



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



December 2004

No 88

Confraternity of Saint James

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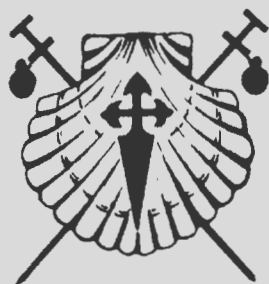
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Contributions for the *Bulletin* are welcomed from members – please contact the editor via the office (see back cover for details).

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Pilgrim bench End, 15th
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Editorial

Gosia Brykczynska

It has been an exceptionally busy autumn. Perhaps this has been due to the last minute flurry of activities and celebrations related to 2004 Holy Year. Or perhaps this was due to my absence in September while on pilgrimage, when finally after twenty three years I managed to get a *compostela*? Or perhaps this has been due to attending the Pilgrim Reunion Day in Stoke Lyne in Oxfordshire, and then going with our Secretary to Oviedo for a week at the end of October together with eighteen other members of the CSJ? It is hard to say, but the Holy Year activities have not ended yet, and in late November Mefo Phillips and Susie Gray gave a talk to a large gathering of Confraternity members about their pilgrimage to Santiago on horseback; while in Santiago itself activities are still being planned until the very last day of December.

It has been an autumn of great memories and cherished moments. I can still smell and see the pine forests of Northern Portugal, and hear and feel the apocalyptic thunder-storm that caught us out in Tuy's medieval Cathedral, while standing in awe of one of nature's most powerful phenomena. I still cannot believe that I managed to meet up with fellow CSJ pilgrims Colin Jones and Paddy in Santiago Cathedral just as I was coming out of the crypt having paid my respects to the saint at the apostle's tomb, as they were going up the steps to hug the apostle... Or get over the magical fascination of looking around the exquisite church of Saint Julian in Oviedo, and singing with CSJ members the *Salve Regina* in that truly ancient church, even though it was supposed to be officially closed ... Or the unexplainable coincidence of arriving in Santiago with the CSJ, only a few hours after my pilgrimage-partner Liz Keay had also just arrived, having finished her pilgrimage along the Arles route; a pilgrimage that had taken over four years and a thousand miles to complete - a pilgrimage which we had started together in the city of Saint Roche... all unforgettable miracles of St James. And then when I thought that this was surely it, (and could I dare wish for more), a package arrived at the CSJ office from Charles Hammond (an American pilgrim from Massachusetts), and to the surprise of Marion and myself I received a beautiful golden scarf with shell motifs - just perfect for keeping pilgrim throats warm while doing a spot of winter walking.

Such themes are well represented in this Bulletin, with the need to prepare warm clothing if Ricky Yates and Sheila McGuirk are to be listened to, pilgrimaging to Santiago in the semi-winter or in Germany in the early springtime. While Rosalind Billingham has written about Saint Godric, a ninth century mystic monk who made the pilgrimage to Santiago over a thousand years ago and who would not have been as surprised as we were at the splendour of the pre-Romanesque churches of the Asturias. Moreover, sending Christmas cards at this special time of year will take on a whole new connotation after reading Janet Richardson's article about Rabanal's last rural postman. Meanwhile Sue Morgan, Paul Murray, Graham Brown and Betty Moore all reflect back and remind us of where they were on 25 July this year. From France to Northern Spain, Australia to Durham – pilgrims have been remembering the feast of Saint James down the ages and over wide open spaces, and meditating on their reasons for undertaking the *long walk*, a persistent point which is nicely brought out in the anonymous poem from Nájera.

Finally, this has been a year of statistics, such as the year of the most ever pilgrims in recent times to do the pilgrimage, or the most ever number of tourists to visit Santiago Cathedral, or the most ever *compostelas* issued in one Holy Year; but most significantly of all, it is the year when Gaucelmo greeted its 80,000th pilgrim – a small triumph for the Confraternity and a good jumping-off point from which to consider future new ventures. Therefore upon this high note, it just remains for the entire editorial team of the Bulletin together with the CSJ committee to wish all members and their families a Happy Christmas and adventurous New Year, enjoying the blessings of Saint James in what is left of this, his Holy Year. Projecting ourselves forward into the New Year it is possible to report that the first screening of the Larry Boulting film *Ultreia! Within the Way Without* will take place on 14 January 2005 – see events page. And last but not least, we hope to see you all at the AGM and CSJ party at the end of January 2005.



*Archabbot and Monk
in Rabanal with
Juan Maria Barriola,
80,000 pilgrim at
Gaucelmo*

John Jenkins 1921-2004

With the death of John Jenkins on 27 September, the Confraternity has lost one of its most devoted and long standing members. No-one who met John in recent years could have guessed that he was in his early eighties, his health being robust until he suffered a major stroke in late May this year.

John, and his wife Katherine joined the CSJ in 1984 and became founder members of the Research Working Party that met twice a year from 1988 to 1998 at the University of Birmingham. They became responsible for, as County Co-ordinators, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, visiting all the pre-Reformation churches dedicated to St James and others which contained a depiction in stained glass, or other medium, of the Apostle. With contacts in Devon, John and Katherine also supplied much information about churches in that county too. (The Warwickshire County Guide is ready for publication early in 2005.)

In his younger days John served in the Army (Signals) throughout World War II, with postings to El Alamein, Italy and Whitehall. There followed a degree in Engineering from Cardiff University and a career as a civil engineer in South Africa, Australia and Britain. It was in Melbourne that he met Katherine who was teaching art and art history at a girls' high school. Both were members of the Melbourne Philharmonic Choir.

After their marriage their shared interest in art and architecture, particularly the Romanesque, took them to France where they travelled the pilgrim routes on a number of occasions. This led indirectly to their joining the CSJ where they were soon among the cat-lovers' group of members.

John's interests were broad in his retirement years, encompassing reading to the blind, working as a Samaritan and membership of the local National Trust committee in his home town of Leamington Spa. He will be missed by many local friends and neighbours, to whom he was always available in times of need, as well as by a wider circle of CSJ friends and colleagues. We send our deep sympathy to Katherine at this time.

