



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



December 2016

No 136

About the **Bulletin**

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Cover:
St James window,
Anglican chapel in
Porto, Portugal.
Photo by Gosia
Brykczyńska

Editorial

Gosia Brykczyńska

As I am writing this last of my Bulletin editorials, I note that today is celebrated the feast of St Margaret Queen of Scotland, an early English medieval saint, born in Hungary, who sought refuge in Scotland and married King Malcolm Canmore. She was a much loved and generous Queen, reformer of the Scottish court and church and a good friend of pilgrims to St Andrew's. Upon her death she was herself venerated as a saint and her shrine in Dunfermline Abbey in turn became the focus of further pilgrimages. A group of CSJ members visited Scotland in 2012.



CSJ members outside St Margaret's Chapel

Queen Margaret was mother to several kings of Scotland, while her daughter Edith (known as Matilda) married Henry I of England. It was Matilda's son William, Margaret's grandson and heir to the English throne, who drowned in the English Channel together with his entire court in the wreck of the *White Ship*, on the 25th November 1120. Among other reasons, this tragic event spurred William's father – Henry I – to build and endow Reading Abbey, as a major Cluniac house, and as a fitting royal monastery for his last resting place. Members of the CSJ are aware of course that Reading Abbey held for a long time the purported relics of the hand of St James and over the years the abbey has been the focus of several CSJ trips! Dr Mary Remnant even led members of the CSJ, in singing *Summer is a cumin in* in the abbey ruins; (a mid-thirteenth century manuscript of

this round and attributed to Reading Abbey, is currently held at the British Museum). Apparently, parts of Queen Matilda were also buried in the abbey, and the mummified hand found in the abbey ruins (and now held in St Peter's church in Marlow) could well be hers (if it is not the hand of St James). I write this today, because I consider St Margaret Queen of Scotland to be a quintessentially European royal, an example of a cultured, influential and devout woman who helped shape the history of medieval England and Scotland and who was a good friend to pilgrims, having funded the Queen's Ferry to take pilgrims across the Firth of Forth on their way to St Andrew's.

I also write this because within a few sentences it has been possible to link her person with the medieval cult of relics, St James, pilgrimage and the arts. These interconnected threads are also all present in this edition of the Bulletin and reflect the many varied aspects of the current work and



Shrine of St James, Reading

activities of CSJ members around the UK. Going on pilgrimages, visiting shrines and concern for learning and the arts are not solely the prerogative of our medieval ancestors. We too are involved in these activities, and so it should not come as a surprise that on Saturday 19th November a group of CSJ pilgrims gathered at St James Church in Reading, built on the site of the medieval abbey, to attend a Returned Pilgrim Day, led by our chairman the Reverend Colin Jones. Members of St James Church and members of the Friends of Reading Abbey also came to speak to the CSJ returned pilgrims,

and our already friendly links with these individuals were strengthened even more.

In this Bulletin, La Peregrina, recounts for us her local UK based pilgrimage along the Cotswold Way to Priknash Abbey in Gloucestershire, while George and Dorothy Derbyshire go in search of St Oswald, a pilgrimage in Northumberland, close to the Scottish borders – a place St Margaret would have recognised! Finally, the retired dean of Durham Cathedral recounts some insights concerning the cult and spirituality of early northern saints and St Cuthbert – a seventh century northern saint whose shrine is located in Durham Cathedral. It was of course Prior Turgot of Durham and later Bishop of St Andrew's, who wrote the first hagiography of Queen Margaret and who oversaw the construction of Durham Abbey (now Cathedral) and who in 1104 supervised the opening of the tomb of St Cuthbert and the translation of his relics to a splendid shrine in the magnificent Romanesque abbey church! But all pilgrims at some point have to hang up their walking boots, while for others, pilgrimages to hallowed places need to be undertaken by modes other than on foot (or bike or on horse-back...) and for those pilgrims – what next? How do they experience the spirituality and beauty of going on pilgrimage? Helen Willson, a faithful contributor and proof-reader to this journal has given us her own perspective on this question. Reprinted from an earlier Bulletin we once again share her insights with you. Not to be left out, Dermott Wynne gives a solid 'thumbs up' – for all equestrian pilgrims. I wonder if donkeys and asses are also accommodated under that category? From modern armchair reflections to nostalgia for ancient medieval foot pilgrimages by Michael Brown, and much in between – this December Bulletin ranges far and wide with a home-grown feel to it.

After many years I am handing over the editing of the CSJ Bulletin to another CSJ member, Michael Walsh and I would like to finish this December and Christmastide issue by paraphrasing our regular Bulletin contributor, Marj Winter, that now *I have my hands and my mind free to deal with other needs of the day, and free, also, to enjoy what there is to be enjoyed. At the moment that is tea and a rather fine apple, a late windfall, itself a reminder of so much of what is good; unbidden, unbought, un-thought, but there for those who would stoop to pick it up. So the true gold of the camino itself. I will now pick up other activities knowing enough to look out for little arrows. I have one on my coat, to remind me, should I forget. And perhaps, by now, after all these years, I have begun to understand the meaning of His words, "I am the Way". For the way goes on.*

And may we meet next year in Santiago.

An Armchair Pilgrim - further reflections

Helen Willson

I enjoyed reading Rosalind Billingham's 'Thoughts of an armchair pilgrim' in Bulletin 110 and echo her opinions and reflections about the enthralling experience of being a reader for the Diary project and vicariously sharing the journeys of these unknown pilgrims.

My own experience of 'following' the camino goes back many years to when I first became aware, through frequent visits to France, of the St James's churches and gradually of the mysterious threads that invisibly criss-cross Europe culminating at Santiago de Compostela. Since schooldays I'd retained fond memories of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and that evocative invitation at the beginning of the Prologue, 'Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote ... than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages' and gradually began to learn of the various pilgrim ways and destinations. During trips to France, Spain and Germany I sought out - or by serendipity came across - (as in Speyer - cycling through the main street and being thrilled to see the saint's sculpture on the Jakobsweg) buildings and landmarks on the various routes. Joining the Confraternity widened my interest and helped me make links at home too - such as wonderful examples of the Romanesque in hidden corners of Herefordshire and the secrets of the pilgrim in Worcester Cathedral. The whole of Europe now seems like a spider's web of Santiago experiences, with more and more to discover and research. I've reflected on the hierarchy of pilgrimage methods that seem to obsess some and come to the conclusion that just as those who have had great spiritual experiences on the way, those of us who have not trodden the



Padron musician

paths all the way to Galicia, still merit respect and have our own way of journeying and (self) discovery.

However, and this is a big 'however', I haven't yet been to Compostela itself. I *have* walked out of the cathedral at Le Puy and tramped across the Aubrac in crisp November weather and got some stamps on my *credencial*; encouraged a lone pilgrim bent under a huge rucksack in torrential Massif Central rain; I have seen Aubrac as a 'wheeled' visitor in boiling summer days when the villages were heaving; I've enjoyed camino exhibitions in this country and in the Lot Valley; I've been stunned by the beauty of Vézelay; I've been thrilled to see the camino logo on buildings in unexpected places; I've picked up the trail at St Guilhem-le-Desert; looked over the valleys into Spain and France at Roncevalles; found tiny chapels and fine churches deep in rural France; visited the little refuge at St Ferme; recognised the welcome of a modest scallop shell on the door of a house in neighbouring Monségur; chatted with pilgrims at Estaing; wished a tired Breton walker good luck at the Stèle de Gibraltar as we watched tiny figures struggling up the long hill opposite; sought out the church at St Léonard de Noblat; wandered the streets of St Jean-Pied-de-Port, walked across the bridge at Puente la Reina; gazed at the brilliant Milky Way streaming southwest in the black of a Provençal night; walked down the pilgrim path into Conques (and not been too tired to study and marvel at the west front!)...all the time knowing that somewhere in the far west was this culmination, this focal point to which all the threads run and are reflected back into all corners of Europe, which now seems like a huge cultural and historical jigsaw with these hidden paths offering much richness and excitement to travellers who are open to the spirit of the landscape and history around them.

For me the historical continuum is paramount and although I am (almost!) one hundred percent sure that now I cannot and shall not walk out of my door on an April morning and stride to the far western corner of Spain, the journeys I do, whether reading at home or driving through Europe, are enriched by the pilgrimage ethos and aspiration. I echo what Rosalind says about the 'panoramic view' that I know I gained over many years of 'travelling' to Santiago – even if it ends with Ryanair depositing me there! It is the journey – *my* personal journey – call it pilgrimage if you will – which will have been a fulfilling and fascinating palimpsest of books, maps, holidays, diaries, films, music, photographs, drawings.....the 'web' of discovery and enrichment that the Santiago story spins and the metaphor for life's journey that it represents.

A Camino from Home to Prinknash Abbey

La Peregrina

Holy Year and a camino to Compostela beckoned. It looked possible, doors opened and then all of a sudden they began to close. Never mind there are always other possibilities, Why not use the nearby Cotswold Way and walk in stages from home to Prinknash Abbey? So one lovely day in May I set out on the first leg from Yate to Wotton under Edge.

Yate to Wooten under Edge

The wooden frog at Chipping Sodbury seemed to wish me *buen camino*. The flat trek across Sodbury common reminded me of the Meseta. In the distance I could see the Cotswold hills and as I walked I found myself praying for others. then memories of other caminos came flooding in as I climbed up. At St Adeline's church I paused for breath and realised that I was missing things, I was too distracted, I wasn't in the moment. I calmed down. Memories of other caminos needed to be set aside.

I walked along the lane from Horton School putting off the climb up until I was well beyond the nosy and frisky young bullocks. I find being closely followed by snorting young cattle somewhat intimidating. It was a steep climb through woodland heavily scented by thick wild garlic then out into the open at the top with views across farmland to the Welsh hills in the distance. How easy it is to find God in His beautiful creation. A young family on bikes passed by. They were having such fun. It was sad to see the pond in Hawkesbury filled with grass and weeds. Last time I was here there were ducks. Perhaps there was no one to keep it clean. I guess I have to work at keeping my soul clean otherwise it will get choked up and sterile. In the distance the Somerset Monument which was erected to commemorate a son of the fifth Duke of Beaufort, Lord Edward Somerset who had served at Waterloo. The (newish) path around the monument is so much better than the former road route. Goodtracks, terrific birdsong, everything green, green, truly spring had arrived. A little further on spirits drooped. A long, long, slog along a narrow lane, made tolerable by friendly, considerate, car drivers. It was a relief to reach the turn off and I strode along looking for a lunch stop.

A place by a gate across the track, oh no! The gate was marked *Monarch's Way*. Not paying attention I'd missed the turning to Alderley. How many times in life do I miss something by not paying attention? For me that's one of the great things about the *Examen*. It makes me pay attention to what is going on. I had to go back. What a lot of time and energy lost.

A handy bench for a late lunch in Alderley and energy renewed I set out on the last stretch to Wotton. The track was delightful with a stream alongside and a tiny waterfall. It was a steep climb and there were a number of heavy gates but eventually I arrived above Wotton. The sting in the tail is no way down until nearly a mile past Wotton and



Pilgrim Rucksack

then it's a long downhill lane which pushes my toes to the end of my boots and my knees are grateful for walking poles. These last few miles were quite challenging but I had known that this first leg was perhaps too long! I seem to be able to push myself, sticking to the hard task. Why is it so much harder for me to stick with dry prayer times? At last down into Coombe and a pleasant walk into the town by the stream and past the church. My pick up point, hurray, and a handy step to sit on in the sun, whilst I waited for my transport home.

Second leg Wotton under Edge to Dursley.

This was to be shorter, quite a relief after the first long leg. It began with a bus journey to Wotton, which I found to be a good preparation. As I watched the countryside roll by I was able to focus my thoughts and relax into the day... It's a very steep climb up from the town, no exaggeration really, really, steep. A welcome pause at the top to look back down on to Wotton. The track skirted a field. It was hot, so arriving into a wood was a welcome relief. On other occasions I have come from the opposite direction and was always tired at this point. Now at the beginning of the walk I was able to truly appreciate the wood. Today it was open and dappled with sunlight. Wonderful tree architecture a natural cathedral and I could see how trees inspired Gaudi's *La Sagrada Familia*. This was ancient woodland filled with tumult and the evidence

of early habitation. The bird song was terrific and I had many glimpses of birds in the foliage but apart from one cheeky robin they were too elusive to name. The woodland gave way to an uphill climb towards the Tyndale Monument. This looks similar to the monument at Hawkesbury and commemorates William Tyndale who first translated the bible into English and was executed as a heretic. It feels odd to think that there was a time when people weren't allowed to read scripture.

