and put monkfish on top.

Grate zest of lemon and put on top with thyme and rosemary.

Pour over wine and lemon juice.

Bake in pre-heated oven 180C (gas 4) for about 20 minutes, basting occasionally.

Serves: 4-6

NB: More Recipes Wanted

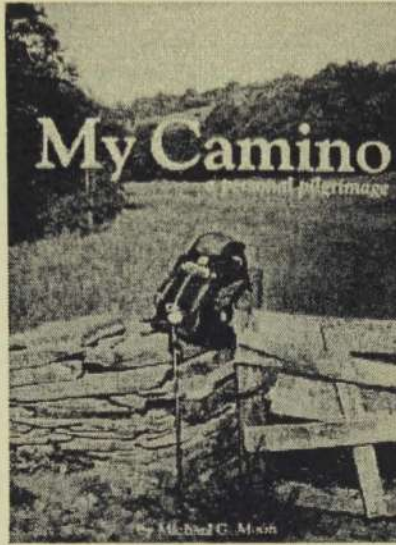
The book has proved so popular that we are already thinking about the next edition - do you have a favourite recipe you would like us to add? Please send it to:-

Alison Thorp, 18 West Farm Avenue, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2LG, UK.

Or Email: alison.thorp@virgin.net

** For Sale in aid of the Appeal **

"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.

£6.50 per copy to Miraz.

Cost: £12.99 + p&p

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

Miraz Mugs



Cost: £5 + p&p

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

Order & / or Donations Form

CSJ Member no. (if known)

Name

Address

.....

Tel or email address :

I wish to order :-

(a) ----- copies of *¡Que Aproveche !* - cost £6.50 each
+ P&P : UK £1.00, EU £1.50, ROW £2.50 per copy -----

(b) ----- copies of "My Camino" - cost £12.99 each
+ P&P : UK £1.00, EU £2.20, ROW £3.95 per copy -----

(c) ----- Miraz Mugs - cost £5.00 each
+ P&P : UK £1.68, EU £2.80, ROW £4.40 per mug -----

I wish to help pilgrims at Miraz by sponsoring the
week shown below for £50 (or part week for £25) -----

(Date)

I wish to make a donation to the Miraz Appeal -----

Total £ -----

=====

Payment

I enclose a cheque made payable to "CSJ - Miraz Appeal"

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



The Confraternity of Saint James

(A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 30th September 2008

Company no. 4096721

Charity no.1091140

www.csj.org.uk

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Legal and Administrative Information

Status

The Confraternity of Saint James (CSJ) is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 October 2000, registered in England & Wales (Company no.4096721), and registered as a charity (no.1091140) on 15 March 2002. The governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association, both as amended on 26 January 2002, 31 January 2004 and 29 January 2005. The company grew out of an unincorporated association founded on 13 January 1983 and registered as a charity (No. 294461) on 19 August 1986.

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Honorary President

HE The Spanish Ambassador

Directors and Trustees

Dr M M Brykczynska

Mr. R. Davies Appointed 19th January 2008

Mr P Graham Appointed 19th January 2008

Dr S J Goddard

Dr W E O A A G Griffiths Chairman

Revd C Jones Vice-Chairman

Ms C Kimmel

Mrs M C T Moseley

Mrs A B Raju Vice-Chairman

Ms A Schneider

Mrs C Spink

Mr G. Taylor

Revd W J Yates Resigned 27th August 2008

Secretary

Ms M Marples

Company Secretary & Treasurer

Mr A Ward

Registered Office

27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY

Telephone 020 7928 9988

Fax 020 7928 2844

Website <http://www.csj.org.uk>

e-mail office@csj.org.uk

Bankers

CAF Bank 25, Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, WEST MALLING. Kent ME19 4JQ

Lloyds TSB 364/366 Lordship Lane LONDON. SE22 8NA

Reporting Accountant

Mr I S McLaughlin FCA 23, West Farm Avenue, ASHTEAD Surrey KT21 2LD

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 September 2008

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2008. The Board of Trustees confirms that the annual report and financial statements comply with current statutory requirements including the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities 2005 (SORP 2005).

Structure and Objects of the charity

The object of the CSJ is to advance the education of the public in and to promote the pilgrimage to Saint James of Compostela in the northwestern Spanish region of Galicia and the related history, art, architecture and music. Activities include promoting research, presenting educational programmes, identifying and preserving monuments, providing information on routes, establishing paths, maintaining hostels, and working in close co-operation with other bodies in furthering similar aims and objectives. The trustees continue to pursue all these objectives with rigour although it is not possible to fully quantify how the organisation meets these other than the positive feed-back received from returning pilgrims and others with a personal interest in pilgrimage.

Under the Articles of the company, the members of the Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of two years, half of their number being subject to re-election each year. The directors of the company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Chairman and other honorary officers are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. An invitation is included with each annual report asking for members to act as trustees. Existing trustees also make recommendations to the committee regarding suitable candidates.

Financial Review & Future Developments

Celebrating the 25th anniversary in the year, the CSJ has continued to prosper in the delivery of its aims and objectives. However, in the last financial year there was a reduction in the membership which was part of the reason for the deficit on the unrestricted general fund. Other factors were the costs of production of the "Roads to Santiago" prayer booklet (distributed free to members as part of the 25th anniversary) and increased costs relating to maintenance of the charity's activities. The sales of educational literature have shown a small increase. The annual publication of the Guide to the Camino Francés remains the best selling item.

It continues to support both the Refugio Gaucelmo in Rabanal and the Refugio at Miraz, both refuges for pilgrims in Northern Spain. Other than the activities connected with the 25th birthday celebrations, the Miraz project and possible improvement work there has perhaps been the major activity in the year. The CSJ continues to provide a personal information service to, and answer queries from, the public whether in person, by telephone, email, through the website or by arranging speakers and visits. Interest in our website has continued. However, the slow down in the increase in hits experienced last year has now levelled out. The website continues to be developed as more and more potential pilgrims use the resources provided.

During the financial period, the trustees continue to reinforce the principles of good practice recommended within the charity sector, having carried out a Risk Assessment Review, established a Financial Policy, and a Reserves Policy. A review of the administrative and internal control systems is ongoing, the Trustees have considered the contents of the Charities Act which received the Royal Assent on 8th November 2006, in particular the possibility of changing legal status to a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" which may mean that accounts and reports only need to be filed with the Charity Commission. News is still awaited as to when this change might be possible. The salaries paid to the Secretary, Finance Manager, and, Office Administrator were again reviewed during the year to reflect both market salary rates, responsibilities and time spent on CSJ business.