PAT QUAIFFE

St Godric of Finchale and the Pilgrimage to Santiago

Rosalind Billingham



Godric is one of the earliest known English pilgrims to Santiago who emerges as a personality and not merely as a statistic. Thanks to a contemporary monk, one Reginald, a Benedictine of Durham priory, who visited

Godric regularly and knew him well, we gather what he looked like, something of his personality, and a little about his family. Reginald wrote Godric's biography. A copy of this survived, was found in the mid-nineteenth century in the Bodleian Library, and was published by the Surtees Society.¹

For the student of pilgrimage, this source is both fascinating and frustrating. For example, Reginald gives us no details about the route Godric took to Spain, nor any description of what he saw there, because all this had happened before the monk had met his subject. On the other hand there are several passing references to pilgrims to the shrine of St James which show that this was already well known in northern England in the mid twelfth century.²

In her book about Jacobean pilgrims from England, Constance Storrs listed St Godric as having made a pilgrimage to Santiago in 1170, which is actually the year he died.³ It is now generally accepted that this date is far too late and that his visit was probably no later than 1110. Of this journey Reginald wrote:

Bearing the standard of the Cross on his shoulder (ie, he wore the traditional pilgrim tunic which had been officially blessed) he went to Jerusalem, and on his return journey he went to the tomb of the Blessed Apostle James, after which he returned to his mother's hearth and his father's house.⁴



This brings to mind the famous pilgrim figures on the tympanum at Autun in Burgundy. Part of a Last Judgement programme, they stand on the lintel at Christ's right, the side of the saved. They are looking up at Him, and one is wearing the scallop of St James's pilgrims, not on his shoulder, but on the side of his tunic, presumably for legibility. The other figure wears the cross of the pilgrims to Jerusalem. It is interesting to note that Godric could have legitimately worn both these symbols, and that these figures were carved at some time during his long lifetime.

It is possible to piece together something of what Godric saw on his travels, because these were contemporary with the great flowering of Romanesque art and architecture, and he would have seen some of the greatest monuments under construction. He was born in Norfolk sometime between 1065 and 1072 so would have been travelling to Santiago when he was in his late thirties or early forties. In 1110 the great Romanesque church was well underway. Started in 1075 it was not finished until the late twelfth century, so Godric did not see the *Pórtico de la Gloria*. When he returned to England, Durham too would have been only partially built. The Norman choir was complete, and the body of St Cuthbert had been moved to the fenetory in 1104, but as the nave was not finished until 1133 Godric would have seen an already awe-inspiring edifice, but a vast building site as well. Reginald also mentions that Godric went on another journey to Rome during which he visited St Gilles in Provence, which was clearly already a major shrine well before Aimery Picaud was writing his *Pilgrim's Guide* around 1140-50.

Godric, then, had made the three great pilgrimages of medieval Christendom before settling down and deciding to become a hermit. Why he should decide to do this at all, and why he should settle so much further north than his East Anglian family are questions which require some explanation. Finchale, also on the banks of the River

Wear, is about four miles from Durham Cathedral, and is somewhat hidden in woodland. Though Reginald was writing primarily for the Durham community of St Cuthbert, there is no reason to doubt his assertion that Godric venerated their saint, the seventh Bishop of Lindisfarne who died as a recluse on the Inner Farne, and wanted to be near his shrine. In his early years, we are told, Godric sailed regularly up and down the east coast of Britain trading, and he may well have heard about the great saint of the Border Country, whose body had been brought to Durham in 995 to escape repeated Viking attacks.

The transition from pilgrim to hermit probably happened gradually during 1112, as Godric prepared for a very different life.⁵ He obtained official permission to live at Finchale from Ranulph Flambard, Bishop of Durham 1099 – 1128. The land where he settled by the River Wear was part of the bishop's hunting ground and sufficiently near the Priory for the monks to befriend him and bring him Mass.

Victoria Tudor makes it clear that his relations with the Priory grew closer over time.⁶ Particularly important in this respect was his friendship with Prior Roger (1099 – 1128), and she suggests that the link was probably formalised after Roger's death. Monks visited him regularly and, later, began to live at the Hermitage. Not only did they look after Godric, but Reginald tells us, his ailing mother, who found her way north to Finchale when she needed help, as well.

It is clear then, that in spite of his solitary status his presence was of considerable importance to the monastic community. A charismatic figure, he also had a striking physical appearance. According to Reginald:

He was small of stature, no more than a few inches over five feet, yet his shoulders were broad and strong and made to carry heavy loads.....From his elongated and thin face beamed two grey-blue and shrewd eyes, protected by very shaggy eye brows which almost met over his nose, in the middle of a broad and well-shaped forehead....A thick beard ran down his cheeks, covering his pointed chin, and resting on his chest. His hair was dark in early life, but in later life took on an angelic whiteness.⁷

It is not altogether surprising that, over the years, this Blake-like figure should have been associated with Christian parapsychology. He was credited with visionary inspiration, healing powers, and clairvoyance.

Several references to the shrine of St James show that the hermit was consulted by people going on pilgrimage. Late in Godric's life a priest who was beginning his journey came to see him. By this time

the recluse was very ill. According to Reginald the priest said:

*'Father I will visit your grave when I come back because I will never see you again' 'You are correct on that point' said Godric, 'You will not see me again, for you will not return'*⁸

The man was buried in Paris.

Another mention involved spiritual healing. A friend of Godric's living in London became so ill he believed he would die. So he sent a messenger to Godric and asked for his prayers. These were efficacious and the friend:

*decided to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of St James, but, before doing so, first went to Godric to thank him for his prayers which he felt had restored his health.*⁹

A mysterious side of Godric's activities was his singing of hymns which he believed he heard in visions. The four that have come down to us are probably the earliest hymns in the vernacular where words and music survive.¹⁰ It is interesting that one was about St Nicholas, the patron saint of mariners and merchants. Godric was supposed to be barely literate and these hymns could have been recorded by one of the monks who came and said Mass for him at the small oratory in the hermitage. Excavations show that this was a stone building, and was part of a larger complex where Godric lived and received visitors.

In his last protracted illness, the monks cared for him constantly and after his death, buried him at Finchale with the funeral rites normally only granted to the Benedictine brothers themselves. In due course his tomb became a place of pilgrimage and a centre of spiritual healing. Many miracles were recorded, and one is of particular interest as the writer proudly proclaimed:-

A woman had twice been to the shrine of St James of Compostella, but received no relief from her daily fever. She got it immediately at Finchale.

Her name was Salerni.

The spot where Godric was buried has been excavated. It is to be found among the ruins of the later, mainly thirteenth century monastic church which are now in the hands of English Heritage. One can walk from St Cuthbert's shrine to St Godric's, along the Wear valley. If the exact paths the monks used when visiting Finchale cannot be traced, much of the modern route is away from the road, and allows the pedestrian to reconstruct the approximate way that Godric's visitors walked from Durham nearly nine hundred years ago

References and footnotes

- 1 Stevenson, J [Ed] 1847 De Vita S Godrici, Heremita de Finchale, *Surtees Society Vol 20*, London. It is referred to below as *Surtees*.
- 2 References to the shrine of St James can be found on pages 268, 298, 374 and 443 of *Surtees*.
- 3 Storrs, Constance Mary 1998 *Jacobean Pilgrims from England to St James of Compostella*, CSJ, p157.
- 4 Crucis in humeris deferens, primo Ierosolimam profectus est, atque in regrediendo, Beati Jacobi Apostoli limina adiit....*Surtees* p34
- 5 There is a record of Godric being a 'doorman' at St Giles in Durham. The community of this church was founded in 1112. He is also recorded as attending the school at the church of St Mary le Bow in the Bailey at Durham for a short time which is how we know that he would have seen the cathedral during its construction.
- 6 Tudor, Victoria 1981 Reginald of Durham and St Godric of Finchale: learning and religion on a personal level, in *Studies in Church History Vol 17* pp37-48
- 7 Rice, Francis 1994 *The Hermit of Finchale*, Pentland Press, p13. This work is extremely useful for the translations, but is a modern piece of hagiography primarily intended for meditation rather than historical research. Comparisons are made between Godric and Padre Pio, a 20th century Capuchin friar saint.
- 8 Rice op cit p152
- 9 Rice op cit p163
- 10 The *Hymn to the Virgin* is given in plainsong notation in *Surtees* p288. Godric's hymns are discussed in *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* Vol 7 in an entry by Brian Trowell under 'Godric'.