On the way up, two friendly Australians walking in the opposite direction hailed me as a fellow Camino walker. They had spotted my pilgrim shell tied on my rucksack. We stopped for a chat finding that instant rapport that you get between people who have walked to Compostela. It was a steep path down to North Nibley village and I was grateful to share the bench outside the pub with fellow walkers. A path down usually leads to a path up and so it was. It was a sunken lane which gave welcome shade from the midday sun. At the top is Stinchcombe golf course. It is a huge loop to walk round the edge and although the views would have been good I opted for the direct route, keeping a wary eye out for golf balls. If anything the path down the other side was even steeper. I was glad not to be climbing up it. Dursley wasn't quite the end of this leg. I needed to get to Cam Station for the train home. There was an easy path to Cam Peak. This was still part of the Cotswold Way and would be the starting point of the next leg. On the way there was a field of knee high buttercups to cross. It was like wading through gold. I met a countryman with his gun. He told me that he was out shooting squirrels and that he also had a night sight so that he could shoot rats. He said that rats were extremely clever and it only took them a couple of nights to avoid where ever he was shooting. The route to the station went between Cam Peak and Cam Long Down. I had plenty of time so climbed Cam Peak to sit on the top and enjoy the views. There was so much variety on the walk. It was easy to be in the moment and at one with God's creation. I was so much in the moment that I took a wrong track on my way to the station. I sensed it was wrong but just didn't want to admit it and turn back. The consequence of that pride was a long hot and unpleasant walk by the main road. Good lesson: admit your mistakes, be prepared to turn back, ask for help, pay attention!

Leg 3 from Dursley to Stonehouse

When I returned from Cam Station to pick up the Cotswold Way at Cam Long Down it was so easy because I was going the right way! It seemed no time before Cam Long Down was in the distance behind

me. Today it was overcast so not too hot which was good because it was a day with plenty of climb. In fact along the top of the escarpment it felt quite chilly. It turned out to be a day of encounters. There were a number of dog walkers, who expected their animals to behave. I like that, as I find some dog owners assume it's all right for their pooch to jump up and slobber all over you and get quite hostile if you object. A bit of mutual respect never comes amiss and we were able to have friendly encounters. Next along the path I met a lovely young family very energetic and cheerful in spite of the chilly mist. Their mum said it was the bacon butties they had eaten at their camp site. They were looking for Hetty Peglers Tump. I was able to point them in the right direction. So I was a *Camino Angel* for them. There are many *Camino Angels* on the way to Compostela. These are the people who come from nowhere with the appropriate help just at the right time. I remember Manolo who turned up at the tiny *refugio* at San Román where my friend Martha was struggling with a strained leg. Manolo was a physiotherapist and gave Martha star treatment enabling her to continue walking. Next was a woman from Arkansas. She was headed to North Nibley and we had a chat about the camino she was planning to do later in the year. Shortly afterwards I met a woman from New South Wales who was hoping to walk *The Camino* next year. We had a long chat about routes and boots and what the camino was like, the weather, the *refugios*, the signposts. May God guide their pilgrim steps, *Buen Camino peregrinas*.

Finally I met my own Camino Angel, a runner training for a marathon. He showed me the best way to get to Storehouse Station for my train home. It had been another day of woods and stunning views of birdsong and wild flowers but perhaps more importantly a day of wonderful encounters. Praise God.

Leg 4 Stonehouse to Painswick

A hot day, but not as hot as two days previously when the temperature hit 30°C. I abandoned the plan to walk that day. All went swimmingly, the train arrived on time and reached Gloucester in plenty of time for the connection to Stonehouse. The train to Stonehouse had been cancelled. Never mind the station staff said there would be a replacement bus which was on its way from Cheltenham. The bus duly arrived, swept into the station forecourt and straight out again. The staff were hugely apologetic and as compensation gave me a bottle of water and a £5 voucher to spend at the café. Every cloud has a silver lining and the next train arrived in Stonehouse 45 minutes later than my original schedule; no big deal. An

easy walk parallel to the train track brought me to the Cotswold Way and the first climb of the day which was through a vineyard. I might well have been in Rioja although there the grapes smelt like wine. There was more steep climb up to Randwick. The top gave a good view back to Stonehouse. From Randwick the path went into woodland. There were a number of ancient burial mounds. The shade was very welcome on such a hot day. There must have been nearly 2 km of woodland along the side of the ridge. Much of it was ancient oak, wonderful shapes and a paradise for tree climbing children with the possibilities of hiding and making tree top dens. I could imagine the grandchildren having great games. Their innocence and joy is such a gift. I hope I can always be child-like. The countryside was so beautiful. The woodland gave way to the open expanse of Haresfield Beacon. I walked right to the edge of the escarpment. It was superb place for a lunch break. I could see the River Severn glinting in the distance and beyond a dark hint the Welsh hills. Not a clear view, rather misty with the heat haze. I thought about the times when it's hard to see God but one knows God is there. Then it was time to come down from the beacon.

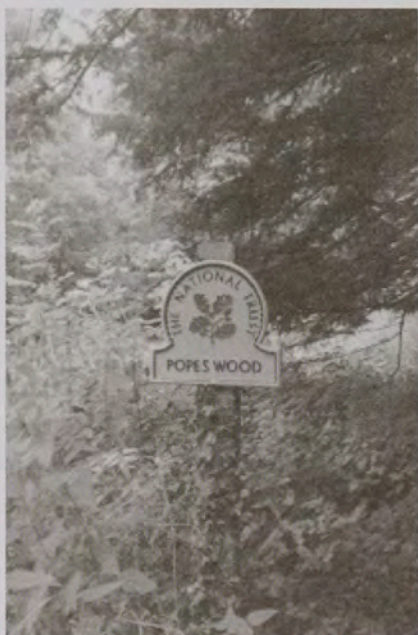
At the bottom I met an American couple who on spotting my pilgrim shell said that they were going to go on the Camino Francés in October. I wished them *Buen Camino*. I hope they will fare well, as the *refugios* begin to close and the weather is not great. I remember short days and frosty mornings on The Meseta and that was September! However we all have to do the camino in our own way and I know they will find their own gifts and blessings on the journey. My path continued through the woods and then a delightful surprise, as I went through a restored quarry which had been turned into a nature reserve. The wild flowers were wonderful. I had covered the ground more quickly than I had anticipated and it had felt easy. However there was quite a climb up to Painswick and it seemed to go on forever. Eventually I turned down to the main street and there was the wonderful Cotswold wool church with its famous ninety nine yew trees.

Last Leg, Painswick to Prinknash

After a morning yoga class to stretch myself out after a long walk on Sunday near Blandford Forum, I drove to Painswick for the final short walk to Prinknash. I wanted to make the walk on this particular day because it was 31st of July, and St Ignatius of Loyola's feast day. As someone who follows Ignatian spirituality it was a great day to celebrate the end of my camino. It was a short walk, barely 3 miles. From the car park I threaded my way through Painswick's narrow streets and up to

the open of Painswick golf course. The path skirted the edge of the golf course, not a golfer in sight perhaps because it was lunch time. The open green gave way to trees at the end and as I walked there were beautiful views across to the Slad Valley of *Cider with Rosie* fame. A short stretch past a working quarry, a bit unpleasant with dust and noisy lorries, was soon left behind and I reached the edge of the appropriately named Popes Wood. I indulged myself with a little wander in the woods. I knew I was nearly at journey's end and wanted to prolong the experience. I was also wondering if there would be a way into the Abbey grounds without having to walk along the busy A46 road. There was nothing marked on the map. I followed the boundary wall of the Abbey thinking the road walk would be inevitable when, goodness me, what's that? It was gap in the wall with a marked footpath; so problem solved.

The footpath led down the steep slope and I had a strong feeling of descending to a holy place. It was about 200yards along the drive to St Peter's Grange and the chapel. The Holy Door stood open, the end of this pilgrimage. The chapel was cool and silent, no one there,



Pilgrimage woods

just the Lord and me. I sat in the stillness just relishing this moment, recalling other caminos, thinking of family and friends. Remembering too all those people who have touched my life and have walked alongside for part of the journey before our paths diverged. I had an overwhelming sense of gratitude and joy. It was wonderful to be in this moment alone with Jesus. This moment was very special. However I know that these moments are everywhere if one has an open heart and mind.

Caminos are pilgrim journeys and now I was at the end of this pilgrimage.

It was time to go, stepping out onwards rather than retracing steps, looking forward to the continuing journey, ¡*Ultreia!* However my camino does not end it goes on step by step, day by day. This may not have been a camino to Compostela but it was still a true camino. One can walk camino anywhere. *Buen Camino*, reader.

Hooray for the galloping pilgrim

Dermot Wynne

Let's face it, there is a pecking order for just about everything in life so it should come as no surprise, although difficult to accept for some, that even the pilgrimage to Santiago tends to give greater preference to the walker over other forms of propulsion. Although I found the whole experience of the pilgrimage to be very non-denominational there did seem to be some selection when it came to your mode of travel. Personally I accepted fully that, as a cyclist, I would have to give way to the walker, but I found it very hard on the pilgrim, who had a horse or donkey, not to be treated with full equality. One husband and wife couple I met in Torres del Rio were very unhappy travellers because they had just been refused permission to stay at the Refuge because they "may be carrying horse fleas!"

So how do pilgrims who travel with a horse or a donkey fit into the pecking order? Certainly the pilgrims I met who were travelling with our four-footed friends were always very interesting people and often had amusing stories to tell of their experiences. Perhaps for that fact alone they should be considered among the first of pilgrims? Of course, during the middle ages, and probably right up to the end of the 19th century horse travel would have been considered to have been quite normal.

When I was staying in the Refuge at Burgos I met one returning pilgrim with his donkey which produced for me one of the more memorable moments of my pilgrimage. I was sitting in front of the Refuge when they arrived. It was immediately obvious that they were both seasoned and natural travellers. The pilgrim quickly unpacked the donkey and registered. I returned to the Refuge dormitory and was looking out of the rear window when I saw the pilgrim leading the donkey to a small paddock immediately behind the Refuge. He opened the gate and let the animal into the paddock. The donkey started to run very quickly at great speed, jumped and bucked with enormous joy. He did this for a minute or so and then rolled over onto his back and kicked his legs in the air with the sheer pleasure of being free, alive, and I'm sure the satisfaction of a good day's travel. One horse-riding French pilgrim I met in Molinaseca had had a very unusual

adventure the previous evening. He had found a bed in a Refuge where the warden also had a horse. Both animals were stabled together and all the pilgrims had had a meal and a very pleasant evening. They all went to bed, but at about 2 am there was an almighty commotion. The two horses had, apparently, had a disagreement and the pilgrim's horse had been bitten. In the commotion the stable door was broken and both horses escaped. Everyone woke up and was asked to help in the search for the two animals. Some two hours later they were both found several miles from the Refuge. After being caught and returned to the Refuge the vet was called. The pilgrim's horse was stitched and just a few hours later both pilgrim and horse were back on the footpath again.

By coincidence I met the same pilgrim and horse again at 7 am in the morning when we were both trying to find the exit to Pontferrada. The Frenchman's horse was very big and frisky and it didn't help matters very much when the horse started to slip and slide on the cobbled road. The Frenchman had had to sleep in the fields the previous evening and didn't look in the best of spirits and had a perpetual look of anxiety on his face. Rescue came in the form of a very helpful Spanish lady who had just been to the baker's shop for her baguette. She – somehow – perceived our problem and with excellent Euro gesticulations – she couldn't speak either French or English – bid us follow her and she would show us the right path to take. So there we were, all part of the most unusual procession. A Spanish baguette-waving lady in her small car followed by an anxious Frenchman on his colossal horse and ending with an intrepid Englishman on his bicycle, all travelling

along in Indian file. I'm sure Jacques Tati couldn't have created a better moment of farce.

St James is often depicted riding a horse and although his actions are generally warlike I'm sure he would give a cheer for the horse riding pilgrim.



Observed by a French horse, near Lodeve

And Afterwards

Mefo Phillips

*Faded tracks in long woods,
Muddy intersections
Scrambled, nothing clear
Except a small pebble added to a pile of stones:*

There was a pilgrim here.

*Those were kaleidoscope days
Painted in oils,
Washed to pale watercolour,
Sun and rain in overlap,*

*Land and people spilling
Off the IGN map.*

*Time was just for plotting practicalities,
At the end of every earthy day
No slumping on the sofa,
No slow unwind;*

*And it's only retrospectively
A journey in the mind*

September 2005

In the steps of St Oswald... possibly

George and Dorothy Derbyshire

Oswald's Way is a 97 mile trail in Northumberland which opened in 2006. It was originally an initiative of the church council at Embleton, though it is not officially described as a pilgrimage. But it is a splendid walk with close associations with the saint. We completed it in September 2016.

But who was St Oswald?

He was born a prince in about 605, his father being king of Bernicia, an area stretching from the Tyne north across what we now know as the Scottish border. Following a dynastic struggle he was exiled to Scotland in 616 and there, under the influence of the monks of Iona, he converted to Christianity.

The trail links Heavenfield, a remote site on Hadrian's Wall where in 634 Oswald reclaimed the crown in a famous battle, Bamburgh, the site of his royal palace and the Holy Isle of Lindisfarne, which Oswald gifted to St Aiden, whom he invited to come from Iona to establish a monastery and bring Christianity to his people. Oswald, saint and king, became "beloved of God" according to the Venerable Bede and the ideal of a Christian king. As was the way at the time, his reign was short and his death violent, dying in battle with his pagan enemies from Mercia and Gwynedd in 642. Subsequently the places and relics associated with Oswald inspired numerous miracles and a cult spread throughout mainland Europe. All that remains is what is purported to be his skull, buried with St Cuthbert behind the High Altar of Durham Cathedral.

We started our walk on Holy Island at the priory and left by the traditional pilgrims' path across the sands, having carefully consulted the tide tables beforehand. The causeway is for motorists and wimps!