The increase in membership rates last took place in 2004 and there has been a significant reduction in membership. It should be recognised that there will always be a number of members not renewing their subscription as they complete their pilgrimage or lose interest in the aim and objectives of the Confraternity. The 3 year discount scheme continues to be popular as can be seen by the volume of membership moneys held against future subscription years. However, a review of membership subscriptions will be needed in 2009 and a proposal will be made to this effect at the annual general meeting.

The membership software system (known as Maximizer) originally introduced in June 2003 was substantially updated in the last accounts year and continues to be a great success, especially with membership renewals procedures. The system enables the membership work to be shared between several members thereby reducing the general risk exposure. It also helps to identify members in a particular geographic area or with a particular expertise.

Both members and trustees recognise that the primary purpose and duty of the charity is to provide benefit for its beneficiaries and to care for the public at large. In order to maximize this benefit, the members of the CSJ provide a valuable source of expertise and ideas as well as income.

Risk Management

In the year, the Corporate Governance sub-committee met on several occasions to assist the trustees with ensuring that the CSJ organisation acts responsibly and in accordance with Company and Charity law. This committee has met regularly and has a regular on-going meeting programme. In September 2008, all trustees attended a training session when the articles and memorandum of association were explained. A full Risk Assessment was also undertaken and tables prepared.

The trustees consider the most significant risks to this charity continue to be the loss of key personnel and in the longer term, those financial risks related to, or arising from a reduction in membership and demand for our publications possibly replaced by web-based information. Lesser risks were loss of or damage to property (which happened in the year) and financial irregularity and incompetence of trustees. The trustees continue to monitor all risks and develop the action plan originally formulated early in 2003. These steps have included cover/deputies for key personnel, increased insurance cover, and improved documentation, creation of the Corporate Governance sub-committee and consideration has been given to the formation of an investment sub-committee, but, in view of the current World financial situation, this has not as yet been actioned.

The whole of this activity is being treated as part of an overall Financial Policy which is conceived as the core element in the development of a business continuity plan.

Reserves Policy

The trustees review the level of reserves annually, based on financial results for the current year, the forecast for the following year and the results of the annual review of risks. In particular, they wish to ensure that the charity can continue to fulfil its current objects and activities in the event of a significant fall in membership. The last review took place on 12th January 2008. The charity maintains a level of unrestricted funds which consists of a) a period of 3 months of operating costs (12 months for Rabanal and Miraz due to their seasonal nature) and b) sufficient funds to cover known risks, contingencies and capital expenditure. Further reviews may occur during the year as and when urgent requests for funding are identified, especially as progress is made towards the possible improvements at Miraz.

General – Unrestricted funds

The free unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £33,450 before deducting £1,000 for known contingencies and a designated fund of £22,000 (Miraz) leaving a balance of £10,450. The trustees consider the most appropriate level of free reserves at 30 September 2008 would be £17,000 to cover 3 months of operating costs which is more than the available balance but this would be more than covered by subscriptions received in advance totalling over £23,000 at the accounting date.

Rabanal – Restricted Income Fund

The level of reserves required to cover 12 months operating costs is £3,000 which leaves a surplus of over £5,000 at 30 September 2008. This is retained for use on future repairs and improvements to the property and to the facilities for pilgrims.

Investment Powers

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. The tangible investments currently held are interest-bearing deposits with the Charities Official Investment Fund and one interest-bearing account with CAF Bank, although interest is also paid on the CAF Bank current account.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. Mid-year accounts are prepared on the same basis as the annual accounts and are available to any member who wishes to inspect them. These are not subject to the same external scrutiny as the annual accounts and therefore readers ought not to place the same reliance on them.

Approved by the trustees on 5th December 2008 and signed on their behalf by

Dr W E Griffiths
Chairman

Report of Reporting Accountant

As described above, the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, and they consider that the company is exempt from an audit. It is my responsibility to carry out procedures designed to enable me to report my opinion.

Basis of Opinion

My work was conducted in accordance with the Statement of Standards for Reporting Accountants, and so my procedures consisted of comparing the accounts with the accounting records kept by the company, and making such limited enquiries as I considered necessary for the purposes of this report. These procedures provide only the assurance expressed in my opinion.

Opinion

- (a) The accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the company under section 221 of the Companies Act 1985;
- (b) having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records
 - (i) the accounts have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements specified in section 249C (6) of the Act; and
 - (ii) the company satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the year specified in section 249A(4) of the Act, as modified by section 249A(5), and did not, at any time within that year, fall within any of the categories of companies not entitled to the exemption specified in section 249B(2)

I S McLaughlin FCA
Reporting Accountant

23 West Farm Avenue
Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2LD

Statement of Financial Activities for Year to 30 September 2008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds (note 2)				Total	2007
		General	Rabanal	Miraz	Bursary	Other		
		Fund						
		£	£	£	£	£	£	
INCOMING RESOURCES								
from generated funds								
Voluntary Income								
Donations	3	2,852	2,552	20,147	-	831	26,382	41,996
Subscriptions	4	51,450	-	-	-	-	51,450	55,240
Books and Publications - Sales	5	36,669	-	-	-	-	36,669	34,130
Other Items - Sales	6	2,802	-	-	-	-	2,802	3,073
Visit Income	7	6,278	-	-	-	-	6,278	8,200
		100,051	2,552	20,147	-	831	123,581	142,639
Investment Income	8	2,677	402	1,550	629	265	5,523	4,804
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		102,728	2,954	21,697	629	1,096	129,104	147,243
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
Representative Conferences	16	95	-	-	-	-	95	84
Grants	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	326
Refugio Gaucelmo	10	-	1,067	-	-	-	1,067	3,169
Miraz	11	-	-	14,745	-	-	14,745	10,395
Bulletin	12	16,307	-	-	-	-	16,307	11,579
Library	13	3,015	-	-	-	-	3,015	2,503
Speaker Meetings	14	(578)	-	-	-	-	(578)	(163)
Books and Publications - Costs		23,073	-	-	-	-	23,073	22,403
Other Items - Costs		2,081	-	-	-	-	2,081	2,722
Visit Expenditure	7	5,060	-	-	-	-	5,060	8,247
Direct Charitable Activities		49,053	1,067	14,745	-	-	64,865	61,265
Other Charitable Costs	15	39,456	-	-	-	-	39,456	37,465
Governance Costs	16	28,587	-	-	-	-	28,587	25,169
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		117,096	1,067	14,745	-	-	132,908	123,899
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	24	(14,368)	1,887	6,952	629	1,096	(3,804)	23,344
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		47,818	6,449	27,681	8,623	4,252	94,823	71,479
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		33,450	8,336	34,633	9,252	5,348	91,019	94,823