The author acknowledges the help of Dr Ian Doyle and Roger Norris in the preparation of this essay.

On Walking the Camino in Relative Old Age

Jane Bradshaw

I blame Dr Mary Remnant.

I had known for some time that the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela was still in existence, but only discovered the existence of the Confraternity of Saint James in 1994. The Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge, of which my husband Mike and I are hangers-on, decided to travel to Compostela by coach, singing at several of the cathedrals and abbeys which are on the Way. Dr Remnant was invited to present her programme of pilgrim songs at the preliminary meeting, and I was instantly hooked. Being of a somewhat romantic (i.e. unrealistic) nature I decided, once we had arrived at Compostela, that a 'proper' pilgrimage on foot – I can't ride a horse and don't ride a bike over any distance – was necessary. Attempts to pay off St James with the Pilgrim Sea Voyage in 1999 were unsuccessful, great experience though that was. It had, it seemed, to be the genuine article involving a lot of hard work.

So the winter of 2001 saw us preparing in a somewhat haphazard fashion at the relatively late ages of 64 and 69 to walk the more or less thousand-odd miles from Le Puy en Velay to Santiago de Compostela. Although we had often done day walking, always returning home to a hot bath and warm bed, we had never, ever, done anything like this before. ('But why are they walking?', asked our son's bemused father-in-law. 'Is there something wrong with their car?' Being of a generous nature he added 'Can I do anything to help?' 'Don't worry about it,' said our son with customary family loyalty. 'It's only my mad parents.')

This is not going to be an account of our walk, because although I kept a diary I haven't yet decided what to do with it. This is rather a few pointers for others like ourselves who are either not in the first flush of youth and/or not particularly fit – though if you are really seriously unfit getting in some practice before you start is a good idea.

Two other good – no, essential – ideas are to keep the weight of your pack right down and to pace yourself, particularly at the start. Roncesvalles to Compostela is the best part of five hundred miles, especially if you get lost a few times (though it isn't easy to get lost on the Camino Francés), and one great advantage of doing the pilgrimage when you are older is that there is usually less pressure of time. That is, apart from the ultimate pressure: if you are going to do it you had better do it now, while you still can.

If you have time as we did between the demise of the previous generation and the advent of the next one you are at the great advantage of being able to enjoy the scenery, wild flowers, art and architecture and good food and wine that are so abundant along the Way, the accretion of over a thousand years of devotion and the fruits of present-day hospitality. While I occasionally envied the young their stamina I simply could not see the point of striding forty kilometres a day and more. Some two hundred miles out from Le Puy on 23 June we met a young American who was aiming to get to Compostela for St James's Day. His feet were hurting him badly and he couldn't remember where he had come from that morning. He still had about seven hundred and fifty miles to go. We admired his determination, but felt he was missing an awful lot. At our age we are unlikely to re-visit any of the wonderful little villages and towns, or even the cities, along the Way. We are well aware there were plenty of things we missed ourselves, but at least we were trying to take in as much of it all as we could.

We actually did the walk in three stages. The first two in 2002 – Le Puy to Cahors and Cahors to Roncesvalles – took about three weeks each. We aimed to do twenty kilometres a day, and exceeded that when we got going properly, so we had two or three spare days at the end of each stage. We had originally meant to end stage two at St Jean-Pied-de-Port, but finding we had these spare days and the weather, towards the middle of October, was fine and dry we decided to tackle the Pyrenees while we were still fit from the previous three weeks' efforts. We were very glad we did, because when we arrived at St Jean at the beginning of stage three (April 2003) we discovered the Route Napoléon had been closed the previous day and snow was lying on the ground. The third stage we originally meant to divide into two parts as before, but when we were told we could expect our first grandchild in June we adjusted our plans and did Roncesvalles to Compostela in six weeks or so from the middle of April.

Which brings me to the other essential – keeping the weight of your pack right down. When we got out of the taxi at Roncesvalles at the start of stage three the taxi's external thermometer was reading 1°C, and as I have said snow was lying on the ground. 'Put your extra jumper on,' said Mike. I had to admit I had taken it out of my pack just before leaving home. There was only one answer and it worked well – walk quickly and keep walking. It was still worth it to keep the pack at a reasonable weight. Like Hilaire Belloc on the path to Rome (though unlike him we didn't cheat) we resolved to 'take advantage of no wheeled thing' while we were on the Way. We started walking at each stage precisely where we had stopped the previous one: we declined all lifts (not that we were offered many when people saw our scallop shells) and used no 'Transbagages' or other vehicle to carry our

packs for us. We did not camp, so we took only those things necessary for walkers sleeping in pilgrim hostels or bed and breakfast and minor hotels. Our packs weighed about sixteen pounds (7.5 kilos) each when we set out, and slightly more when we had added water and food for mid-day lunch. The only books we took were Alison Raju's 'Pilgrim Guide from Le Puy to Santiago'; in France the invaluable if curiously named 'Miam-Miam-Do-Do' ('Yum-Yum-Bye-Byes') and in Spain the Confraternity's guide that lists accommodation; a pocket phrase book for each language and our small prayer books. For the first time in my life I travelled without a book to read. I didn't miss it; I was far too tired.

We wore full walking boots because of the support they give and were very glad we had. We took thin inner and thick outer socks and wide-brimmed hats, and in Le Puy we bought a staff each, which are very useful if your sight and/or balance are not as good as they once were. (We didn't need them for driving off dogs: most dogs we met must have already eaten their ration of pilgrims and simply lifted an eyelid and closed it again immediately. All the noisy dogs we met were chained up.) Having heard a few horror stories we were pleased to find the airlines will carry staves in the hold, as fragile luggage! I did try to collect them before the owners of guitars, boxes of flowers and so on could discover what their precious items had been travelling with. We carried the absolute minimum of clothes: I will not give a full list but will pass on the most valuable piece of advice we were given, which is to line your rucksack with a bin bag **and** put all your clothes and your sleeping bag in plastic bags. In this way you should have dry clothes and sleeping bag when you arrive, even if it pours down as it did for us on the way down from O Cebreiro. Two items we found useful for lots of uses other than the obvious were large handkerchiefs and a bunch of large size safety pins. The safety pins doubled as pegs – we got used to walking with socks and underclothes flapping cheerfully from the back of our packs.