The first few miles of the walk are shared with St Cuthbert's Way and are notable for the unique – to us at any rate – experience of having to telephone the signalman to obtain permission to make a foot crossing of the busy and very fast East Coast Main Line. St Cuthbert's Cave, where his remains were hidden from marauding Vikings, is worth a short detour. Essentially the first half of the trail is along the

spectacular Northumberland coast and full of interest with castles at Lindisfarne, Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh and Warkworth, (Alnwick is not far away), wide empty beaches, the RNLI's excellent Grace Darling Museum in Bamburgh, fishing villages and smokeries at Seahouses and Craster, vibrant seabird colonies offshore at the Farne Islands and Coquet Island, and just off the trail, Howick House and Gardens, the ancestral home of Earl Grey. A stop for tea is therefore recommended! It's at Warkworth that the trail turns inland and follows the valley of the River Coquet to Rothbury, a pleasant market town, well-placed at around halfway for a breather and for a visit to the splendid National Trust property of Cragston. The Coquet Valley is rich farming country, with frequent concrete pillboxes, evidence of the time the gentle river, now popular with anglers, was seen as a "stop line"



Footsteps in the sands

against invasion from the broad beaches of Bamburgh and Lindisfarne.

The last 30 or so miles are over the high moors and forests of the Northumberland National Park. On the coast we were regularly passing the time of day with walkers and holidaymakers: on the moors we barely saw a soul... until we reached Hadrian's Wall. There the peace and tranquillity of the moorlands was replaced by a procession of walkers and the roar of the traffic along the adjacent Military Road, a relic of

Jacobite days. But it's only about five miles from here to Heavenfield. Here the battlefield and the end of the trail are marked by a small medieval church isolated in the middle of a sheep pasture, and a large wooden cross by the side of the road. It's a modern replica of the cross Oswald raised before the battle, having been inspired by St Columba in a dream. The prayers of the army were answered in victory.

For those unfamiliar with the area, the landscapes of Northumberland are highly recommended. Always spectacular and it has to be said that when we were there the weather matched the scenery, with the exception of one foggy day. In itself it was an atmospheric experience as we were in an area of sand dunes, caravans and beach chalets. And the odd golf course. Accommodation is readily available (with a bit of planning), way-marking comprehensive and reliable though, speaking of navigation, two heads are generally better than one and two pairs of eyes always better. Our compass proved useful on the moors and in Harwood Forest. Shepherd's Walks, a Rothbury company, organised our itinerary, we used a baggage service, and would recommend the Harveys map over the guidebook.

Unlike St Cuthbert's Way, which is a route along the borders which credibly replicates the route he would have walked between

Melrose Abbey and Holy Island, St Oswald's Way does not follow a route which can be ascribed in confidence to him. But it does link the principal sites associated with him, is an opportunity to learn about and reflect on that period of English history we used, foolishly, to refer to as the Dark Ages, and it's a wonderful walk. Is it a pilgrimage? It is if you want it to be.

And it would be a shame to leave Heaven field without walking the four miles into Hexham, where one can visit the Abbey and descend to the Saxon crypt built by St Wilfred. But that's another story...



St Oswald's Cross

Return to the Camino

Michael Brown

I first walked the Camino in 1988 dressed as a medieval pilgrim. I had nearly been killed after a van knocked me off of my bicycle and sending me headfirst into a ditch leaving me with a broken arm and a fractured neck. In hospital, as I lay on my back for several days, I vowed to walk to Santiago if I was in any condition to do so, when I left hospital.

I had originally intended to walk from Burgos after taking a ferry to Santander, but was told it would be just as easy and cheap to start in France. I did not need much persuading. I had plenty of experiences of pilgrimage having already walked other medieval pilgrimages since 1982, including one in France to Mont St. Michel, so equipment was not a worry, but the distance was as the furthest I had walked before was about a hundred and sixty miles.

It was a great adventure for me. I barely spoke any Spanish; I had only taken 10 lessons at an evening class. I applied for a month off work with the chance that the job would not be there when I returned home. It was worth the risk to fulfil a long held ambition and to fulfil my vow.

I had set forth from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port with a guide book written in Spanish in which the maps were not to scale. There were arrows in yellow paint in places and strips of yellow and blue plastic tape in others, but there were many places when I took pot luck. On reflection I had often wondered if somebody or something was looking after me on my way.

My return to the camino was in May 2016, again the result on a vow. The three main members of the Confraternity of Medieval Pilgrims had made a vow to walk to Santiago together. Fifteen years on and we still had not carried out our vow, although we had planned it for 2002 and then had to call it off.

The first day of May saw us leaving Ponferrada under a bright blue sky and snow on the mountains behind us. We began at Ponferrada due to time restraints. One of my friend celebrated his 75th birthday the day before we left for Spain and he was worried whether he would be able to complete the distance in the time that we had.

I had plenty of time to reflect on the changes. Our first night had been spent in a plush hostel. My previous visit to Ponferrada involved starting at 5.30 in the morning and except for a short break in the afternoon, I walked all day and arrived in Ponferrada at gone 9 pm after walking about 35

miles, most of which seemed to be up and down very steep hills.

In those earlier days there were not that many pilgrims, even during the peak season, which was when I was walking, so finding accommodation was never a problem. The distance between each stage was often quite long, whereas now it is quite easy to do a shorter walk each day if you have the time and energy.

Having spoken to many pilgrims this year, those starting at St Jean usually take a month to complete the journey, whereas I finished in three weeks including one day off. But I was so much younger then.



Michael with his medieval pilgrim friends in Santiago

One main difference for me was travelling at two different times of the year. Instead of the hot and dry, parched landscape of a Spanish summer, the growth was lush and there were many more flowers in bloom for me to examine.

I had waxed lyrical to my companions for years about the camino. I knew it was now much busier than when I walked. I had no idea just how much busier though. The film, 'The Way', which I have not seen yet, had increased the number of people wanting to walk the route. Many of the pilgrims stayed in the hostels at night and few seemed to want to see the places they passed through. In the past I would meet the pilgrims I had got to know at a local bar and we would spend the evening talking about where we had been, who we met on the way and sing songs and play music.

I have many fond memories of *refugios* that varied from old buildings,

sports halls and even DIY shelters of plastic sheeting. This time we found nice comfortable hostels with beds that didn't creak every time somebody moved and kept people awake all night. Now there are showers, kitchen facilities and even beer for sale at some of the new hostels. Very nice and probably necessary now, but it lacked the thrill of not knowing where you would be sleeping the next night.

My biggest disappointment was O'Cebreiro, which had been my favourite stop on the whole camino. I remembered sleeping on straw in a *palloza* with no toilets or water. I remembered standing with other pilgrims gazing in wonder at the stars appearing so close that you could imagine plucking them from the sky. Now at O'Cebreiro you sleep in hygienic hostel, but cannot see the stars as the whole village is now lit at night and you are locked in at 10.00 pm. Where is the magic in that?

There seems to be a problem with cheating that I hadn't noticed before. We saw a bus drop pilgrims off at a most unusual place, quite a few miles outside of Portomarín. The pilgrims looked very sheepish as I took a photo of them leaving the bus. Taxis are advertised in every cluster of houses; the signs all facing eastwards to be clearly visible to pilgrims. We heard of people who walked far enough to get their stamp for the day and then took taxis to their hostel for the night. The camino has become something to tick off a 'Bucket List'. Get it done as quickly as possible – then move on to the next thing on the list.

One change I did enjoy was the increased number of cafés on the route. It was good to see that people were able to now have work in their village and not have to move to a nearby town. In some cases new cafés and hostels were being built but many were restored village properties that had previously been abandoned.

There have been changes in the way people live too. On my first journey I could buy dried fruit out of wooden barrels in small shops and cheese cut to order. Now everything is cling-wrapped just the same as anywhere else you go, but that is progress...

Most of the farms in Galicia are still very much part of a small subsistence economy and rural poverty is very evident; but the ox carts are now rotting in yards or the wheels have been removed for to make decorations, as gates or chandeliers. Now you see small tractors or rotovators tilling the fields. Gone are the days of families mowing the hay with scythes reminiscent of scenes from the Luttrell Psalter, but in 20th century clothing. It is good that more people travel the camino, but sadly, for me the very special magic has gone. Yet if somebody offers me the chance to go again – I will be back like a shot!

St Cuthbert: our travelling companion in faith

Michael Sadgrove

Some of you will have heard Melvyn Bragg's engaging series on *The Matter of the North* on BBC Radio 4 this week. On Tuesday he explored "The Glories of Northumbria". His focus was the way in which Christianity shaped the origins of what we now call the North East. As a southerner, coming for the first time to Northumberland as a parish priest over thirty years ago, I began to learn not only to admire the saints of the north but to love them: Aidan whose feast day was last Wednesday; Hild, Oswald and Cuthbert, Benedict Biscop, Wilfred, and the man without whose writings we would know next to nothing about any of them, Bede. Since the 1980s, they have been my companions in prayer, pilgrimage and the spiritual life. They have played a large part in my formation as a human being and a Christian. I have tried to learn from them, though I am a long way from emulating their devotion, their fervour, their capacity to see the world lit up by God's fierce and wonderful love.

When I came back to the North East as Dean at Durham Cathedral, I found myself involved with the saints in a very particular way. The Cathedral is a shrine church that holds remains of three of them: Oswald, Bede and Cuthbert. But it is Cuthbert who lies at the heart of that great and wonderful building – like Lindisfarne, a spiritual emblem of Northumbria if ever there was one. The Cathedral is only there at all because of St Cuthbert and the community who wandered all over the north until they found a permanent home for his body and built a church around it. To be guardian of Cuthbert's shrine, to have it as a focus of prayer and reflection, to welcome pilgrims who come in search of all that his memory represents – it's been the greatest privilege of my life.

But our own story comes in at this point, here in the upper reaches of the Tyne. For on their pilgrimage in search of a final resting place, Cuthbert's community stopped in many different places with their bishop, their Lindisfarne gospel book and the relics of their saints. Wherever they stopped, a temporary church was constructed to house the shrine. Many of them became permanent buildings,

a chain of ancient churches across the north that held the memory of this extraordinary journey. Old Haydon, Beltingham, Bellingham, Corsenside, Halton, Allendale and Elsdon are among those in the catchment of the River Tyne and there are many more across Northumberland and Durham.

So this church we worship in tonight is a footprint of a journey, a trace of a community on the move. I find great meaning in this. Bede tells us that Cuthbert himself was a great traveller, like Aidan and Wilfred before him, always journeying towards new and unknown horizons where he believed God was leading him to bear witness to the gospel. I see him as a kind of Jeremiah as we heard in the first lesson, a young man eager to go where he could uproot and destroy all that was unjust and wrong so as to build and to plant what would serve to bring about goodness and truth. In that reading, Jeremiah is promised hardship and suffering if he is to be faithful to his call. And having preached to exiles, he himself ends up as an exile in Egypt where he dies. There's a hint of Cuthbert there too, embracing self-inflicted loneliness and exile in a hermit's cell on the Inner Farne, not because he saw it as a place of peace and tranquility but because he looked for a harsh and testing environment where he could do battle with the demons.

I love the idea that like Cuthbert, his family of followers saw themselves as a pilgrim people. The monks of Durham identified them with the Hebrews tramping across deserts, rivers and seas as they looked for their promised land; they saw their great Cathedral as the goal of every pilgrim's longing, Jerusalem the golden. I used to preach about Durham, for all its rock-like stability, having been a mobile cathedral for all those decades Cuthbert's community were on the move. And part of its pre-history is this church dedicated to St Cuthbert. Because his community rested here with its bishop, praying, preaching good news from its gospel book, remembering its saints, we can truly say that once upon a time, the cathedral was here too. And if it turned out that in his lifetime, Cuthbert came here too, that would simply add lustre to what we cherish in the long history of this holy place.

So if we are going to be faithful to Cuthbert's memory in this our valley, in these church's dedicated to him, then we need to be travellers of the spirit in our minds and imaginations. That is to say: daring to light new lamps, begin new tasks, think new thoughts of God, hold new hopes of heaven. Our world and our lives are not at all like

Cuthbert's or his community's. But for them as for us, life could never be about standing still. "To live is to change, and to live long is to have changed much," as John Henry Newman said. If we follow Jesus the Way, we are always a people on pilgrimage. Embracing change can be the most difficult thing in the world. But what's so important about travelling is that it opens us up to new possibilities. It helps us to see new things and see familiar things in new ways. A Bantu proverb I'm fond of says that if you never travel, you think mother is the only cook. That's what Cuthbert and his community can help us to grasp: that there can be transformation and renewal in the lives of our churches, our communities, ourselves. Life doesn't have to be stuck in old habits or routines once we entertain the thought that God could make a difference.



The Journey, by Fenwick Lawson. Photo by Marion Marples

This was what motivated Cuthbert and the saints. They had looked into the face of God in Christ, and had grasped what St John is speaking about in our second lesson, words I treasure more and more. “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called the children of God; and that is what we are. We are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” *What we shall be has not yet been revealed.* But we glimpse it in the death and resurrection of Jesus and his gift to us of a transformed hope and vision of life. And we make it real by following Jesus as Cuthbert and his community did, loving one another “not in word or speech but in-deed and truth” as St John says. Like them, we look for the signs that God is making all things new. Like them we are learning how to live as those who are hope-filled, unafraid and glad, who believe and trust, like them, that God is among us on every journey that we make, until one day we see him face to face and travelling days are done.