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2008

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds			Total	2007
		General Fund	Rabanal	Miraz	Bursary		
FIXED ASSETS	17	£	£	£	£	£	£
Computer		-	-	-	-	-	97
Works of Art		3,900	890	-	-	-	4,790
		3,900	890	-	-	-	4,887
CURRENT ASSETS							
Stocks and Work-in-progress							
Books and Publications for Sale	22	5,785	-	-	-	-	5,029
Other Items for Sale	22	2,251	-	-	-	-	1,135
Postage Paid Envelopes		855	-	-	-	-	1,045
		8,891	-	-	-	-	7,209
Debtors	18	4,633	-	-	-	-	13,673
Cash at Bank and In Hand		50,799	7,446	34,633	9,252	5,348	100,146
NET CURRENT ASSETS		64,323	7,446	34,633	9,252	5,348	121,028
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19/20	(34,773)	-	-	-	-	(31,092)
NET ASSETS		29,550	7,446	34,633	9,252	5,348	89,936
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		33,450	8,336	34,633	9,252	5,348	94,823
TOTAL FUNDS		33,450	8,336	34,633	9,252	5,348	94,823

Audit Exemption

- (a) For the year ended 30 September 2008 the company was entitled to exemption under section 249A (2) of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act").
- (b) Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 249B (2) of the Act.
- (c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
 - i) ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act; and
 - ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 226 of the Act, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company;
- (d) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part VII of the Act relating to small companies.

Approved by the trustees on 5th December 2008 and signed on their behalf by Dr W E Griffiths - Chairman

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2008

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) which came into force in March 2005, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985. The length of the current and previous accounting periods was one full calendar year.

(b) Donations and similar incoming resources

Except as specified in Notes 4 and 20, these are included in the year in which they are receivable, (which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource), and any conditions for receipt are met; the trustees are reasonably certain that they will receive it; and the trustees are reasonably certain that the value can be reliably measured. Incoming resources from tax claims are included within the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the funds are received and a claim can be made. Subscriptions paid in advance under the discounted membership scheme are recognised in the membership year to which they relate.

(c) Investment income

Income from investments is included in the SOFA in the year in which it is receivable. Part of the interest received on unrestricted general funds, based on the individual fund balances at the commencement of the year has been allocated to the Miraz restricted fund due to the increase in that particular fund.

(d) Resources Expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and, is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for it. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the functional categories of resources expended in the SOFA. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

(e) Tangible Fixed Assets & Depreciation

Fixed assets currently include Works of Art both historic and contemporary. Depreciation is not charged on these as their residual value is considered to be higher than their carrying value. The Library is held in the unincorporated association for the time being for the benefit of the public and does not form part of the assets of the company. All expenditure on the refugio at Miraz is written off as spent including any improvements on the building, on the basis that any expenditure is of a purely charitable nature and of no future major financial value to the Confraternity. All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Depreciation of computers and other office equipment is charged over two years.

(f) Exchange Rates

Moneys received and paid in euros are converted at the actual exchange rate on the transaction date with the exception of moneys received and paid at Miraz on a daily basis where the seasonal mid point exchange rate is used. Exchange gains in the year were £463.

2. Restricted Funds

	At 1 Oct 2007	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	At 30 Sep 2008
	£	£	£	£
Rabanal	6,449	2,954	1,067	8,336
Miraz	27,681	21,697	14,745	34,633
Bursary	8,623	629	-	9,252
Ted Dickinson Fund	2,795	265	-	3,060
Galicia Disaster Appeal	25	-	25	-
Pat Quaife Fund	50	-	50	-
St Christopher Fund	1,382	906	-	2,288
	<u>47,005</u>	<u>26,451</u>	<u>15,887</u>	<u>57,569</u>

The Rabanal Fund is a restricted income fund; the remaining funds are expendable endowments. All funds have accumulated through donations, interest and allocations by the trustees, and have therefore already been recognised as income rather than capital receipts.

Rabanal Fund – for capital projects and upkeep of the fabric at Refugio Gaucelmo.

Miraz – Funds are held on behalf of the Refuge at Miraz. A bank account is held at Banco Pastor in Lugo but operated from Blackfriars Road to pay expenses such as electricity, telephone and insurance. This account also receives cash locally via donativos from pilgrims.

Bursary Fund - for educational scholarships for young people. It was established by the committee in 1995-1996 and allocated an endowment of £10,000. The Bursary Fund now stands around the £9,200 mark and awards are generally paid out each year dependent upon applications being received.

Ted Dickinson Fund - raised by special subscription in memory of a member who died in 1994. It is for helping pilgrims in financial hardship and associated purposes.

Pat Quaife Fund – discretionary awards for members, primarily out of general funds towards study grants. This fund is now closed and the balance transferred to the Bursary fund. Also closed is the Galicia disaster appeal which was transferred to the Miraz fund.

St. Christopher Fund – founded in 2002 to enable frail or elderly pilgrims to take a companion with them to Santiago.

3. Donations

General donations and donations to Rabanal have decreased from the previous year. These are funded occasionally from legacies but mostly from the many generous voluntary contributions made by members in addition to their subscriptions.

4. Subscriptions & Gift Aid

Subscription income have appreciably reduced in the year. Tax reclaimed amounted to £10,180 (2007 £10,417) Gift Aid tax claims are recognised when a claim can be made.

Current subscription rates are: -

1 year

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£20.00	Overseas	£25.00
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£25.00	Overseas	£30.00

3 years

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£54.00	Overseas	£67.50
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£67.50	Overseas	£81.00

5. Books and Publications

Turnover grew a little to £36,669 and our secure on-line bookshop continues to be popular. This gave rise to a trading surplus of £13,596. This compares with an overall trading surplus of £11,727 in 2007.

6. Other Items

Sales of other items (principally badges and sweatshirts and DVDs) produced a surplus of £721 compared to £351 in the previous year.

7. Visits

The major visit for the year was to Poland which commenced in the previous accounts year, but due to it finishing in October 2007, the costs are reflected in these accounts.

8. Investment Income

Investments which generate income consist of interest-bearing deposits with the Charities Official Investment Fund and one interest-bearing account with CAF bank.

9. Grants

Bursary application forms are issued to universities and colleges of further education at the start of the academic year. Students between 18 and 25 are asked to submit proposals for their research and to indicate how it would be facilitated by financial assistance from the Confraternity. Short-listed applicants are invited to interview before a panel consisting of Mark Hassall, Lecturer in Archaeology at UCL, and James Maple, Hon. Vice-President of the CSJ, and awards may be made for one outstanding project, or shared between several, up to a maximum of £1,000 per applicant. They are generally paid in two tranches, part in advance of the research and the balance when the resulting dissertation has been commended after being academically reviewed. The best of these are published in the Bulletin. No bursaries were awarded in the year to 30th September 2008. An on-going review of the purpose and possible recipients of this award is taking place.

10. Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino

Expenditure of £1,067 this year includes	£
- Wardens Workshop and first-aid courses	694
- Travel & subsistence	284
- Sundry expenses	89

Pilgrim donations and related expenditure on food, hospitality, cleaning etc are for the benefit of the refugio and do not form part of the Confraternity funds or its accounts. Any surplus is put towards overheads such as electricity, bank charges, repairs etc.

11. Refugio Miraz de Peregrinos de Miraz

Apart from donations and income from fund-raising events, the income for the year included £8,867 donations from pilgrims (treated as Confraternity income due to our sole tenancy agreement for the property) £422 recovered under Gift Aid and £2,231 received from those attending the lunch at Don Pepe. Expenditure of £14,745 for this year includes

	£
- Fund Raising Costs, books etc	2,739
- Day- to-day Running Costs	7,935
- Lunch	1,527
- Renovations	591
- Architect's Fees	1,953

12. Bulletin

The Bulletin is published quarterly and the costs include printing and distribution. Also included in this heading is the costs of those copies of "Roads to Santiago" issued to all members as a one-off as part of their subscriptions.

13. Library

This item represents a grant to the unincorporated association, registered charity number 294461, for managing the Library.

14. Speaker Meetings

Speaker Meetings are those held to further the charitable objects of the Confraternity.

15. Other Charitable Costs

The costs directly attributable to charitable activities are		£
Personnel		38,034
Other Direct Costs		<u>1,422</u>
	Total	<u>£39,456</u>

16. Governance Costs

	£
Personnel	11,375
Accommodation	6,510
Office Running Costs	6,512
Finance charges	531
Member Meetings & Sundry	<u>3,659</u>
Total	<u>£ 28,587</u>

Personnel costs include a total of £716 paid to 7 trustees for reimbursed personal travel expenses,

17. Fixed Assets

Costs	Works of Art £	Office Equipment £	Total £
At 1 Oct 2007	4,790	8180	12,970
Additions	-	-	-
At 30 Sep 2008	<u>4,790</u>	<u>8,180</u>	<u>12,970</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 Oct 2007	-	8,093	8,093
Charge for year	-	<u>97</u>	<u>97</u>
At 30 Sep 2008	-	<u>8,180</u>	<u>8,180</u>
Net Book Value			
At 1 Oct 2007	<u>4,790</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>4,887</u>
At 30 Sep 2008	<u>4,790</u>	<u>nil</u>	<u>4,790</u>

Works of Art comprise a mediaeval oak carving of Saint James (valued at £3,400) and an embroidered banner (valued at £500), both in the assets of the General Fund, and an icon of Saint James (valued at its cost of £890, covered by donations in memory of Stephen Badger) in the Rabanal Fund.

18. Debtors

	2008	2007
	£	£
Prepayments	2,634	3,684
Accrued Income	<u>1,999</u>	<u>9,989</u>
	<u>4,633</u>	<u>13,673</u>

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2008	2007
	£	£
Trade Creditors	10,460	10,411
Deposits and payments held for CSJ Visits after accounting date	-	3,965
Deferred Income - Subscriptions in advance	23,713	15,519
Accruals	-	600
Sundry Creditors	<u>600</u>	<u>597</u>
	<u>34,773</u>	<u>31,092</u>

20. Deferred Income

Subscriptions paid in advance total £23,713; £14,202 related to the year 2008/2009, £9,196 to the year 2008/2009 and £315 for later years. These have been shown as falling due within 1 year as the actual subscription has been received.

21. Related Parties

During the year, Ward Randall Ltd, a Chartered Accountancy Firm and also Mona Lowen Consultants Limited in which the treasurer and company secretary Tony Ward has a material interest have carried out the bookkeeping function of the CSJ. He is not a trustee of the organisation or a director of the company. The amount provided for this service within the accounts is £1,492.

22. Stocks

Stocks have been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Dated stock has been assumed to be of negligible value.

23. Net Movement in Funds

The levels of primary purpose trading income, subscriptions and donations mean that there are reasonable funds carried forward which may provide further funding for new projects which could arise out of the strategic review of future possible activities.

Supplementary Report for Members & Supporters

The main report gives information required by the Charity Commission and by the Companies Acts. This supplementary report is intended for all those supporters, past, present and future, who are interested in more detailed information on the CSJ's activities.

Refugio Gaucelmo

Refugio Gaucelmo is situated in the village of Rabanal del Camino, between Astorga and Ponferrada in the Montes de León. It is a refuge for pilgrims travelling to Santiago de Compostela and is owned by the Diocese of Astorga.

In 1989 the CSJ entered into an agreement with the Diocese of Astorga and the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de El Bierzo, whereby for a peppercorn rent, we would together develop the tumble-down priest's house and orchard, to make it available for the overnight accommodation of pilgrims. Pilgrims are welcomed by a relay of hospitalero/as, recruited and supported by Graham Scholes, who also convenes the autumn working party to attend to routine maintenance.

The partnership between the two associations and the Diocese has continued strongly. In 2006 a new contract was signed between all three parties, which sets out the terms of the co-operation between us and in which the Diocese grants a further 25 year lease.

Through the efforts of the Amigos of El Bierzo in obtaining Spanish registration, the Confraternity has a new association in the Province of León, dedicated to running the Gaucelmo refuge, the *Confraternity of Saint James de Ponferrada*. It has its own bank account and can operate independently, while following the terms of the contract and maintaining the spirit of co-operation with the Spanish partners.

The day-to-day costs of administering the refuge during the pilgrim season (April to October) and maintaining the fabric of the building is largely met from the voluntary donations of pilgrims. The CSJ de Ponferrada is now responsible for all payments, including insurance and utilities and making sure, with our partners' help, that we comply with all statutory and local regulations. Postcards and Pilgrim Guides are sold at the refuge and proceeds go to the CSJ.

Since 1991 we have welcomed over 110,000 pilgrims, six thousand of them in 2008. They have come from almost every country. Most pilgrims arrive on foot, although some come by bicycle and others sometimes bring horses or donkeys (for which we have a paddock in the orchard).

Prospective hospitaleros are invited to a training day in January, during which they are given some historical background to Refugio Gaucelmo as well as instruction in the administration of the refuge during their two-week stay.'

We are most grateful to all those who support Gaucelmo's work in any way.

Paul Graham

Secretary's Review of 2007-2008

The 25th Anniversary of the Confraternity has been celebrated through the year. Most notable was the production of *Roads to Santiago* launched in May at the House of Lords in partnership with Redemptorist Publications. This 'spiritual companion' contains reflections by 25 pilgrims (all CSJ members), accompanied by poems or religious texts and photographs from the CSJ's online Picture Gallery. A copy was sent to each member with the June Bulletin for use as a recruiting and publicity tool.