We took a whistle for real emergencies but didn't need to use it. Six short blasts is the international distress call – I had thought it was three short, three long, three short, but there you are. We did not take a mobile phone, to the distress of our daughter in law and the mirth of our son. I was pleased to read after we had returned home that mobile phones are not recommended in mountainous areas because of the difficulties of reception. Both France and Spain have plenty of telephone boxes. Phone cards are useful but make sure it's one in common use: we wasted both time and money on one that no-one seemed able to work.

Minor emergencies did arise: I developed the dreaded tendonitis after a particularly gruelling walk down to Molinaseca from Rabanal,

which was my own fault for not calling a halt. Ibuprofen gel is good stuff and available in Spain, also in France I'm sure. For some reason I only developed blisters after several days' walking. I found puncturing them with a needle and thread was very satisfying, then I covered them with squares of cotton gauze held on with a length of plaster. Compeed I found worse than useless, though others feel differently.

Drinking plenty of water is important, even when you don't want to. We bought four half-litre bottles of mineral water at the start and filled them up at bars and hotels as we went along. We couldn't quite bring ourselves to trust the fountains.

It is very important to wear a scallop shell. This, we found, guarantees plenty of greetings on the Way, plenty of advice if passers by know (or think!) that you have missed a turning, and a friendly welcome at the end of the day. Take a pilgrim passport: you must have one in Spain if you want to use the refugios, and of course you will need it on arrival in Compostela if you want to claim a compostela certificate. For this you must have walked at least the last hundred kilometres (different rules apply for cyclists and horse riders) and have some idea of your motivation. Quite rightly 'a cheap holiday' and 'to enjoy myself' will not get you pilgrim status. It's a good idea to keep the passport stamps in order; a friendly smile and a pointing finger works well. One of our hostesses was so admiring of our bright yellow passports from the Confraternity as she stamped them at the supper table that I now have a permanent record of an excellent *confit de canard*.

Our passports were particularly admired because in our experience the British have a certain rarity value, the English even more so. We met only eight other English people, and the seventh had been at school with Mike. We met a great many other interesting people of all kinds of nationalities: French and Spanish of course, Dutch, German, Swiss, Norwegian, American, Australian, Canadian, French-Canadian... We heard a lot about the Japanese but didn't meet any. Charles and Christiane were a French-Canadian couple from Montréal. Charles was an accountant in his forties who was just learning English. Jacques had done the pilgrimage originally when he took his exams for St Cyr, successfully we gathered, and now he had just retired from the French army he was doing it again, seeking a new direction. Leroy and Kathleen had heard about the pilgrimage at home in Illinois, decided they must do it, gone to an outdoor store and got kitted up, then arrived at Roncesvalles in the snow and realised they didn't need half of the stuff they were carrying. They sent half home and half of the rest on to Compostela. They had hardly ever walked before, and we were most admiring of their determination. Pat and Jim were seasoned walkers (it was Jim who had been at school with Mike) and took Leroy and Kathleen under their wing, going back to look for them and walking

with them and encouraging us all – the six of us arrived in Compostela on the same day. Anya, Birgit and Christian were three young Germans who had just finished school and, like Jacques, were walking while they considered what to do next. The care they took of each other (and of us, who probably seemed extremely ancient) was one of the great experiences of the pilgrimage.

Then there were the experiences and people resident along the Way, far too many to go into now. Outstanding was Holy Week, particularly Good Friday at Boadilla de la Camino, when we were privileged to join in the procession. There was the meal at Miradou, chez Thérèse Fardo, twelve of us of four nationalities around a meal which began with a *Gascon floc* and continued via salad, roast pigeon, cheese and melon, with lots of red wine, to coffee and Armagnac...we slept extremely well. The little group of nightingales we stopped to listen to in a valley on the Camí Ferrat. The thunderstorm at Poms where we slept in the municipal gymnasium, just the two of us with the choice of a dozen showers. And the scenery and the flowers.....

So are there any drawbacks? Anything that would put the older pilgrim off? Or is it all flowers, red wine and excellent food? There are plenty of drawbacks. Snorers in refugios come high on my list, and large parties of pilgrims (mostly French, it has to be said) who book a complete refuge in advance, turn up with attendant minibuses and then don't fill the refuge. We found that in France it paid to book ahead, and 'Miami-Miami-Do-Do' is excellent at providing alternative suggestions for reasonable (and reasonably priced) accommodation. Also beware Holy Week in Spain when the entire country, it seems, is on holiday and large numbers of Spaniards take to the Way just for that week. The unwary pilgrim can end up unexpectedly sleeping out of doors. It nearly happened to us on Maundy Thursday in Castrojeriz, and it did happen there to one group of German pilgrims. I am told that June and July can get very crowded too as St James's Day approaches, particularly in a Holy Year like 2004. It was partly for this reason that we went as early in the year as we did, and in 2002/3.

Is it worth going? "Why", as a rather gloomy postcard put it, 'does the pilgrim go through this purgatory?' going on to ask 'is it to expiate a dreadful crime?' – a thought which greatly intrigued the friends at home to whom we had sent it. Well, it certainly isn't a picnic. We each lost a stone in weight; there were my blisters and tendonitis, and Mike turned his ankle so badly it took a year to recover. But it is a wonderful experience, the context in which one sees the architecture and scenery is so right, and memories of the whole Way will be with you for the rest of your life.

So thank you more than we can say, Mary, and here's a toast to the Confraternity with three times three!

Portrait of a country postman

Janet Richardson



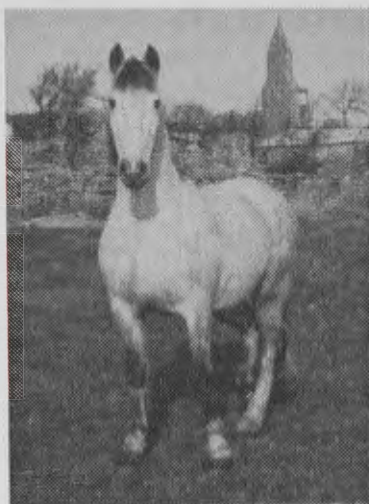
Julio Cabello lives in Rabanal del Camino in north-west Spain. For thirty-one years, until his retirement in 1996, he was the local rural foot postman (*cartero rural de a pie*) serving Rabanal and the outlying hamlets (see map below). He has not been replaced, and the rural foot postman is now a seriously endangered species, if not actually extinct.