Photograph of the sculpture is *The Journey* by Fenwick Lawson, of Cuthbert’s body being carried by monks, in St Mary’s Church on Holy Island.

Michael Sadgrove retired as Dean of Durham Cathedral in 2015 and is a Santiago pilgrim. This originally appeared in **In St Cuthbert’s Time**, September 2016

Albergue San Martín de Miraz

End of Year Report 2016

Many thanks indeed to Carole Vose and David Treslove for all their hard work over the past fortnight, being the last hospitaleros of this season. The logs have been stored, the apples picked and the grass in the orchard mown. Carole and David worked hard to see that the *albergue* was closed down safely for the winter months. The *albergue* will open up again on Palm Sunday 2017.

While they were working, pilgrims were still coming through however and spending the night, possibly because the weather has been kind recently, so those starting in *Villalba* or *Baamonde* have been encouraged to walk whilst it is still warm and sunny during the day. Nights are cold so the stove has been lit each evening, which has created a warm and welcoming environment for these late autumn pilgrims.

The past season has thrown up several challenges for our hard-working volunteers. They have had to cope with both water and electrical failures as well as problems with the showers and the boiler, but at least (touch wood) no bed bugs! The weather in the early part of the season was particularly wet and cold resulting in fewer pilgrims attempting to walk the last 100 kms until the weather improved.

Pilgrim numbers and donations have been down overall. In this Season 2015/2016 there were 2,483 pilgrims, with an average donation of seven euros. This was to be expected, taking into account that there are now 150 new beds within a radius of 3 kms. Added to this, *Albergue Turistico Miraz* encourages pilgrims who stay at their sister *albergue* in *Villalba*, to pay €10 up front and have their rucksacks transported to *Miraz* (or more correctly *Seixon* where the *albergue* is actually situated). This has resulted in many pilgrims stopping off at *Seixon* rather than walking on to *Miraz*. The downside is that the walk to *Sobrado dos Monxes* is then nearly 30 kms, the next day, rather than the 27 kms from *Miraz*.

However, it is certainly not all doom and gloom; pilgrim numbers in the height of summer were very encouraging and it took pressure off the volunteers to be able to direct pilgrims to one of the other

albergues if we happened to be full. Pilgrims have hugely appreciated our well-stocked and appointed kitchen, giving them an opportunity to cook for themselves rather than always relying on the *menu del dia* at one of the other *albergues* or restaurants. They also welcomed the spiritual side that we are able to offer by opening up the church each evening for half an hour of tranquillity and reflection. So few churches are open along the *camino*, that it means a great deal to the pilgrims to spend a bit of time in the beautiful and historic church of Santiago in Miraz.



Inside of church of Santiago, Miraz

Pilgrim numbers are increasing year on year and pilgrims are encouraged to seek out routes other than the Camino Frances. We shall see what the next season brings in terms of numbers but so long as we can receive sufficient funds to finance the running of the albergue, we can be optimistic for the future. On the Camino del Norte, they can enjoy a warm welcome at Albergue San Martín where we offer authentic, traditional, pilgrim hospitality that reflects the ethos and philosophy of the Confraternity of St James towards the pilgrims, walking through this beautiful quiet part of Galicia.

Many thanks indeed for all the hard work put in by *hospitaleros* at Miraz during the 2016 season and I hope to see as many of you as possible during the CSJ AGM in January 2017.

Albergue Gaucelmo, Rabanal Report 2016

The overall total of pilgrims staying at Gaucelmo for 2016 was 4,751. It was only marginally different from 2015 which ended at 4,719. The total number of pilgrims who have stayed at Gaucelmo since it opened in June 1991 now stands at an impressive 149,767. Our 150,000th pilgrim should arrive in one of the first 2 duties of 2017 – a major milestone for Gaucelmo. We have had pilgrims from 136 countries staying at Gaucelmo, with the Seychelles being our new country for 2016. Thank you to David Wesson for continuing to provide such useful statistics throughout the year.

September is appearing to be a busy month for bed bugs. The pro-active approach which is adopted at Gaucelmo is exhausting for hospitaleros but very gratefully received by pilgrims.

The CSJ sends a very big thank you to all *hospitaleros* in 2016 who met challenges of sick pilgrims, bed bugs, atrocious weather, difficult pilgrims, invasions of hornets, personal exhaustion and sickness with dedication, concern and selflessness. Feedback showed the best part for our *hospitaleros* were the pilgrims, followed by contact with the monks in the monastery. How often does one hear that one of the highlights of the experience was “finding no bed bugs when cleaning” or “hanging out washing in the sun shine”!



Rabanal pilgrim

As in most years, the worst part for our *hospitaleros* were long days with no time off and lack of sleep. However, many of the *hospitaleros* are returning next year to do a duty in 2017 so positives have overcome the negatives.

The end of season working party of Dick Crean, Dave Arthur, Tony Green and Ray Woolrich did a sterling job tidying the *huerta* (with the obligatory bonfire!) and putting Gaucelmo into hibernation for the winter. Many thanks to you all for your hard work.

In the words of Martina from Galway, our last pilgrim of 2016 ‘*Tog go bog e’* which when translated from Gaelic means “Go gently”

Members' Pages

From Marion Marples

Opus Anglicanum: Masterpieces of English Medieval Embroidery is a highly recommended exhibition at the V&A, until Sun 5 February 2017. A world of saints, copes, chasubles, orphreys, burses as well as secular objects from the Black Prince's 'achievements' to Archbishop Walter's episcopal shoes, has come from the V&A's own collection as well as the British Museum, Stonyhurst College, the Vatican and Spanish cathedrals – among other lenders. The finest and most exquisite needlework made in England from the late 11th century until the Reformation is on display. It is fascinating to see how the iconography of St James changes over time – at first his pilgrim bag is attached to the pilgrim staff, later he wears it crosswise across his body. There are the earliest depictions of the murder of St Thomas Becket and a fabulous funeral pall commissioned by the Fishmongers Livery Company.

Vincent Kelly: we recently visited Vincent in his care home at Reading. He sends greetings to any who remember him. If you would like to send Vincent a card, please ask Freddy in the office for the address.

From Liz Keay



Facing Rome

I recently went with Gosia on a short pilgrimage from the shrine of Thomas Becket in Canterbury to the shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate, along the newly way-marked St Augustine Way. There are many ancient churches along the way – eg the Church of St Martin just outside Canterbury, the oldest parish church in England... and excellent pubs. We stopped overnight just outside the village of Minster, where there is a fine Benedictine Abbey, originally founded by St Ermenburga in 670. This is an excellent well marked pilgrimage and one that can be easily undertaken over a couple of days or the weekend. It is well recommended. Members may like to undertake the pilgrimage themselves next year. (See events page).



St Augustine Waymarks

From Gosia Brykczyńska

Fr Richard Honkisz and the Małopolska Association of St James (from the village of Więclawice Stare, outside Kraków) and the auxiliary Bishop of Kraków – Rev Gregory Ryś (who is a pilgrim and has cycled to Santiago) and several other pilgrim priests and many other pilgrims to St James, attended the official opening and blessing of the St James pilgrim chapel in the new St John Paul II basilica in Łagiewniki – Kraków, a few

weeks ago. It's really nice, with a statue of St James in the centre, and on the two sides – murals of the Transfiguration and of N. Señora de Pilar, while all round the chapel there is a frieze of pilgrims walking, cycling, and on horseback etc. (See photo) Next time you visit Kraków – make sure you visit the Basilica and St James' chapel.



Fragment of mural from St James' chapel, Kraków

From Elżbieta Frankiewicz

See photograph from the investiture ceremony for Dr Mary Remnant. The CSJ choir was present at the ceremony in September at the Servite Church and they also sang in the Servite Hall, at the reception following the Mass.



Dr Mary Remnant with Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster

From Richard Jeffries

Many CSJ Members, having completed the camino or other pilgrim routes, wish to give something back in thanks for their pilgrimage. A number of possibilities arise, including that of serving as wardens along the Vézelay route in one of three refuges run by *Les Amis et Pèlerins de Saint Jacques de la Voie de Vézelay* (APSJVV); they are Ainay-le-Chateau, Bouzais 5km SSW of St.Amand-Montrond), and Saint Ferme in the Gironde. If this opportunity appeals to you, Richard Jefferies (Mobile; 07963304302) will be happy to give you more background information, or you can speak to Richard at the AGM on the 28 January 2017. The APSJVV website is a mine of information and well worth a visit. <http://www.vezelay-compostelle.eu>

Book Reviews

Taking My God for a Walk: a publisher on pilgrimage, Tony Collins

Monarch, 2016, 249pp, pbk, ISBN 978 0 8572 1773 8

Tony Collins notes that in his job as an editor, he has published many books with a spiritual theme. He himself is a Christian in the Evangelical tradition, more attracted to practical action than contemplation, does not find prayer or worship particularly comfortable, and is somewhat sceptical about the value of pilgrimage. Also he recognises that 'anyone who makes a living from their faith is inherently compromised.' He needs to move from being an observer on life to being an active participant.

He describes many of the things all pilgrims begin to notice on arriving at Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port and sets out bravely to tackle the whole stage to Roncesvalles in one day. He has usefully also read up on the history of Charlemagne and the Battle of Roncesvalles beyond what is in Brierley's Guide. We read of his 32 daily stages to Santiago interspersed with historical diversions and much personal reflection as he combines the three types of journey – historical, spiritual and physical – to give us his own story.

On arrival, praying in the chapel below the statue of St James in Santiago Cathedral, he describes a real spiritual experience 'I felt as though I had been mugged by the Almighty, who had seen the flimsiness of my reservations and swept them aside.' On his return home he struggles, as many do, to settle into daily life. 'I was no longer simply a publisher, a husband, a father, a friend...It was only the start of the adventure, but now I was a pilgrim.' This pilgrim diary includes interesting historical information often missing in such accounts as well as spiritual awareness and reflection.

Copy available in the CSJ Library

MARION MARPLES

'Our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you'.

Uprichard uses this quote of St Augustine as the introduction to his excellent 'travel memoir'. However, his account of a post-retirement walk from St Jean in 2014 along the Camino Frances is more than a memoir. In this thought-ful and thought- provoking book he offers a day to day account of a walking pilgrimage with the expected history of St James and pilgrimage, encounters (good, bad and indifferent), landscapes, and impressions but it is far more than that. It is a reflection on his life, the world of today, belief and non-belief, all melded together on the path where 'the world no longer races by'; where time slows and allows for thought and an attempt to reconcile and understand the past, present and perhaps the future.

Like many pilgrims, he was drawn to the Camino- into the footsteps of many feet over the centuries- to try like them to assuage a restless heart 'wrapped in a temporary pilgrim mantle, seeking to regain (a) land of lost content', as, disillusioned with spiritual life they have taken to the road in an act of hope and devotion. You'll probably guess from the quotations already offered that he writes fluently and engages the reader immediately, in an elegant style which he maintains through the book. It's direct, written in the present tense for immediacy, full of vivid description and capturing those fleeting momentary impressions that bring an experience alive.

Roy Uprichard is a lapsed Anglican from Northern Ireland and in the context of his personal search for meaning and for reconnection with a Church which, he considers, 'speaks in a foreign tongue' and is alienated from many, reflects on many of the divisions and wars which continue to destroy and unbalance religions and nations.

It is a chronicle of personal growth - he looks back with intimate detail on his difficult childhood and youth amid the Troubles; rejection of his Protestant upbringing; the hard road to reconciliation with the Church; his breakdown after the horrors of the Troubles; the sense of peace when he rediscovers a form of faith which enables him to 'circle inside the tent of belief', and the uncovering of unsettling secrets in his family history. He writes eloquently and intelligently about that sense of 'the Other'...those different to oneself in nationhood or religious belief; our tribal nature and the destruction that inflicts on others, in comparison with the humanity and mutual acceptance he finds on the

Camino. He links these reflections to what and whom he meets on the road.....the shadows of history and old ills and what that can mean to long memories (Cromwell in Ireland, the Irish Famine, the Arab-Israeli wars, the current crisis in the Muslim world, the Napoleonic campaign in Spain, the Spanish Civil War and the anti-monarchist movement in today's Spain). He reflects on the tensions between the 'victorious' and the 'victims' post conflict and how hard it is to achieve true reconciliation.

The physical and emotional strains of the long walk impact on him at times and in a notable passage on his state of mind in Autumnal Portomarin, he eloquently describes himself as 'falling too, tinder dry, spinning, longing for outstretched arms'. I liked his collective noun - 'a Hitchcock of birds'. He quotes the poets R.S. Thomas and Rilke to invoke that sense of the Camino offering beauty and wisdom to be garnered during the journey to sustain the returned pilgrim, so that the Way 'never leaves' one and is 'carried in the heart'. He is constantly aware of those special 'thin' places (the church in Rabanal is one) where memory, hope and prayer make the air porous and people can 'navigate the borderlands between this world and the next'.