Changes to Trustees: Paul Graham has returned as a Trustee while he is Chairman of the Gaucelmo sub committee. Roger Davies has joined the Committee for the first time and will take over from Graham Scholes as hospitalero coordinator in 2009. Ricky Yates has resigned, due to his relocation as Anglican chaplain in Prague. The Trustees have in particular been considering the future development of the Bursary Fund after a decline in the number of applications. Various options are being explored including identifying a partner organisation to work with groups of people

for whom pilgrimage would be therapeutic. They have also been considering how to improve retention of members.

Considerable time is devoted to our responsibilities in recruiting and training *hospitalero/as* for our two refuges in Spain and also assisting the Association Voie de Vézelay in the provision of *hospitalier/ières* for their refuges. Trustees have drawn up some pastoral guidelines for supporting pilgrims at refuges and improved the criteria for the selection of hospitaleros. Working parties at each refuge keep the buildings in good order for pilgrims. The subcommittee chairmen and *hospitalero* coordinators also ensure that each refuge runs smoothly.

Meetings during the year included three Practical Pilgrim days-held in London, Edinburgh and Birmingham - to prepare pilgrims for their forthcoming pilgrimages. During the spring meetings were held in the West Midlands and Forest of Dean, offering pilgrims a chance to meet on a more local level. Office Open days were held on 6 Saturdays as well as the regular Thursday opening. St James's day was celebrated with a service at St James the Great Snitterfield, Warwks and a programme of St James –related visits and walks around Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick. We were very pleased to welcome Mr Henryk Karas of the Polish Confraternity of St James the Apostle to join us.

After the pilgrimage season a service for Returned Pilgrims was held in Loughton, preceded by a beautiful autumnal walk in Epping Forest. The climax of the year has been a weekend of events in London, with over 100 members participating. After a busy Open Day the annual Storrs Lecture was given by CSJ member Prof Dame Jinty Nelson on 'Defending and criticising Pilgrimage in the Early Middle Ages'. The next day a celebration service was held at St Mary's Clapham with D Joaquin Barreira Pereira, the organist of Santiago cathedral as a guest and with the CSJ choir, followed by a Galician meal in a local restaurant. Meanwhile other members enjoyed fundraising talks and tapas in Bromsgrove.

As well as *Roads to Santiago* other new publications include a fundraising cookery book *Que Aproveche!* which is selling well. New Guides to routes in France published in English for the first time are being stocked. The 2006 Storrs lecture *The Four Routes to Spain and the Architecture of the Pilgrimage* by Prof Eric Fernie was published in November. Some of the shorter CSJ Guides to Routes in Spain have been updated during the year, and as a trial they will be available to be downloaded from the CSJ website as well as hard copies. Work has been done to the CSJ website to link it more closely with other complementary camino sites in English (www.pilgrimage-to-santiago.com and www.santiago-compostela.net), so that all may benefit.

The Confraternity was represented at two conferences in Spain (Lugo –Laurie Dennett and Robert Sellick) and Zaragoza-William Griffiths, Colin Jones, Laurie Dennett and Marion Marples) and one in France (Bourges –William Griffiths). We have been pleased to meet D Jenaro Cebrián Franco, the Canon in charge of the Pilgrim office in Santiago, who has reassured us that the Confraternity's Pilgrim Records will be accepted by the Pilgrim Office for the issue of Compostelas from 2009, when new rules are introduced for Spanish *credenciales*.

Office work was disrupted early in the year by break ins at Christ Church. Fortunately, computer back-ups meant that no information was lost. The proposed new developments around the church in Blackfriars Road are currently on hold awaiting the outcome of a public enquiry. The building is consequently more vulnerable. However, the church has put in place increased security measures for all its tenants.

Many people in the CSJ organisation are responsible for large parts of our work; we are indebted to them for their energy and expertise and their conscientiousness in making sure everything happens for the benefit the wider world of pilgrimage and of members.

Marion Marples

Miraz - 4th Annual Report

I would like to begin this report by offering thanks on behalf of the Confraternity to all who have given their time and skills to help run the refuge at Miraz during the year 2008. Miraz committees members, the working party team, the relay of wardens and, of course, fund raisers have ensured

that Miraz has not only run well but has maintained the Confraternity's high reputation for serving pilgrims through the provision of outstanding refuges. Comments recorded in our pilgrim's book consistently reflect their appreciation of this work.

The numbers of pilgrims staying at Miraz continues to rise. This year we marked the arrival in Monday, 11th August of the 5000th pilgrim since we began keeping records. As of 4th November 08 a total of 2114 stayed at the refuge, bringing the number since we opened to 5882. We have also noticed that numbers wishing to use the refuge outside the traditional pilgrim months of July, August and September have increased markedly. In the light of this, and given the lack of accommodation nearby, the Miraz committee decided that it would be appropriate to open the refuge to pilgrims all the year round, subject to the availability of wardens.

Early in the year I met the new Bishop of Lugo to introduce the Confraternity and its work at Miraz. Don Alfonso Carrasco Rouco showed a lively interest, not only in the refuge at Miraz, but also the broader issue of how pilgrims could best be welcomed by parishes throughout his diocese. As a result of this conversation the trustees were able to provide advice based on our experience of Rabanal and Miraz. The Bishop also expressed a wish to visit the refuge. This was arranged for the 7th October. He spent a considerable time at the refuge, learning how it functions and speaking to the pilgrims who were there. He was presented with a Miraz mug as a memento of his visit.

Although the refuge at Miraz may seem geographically remote this has in no way inhibited members of the Miraz Committee establishing good relations with other organisations that have an interest in the Camino del Norte. Conversations with the Xacobeo office, the Asociación Galega de Amigos del Camino de Santiago and the Amigos of the Province of Lugo have established good relations and valuable exchange of information.

Outline plans for the improvement and extension of the refuge have been lodged with the various layers of authority for their approval. In the light of the growing numbers staying and the extended use of the building the need to add extra dormitory space, showers and toilets is pressing, especially as the Holy Year of 2010 approaches. Meanwhile, investigation is taking place to ascertain the most appropriate form of heating for the building which will be a relief for wardens and pilgrims alike who stay at Miraz when the Terra Cha climate is less than clement.

It is a reflection of the generosity and hard work of CSJ members that the Miraz appeal has reached £83, 602 as of 26th November 08. The recent economic downturn and weakness of the pound add additional challenges to achieving the target of £100,000 but the Miraz Committee will continue to seek funding from a variety of sources despite these difficulties. Thanks are due to Maureen Young for editing the new Miraz Cook book, "Qué Aproveche!" designed, she said, to provide simple recipes for members and wardens alike. Please note: those of a more adventurous nature should turn to the last recipe.