Rabanal is typical of the remoter rural communities in the Montes de León that are gradually coming to life again. Scraping a living from the stony moorland is hard and the young people move away to work in the towns, leaving only the older generation to cultivate the fields and tend the flocks. Rabanal has a

permanent population of 29, rising in the summer to about 60. The hamlets have even fewer permanent inhabitants. Small wonder that the Spanish postal authorities feel that they are able to reduce this service. Nevertheless, the volume of post generated in Rabanal is not inconsiderable between April and October, when literally thousands of pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela stay overnight at one or other of the pilgrim hostels and post mail home.

Rabanal was until recently served by the Astorga post office, which in turn is dependent on the head post office in the provincial capital, León. The village had once been important and prosperous and, according to Julio, had its own post office in former times. Certainly in the 1930s small money orders could be handled there in addition to the usual registered and ordinary mail. In living memory, however, postal business has been conducted from the postman's own house.

Julio, who moved to Rabanal in the late 1950s, was a shepherd for most of his working life. In 1965 he took on the additional job of acting postman, a title he held for the next eleven years. The secretary



of the local council had put his name forward to the León postal authorities for a permanent appointment and in 1976, after passing an examination in the three Rs at León post office, he was finally promoted to full *cartero rural de a pie*.

Julio was responsible for delivering within Rabanal the mail that came from Astorga every day except Sundays and public holidays. As no houses had a letterbox he knocked and handed over the mail or tucked it under the door. People who lived just outside the village collected their post from Julio's or from the Bar Chonina nearby. Up to 1992 the post was sent on the bus to Santa Colomba de Somoza (10 miles). From there the local postman brought it by car to Rabanal (4 miles). Because of manpower cuts in 1992 the post then went by car/van from Astorga to Filiel, where another postman with a car delivered the letters in Chana de Somoza, Lucillo, Valdemanzanas and Villar de Ciervos. He then left the mail for Julio to deliver in Rabanal and he himself went on to deliver the letters in Turienzo, Santa Marina de Somoza and Andañuela.

The village post box could be sited wherever the postman chose, usually on the front wall of his house, as in Julio's case. He opened it once a day and cancelled the letters in time for them to be collected by the postman from Santa Colomba. They reached the Astorga sorting office the following day.

Julio's duties took up about two hours a day – one to deliver and one to deal with outgoing mail. He was paid a fixed monthly salary (undisclosed!) with double pay in July and December. As a rural foot postman he had no separate office, but received a monthly rent from the Post Office for the use of a room in his house for one hour a day. He was provided with the postbox, a leather satchel, a date stamp and ink pad, a book of registration forms and a letter scale. From the early 1980s a complete uniform was also provided: shoes, cap, thick jacket and rainwear for winter, another outfit for summer. He did not hold an official supply of stamps but usually kept a few in hand in case of emergency, bought by himself and sold to customers at face value.

Besides his daily deliveries in Rabanal Julio had to take mail once a week to the outlying hamlets of La Maluenga, Argañoso, Viforcós and Rabanal Viejo. This involved a round trip of some eleven miles, officially on foot, across country where wild boar were common, wolves not unknown and the snow is deep in winter. Since he was not entitled to a vehicle, petrol allowance or animal of any sort, he bought himself a white horse and rode out accompanied by his dogs to deliver

the mail. He was not supposed to bring back letters to be posted but like all rural postmen invariably did so. If the letters were not already franked the senders gave Julio the money for a stamp. Four years before he retired Julio developed heart trouble and thereafter he and his wife Quica did the round together on foot or in their little car. The horse, a painful reminder of bygone times, was sold to a customer far away. Happily Julio has fully recovered.

All told Julio's duties as postman occupied some 29 hours a week. He was free to do other work as long as no national insurance was paid, as this was covered by the Post Office. He was a shepherd for many years but at the age of about 60 gave up his sheep and two cows to concentrate on his postal work and cultivating his plots of land.

After Julio's retirement a man from nearby El Ganso took over for a few months until the post was abolished early in 1997. The postbox on Julio's wall was moved to the village square, by the bus stop (one bus a week on market day!). The Rabanal handstamp, still in good condition after many years of service, would no longer be required, and was sent back to head office. Letters are now cancelled in Andiñuela, even Astorga. As a further economy measure the post van now starts its daily journey in the capital, León, adding another 30 miles each way to the trip but cutting out the intermediate driver and van from Astorga.

It is sad to witness the passing of the rural foot postman. He was once an important element in local life, invited to all the functions and given Christmas boxes by the council and by the villagers. Everyone would stop work when they saw him coming with the mail. The letters he brought were their link with the outside world, until the coming of the telephone. This did not happen in Rabanal until the 1980s. Indeed, in 1991 there were still telephones only in the two bars, though there are more now. Times have changed. Now the mail is still regularly collected from the post box and letters are delivered to the villagers as before, but the familiar figure of the rural foot postman has gone for ever. *CARTERO RURAL DE A PIE - R.I.P.*



The Story of a Rubber Stamp

John Revell



La Côte

24800 THIVIERS

The story of a rubber stamp begins with two people. They would not regard themselves as in any way out of the ordinary, but to me they are representative of the chain of pilgrim care and welcome which extends over 900 kms from Vézelay to the foot of the Pyrenees. Their names are Elaine and David Charlett. In July 2003 they decided to relocate from their native Oxford to the Dordogne. It was quite a step to take as neither was fluent in French, but it was their choice to live in a part of France which was not fully established as a British enclave. They fell for the charms of a property which the estate agents among us would describe as “in need of some refurbishment” and so it was that they settled in Thiviers in the Périgord Vert. David’s talents in the field of DIY soon put paid to any estate agent’s reservations in the glossy brochures. He and Elaine found their neighbours charming and helpful, and as La Côte rose like a phoenix from the ashes they found themselves intrigued by the steady stream of heavily laden hikers who constantly passed their front door. Enquiries from various wayfarers led them to the knowledge that they were on the direct line of the Vézelay pilgrim route, with Thiviers 2 kms to the north and Sorges with its flagship refuge 15 kms to the south. Having not had any previous connection with pilgrimage they rose quickly to the challenge, and La Côte now features on the Voie de Vézelay website at www.amis-saint-jacques-de-compostelle.asso.fr as a staging post on the French journey.

I turned up on the Charlett doorstep on a June evening earlier this

year after walking 26 kms from the convent at Ste-Marie-de-Frugie near La Coquille. The day had also included a *cordon bleu* lunch at the Château de Mavaleix en route. Lunch, plus the evening meal *chez Charlett*, hardly made for a day of frugality, but I felt I was in the hands of St Jacques and I left it to him. The following morning David and I were out in the garden inspecting the improvements to the barn which will provide additional future accommodation when our first pilgrim of the day passed by. I met him two days later in Périgueux and he identified himself as Aloyse from Luxembourg. When it came time for me to take my leave of Elaine and David I found that they had not yet equipped themselves with a rubber stamp for endorsing pilgrim records, a matter which I took in hand when I returned home. A design was agreed upon, and measurements taken of *credenciales* from the UK, France and Spain to make sure that the stamp would be of a suitable size. (Sorry, Netherlands and Belgium, but our catchment area didn't extend as far as you!) The scallop shell design used in the stamp is a reduced version of the one on the flyer which was produced by the University of Birmingham for Katherine Lack's study day on the Worcester Pilgrim last April. Green will be the chosen colour of the ink – symbolic of the Périgord Vert.