The Camino then, 'lets the air in', helps him make sense of his past and put things into some kind of order. He recognises that the Camino offers the chance to step between 'Ordinary time' (both in the liturgical and lay sense) and the high points of epiphanies and insights. It is a kind of 'safe corridor' of self-discovery. He ends the book and his pilgrimage at Finisterre with the vivid image of the path as intertwined threads all invisibly layered and blended to create both the Camino itself and the myriad fragments which lead all over the world to and from those who over the millennia have travelled, like him, in search of faith and meaning and in doing so have gained insight, repaired their lives and 'put things in order'.

Copy available in the CSJ Library

HELEN WILLSON

From the Secretary's Notebook

Whilst activity on the camino is beginning to wind down for the winter months, activity at the CSJ never stops!

Refugio Gaucelmo and Albergue San Martín have now been closed until Spring. Profound thanks to all those who have run or volunteered at the hostels over 2016. There have been great landmarks and some challenges this year, which were all reflected upon at the annual Returned Hospitalero thank you event, where over 50 wardens from this year gathered to discuss their experiences before being treated to lunch in London.

In the office, we have been busy publishing our newest guidebooks. The latest additions to the shop include a new guide to the Camino Portugués from Lisbon to Porto; an update to the pre-existing guide to the same route but from Porto to Santiago; as well as the 2017 edition of our best seller, the guide to the Camino Francés. This will soon be accompanied by a pilgrim's guide to the city of Santiago itself, as well as a preparatory booklet for those who are in the planning stages. All new guides will also soon have a corresponding map booklet. Keep an eye on the e-news, the website, Facebook and Twitter for updates in real-time.

Since the last edition of The Bulletin we have had two weekend open days for the office, which have been very well attended and appreciated by all who came. We held our annual Returned Pilgrims Day in St James Church in Reading, which allowed pilgrims to reflect on their recent caminos and share their experiences. We also had the pleasure of hearing Hilary Guise speak about her camino experiences and artwork at the Constance Storrs lecture at the end of November.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the 17th Annual General Meeting in January in London, but until then I wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year from all at the CSJ.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 28th January 2017

Annual General Meeting

See enclosed pamphlet for details of the day's proceedings.

Venue: St Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, London EC1N 7AB

Time: 10:45 all day (see pamphlet)

Price: £5

Saturday 18th February 2017

London Practical Pilgrims Day

An opportunity to hear what others say about the pilgrimage experience, to build up your knowledge of the route and ask all those niggling questions about gear, maps, washing, socks.

To pay and book your place, please email office@csj.org.uk

Venue: Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Time: 10 am - 2:30 pm

Price: £5

Saturday 18th March 2017

Saturday Open Day

In addition to our Open Days held every Thursday, we are opening up our office, bookshop and library on Saturday 18th March. You will be able to purchase guides for walkers and cyclists on various routes of the Way through Western Europe, as well as the all-important Pilgrim Passport. There will be experienced pilgrims on hand to advise, recommend and reassure!

Whether you're gathering information for next year's season, or have just returned from the Camino and want to share your experience, open days are a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge and memories with like-minded people.

Venue: CSJ Office, Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NY

Time: 11:00 – 15:30

Price: Free of charge

Saturday 8th April 2017

Northern Practical Pilgrims Day

Another opportunity for members based in the North of England, Wales and Scotland to hear what others say about the pilgrimage experience, to build up your knowledge of the route and ask all those niggling questions about gear, maps, washing, socks.

To pay and book your place, please email office@csj.org.uk

Venue: Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

Price: £5

Saturday 22nd - Sunday 23rd April 2017

Guided Walk: St Augustine Way

There will be a walk on Saturday 22nd April between Canterbury and Ramsgate on the Sunday along part of the St Augustine Way. The route goes through a variety of countryside and passes many churches along the way – including the oldest in England! Overnight accommodation will be arranged by the CSJ. More details to be released nearer the time. Keep an eye on our website, the CSJ e-news, Facebook and Twitter for information as it is released.

Venue: Ramsgate/Canterbury, Kent

Local Group Contacts

Bristol & South West

Liz Crean thecreans@btinternet.com
0117 973 4502

Cambridge

Jo Wibberley wibs.anjo@uwclub.net

Norwich & East Anglia

Diana Alston dalston999@gmail.com

Wessex

Carole Vose carolevose@btinternet.com

West Midlands

Dave Jones d-jones56@sky.com
077132 49661

Devon

Valerie Brighton camigos@countysidematters.org.uk

North West

Ned Spencer nedspencer@point-systems.co.uk

Confraternity of Saint James

Registered Charity number 1091140
Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, number 4096721

Information and Publications available from Registered Office:

27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY

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

Telephone (020) 7928 9988 email office@csj.org.uk website www.csj.org.uk

Honorary President

H E The Spanish Ambassador

Secretary

Freddy Bowen
27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY

Pilgrim Record Secretary

Please apply with SAE (quoting membership number) to:
Stan Haworth, 45 Finedon Road, Irthlingborough, NN9 5TY

Committee 2016

Charity Trustees and Company Directors

Chairman

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

Vice-Chairman

Gosia Brykczynska, 148 Carlyle Road, LONDON W5 4BJ
gosia.brykczynska@talktalk.net

Other Members

Dick Crean, Robin Dorkings,
Richard Jefferies, Mary Moseley,
Tony Ward, Priscilla White, James May,
Catherine Davies, Arthur Chapman

Rabanal Committee

Chairman

Dick Crean, Balcony Flat, 30 Cornwallis Crescent, BRISTOL BS8 4PH
thecreans@btinternet.com

Rabanal Committee Members

Dick Crean (Chair), Michael Krier (Deputy Chair), David Arthur (Premises Co-ordinator), Julie Davies (Hospitalero Co-ordinator), David Garcia (Hospitalero Training), Maggie Gardner, Peter Garlick, Paul Murray (CSJ de Ponferrada Secretary) Laurie Dennett

Miraz Committee

Priscilla White (Chair), Carole Vose, Ted Jones, Averil Jones, Gosia Brykczynska.

Other Officers

*Treasurer
and Company Secretary
Deputy Treasurer
and Systems Manager
Membership Secretary
Librarian
Website Manager
Slide Librarian*

Tony Ward, Syracuse, St. Neot, Cornwall PL14 6NJ
Work (01579) 320480 mail@tonyward.biz
Alison Thorp
alison.thorp@virgin.net
Linda Hallsworth lhalls@aol.com
Margaret Simonot simonot.m@gmail.com
TBA

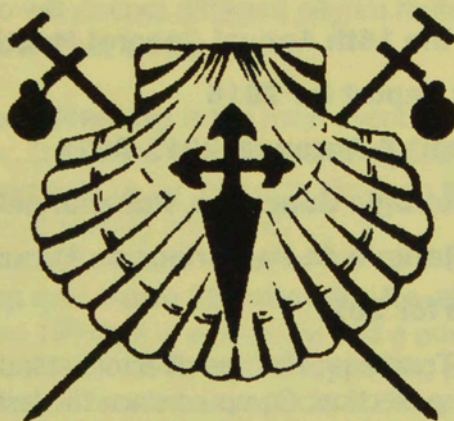
John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ
(01622) 757814

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

Digital Library Manager

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

Confraternity of Saint James



**17th Annual General
Meeting
2017**

Please bring this booklet and the Accounts with you

Notice of the 17th Annual General Meeting of the
Confraternity of Saint James (the Company) to be held on

Saturday 28 January 2017

St Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, London EC1N 7AB at **11.15**

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting (23/1/16)**
- 4. Chairman's Report for 2016**
- 5. Annual Report & Accounts 2015-2016**
- 6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino**
- 7. Report on Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz**
- 8. Programme for 2017**
- 9. Election of Trustees:** Half the directors stand down and are standing for re-election: Co-opted since the last AGM, James May, Catherine Davies, Arthur Chapman, existing directors – Gosia Brykczyńska and Mary Moseley - continuing Robin Dorkings, Richard Jefferies, Colin Jones, Tony Ward and Priscilla White.
Not Standing: Dick Crean
New nominations: Catherine Davies, Arthur Chapman
Standing for election: John Read
- 10. Any Other Business**

The Accounts and Reports for the year ended 30 September 2016 are enclosed. If you would like these in a larger (A4 format), please contact the CSJ office.

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

10.45	Meet and Greet. Tea/coffee available	Church Hall
11.15	Annual General Meeting	Main Hall
12.30	Lunch (bring picnic lunch; drinks available) or pubs nearby	
13.45	10 Best Photographs	Upstairs
14.30	Talk: The Smart@ Camino: Pilgrimage in the Digital Age by Nancy Louise Frey Followed by Q&A	Main Hall
15.30	Tea	
16.00	Which Camino? Members can join different groups who will discuss different pilgrim routes	Various
17.00	Annual New Year Party	

The **Annual General Meeting** is the main event for members in 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.

A list of nominations and existing Trustees will be available on the day.

Trustees: Existing and those Standing for Re-election

Colin Jones (joined 1991): It is a pleasure and a privilege to serve as a trustee helping the CSJ to fulfil its role of supporting and promoting the pilgrimage to Santiago. The various aspects of being a trustee come together as "giving something back" to the Camino.

Gosia Brykczynska (joined 1983): I have walked several pilgrim routes in Spain and France and also from Assisi to Rome. I have volunteered several times as a *hospitalera* and once as an *amiga* for the CSJ.

Robin Dorkings (joined 2001): office volunteer since 2003, spent 2 weeks in Santiago in 2013 as an "Amigo". I have walked several Caminos to date and hope to do more in the future. I have been a trustee since the 2015 AGM.

Mary Moseley (joined 1997): An enthusiastic walking pilgrim on *C Francés, Via de la Plata, C Portugués*. I help to organize major CSJ events.

Tony Ward (joined 1997): I became a member whilst on a long-term pilgrimage from St Neot (Cornwall) to Santiago, which took 8 years in fortnightly slots. I was appointed Treasurer in 2004 and have continued in that role ever since. I have actively supported the activities of the CSJ over the years, including several spells as hospitalero at Miraz.

Priscilla White (joined 1992): I joined the CSJ in 1992 before walking the Camino Frances from Le Puy-en-Velay to Santiago. Subsequently, I

have walked along the Camino del Norte and the Via de la Plata. I am now the Chair of the Miraz Committee, having volunteered as hospitalera for many years. I have been involved with the organisation of the AGM and the Camino, Miraz and the CSJ are a huge part of my life.

Richard Jefferies (joined 1996): I joined the CSJ in 1996 before walking the Camino Frances from Puente la Reina to Santiago.

Subsequently, I have walked along the Camino Portuguese and the pilgrimage from Guildford to Canterbury. I was the Chair of the Miraz Committee for six years during its commissioning, after working as hospitalier on the Voie de Vézelay in two refuges, I have been involved with the trustee board as fundraiser and look forward to developing its confraternity in France and other parts of the pilgrim world.

James May (joined 2002): Having been brought to The Camino Frances in the late 1990's, practical information, guide, maps etc largely came from the CSJ as the main source offering support to new pilgrims. This support and information was crucial in encouraging my initial journey along the Way.

Catherine Davies (joined 2011): I have been heavily involved with Refugio Gaucelmo at Rabanal with my mother, Julie Davies, the hospitalero coordinator. I look forward to supporting the CSJ and its members.

Arthur Chapman (joined 2010): Have walked the Camino Frances from Burgos, the Camino del Norte and the Camino Ingles. Have volunteered as hospitalero at Miraz for four successive years (since 2013). I hope to help promote the CSJ in Scotland and encourage people to walk the caminos.

Standing for election:

John Read (joined 2005): Composer of the Pilgrim Cantata. I cycled with a friend to Compostela in three stages from Caen in 2000-2002 and helped run a pilgrim hostel in France (I speak reasonable French). I am a former Marketing Director and director of three public companies, and project manager and currently chair a voluntary organisation and am a Trustee of our Community Centre which I helped to found, and am experienced in public speaking.

Office Closure

The Office will be closed on Thursday 22nd December and will reopen for visitors on the Thursday 5th January.

Helping and participating on the AGM day

Stalls:

Suggestion Wall

We would like to know what more we can do for our members. Please do use this as an opportunity to give us feedback and ideas of how we can enrich your experience as members.

Book Sale & CSJ Publications

Second hand Camino books for sale and selection of free Bulletins to catch up on will be available. Also a range of CSJ Publications, including the 2017 editions of The Pilgrims' Guides to the Caminos Francés and Portugués.

Pilgrim Records

Our Pilgrim Records Secretary, Stan Haworth, will be available with a register as well as both traditional and concertina-style credentials.

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 Julie Davies at the AGM for details of weeks available at Gaucelmo or Priscilla White for Miraz.

Giving Something Back

Find information on how you can give something back to your experience on the Camino; be it volunteering on open days, proof reading our guides, reviewing books for the Bulletin or simply lending us your expertise! See Richard Jefferies, Robin Dorkings and Tom Barton – three regular office volunteers.

Photographs

There will be the opportunity to display some of your own photographs from your camino experiences upstairs in the East and West Seminar Rooms. If you would like them to be displayed electronically on a rolling slideshow, please send in your "10 best photos" in a PowerPoint presentation to office@csj.org.uk

Other:

Hospitality

We may be 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 to make a donation to Miraz. If there are more London members able to offer accommodation, please make sure you indicate on your AGM Form. Hotels near the office are listed on www.london-se1.co.uk/hotels

Badges

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.