Colin Jones

Membership Statistics

Membership at 30 September 2008 stood at 1,761 paying members (1,903 at 30 September 2007) plus 171 (160) honorary and honoured (aged over 70 with 10 years' paid-up membership) and 40 exchange subscriptions with kindred organisations. The paying members were split as follows (2007 numbers are shown in brackets): -

	Individual	Joint	Institutional
UK	952 (1,040)	449 (449)	19 (24)
Europe	69 (81)	22 (33)	4 (4)
Rest of World	<u>159</u> (172)	<u>86</u> (97)	<u>1</u> (3)
Total	<u>1,180</u> (1,293)	<u>557</u> (579)	<u>24</u> (31)

Analysis of Other Charitable & Support costs

Governance costs are those covering an irreducible minimum of administrative costs that cannot be assigned to any directly charitable purpose, e.g. the costs of the Annual General Meeting, processing subscriptions, balancing the books, and just keeping the organisation ticking over.

Other charitable costs are directly attributable to supporting the charitable activities of the Confraternity e.g. providing information about the Camino de Santiago, supporting pilgrims, lobbying for protection of the routes, selling relevant books and publications and fostering European networking

Salaries & NI - The company employs a secretary, a finance manager and an office administrator, all on a part-time basis. The increase in salaries from £44,802 to £47,495 is due to the continuing on-going review of salaries to compensate staff for the time spent on CSJ business. Much time is also spent on an unpaid voluntary basis.

Travel & Subsistence - trustees are generally required to attend 6 meetings per annum. The majority of trustees now live out of London resulting in travel and subsistence costs for all committee members of £1,876.

Member Meetings - This represents the net cost of various members' meetings including the AGM. Income this year was £582 and expenditure £3,989 compared to £932 & £3,110 respectively for 2007.

Other Charitable and Governance Costs

		Other Charitable Costs	Governance Costs	2008 Total	2007 Total
		£	£	£	£
Personnel Costs					
	Salaries & NI	37,996	9,499	47,495	44,802
	Travel & Subsistence	38	1,876	1,914	1,557
		<u>38,034</u>	<u>11,375</u>	<u>49,409</u>	<u>46,359</u>
Accommodation					
	Rent	-	7,049	7,049	7,125
	Insurance	-	762	762	725
	Depreciation	-	97	97	388
	Office Maintenance	-	89	89	195
	Office Equipment < £500	-	796	796	Nil
	Less Library Recharge	-	-2,283	-2,283	-2,283
		<u>-</u>	<u>6,510</u>	<u>6,510</u>	<u>6,150</u>
Office					
	Telephone	-	758	758	727
	Post	25	85	110	65
	Printing & Stationery	-	2,987	2,987	2,172
	Computer Support & Consumables	-	1,190	1,190	1,303
	Book-keeping	-	1,492	1,492	1,481
		<u>25</u>	<u>6,512</u>	<u>6,537</u>	<u>5,748</u>
Other					
	Legal & Professional	-	65	65	50
	Bank Charges	-	65	65	38
	Credit Card Charges	1,397	466	1,863	1,827
	Member Meetings	-	3,407	3,407	2,178
	Sundry	-	187	187	284
		<u>1,397</u>	<u>4,190</u>	<u>5,587</u>	<u>4,377</u>
	TOTALS	39,456	28,587	68,043	62,634

analysis of membership

UK	Honorary	Honoured	Individual	Joint	Group	Exchange	Total
E Anglia	1	5	58	34			98
Home Counties - N		19	91	48	2	1	161
Home Counties - S		18	132	61	2	1	214
London	5	12	148	53	5	3	226
Midlands E		11	35	28			74
Midlands W	1	13	99	42	2		157
N Ireland		2	13	2			17
NE		6	49	40		1	96
NW		6	67	25	1		99
Scotland		3	76	32	4		115
Southern		16	70	35	2		123
SW	2	12	86	37			137
Wales		1	26	10	1		38
Channel Islands		1	2	2			5
	9	125	952	449	19	6	1,560
EUROPE							
Austria				1			1
Belgium		6	1			1	8
Denmark			1				1
Finland			1	1			2
France	1	2	13	6		4	26
Germany		5	6	2	1	1	15
Gibraltar			1		1		2
Greece			1				1
Italy			3			2	5
Luxembourg				1	1		2
Netherlands			2			2	4
Norway			1	1		1	3
Poland			1				1
Portugal		1	2				3
Republic of Ireland	1	2	21	3	1	1	29
Spain	4	3	12	4		20	43
Sweden		1	2	3			6
Switzerland			1				1
	6	20	69	22	4	32	153
REST OF WORLD							
Africa			6			1	7
Asia			5				5
Australia		3	76	47			126
Canada		1	16	7		1	25
New Zealand		1	5	9			15
S America		1		1			2
U S A		5	51	22	1		79
		11	159	86	1	2	259
	15	156	1180	557	24	40	1972

Year	Subject	Score	Grade	Comments
2018	Mathematics	85	B	Good progress
2019	Mathematics	78	C	Needs improvement
2020	Mathematics	92	A	Excellent work
2021	Mathematics	88	B	Consistent performance
2022	Mathematics	75	C	Review concepts
2023	Mathematics	80	C	Steady improvement
2024	Mathematics	85	B	Good understanding
2025	Mathematics	90	B	Strong performance
2026	Mathematics	82	B	Good results
2027	Mathematics	77	C	Needs practice
2028	Mathematics	83	B	Good progress
2029	Mathematics	87	B	Consistent effort
2030	Mathematics	91	A	Excellent achievement

Confraternity of Saint James



Annual General Meeting

Please bring this booklet and the Accounts with you

Notice of the 9th Annual General Meeting of the
Confraternity of Saint James (the Company) to be held on

Saturday 31 January 2009

St Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1 7AB at **11.30am**

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting (19/1/08)**
- 4. Chairman's Report for 2008**
- 5. Annual Report & Accounts 2007-2008**
Proposal:- to delete Clause 1.4.5 from the Articles of Association.
Explanation:- With the increasing age profile of our membership, it will not be economically viable to offer this class of membership in the future. Honoured membership will still be available to all existing members and the change will only apply to new members joining after the date of the Annual General Meeting.
- 6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino**
- 7. Report on Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz**
- 8. a) Report on the Digital Library b) Slide Library**
- 9 Programme for 2009**
- 10. Election of Trustees:** Half the directors (ie 6), stand down and are standing for re-election: William Griffiths, Colin Jones, Angelika Schneider, Susan Goddard, (Ricky Yates resigned Sept 08, Cristina Spink standing down). Continuing: Gosia Brykczynska, Roger Davies, Paul Graham, Catherine Kimmel, Mary Moseley, Alison Raju and Graeme Taylor.
- 11. Any Other Business**

!!!! PROGRAMME for the Day PLEASE NOTE TIMINGS !!!!