Later in June I had to curtail my south-western progress at St Astier (one day's stage beyond Périgueux) in order to return to England for July and August. But I returned to Thiviers at the beginning of September, precious stamp safely stowed, and having walked the two kilometres from the station I was deemed to have qualified as the first recipient of the Thiviers *tampon*. From Thiviers I caught an early morning train to St Astier to take up where I had left off two and a half months previously for the remaining 350 kms to St Jean-Pied-de-Port. And as I set my course for the crossings of the Dordogne and the Garonne ahead, I reflected that jointly we'd done our bit towards observing 2004 as the centenary of the Entente Cordiale.

The *Jakobusweg* (Way of Saint James) in southern Germany

Sheila McGuirk

For our first walking pilgrimage this year Russell and I joined a group organised by a leading member of the German Association of Saint James (der Deutschen St Jakobus-Gesellschaft). Every year Frau Gerhilde Fleischer walks the old pilgrim route between Nuremburg and Konstanz (Constance) to check that the way-markings are clear and to take account of changes forced by development construction or other topographical events. She is the author of the four-part pilgrim guide to this route so has an interest in keeping the guides current. For some years now she has invited other pilgrims to accompany her on this annual spring-time inauguration of the path for the new season. They benefit from her knowledge and experience while helping to carry the equipment for maintaining the signs (plaques, hammer, nails, paint and brush, tape etc).

Normally Frau Fleischer covers the whole route in one passage. This year the walk was divided into two, from Ulm to Konstanz in April, then back to Nuremberg in June to cover the first part of the way up to Ulm. The reason for this was that the biannual Katholischentag (a festival gathering for Roman Catholics from all over Germany) was converging on Ulm in June, partly along the Jakobusweg. Frau Fleischer was involved in the organisation of this and needed to combine her usual walk with the other event. (In alternate years the reformed churches gather together and a couple of years ago a huge ecumenical gathering was held in Berlin.)

In any case, about 30 of us set off from Ulm in gorgeous weather on April 22, carrying our own packs but knowing that overnight accommodation had been arranged for each of the eight nights en route, including two nights staying in private homes. Some were already veterans of the pilgrimage to Santiago and some were considering setting out for Galicia. We were six native English speakers, including "dancing Desmond" whom we first met on the way to Walsingham. One pilgrim had come from Australia to walk with a German friend she had made on the Camino in Spain. There was also a Swiss couple and fortunately several of our German companions spoke excellent

English.

Our way lay through Baden Wurttemberg, which is mostly Roman Catholic, but we started with a thoughtful and dignified send-off by the Lutheran pastor of Ulm cathedral, reminding us that pilgrims 'pray with their feet'. Ulm cathedral is the second largest in Germany, after Cologne, and boasts the tallest spire in the world. (The town is also the birthplace of Albert Einstein). As usual we neither knew nor enquired which of our companions was *Katholisch* and which *Evangelisch*. The only exception was Frau Fleischer herself who recounted how she is teased in the many southern churches to which she conducts visitors for being "immer Evangelisch"! The over-riding sentiment was one of thanksgiving for the peace now enjoyed by the areas ravaged by the 30 years of religious war in the 17th century, to say nothing of the Napoleonic, Great and Second World Wars.

Much of the route coincides with a "Baroque" church circuit, of which the locals are very proud, and certainly many of the churches we visited, up to five a day, were beautifully gilded and full of paintings, frescoes, ornate altars and often a host of cherubs. Most notable of these is the abbey church of Weingarten, the largest baroque basilica in Germany, where we were treated to the beautiful singing of the monks at morning mass. (This is also an area of Germany where Saint Boniface of Crediton was active and it was interesting so soon after Martin Daly's Lent sermon on this English missionary martyr to catch reference to him in the sermon that morning.) Because of the historical pilgrim traffic along this route there was a wealth of statuary and pictures relating to St James the Apostle in many churches, even those not actually dedicated to him. But perhaps the most interesting church was the one in Biberach which has been used "simultaneously" by both Roman Catholics and Protestants since 1548, with the current system being that they enjoy alternate two hour slots of each day.

The route is not physically challenging (our longest day's walk was 26 kilometres and the shortest only 15) but because of all the times we stopped to pray and sing in the churches and chapels along the way we rarely arrived for the evening's stop before 5:00. If anyone lost their way we knew we should put up extra markers but usually a church spire or tower in the distance made it clear which way the lead walkers should be headed. We shared out the loads to be carried each morning and on the second day I found it very poignant so soon after Lent to be carrying the hammer and nails through what was known as the "valley of sin" to the top of the hill where formerly the gibbet

stood and executions were carried out.

Wherever we stopped we would sing from a booklet of hymns and chants collated for us by Gerhilde and the group was wonderfully musical, harmonising without prompting and we all loved the various canons. By the end everyone had learned the words and tune of Lord of the Dance so that we could sing along to Desmond's nightly handkerchief dance and occasionally he had a harmonica accompaniment as well. Like all walkers, and particularly pilgrims, we wanted a memento from the places where we stayed and were each provided with a personalised "pilgrim passport" for the various stamps we collected, usually from the parish office.

Finally we arrived at Constance via a short ferry ride across the lake. There we gathered for a farewell blessing in the 13th century circular chapel of the cathedral which houses a copy of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. After nine wonderful days together we were loath to say goodbye. From Constance it is only 1,950 km to Santiago de Compostela. On the last day we were accompanied by a group of journalists from the regional press who were interested in the Jakobusweg and also what it was like to follow the way onwards through Switzerland, France and Spain.

Sadly our energetic and enthusiastic leader had had to drop out two days before due to a threatened embolism. So though we continued to admire the beauty of the orchards in full blossom, the hop fields and the shady forest tracks, we missed her knowledge of the churches and the history of the way. But we have since had news that Gerhilde is recovering and back on the pilgrim trail so we hope to rejoin her in 2005 to walk from Nuremberg to Ulm.