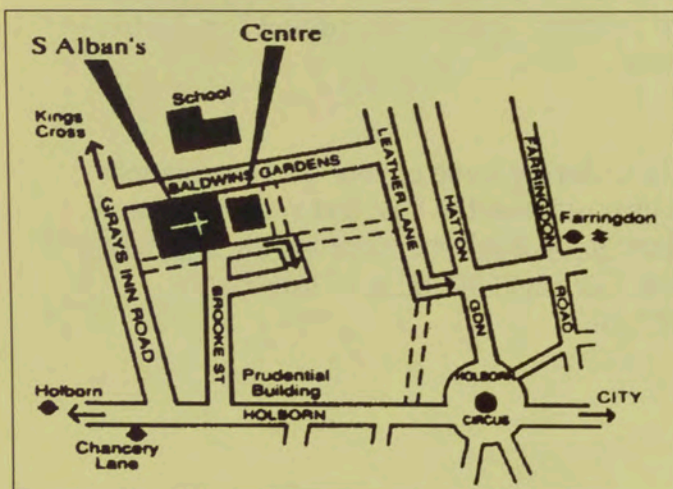
New Year Party This year we will be ordering in party food from an outside caterer. There will be vegetarian and vegan options available. If you have dietary requirements outside of this, we ask for you to please bring your own food.

Hospitaleros/hospitaliers

Find out about hospitality on the Camino and becoming a hospitalero in Spain or hospitalier in France, please speak with Julie Davies, Priscilla White or Richard Jefferies at the AGM. It is hard but rewarding work. We want to encourage more UK members to volunteer at Rabanal and Miraz and to point people with good Spanish to volunteer in Santiago, or good French to volunteer on the Vézelay route.

Important Things to Bring with You

- this copy of the Agenda, and the Accounts
- any outstanding Library books you wish to return
- raffle prizes with a pilgrim theme



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 16th Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity of Saint James (the Company)

Held on Saturday 23 January 2016

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Chairman, Colin Jones, welcomed all members. He congratulated former Chairman William Griffiths and Lucy Boyce on their recent engagement. He recalled active members who had died during the year.

2. Apologies:

Approximately 42 apologies received.

3. Minutes of 15th AGM of the CSJ (Company)

There being no corrections to the Minutes, Mary Moseley proposed acceptance, seconded by William Griffiths: agreed *nem con*.

4. Chairman's Report for 2015:

For full text please see Bulletin 133, March 2015. Colin Jones reflected on the positive and negative news from the camino, the recognition of the Camino del Norte as a World Heritage trail, the advent of *Xacopaedia* as an virtual encyclopaedia produce by the *Xunta de Galicia* and the general increase in popularity of pilgrimage to Santiago – not only the Camino Francés but also the Portugués and del Norte routes. He thanked Marion Marples for her steadfast leadership as secretary for so many years and welcome Jean Marray as the new secretary to take the organisation in a new direction, including upgrading the design of the CSJ credential.

5. Finance: Annual Report & Accounts:

Tony Ward gave his report and said that 2014-2015 had been a year of change in our organisation and this is reflected in our financial situation. Marion retired at the end of August and Jean Marray was appointed as her replacement. In addition, we lost Tony Morwood Leyland who had acted as our membership secretary for a number of years. He lost his fight against cancer in October.

The accounts for the year to 30th September 2015 had already been distributed. He noted the receipt of a legacy from the estate of John Revell, this amounted to £62,516. If this is deducted from our surplus on the general fund of £51,941, it leaves a deficit of around £10,500.

Additional expenditure in the year was the recruitment costs for our new secretary and the overlap in salaries totalling £5,500. The joining fee of £10 was ditched at the end of the previous accounts year; this reduced

our income by £3,000 and our bulletin costs increased by £1,800.

However, overall our membership has remained firm.

The legacy came without any directions as to its use. It was decided that £12,516 be allocated to our Miraz project as there was still a deficit on this fund even though it was reducing steadily. The reason was not only to recognise the amount of volunteer effort put into the albergue but to ensure that hospitaleros are not always concerned about the donativo they receive from pilgrims knowing that there is a debt to be repaid, rather they can concentrate on the welcome which we all value. The trustees have also allocated a fund of £5,000 for an upgrade in our computer facilities and redecoration in the office.

For the immediate future, we have sufficient funds to go forward. The publications committee is working on plans to increase our sales and maximise our surplus. A new part time book shop manager has been appointed to help with this task.

Tribute was paid to our Secretaries, Marion Marples and Jean Marray, our Tuesday helper Christine Pleasants and our Systems manager Alison Thorp. We should also not forget our many volunteers without them the CSJ would not function, we thank them all. If anyone would like to join our band of volunteers, please see Tom Barton who has a stall!!

6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo:

Dick Crean reported on the 4472 pilgrims from 63 countries who had stayed at Gaucelmo in 2015. Due to the poor state of the Spanish economy, the lack of a grant towards the solar panels and the fall in number of pilgrims' finances were stretched and this year expenditure would be more tightly controlled. Sponsor-a-week is even more important-all encouraged to participate. Fr Javier from the Monastery stressed the importance of the work we do together to deepen pilgrims' spiritual experiences and thanked CSJ for all we have done and do.

7. Report on Miraz:

Richard Jefferies said over 3000 pilgrims stayed in 2015. There was a lot to learn about the new buildings but the Working party and premises coordinator would be making a new manual. The garden needs improvement and Ken and Joan Davies will be proposing improvements and maintenance. Hospitaleros were still needed.

8. Report on Camino Chaplaincy:

John Rafferty gave a report on progress establishing the Camino Chaplaincy. Volunteers welcome English speaking pilgrims in a chapel in the cathedral where daily Mass in English is provided.

9. Programme for 2016:

Outlined by the Chairman

10. Election of Trustees

Re-elected and continuing: Gosia Brykczynska, Dick Crean, Robin Dorkings, Richard Jefferies, Colin Jones, Mary Moseley, Tony Ward Priscilla White

Non-Trustees on the Committee: Jean Marray-Secretary

Not standing: Liz Crean, Ken Spittal

11. Any Other Business

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Water			
Coffee			

Please pay via PayPal through www.paypal.com or by credit card details to: **St. Peter's Parish, 25 Blackman Road, London SE1 8JY**

Address: **St. Peter's Parish, 25 Blackman Road, London SE1 8JY**

Name (s): **St. Peter's Parish**

London Practical Pilgrim Day 2017

London - Saturday 18 February

10-00 am to 2.00 pm

John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NY

An opportunity to hear what others say about the pilgrimage experience, to build up your knowledge of the route and to ask all those niggling questions about gear, maps, washing, socks... Opportunities to learn from others and browse the guides to see which suits you best. Bring your questions. Set off better prepared! Please try to attend all day.

Approximate timetable

10.00 Introduction/ Spirituality and the Pilgrimage followed by Practical Demonstrations and Question and Answer

12.15 Bring a picnic lunch, drinks available

12.45 Separate groups for different routes / walkers and cyclists

Followed by Sending Out of Pilgrims

Tickets £5

Please indicate whether walker or cyclist and which routes are of particular interest

	Returned -which route?	New -which route?
Walker		
Cyclist		

Name (s):

Address/email:

Return details to office@csj.org.uk

Please pay via Paypal through www.csj.org.uk or send your cheque or credit card details to:

CSJ Practical Pilgrim, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

8. Report on Camino Chaplaincy:

John Rafferty gave a report on progress establishing the Camino Chaplaincy. Volunteers welcome English speaking pilgrims in a chapel in the cathedral where daily Mass in English is provided.

9. Programme for 2016:

Outlined by the Chairman

10. Election of Trustees

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Non-Trustees on the Committee: Jean Marray-Secretary

Not standing: Liz Crean, Ken Spittal

11. Any Other Business

Year	Water	Cycle
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Please pay via PayPal through www.paypal.com or by credit card details to: **St. Peter's Cathedral, 100 St. Peter's Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.**

Address: **St. Peter's Cathedral, 100 St. Peter's Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.**

Name (s): **St. Peter's Cathedral**

Manchester Practical Pilgrim Day 2017

Manchester - Saturday 08 February

10-00 am to 2.00 pm

Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester, M2 5NS

An opportunity to hear what others say about the pilgrimage experience, to build up your knowledge of the route and to ask all those niggling questions about gear, maps, washing, socks... Opportunities to learn from others and browse the guides to see which suits you best. Bring your questions. Set off better prepared! Please try to attend all day.

Approximate timetable

10.00 Introduction/ Spirituality and the Pilgrimage followed by Practical Demonstrations and Question and Answer

12.15 Bring a picnic lunch, drinks available

12.45 Separate groups for different routes / walkers and cyclists

Followed by Sending Out of Pilgrims

Tickets £5

Please indicate whether walker or cyclist and which routes are of particular interest

	Returned -which route?	New -which route?
Walker		
Cyclist		

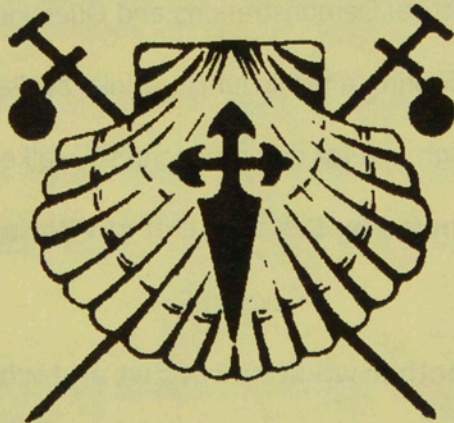
Name (s):

Address/email:

Return details to office@csj.org.uk

Please pay via Paypal through www.csj.org.uk or send your cheque or credit card details to:

CSJ Practical Pilgrim, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY





The Confraternity of Saint James

(A company limited by guarantee)

Report of the Trustees and Financial Statements

Year ended 30th September 2016

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, 29 January 2005 and 30th January 2010. 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 G M Brykczynska	Vice-Chairman
Mrs E Crean	Retired 23 rd January 2016
Mr R Crean	
Mr R A Dorkings	
Mr R J S Jefferies	
Revd C Jones	Chairman
Mr J C May	Co-opted 9 th May 2016
Mrs M C T Moseley	
Mr K Spittal	Retired 23 rd January 2016
Mr A Ward	
Mrs P White	

Secretary

Ms J Marray	Resigned 31 st March 2016
Mr F R J Bowen	Appointed 1 st April 2016

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, WEST MALLING. Kent ME19 4JQ

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 September 2016

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2016. The Board of Trustees confirms that the annual report and financial statements comply with current statutory requirements including the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities.

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 North western Spanish region of Galicia and the related history, art, architecture and music. Activities have included 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 although it is not possible to fully quantify how the organisation meets these other than the positive feed-back received in the comments book at each refuge and from returning pilgrims and from those with a personal interest in pilgrimage. As time progresses, the emphasis on what the CSJ concentrates has changed with the demands of pilgrims.

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 electronic invitation was been issued to members to act as trustees during the year. Existing trustees can also make recommendations to the committee regarding suitable candidates. At the last Annual General Meeting in January 2016, no new trustee was appointed. As part of the induction process, all new trustees are provided with copies of minutes for the previous 12 months and an introduction to the finances of the organisation is given. They also spend time in the office to familiarise themselves with current procedures.

Financial Review & Future Developments

The CSJ celebrates its 33rd anniversary this year. It continues in the delivery of its aims and objectives. However, and as in the previous year, the changing character of those travelling the Camino with pure tourism rather than pilgrimage becoming even more prominent and electronic technology continues to impact on the finances of the organisation. An ever increasing plethora of information is available on the Internet and the need by prospective pilgrims to become members before setting out on their Caminos is much reduced. Indeed, there are many English pilgrims who are totally unaware of the CSJ. It is hoped that our current website has gone some way to address this lack of knowledge. Perhaps surprisingly, our membership has stood reasonably firm. Overall, there was a loss on our general account which was due to a reduction in web sales, increased salary costs, including extra hours for the secretary and the appointment of a dedicated web shop administrator. There were also modest losses on our Miraz and Rabanal accounts after taking into account a contribution from both to general administration costs.

The very welcome legacy of £62,516 received in the previous year from the estate of John Revell has provided a welcome cushion to the CSJ's finances.

Books and publications continue to sell via our on-line web shop with the annual publication of the Guide to the Camino Francés remaining the best selling item. The challenge from retailers such as Amazon offering keener prices and reduced postage costs is no longer a problem for us as we are now selling on Amazon also. In the previous year, a new pilgrim passport had been designed and printed. This is of concertina design and is available to non members (£5 plus postage) on the web site. Many were sold in the year and we are actively attempting to convert these customers into CSJ members. Our existing "yellow" passport continues to be available to members as part of their subscriptions.

Both the Refugio Gaucelmo in Rabanal and the Refugio at Miraz, refuges for pilgrims in Northern Spain continue to be supported. The Miraz project is no longer our major concern as far as finance goes. Indeed, the situation with more pilgrims arriving on a daily basis in the busy summer period has completely disappeared as there are now many extra beds provided in the Miraz area which has reduced the total number of pilgrims staying by 900. 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.