- 11.00 **Doors open** Coffee available
- 11.30 **Annual General Meeting** Main Hall
Bring Picnic Lunch (drinks available) or pubs nearby
- 13.30 **Ten Best Slides/ Ten Best Powerpoint** –routes, items of St James interest to share
- 14.30 Speed Practical Pilgrim –meet others who have done the route you want to do (next)**
- 15.30 **Tea** Main Hall
- 16.30 **Performance**
One day I'll go to Compostelle: Marie-Céline Lachaud
As performed in the 2008 Edinburgh Festival
- 6.00 **Annual New Year Party** Main Hall

The **Annual General Meeting** is the main event for members of the Confraternity's year. It is friendly and fun and a good way of meeting other pilgrims. Please help us by returning the form to speed Registration and avoid seating problems.

Trustees: Would you like to help by serving on the Committee? For further information about what is entailed please contact any existing committee member. The Committee would benefit from the skills of one or two new members, especially those interested in developing the Programme, or with an interest in Rabanal or Miraz.

A full list of nominations and existing Trustees will be available at the AGM.

Standing down and standing for re-election in 2009:

William Griffiths: William Griffiths joined the CSJ in 1984 and has been Chairman since 2003. He has been an *hospitalier* in Estaing and Corbigny and Vézelay.

Colin Jones: Colin Jones has been a member of the CSJ since 1991. He has explored many of the pilgrim routes in Spain and has been a *hospitalero* for a variety of albergues. Recently, he has been part of the project to develop the new refuge at Miraz. From his experiences he sees that the modern pilgrimage fosters a spirit of hospitality and co-operation which he also believes is the heart of the CSJ.

Angelika Schneider: Having walked to Santiago on various Camino routes I've developed a strong passion for promoting the Camino. By being involved with Miraz (fundraising) and by working on the CSJ committee this has enabled me to give something back to the Camino by utilising my practical and business experience.

Sue Goddard

Remaining Trustees

Gosia Brykczynska: Gosia Brykczynska has been an active member of the CSJ since 1983. For the past 8 years she has been editor of the CSJ Bulletin. To keep her pilgrim soul inspired she has been walking the various pilgrim routes through France, having completed the *Camino Inglés* and *Portugués* and more recently part of the Arles route.

Paul Graham: I joined the CSJ in 1988 - penny farthing ride from Bordeaux to Santiago in 1989 - joined Laurie and Walter on first visit to Rabanal and Ponferrada - chairman of Gaucelmo from 2000 to 2006 - re-joined Gaucelmo committee in 2008.

Catherine Kimmel: After resisting the call of the camino for many years, Catherine undertook her first pilgrimage four years ago. The experience so moved her that she has been involved with the CSJ since that time, working as a hospitalero at Rabanal and active on the Miraz committee. Her professional life in risk management on major programmes adds to her contributions to the governance sub-committee.

Mary Moseley

Alison Raju: Alison Raju has been a member of the CSJ since 1990, when she made her first pilgrimage to Santiago, and its vice-chairman for the last 7 years. She is the author of various CSJ guide books, has organised several Practical Pilgrim days, served as a warden in Rabanal del Camino and in Miraz.

Graeme Taylor

Helping and participating on the AGM day

Hospitality

We are able to offer accommodation in London members' homes to people from far away who otherwise would not be able to come to the AGM. You are invited this year to make a donation to the Miraz Appeal. If there are more London members able to offer accommodation, please make sure you indicate on your AGM Form. Thank you.

Badges and Friendship

Everyone attending the AGM is asked to wear their name badge given on arrival. Those attending for the first time will have a distinctive badge.

Speed Practical Pilgrim 2.30-3.30pm NEW EVENT!!

Many people like to use the AGM day as a time to ask questions about their forthcoming pilgrimage and meet others who may be setting out about the same time. We also have displays and Guide writers/experts about the other routes available to give advice. We plan to designate particular areas in the building for people interested in the Camino Francés, Northern routes, Via de la Plata, Camino Inglés, Camino Portugués, 4 French routes etc to gather for conversations about the route in question. Please state on your form if you are enquiring or giving advice and for which route you would particularly like to obtain or share information.

One day I'll go to Compostelle

A one woman show by Marie-Celine Lachaud of Paris, as performed at Mondaye, Paris, Wetherby and Edinburgh. An entertaining hour as a pilgrim reflects on the experience of her pilgrimage and the friendships made along the way.

To cover the cost of the show we are asking for a payment of £5.

New Year Party As usual we ask people to contribute homemade food rather than pay if possible. If you would like to help with the food shopping, preparation or serving please contact Joyce Culhane on 020 8241 3145, email gramesdyke@hotmail.com. If you bring food to the value of £4 you do not have to pay to come to the party. If you contribute food to a lesser value we ask you to pay the balance for the Party. Otherwise the charge for the day, performance and party is £9. Please complete and return the enclosed form.

Ten Best Slides/Ten Best Powerpoint a chance to share the highlights of your pilgrimage, a new route or items of St James interest. Please contact Catherine Kimmel cqkimmel@bigfoot.com about your selection. If you have any albums of photographs of particular visits please bring them to display.

Important Things to Bring with You

- this copy of the Agenda, and the Accounts
- any outstanding Library books you wish to return
- any photos/albums of your pilgrimage you would like to share
- any jiffy bags for recycling
- your contribution of food
- Money /cheques for

-Publications, including 2009 Camino Francés Guide.

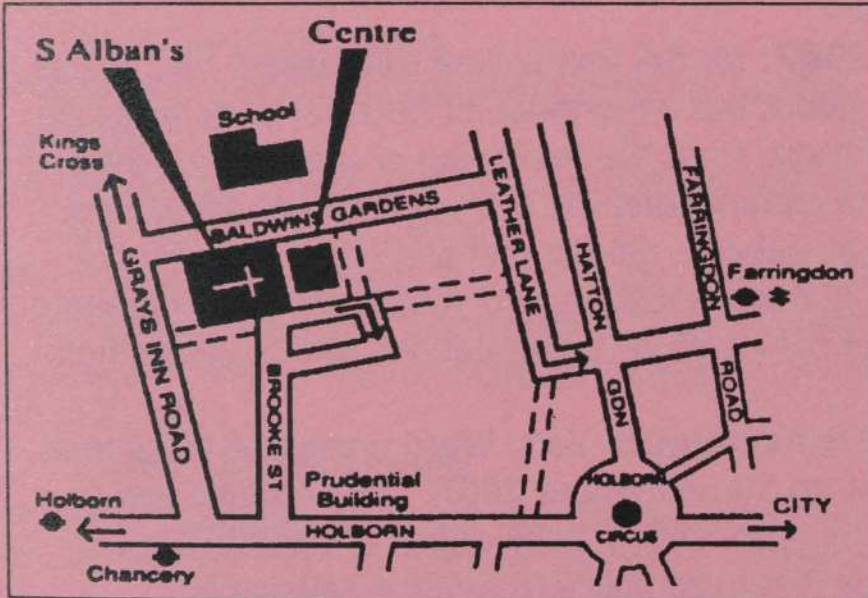
Things to do

Sponsor-a Week at Gaucelmo or Miraz.