Poem on a wall outside Nájera

*Dust, mud and rain,
It's the footpath to St. James.
Millions of pilgrims -
And thousands of years.*

*Pilgrim - who calls you?
And what is the obscure force which attracts ?
Not the field of stars,
Not the grand cathedrals.*

*Its not the bravery of the Navarresse.
Nor the wine of Rioja,
Nor the fruits of the sea from Galicia,
Nor the songs of the Castellians.*

*So Pilgrim - who calls you ?
What is the obscure force which attracts ?
Not the folk of the footpath,
Not the rural customs.*

*It's not the history or the culture,
Nor the chicken of Calzada
Nor the Palace of Gaudi,
Nor the castle of Ponferrada.*

*Nor that which I see along the way,
And for me it's all a joy,
But the voice which calls me
A voice which I feel deeply.*

*That is the power which guides me,
The force which attracts me,
I don't even know how to explain it,
It is only He on high who knows...*

Semi-Winter Pilgrim

Ricky Yates

The generally accepted wisdom is that the season for walking the camino lies between Easter and October, with the additional suggestion that the best periods are early and late season, ie, April-June and September-October. These avoid the twin excesses of the heat of the Spanish summer and overcrowding of facilities along the Camino Francés that occur in July and August. But what about making a pilgrimage in the winter months? Alison Raju has written an extremely helpful article on this very topic entitled 'Winter Pilgrim', first published in Bulletin 58 in December 1996, also available on the Confraternity website. My choice of title is in due deference to hers, being based as it is on my own experience of walking the camino from St Jean-Pied-de-Port to Santiago between 21 October and 18 November 2003, nearly eight years on from that described by Alison. So what are the pitfalls and the advantages of walking the camino in the late autumn and early winter?

Getting there

Rather than beginning my pilgrimage, as far as I was concerned I was resuming my pilgrimage when I flew again with Ryanair from London Stansted to Biarritz that wet Monday afternoon in late October, as I had walked the GR65 from Le Puy to St Jean-Pied-de-Port between mid-April and mid-May 2002. But who wants to fly to a French seaside resort at this time of year? Answer – far fewer people than in the summer months. Thus, aided by booking four months in advance, my flights out and back (**including** taxes) only came to just over £45!

But having reached Biarritz Airport and cadged a lift to Bayonne railway station, I discovered the downside of travelling 'out of season'. Despite being advertised on the SNCF website, the 19.58 train to St Jean-Pied-de-Port did not run on a wet Monday in October. And when I asked for a ticket for the first train the following morning (having resigned myself to staying overnight in a Bayonne hotel) the helpful booking clerk said with a grin, "Oh it's a bus!", the whole branch line being closed for 'track maintenance'. The bus left late, had to detour off the road to each intervening station to pick up and drop off passengers, and consequently did not reach St Jean-Pied-de-Port

until just after 10.30 am. The welcoming volunteers at the *Accueil Saint Jacques*, as well as plying me with black coffee and stamping my pilgrim record, strongly advised that it was now too late in the day to contemplate walking across the Pyrenees to Roncesvalles. So, heeding their advice, I just walked the 5 kms to Hunto, staying in the splendid *gîte d'étape* run by Mme Ourtiague, but now a day behind in what was already a tight schedule.

Accommodation

Whilst some *albergue/refugio/hostels* are only open during the 'pilgrim season', a good percentage are open all year round. My 2003 edition of the *CSJ Guide to the Camino Francés* proved invaluable in knowing what would or would not be open. Its detail and accuracy became well known amongst my fellow pilgrims with, "What does your English Guide say, Ricky?" becoming a regular feature of evening discussions of the next day's journey. In quite a number of refuges there were notices saying how far it was to the next ones, and indicating which were still open. In every Galician refuge there was the same notice warning that the refuge at Casanova was now 'closed for refurbishment' to be ready for the 2004 Holy Year.

However, whilst refuges might be open in winter, not all are geared for winter weather, as quite a number have no heating. In recognition of this, the wardens at a couple of refuges tried to provide some limited warmth in the communal sitting/dining area by bringing in two electric heaters (Santo Domingo de la Calzada) or a portable gas fire (Hospital de Orbigo). But trying to sleep ill equipped, in an icy cold dormitory, is not to be recommended and therefore an adequate sleeping bag is essential. I found that mine with 'Comfort Temp: +10°, Extreme Temp: +5°' kept me warm through the coldest nights, provided I had one blanket as well. Despite the prior advice that many refuges do not have blankets, my experience was that most did, or they did if you asked. There might not be one blanket for each bed, but then not all beds were occupied.

In many refuges, particularly those **with** heating, just one or two dormitories were available for use, no doubt to keep down costs and reduce the areas needing to be cleaned. Likewise, sometimes just one set of toilets/showers/washbasins were open rather than there being separate ones for males and females. With relatively few pilgrims (see below) this was rarely a problem, except on one occasion at Palas de Rei. Here, neither available shower had a door or curtain, so I promised

a young French female pilgrim that I would prevent anyone walking in on her. Unfortunately, a few minutes into her shower, two young Spanish male cycling pilgrims arrived and my *español* was tested to the limit protecting Sandrine's modesty!

Pilgrim Numbers

One of the increasing problems on the camino in recent years has been the number of pilgrims outstripping the amount of available accommodation. I had frequently heard stories of people getting up and leaving refuges at earlier and earlier times, in order to be near the front of the queue to be sure of a bed at the next one. Fortunately, this was a problem I never experienced. The greatest number of pilgrims I ever shared a refuge with was 19 (at Roncesvalles and at Rabanal); whilst on several occasions I was one of only three or four. Only on three occasions did I ever have anyone sleeping either above or below me. Elsewhere, I had the luxury, as did my fellow pilgrims, of spreading my belongings out on one level of a bunk and sleeping on the other.

I was interested to discover when pilgrim numbers start to decrease. At Arzua, (depending on walking speed, either the ultimate or penultimate overnight stop before reaching Santiago) I was able to look through the register of pilgrims staying at the refuge over the previous weeks. There was an interesting peak of 48 pilgrims who had stayed overnight on 31 October. But this had dropped so rapidly that by 10 November one solitary pilgrim had the whole refuge to himself! I stayed there just one week later when there were eight of us, including three cycling pilgrims.

The Weather

The major reason given for not making a pilgrimage in the winter months is that the weather will be bad and unpredictable. However, even in the 'pilgrim season', there can be no guarantee of settled weather, especially in the Pyrenees, the Montes de León and at O Cebreiro. Likewise, Galicia is brilliantly green because it is so often wet! Bearing all this in mind, I set off prepared for the worst.

In my 29 days on the camino, I did experience a wide variety of weather. I successfully crossed the Pyrenees by the high level Route Napoléon in fine but windy conditions. However, within two and a half hours of arriving in Roncesvalles an almighty thunderstorm had broken, causing a temporary power failure. Three young Italian girls, who did not leave St Jean-Pied-de-Port until 10 am and then took a

wrong turn at the Col de Lepoeder got caught in this downpour and struggled into the refuge in the dark just before 8 pm. The following morning it was snowing!

There were about five days when the weather could be described as 'predominantly wet' and two days of very strong winds. These clearly were exceptional as they made the national news on Spanish television. A good-looking female reporter was shown making her news report from La Coruña with her hair blowing in the wind and large waves crashing in behind her!