During the financial period, the trustees continued to reinforce the principles of good practice recommended within the charity sector, having carried out regular Risk Assessment Reviews, 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. This change is now available. However, there appears little benefit to be gained from such a change and this proposal has been shelved at present.

The considerable amount of time being spent on Miraz and Rabanal business by the Secretary and Finance Manager continues to be recognised by an allocation of part of their salaries to these specific funds.

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. Our membership has reduced slightly in the accounting year. As already mentioned, the trustees are conscious that there are a number of English pilgrims on the Camino who are unaware of the existence of the CSJ. The refreshed website should go some way to remedy this situation.

The membership software system (known as Maximizer) originally introduced in June 2003 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. A new membership secretary (paid part-time) was appointed in June 2016. The trustees are considering the possibility of collecting membership subscriptions via direct debit and for new members to have a rolling membership year.

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 Finance and Compliance Committee has met to assist the trustees with ensuring that the CSJ organisation acts responsibly and in accordance with Company and Charity law. However, much time has been utilised in the main trustee meetings dealing with this particular subject.

The trustees now consider the most significant risk to this charity is the financial risk related to, or arising from the loss of our modestly priced office suite on Blackfriars Road where very major developments are all around Christ Church and the cost of finding alternative premises. Other risks are reductions in membership and demand for our publications being replaced by web-based information, demand for which we may be unable to satisfy. A significant and equally important risk continues to be the loss of key personnel and the unavailability of un-paid volunteers to undertake some of the essential day to day tasks, more paid help has been necessary. Increasing risks are injury to hospitaleros or pilgrims and/or the loss of or damage to property. Other risks are financial irregularity and incompetence of trustees. All hospitaleros training days include detailed health and safety briefings.

An update of our risk tables continues on a regular basis. The trustees are grateful to Ruth Abrahams for her past assistance in risk table management.

In general terms, the trustees monitor all risks and take appropriate steps. These have included cover/deputies for key personnel and increased insurance cover. The whole of this activity continues to be treated as part of an overall Financial Policy which is conceived as the core element in the development of a business continuity plan.

Public Benefit Statement

The organisation, in summary, provides a "one stop shop" for English speaking pilgrims and as such, provides the public with information and support and so complies with its duty as set out in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance on public benefit and fee charging, as the CSJ is heavily dependent on membership subscriptions, donations and the income from its publications and other book sales to cover its operating costs.

The strategies employed to achieve the charity's aims and objectives are to:

1. present a broad range of free opportunities for members of the public to learn about the Camino and receive support and advice about making the pilgrimage
2. provide a range of route guides that offer up-to-date information at a more reasonable price than typical guides
3. support other organisations and initiatives with similar and complementary aims such as the Amlgos Service in Santiago
4. work strategically with the authorities in Spain and with other pilgrims' associations across the world to improve the Camino experience for pilgrims
5. provide facilities for pilgrims at two refugios in Spain, where services are offered on a donation basis allowing people of all incomes to benefit from our shelter and hospitality. The Miraz refugio in particular offers pilgrims a place to stay where there are no alternatives in the immediate vicinity
6. celebrate the culture and experiences of the Camino, in words and events, via our newsletter and by inviting members and non-members to attend lectures and meet ups

Having put these strategies into action we have, in 2016 provided:-

- a for the general enquirer
 - an open office every Thursday
 - 5 open office days on a Saturday
 - We also held 2 'practical pilgrim' days
 - We answer approximately 12 detailed telephone enquiries each week, apart from many quick queries.
 - Run a website with information, advice and guidance.
- b Sold many copies of this year's guide to the Camino Frances plus several of our other guides. The Camino Frances guide is updated and improved every year.
- c Contact with the authorities in Spain and other important bodies has included attendance at symposiums and conferences.
- d 2,550 people of all ages stayed at Miraz and 4,700 stayed at Rabanal and they came from over 70 countries.

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 charity intends to maintain 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.

General – Unrestricted funds

The free unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £48,290. The trustees consider the most appropriate level of free reserves at 30 September 2016 would be about £20,000 to pay 3 months of operating costs plus £1,000 for known contingencies.

Rabanal – Restricted Income Fund

The level of reserves required to cover 12 months UK operating costs is £3,000 which is more than covered. This is retained for costs incurred via Blackfriars Road.

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.

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 2006. 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 14th November 2016 and signed on their behalf by

C. Jones
Chairman

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Confraternity of St. James Charitable Company

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30th September 2016 as set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act) and.
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to my attention:

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005) have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Certificate to be signed after the accounts have been inspected

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 30 September 2016

	Unrestricted		Designated and Restricted Funds				Total	2015
	General Fund		Miraz	Rabanal	Bursary	Other		
Income	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & Legacies	5	3,606	-	-	-	59	3,665	66,590
<i>Income from Charitable Activities</i>								
Subscriptions	6	44,998	-	-	-	-	44,998	47,723
Refuges	10/11		21,598	1,673	-	-	23,271	27,745
<i>Income from Other Trading Activities</i>								
Book Shop	7	28,924	-	-	-	-	28,924	36,323
Pilgrim Passports		9,534	-	-	-	-	9,534	2,843
<i>Investment Income</i>								
Interest	8	93	-	14	46	28	181	217
Exchange Gains	1/f	4,028	-	-	-	-	4,028	-
Total Income		91,183	21,598	1,687	46	87	114,601	181,441
Expenditure								
<i>Cost of Raising Funds</i>								
Book Shop	3	27,130	-	-	-	-	27,130	26,580
<i>Expenditure on all Charitable Activities</i>								
Complete financial running costs	4	79,541	25,655	3,905	-	-	109,101	101,755
Total Expenditure		106,671	25,655	3,905			136,231	128,335
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(15,488)	(4,057)	(2,218)	46	87	(21,630)	53,106
Reconciliation of Funds								
Total funds brought forward		63,781	8,295	6,806	10,362	6,528	95,772	42,666
Total Funds carried forward		48,293	4,238	4,588	10,408	6,615	74,142	95,772

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2016

	Notes	Designated & Restricted Funds					Total	2015
		Unrestricted General Fund	Miraz	Rabanal	Bursary	Other		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	17							
Computers etc		3,247	-	-	-	-	3,247	-
Works of Art		3,900	-	890	-	-	4,790	4,790
		7,147	-	890	-	-	8,037	4,790
CURRENT ASSETS								
Stocks and Work-in-progress								
Books and Publications for Sale	21	4,695	-	-	-	-	4,695	4,330
Other Items for Sale	21	1,204	-	-	-	-	1,204	1,222
Postage Paid Envelopes		-	-	-	-	-	-	285
		5,899	-	-	-	-	5,899	5,837
Debtors	18	10,429	-	-	-	-	10,429	3,883
Cash at Bank and In Hand		54,244	4,238	3,698	10,408	6,615	79,203	111,721
NET CURRENT ASSETS		70,572	4,238	3,698	10,408	6,615	95,531	121,451
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19/20	(29,426)	-	-	-	-	(29,426)	(30,469)
NET ASSETS		41,146	4,238	3,698	10,408	6,615	66,105	90,982
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		48,293	4,238	4,588	10,408	6,615	74,142	95,722
TOTAL FUNDS		48,293	4,238	4,588	10,408	6,615	74,142	95,722

Audit Exemption

(a) For the year ended 30 September 2016 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act")

(b) Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

(c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

i) ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 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 sections 394 and 395 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 of Part 15 of the Act relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

Approved by the trustees on 14th November 2016 and signed on their behalf by Rev. C. Jones
Chairman

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2016

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The trustees have again assessed going concern. There remains a reasonable level of reserves. The charity also enjoys the continued support of the trustees and members and as a result, the financial statements have been prepared under the going concern basis of accounting.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015) the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities. 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 19, 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.

(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, related software and other office equipment is charged over four 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. The exchange rate used at the accounting date was 1.16 Euros to the £.(2015 – 1.33 Euros to the £)

2. Restricted Funds

	At 1 Oct 2015	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Expenses	At 30 Sep 2016
	£	£	£	£
Rabanal	6,806	1,687	3,905	4,588
Miraz	8,295	21,598	25,655	4,238
Bursary	10,362	46	-	10,408
Ted Dickinson Fund	3,387	14	-	3,401
St Christopher Fund	3,141	73	-	3,214
	31,991	23,418	29,560	25,849

The Miraz Fund is a designated fund, 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, upkeep of the fabric and miscellaneous expenses at Refugio Gaucelmo. A separate bank account is kept at Banco Etcheverria in Ponferrada which, due to the joint venture with the Amigos del Camino del Bierzo is not consolidated within these accounts. The credit balance on this account at 1st October 2015 was €20,588.88 (£15,480.36) and at the accounts date €23,143.62 (£19,851.39)

Miraz – Funds are held on behalf of the Refuge at Miraz. A bank account is held at Banco Pastor in Friol 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 just over the £10,000 mark and awards may be 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.

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

3.	Expenditure on Charitable Activities –	BookShop
	Publications	6,332
	Books	6,854
	Other Items	1,570
	Post	7,034
	Paid assistance	5,340
	Total	£27,130

4. Expenditure on Charitable Activities – Running Costs

Bulletin	13,611
Library	2,369
Miraz	23,357
Rabanal	1,608
Website	657
Speaker Mtgs	110

Expenses	36,817	Direct Charitable Costs
Expenses	30,572	Direct Charitable Overhead Costs

Total £109,101

A proportion of the 2 large expense items have been allocated to the 2 refugees

5. Donations

General donations have reduced slightly in the year (£3,606 from £3,956). These are funded from the many generous voluntary contributions made by members in addition to their subscriptions.

6. Subscriptions & Gift Aid

Subscription income decreased slightly in the year by £2,459. The £10 joining fee was discarded in the previous year. This was balanced (but only on a "one off" basis) by sales of passports totalling £9,534. Tax reclaimed on subscriptions reduced to £6,931 (2015 £7,196). Gift Aid tax claims are recognised when a claim can be made, hence when members are paying 3 years subscription, only a claim is made in the first year.

Current subscription rates are: -

1 year

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£25.00	Overseas	£30.00
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£30.00	Overseas	£35.00

3 years

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£87.50	Overseas	£81.00
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£81.00	Overseas	£94.50

7. Books and Publications

Turnover was reduced, problems were encountered in both in our secure on-line bookshop at the start of the accounts year and with guide production. A Part-time bookshop manager was hired in December 2015 to address these problems. The final result was a trading surplus of £1794. This compares with an overall trading surplus of £12,579.

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. As can be seen, income continues at a minimal amount in the year.

9. Grants

In the past, bursary application forms were issued to universities and colleges of further education at the start of the academic year. Students between 18 and 25 were asked to submit proposals for their research and to indicate how it would be facilitated by financial assistance from the Confraternity. Short-listed applicants were invited to interview before a panel consisting of Mark Hassall, former lecturer in Archaeology at UCL, and James Maple, Hon. Vice-President of the CSJ, and awards were made for one outstanding project, or shared between several, up to a maximum of £1,000 per applicant. They were 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 were published in the Bulletin. No bursaries have been awarded in the nine years to 30th September 2016. An on-going review of the purpose and possible recipients of this award is needed in the coming year.

10. Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino

Expenditure of £3,905 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

-	Travel & subsistence	256
-	Hospitaleros Thank You Event	504
-	Anniversary Booklet	848
-	Contribution to office expenses	2,297

The above income and expenses relate to entries on the CSJ bank account in the UK. Pilgrim donations and related expenditure on food, hospitality, cleaning etc in Spain are for the benefit of the refugio at Rabanal 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 de Peregrinos de Miraz

Income of £21,598 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

-	Donativos and goods sold -- Spain	17,649
-	Donations (UK)	3,525
-	Gift Aid	424

All income received from pilgrims is treated as CSJ income due to our sole tenancy of the building.

Expenses of £25,655 were:-

-	Household, repairs, food, heat and light etc	9,149
-	Working Party costs	3,103
-	New Mattresses	2,154
-	Major Repairs	6,924
-	Sundries	60
-	Hospitaleros Thank You Event	503
-	Tiles for St. Martin sign	554
-	Contribution to office expenses	2,298
-	Meeting Costs	910

12. Bulletin

The Bulletin is published quarterly and the costs include printing, distribution and a software publishing programme.

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 and there was no major expense in the year.

15. Other Charitable Overhead Costs

The costs directly attributable to charitable activities are

		£
	Personnel	35,315
	Other Direct Costs	1,502
	Total	<u>£36,817</u>
Allocated:-		
General	32,222	
Rabanal	2,298	
Miraz	2,297	

16. Direct Charitable Overhead Costs	£
Personnel	11,988
Accommodation	8,947
Office Running Costs	5,515
Finance charges	741
Member Meetings & Sundry	<u>3,381</u>
Total	<u>£ 30,572</u>

Personnel costs include a total of £1,921 paid to 5 trustees for reimbursed personal travel expenses.

Governance cost were £35 for the Data Protection licence and £720 for the independent inspection of the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2015.