This scheme allows pilgrims to continue supporting and keeping in touch with events in Rabanal and Miraz by sponsoring-a-week for £50 (or share with a friend), receive a letter from the *hospitaleros* telling you of pilgrim news and know that you are helping the pilgrims. See Alison Thorp at the AGM for details of weeks available.

Exhibitions : East & West Seminar Rooms *upstairs*

John Hatfield's display on the Vézelay route, and the development of pilgrim routes stretching back into Eastern Europe and Poland. Any further displays welcomed.



Arriving & Parking

You are strongly advised to travel to the AGM by public transport as there is little street parking in the area.

Underground

Chancery Lane (Central line) or Farringdon (Circle, Metropolitan).

Buses serving Holborn Circus or Grays Inn Road.

Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity of Saint James (the Company)

Held on Saturday 19 January 2008

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** The Chairman, William Griffiths welcomed members, in particular D Domingo Alvarez Sanchez and his wife Maite and D Bernardo Rodríguez Fernández and his wife Irene, representatives of the Amigos del Camino de el Bierzo, Rosa Vazquez from the Xunta de Galicia and Padraig MacSweeney of the Irish Society of St James. .
- 2. Apologies:** 13 apologies received. The recent deaths of Fray José Gómez González, Bishop of Lugo and Ben Burrows were particularly noted.

3. Minutes of 7th AGM of the CSJ (Company)

There being no corrections to the Minutes, the Chairman proposed acceptance: agreed *nem con*

4. Chairman's Report for 2007: for full text please see Bulletin 101, March 2008. William Griffiths spoke about the importance of hope for pilgrims as we progress. He also thanked all those from the beginning of the CSJ had made it what it is today. In addition he commended the physical work of developing the hospitality at the refuges at Rabanal del Camino and Miraz and also the Voie de Vézelay. He thanked all those Trustees and volunteers who contribute to the continuing work of the CSJ. He made presentations to our Guests from the El Bierzo Association.

5. Finance: Annual Report & Accounts: Tony Ward presented the Annual Report & Accounts for the year to 30 September 2007. The Accounts were similar to those for the previous year, with a small deficit of £2400. The Trustees propose to review the Reserves policy (6 months salaries for employees). Peter Tompkins congratulated the Treasurer on excellent accounts and asked about Notes 15 + 16 on the allocation of charitable or governance costs –reply 75% salaries allocated to charitable costs.

Proposed: to accept the Accounts & Report for 2006-7: Doreen Hansen, seconded Mary Moseley, carried unanimously. Proposed that Ian McLoughlin be the Independent Inspector, proposed Vincent Kelly, carried *nem con*.

6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo: Paul Spink spoke about the formation of a shadow CSJ of Ponferrada which would be able to have its own fiscal identity and bank account. William Griffiths had been elected chairman at the meeting held earlier in the morning. Ken and Joan Davies had developed plans for improving the *huerta* and building a paddock area for horses and donkeys. Pilgrim numbers had increased –he noted many Koreans (732) and many Germans after the publication of 'Ich bin da mal weg!'. Presentations of wine

were made to Paul and Crisitna Spink and (*in absentia*) to Tricia and Stuart Shaw to thank them for their work for Gaucelmo and with the hospitaleros.

7. Report on Miraz: Colin Jones announced that D Alfonso Carrasco Rouco had been appointed the new Bishop of Lugo, to be enthroned on 9 Feb 2008. The hospitalero rota had worked well, there were problems with overcrowding in July/August and strain on the plumbing, some trees had been replaced in the *huerta*. He emphasized that the fundraising needed to continue while we were working on plans for a new extension.

8a: Digital Picture Gallery: Michael Krier thanked Colin Jones for his pictures of the Madrid Route and Andrew Grant for Finisterre and the Camino Portugués.

8b. Report on the Slide Library: John Hatfield said he had supplied slides for 21 Lectures from the Library of 3659 slides. John encouraged members to apply in good time to use the slides.

9. Programme for 2008: outlined by Marion Marples

10. Election of Trustees

Reelected: Gosia Brykczynska, Catherine Kimmel, Mary Moseley, Alison Raju, Graeme Taylor

Continuing: William Griffiths, Colin Jones, Ricky Yates, Angelika Schneider, Cristina Spink, Susan Goddard.

New Trustees elected: Roger Davies, Paul Graham

Non Trustees on the Committee: Tony Ward-Treasurer; Alison Thorp-Systems Manager; Marion Marples-Secretary; Wendy Beecher/Anne Froud - Minute takers.

11. Any Other Business

a. Peter Fitzgerald observed that there was a poor turn-out for some lectures- he asked members to support meetings better and for Trustees to consider the days and times more carefully.

b. Katherine Lack announced her latest book on the eldest son of William the Conqueror.

c. Colin Jones encouraged people to Sponsor-a-Week

d. Harriet Matthews (TV co) would like to speak to anyone setting out in Jan or Feb.

e. Encouragement to buy *Que Aproveche!* to raise funds for Miraz.

f. Heather Coleman wondered if sometimes it was hard to understand lectures given by non native English speakers

g. Irmgard Churchill encouraged people to see One day I'll go to Compostelle- very enjoyable.

Finding Out about the Pilgrimage to Santiago

Visit to CSJ office

The Office is open on Thursdays (not 25 December or 1 January) from 11-3.30pm to welcome prospective pilgrims and to give advice and information on planning your pilgrimage.

The CSJ Website

www.csj.org.uk

It is recommended that you look at the CSJ website to find out information about preparing your pilgrimage. Other helpful websites in English are www.pilgrimage-to-santiago.com and www.santiago-compostela.net

Practical Pilgrim Days

These days are designed to answer the many questions about setting out on pilgrimage, to give a chance to meet others planning the same journey and to reassure potential pilgrims that people really do just go to France or Spain and start to walk.

The day is broken into different sections to give everyone the opportunity to participate –please stay for as long as you can.

Please visit www.csj.org.uk to find out about lunch arrangements-not yet confirmed!

Forms are enclosed with this Bulletin & AGM Papers