17. Fixed Assets

	Works of Art	Office Equipment	Total
Costs	£	£	£
At 1 Oct 2015	4,790	10,616	15,406
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>4330</u>	<u>4330</u>
At 30 Sep 2016	<u>4,790</u>	<u>14,946</u>	<u>14,946</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 Oct 2015	-	10,616	10,616
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>1083</u>	<u>-</u>
At 30 Sep 2016	<u>-</u>	<u>11,699</u>	<u>10,616</u>
Net Book Value			
At 1 Oct 2015	4,790	-	4,790
At 30 Sep 2016	<u>4,790</u>	<u>3,247</u>	<u>8,037</u>

Works of Art comprise a medieval 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

	2016	2015
	£	£
Prepayments	955	1,106
Accrued Income and Other Debtors	<u>9,474</u>	<u>2,789</u>
	<u>10,429</u>	<u>3,893</u>

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2016	2015
	£	£
Trade Creditors	9,264	7,982
Deferred Income - Subscriptions in advance	<u>20,162</u>	<u>22,487</u>
	<u>29,426</u>	<u>30,469</u>

20. Deferred Income

Subscriptions paid in advance total £20,162; £14,037 related to the year 2017, £5,750 to the year 2018 and £375 for later years. These have been shown as falling due within 1 year as the actual subscription has been received.

21. Stocks

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

22. Donations

There were no major donations in the year.

23. Net Movement in Funds

The levels of primary purpose trading income, subscriptions and donations mean that there are reasonable funds carried forward

24. Capital Commitments

All capital work undertaken at the Miraz refuge, has now been completed and all invoices received in connection with this expenditure have been paid. No further capital costs are expected in the near future although serious repairs and maintenance continue to be needed due to wear and tare on the building, however, due to the reducing number of pilgrims expected, this expense should reduce.

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 2016

Between the 1st of April and the 31st of October we welcomed and catered for the varied needs and interests of 4751 pilgrims from 68 countries with the USA (664), Italy (625), Germany (454), Spain (340) and the UK (308) contributing roughly half of the total number of pilgrims. Just 146 were cyclists and, unusually, there were no horse or donkey riders, despite the paddock being available. The overall number represents a very small increase on 2015. The level of donativos was almost identical to the previous year, 6.05 Euros compared to 6.07 in 2015.

There are several capital expenditure projects pending over the next 12 months including possible alterations to the evacuation routes in the wardens' quarters, possible enlargement of the dining area and repairs to the wall which forms the eastern boundary of the site and will need preventive maintenance during 2017. Minor expenses will include the purchase of a steam cleaner (aka anti bedbug device), a dehumidifier, and a new coffee machine (essential to the operation of the refuge). We anticipate that this expenditure will be absorbed by our income from donativos.

The committee currently consists of Dick Crean (outgoing chair until December 2016), Michael Krier (vice-chair), Julie Davies (hospitalero co-ordinator), David Garcia (training officer, treasurer and admin pack co-ordinator), Paul Murray (secretary and liaison with the CSJ de Ponferrada), Maggie Gardner (minute's secretary), Peter Garlick (medical advisor), Laurie Dennett (liaison with Spanish partners and authorities). Ray Woolrich and Tony Green are our new premises co-ordinators and will be attending committee meetings, working parties and also acting individually as hospitaleros. All trustees and Freddy Bowen (CSJ secretary) are entitled to attend the meetings as ex-officio members. As Dick Crean is resigning from the committee (to focus on other matters for a while) Michael Krier will chair the next meeting on April 2017 and the committee will then discuss the appointment of a new chairperson

In total, 37 hospitaleros spent two weeks looking after pilgrims at Rabanal this season. As our facebook pages record vividly, the vast majority of pilgrims and hospitaleros were able to experience a comfortable and peaceful refuge which, for many was one of their stand out experiences on the Camino. Inevitably, there were various emergency situations with lost items, disoriented pilgrims and visits to the medical centre in Astorga but I'm pleased to report that our Health and Safety record is unblemished and we have not had recourse to our insurance policy.

The new enlarged salon continues to be very well received and provides pilgrims with a much improved space for relaxing. It was much admired by many of the guests at the 25th anniversary celebration. The new fireplace in the salon has been working well and continues to delight weary and cold pilgrims. Paul Graham and the two gardeners, Ken and Joan Davies visited twice this season and their help has been vital in maintaining the outside spaces including the herb garden and the huerta, or orchard. We experimented with patches of long grass in true National Trust style and an attempt to reduce lawn mowing. The experiment was a partial success and the huerta was much

admired at the celebration party in July, but, ultimately, we have decided for various reasons that we should revert to lawn and the autumn working party have now restored the huerta to its usual state. The solar panel system continues to work well although it has been hard to calculate the cost benefit. What we know is that the system does successfully heat up the water and so we use considerably less gas!

Laurie Dennett, who lives in Galicia, will be keeping a close eye on developments at regional level requiring refuges to charge. This is potentially a major issue but maybe not in the near future!

Dick Crean

Miraz -12th Annual Report

The past season has thrown up several challenges for our hard-working volunteers. They have had to cope with water and electrical failures as well as problems with the showers and the boiler, but at least no bed bugs, although we did have an infestation of rats, now mercifully eradicated by Bosendel

The weather in the early part of the season was particularly wet and cold resulting in fewer pilgrims attempting to walk the last 100kms until the weather improved. Pilgrim numbers and donations are down overall. This was to be expected, taking into account that there are now 150 new beds within a radius of 3kms. Added to this, *Albergue Turistico Miraz* encourages pilgrims who stay at their sister *albergue* in *Villalba* to pay €10 up front and have their rucksacks transported to *Miraz* (or more correctly *Seixon* where the *albergue* is situated). This has resulted in many pilgrims stopping off at *Seixon* rather than walking on to *Miraz*. The downside for pilgrims is that the walk to *Sobrado dos Monxes* is nearly 30kms, rather than the 27kms from *Miraz*.

However, it is certainly not all doom and gloom; pilgrim numbers in the height of summer were very encouraging and it took pressure off the volunteers to be able to direct pilgrims to one of the other *albergues* if we happened to be full. Pilgrims have hugely appreciated our well-stocked and appointed kitchen, giving them an opportunity to cook for themselves rather than always relying on the *menu del dia* at one of the other *albergues*. They also welcomed the spiritual side that we are able to offer by opening up the Church each evening for half an hour of tranquillity and reflection. So few churches are open along the *Camino*, that it means a great deal to the pilgrims to spend a bit of time in the beautiful and historic Church in *Miraz*.

We shall see what the next season brings in terms of numbers but so long as we can receive sufficient funds to finance the running of the *albergue*, we can be optimistic for the future. Numbers are increasing year on year and pilgrims are encouraged to seek out routes other than the *Camino Frances*. On the *Camino del Norte*, they can enjoy a warm welcome at *Albergue San Martin* where we offer authentic pilgrim hospitality that reflects the ethos and philosophy of the Confraternity of St James towards the pilgrims walking through this beautiful part of Galicia.

Priscilla White

Secretary's Report

It has been another busy and eventful year for the CSJ. In March we saw the departure of Jean Marray as Secretary as she left to pursue other interests. We wish her all the best and thank her for the enormous amount she did for the organisation in the short time she was here.

The highlight in the calendar this year was certainly the 25th anniversary celebrations of our Refugio Gaucelmo at Rabanal del Camino in July. A herculean effort from the subcommittee, working party and the *hospitaleros* there at the time made for a glorious weekend of celebration and thanksgiving to commemorate 25 years of providing first-rate hospitality and welcome to pilgrims on the Camino Francés. Congratulations to all who were involved.

The upgrade in computer systems, the new website and new staff recruitment has meant a lot of positive change in the CSJ office. Interest in the concertina-style pilgrim passport continues to thrive, having distributed over 3,500 since its implementation in September 2015. In the shop, there have been many new additions to our stock – with new updates to the Camino Inglés, Camino Portugués and Camino Francés all available to purchase, making them the most up-to-date guide books to any of those routes written in English; and we have many more in the pipeline. As such, the CSJ is striving to be recognised as a front-runner of UK institutions and authorities on the Camino de Santiago.

Our online presence has never been greater. In addition to our website, Facebook pages and Twitter, the CSJ is now selling through Amazon, with many more titles to be added in the near future. Whilst we promote the value of printed guide books and maps, we are striving to embrace the new digital age of Camino-related services and information.

As ever, boundless thanks must go to the team of volunteers who remain our USP in offering first-hand advice and guidance to pilgrims – be that through our office open days, answering email enquiries, contributing to and writing our publications or simply sending in their own updates and accounts of their journeys. In this way we are able to continue as a provider of information for pilgrims; from pilgrims.

In this time of political uncertainty, we remain optimistic about the increasing popularity of pilgrimage to Santiago. With the ever-fluid landscape of possibilities for what we can offer our members and customers, it is an exciting and dynamic time for the CSJ as we plan for the future ahead.

Freddy Bowen

Membership Statistics

Membership at 30 September 2016 stood at 1,442 paying members (1,613 at 30 September 2015) plus 365 (312) honorary and honoured (aged over 70 with 10 years' paid-up membership) and 39 exchange subscriptions with kindred organisations. The paying members were split as follows (2015 numbers are shown in brackets): -

	Individual	Joint	Institutional
UK	819 (905)	363 (428)	14 (19)
Europe	44 (48)	18 (18)	1 (1)
Rest of World	<u>114</u> (118)	<u>67</u> (70)	<u>2</u> (2)
Total	<u>977</u> 1,071)	<u>448</u> (516)	<u>448</u> (22)

See page 20 for details.

Analysis of Other Charitable & Support costs

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

Salaries & NI - During the year, the company employed a secretary, a finance manager, bookshop administrator, membership secretary and an office administrator, all on a part-time basis. There was an increase in salary costs due to the overlap necessary during the run-up to the resignation of Jean Marray and extra paid hours in the office.

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 expenses. The cost for all committee members was £1,745.

Member Meetings - This represents the net cost of various members' meetings including the AGM. Income this year was £2,209 and expenditure £3,678 compared to £2,209 and £3,678 respectively for 2015.

			2016	2015
			Total	Total
	Other Charitable Overhead Costs	Direct Charitable Overhead Costs	£	£
Personnel Costs				
	£	£		
Salaries & NI	35,279	8,820	44,099	36,658
Travel & Subsistence	36	3,168	3,204	2,003
	<u>35,315</u>	<u>11,988</u>	<u>47,303</u>	<u>38,961</u>
Accommodation				
Rents	-	8,105	8,105	8,300
Insurance	-	1,061	1,061	1,073
Depreciation	-	1083	-	-
Office Maintenance	-	-	168	168
Office Equipment < £500	-	1,082	1,082	-
Less Library Recharge	-	-2,384	-2,384	-2,618
	-	<u>8,947</u>	<u>8,947</u>	<u>6,923</u>
Office				
Telephone	-	1,006	1,006	322
Post	10	33	43	98
Printing & Stationery	90	1,710	1,800	469
Computer Support & Consumables	-	2,766	2,766	3,223
Book-keeping	-	-	-	3,000
	<u>100</u>	<u>5,515</u>	<u>5,615</u>	<u>7,112</u>
Other				
Legal & Professional	-	755	755	35
Bank Charges	-	272	272	343
Credit Card Charges	1,402	469	1,871	1,939
Recruitment Costs	-	530	530	2,573
Member Meetings	-	1,549	1,549	1,469
Sundry	-	547	547	444
	<u>1,402</u>	<u>4,122</u>	<u>5,524</u>	<u>6,803</u>
TOTALS	<u>36,817</u>	<u>30,572</u>	<u>67,389</u>	<u>54,411</u>

Membership Statistics - 2015-2016

	Honorary	Honoured	Individual	Joint	Group	Exchange	Total
UK							
E Anglia	1	20	66	24	-	1	112
Home Counties - N	1	31	84	34	2	-	152
Home Counties - S	1	37	125	50	2	1	216
London	5	24	104	41	1	3	178
Midlands E	-	13	19	26	-	-	58
Midlands W	1	29	69	22	2	-	123
N Ireland	-	4	11	1	-	-	16
NE	-	24	47	31	1	-	103
NW	-	16	54	27	2	-	99
Scotland	-	13	74	32	1	-	120
Southern	-	34	68	30	1	-	133
SW	2	31	71	33	-	1	138
Wales	-	5	22	10	2	-	39
Channel Islands	1	-	5	2	-	-	8
EUROPE	12	281	819	363	14	6	1,495
Austria	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Belgium	-	7	1	1	-	1	10
Czech Republic	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Denmark	-	-	1	2	-	-	3
Finland	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
France	1	4	8	3	-	4	20
Germany	-	5	3	1	-	1	10
Hungary	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Italy	-	-	2	-	-	2	4
Luxembourg	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Malta	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Netherlands	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Norway	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Poland	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Portugal	-	1	-	1	1	-	3
Rep. of Ireland	-	6	9	1	-	2	18
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Spain	4	6	7	4	-	17	38
Sweden	-	2	-	2	-	-	4
Switzerland	-	-	2	-	-	2	4
	5	33	44	18	1	31	132
Africa	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Asia	-	-	2	2	-	-	4
Australia	-	15	46	27	-	-	88
Canada	-	3	13	7	-	1	24
New Zealand	-	2	5	6	-	-	13
S America	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
U S A	-	13	47	25	2	-	87
	0	34	114	67	2	2	219
Total	17	348	977	448	17	39	1,846