The one set of conditions for which I was **unprepared** was for it being very hot and sunny. Yet that is exactly what it was on two successive days as I walked across the plains of Castile-León between Frómista and El Burgo Ranero in the first week of November. I do not know what the maximum temperature was on those days but I perspired very freely and could imagine that if the same conditions had occurred in the UK it would have brought men out in shorts and T-shirts and girls in strappy tops and short skirts! I was also very fortunate to cross the Montes de León and climb up to O Cebreiro in fine, clear weather. However, fine weather with clear skies in the day meant rapidly falling temperatures and a ground frost at night.

Overall, the weather I experienced was far better than I had been led to believe that it would be. I probably was fortunate, but with appropriate clothing and equipment, it is perfectly possible to walk the camino in November and enjoy it.

Daylight (or the lack of it!)

Just as in Britain, there are far fewer hours of daylight in the winter months. However, because Spain lies at a lower latitude, even in late November there are still about ten hours of the day in which there is sufficient light in which to walk. And because, unlike in summer, there is no heat problem in the middle of the day, it is possible to walk for all the hours of daylight, if so desired.

The slight problem that did arise was the occasional zealous warden strictly enforcing the 'out by 8 am rule' in a refuge. Because Spain is an hour ahead of British Summer Time, by late October it is still dark at 8 am! Most wardens were, however, quite flexible about this and did not expect pilgrims to leave on the dot at 8 am. And once the clocks went back an hour on the last weekend of October, the problem resolved itself.

Needing to use most of the daylight hours for walking had one other knock-on effect. In summer, pilgrims usually have several hours of daylight and sunshine in which to wash out and, more importantly, **dry** their clothes, after they have arrived at a refuge. However, it was usually my experience that when I arrived in a refuge, by the time I had showered and changed, the sun had either disappeared or was at such a low angle as to be of little drying effect. And with the absence of heating inside many refuges, nothing dried hanging on the end of a bunk either! Therefore, that small number of refuges with drying machines became an absolute godsend. In between times, I and some of my fellow walkers had to accept that we were sometimes 'smelly pilgrims', no doubt like our medieval forbears were too!

Landscape and Conditions

One of the great joys of walking the camino at this time of year is the wonderful array of autumn colours on display. These were particularly noticeable in the wooded areas of the Pyrenean foothills between Roncesvalles and Pamplona and also the un-pruned vines of La Rioja and El Bierzo.

On a number of occasions, I witnessed an amazing quality of light at either the beginning or end of the day. Having walked through heavy rain from Viana towards Logroño one afternoon, the clouds began to break as I approached the outskirts of the city, allowing shafts of sunlight to come through onto the surrounding hills creating a wonderful mystical atmosphere. Leaving Castrojeriz at 8 am, I was treated to the most enchanting colour of light on the surrounding hills as the sun slowly rose behind me. And although I never had to walk through snow lying on the ground, I frequently was treated to a vista of snow-capped mountains.

Inevitably, when it rains, and for a few days after it has rained, some parts of the camino get muddy. This problem is exacerbated in places where farmers have used the camino to access neighbouring fields with large agricultural vehicles. Especially on the *meseta* west of Burgos farmers were busy ploughing their land following the harvest, and the wheels of their tractors frequently made parts of the surface of the camino difficult to walk on. Likewise, between Puente la Reina and Estella, major road 'improvements' had caused a 'temporary diversion' of the camino, which combined with the rain, made for extremely tricky conditions underfoot. But nowhere was the camino impassable and in many places the local authorities seemed to have made considerable efforts to provide a decent walking surface, regardless of the weather.

Spirit of the Pilgrimage

As I have already mentioned previously in this article, there has been increasing concern expressed in recent years that a spirit of friendship and mutual support amongst pilgrims along the camino has been replaced by one of rivalry and competition, particularly to ensure a bed in a refuge each night. I had also heard tales of groups of young Spanish males using a walk along the camino as an opportunity to escape strict parental controls and behave badly, especially towards some female pilgrims.

Travelling 'out of season' certainly did ensure that I experienced nothing of the kind. Instead, as had been my experience walking the French section in the spring of 2002, my greatest and lasting joys from my pilgrimage were my fellow pilgrims. Their friendship and support, our many deep spiritual conversations, as well as plenty of convivial evenings in various bar/restaurants, will live with me for a long time to come. And five of them, two French, two German and one Swiss, remain in regular contact with me through the medium of e-mail, even though we are no longer following the yellow arrows. Interestingly, all are younger than I with three of the five being half my age! In all my life I cannot remember experiencing such a depth of friendship and support.

Interestingly, I did not meet a single British pilgrim the whole time I was on the camino. I only briefly met three other first language English speakers; a Californian woman on the outskirts of León and a couple from Western Canada at Rabanal. Instead, my fellow pilgrims were a mixture of French, German, Swiss, and Italians, together with a few Spaniards, a scattering of Scandinavians and a number of Québécois. English was the main lingua franca between pilgrims of different nationalities, but frequently people realised I spoke English without ever thinking that I **was** English!

In Conclusion

Is it possible to walk the camino in late autumn/early winter? My answer would be a very definite **yes!** As long as you go prepared for wet and/or cold weather and regard any warmth and sunshine as a bonus. As long as you enjoy solitude and are happy to share the camino with just a few other pilgrims. As long as you can cope with some parts of the camino being a bit muddy underfoot. Would I walk it again, I am often asked. Yes I would! And probably at a similar time of year!

Pilgrimage to Mont-St-Michel 2004

A Celebration of the feast of Saint Jacques in Normandy

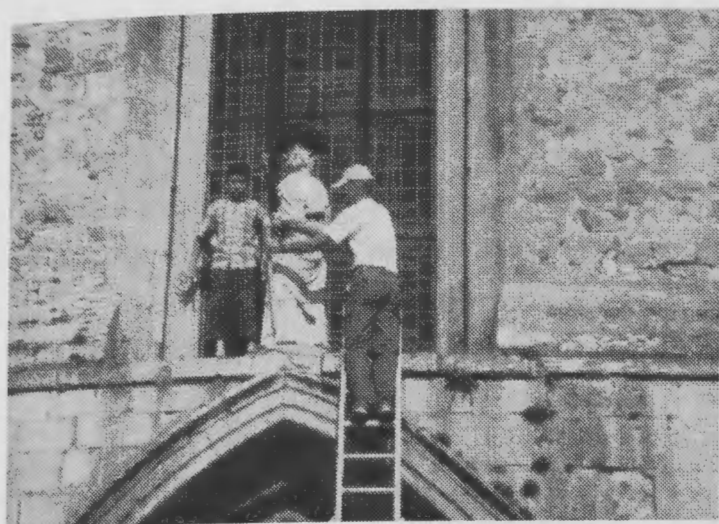
Sue Morgan

Les Amis de Saint-Jacques de Normandie invited CSJ members to join them for their pilgrimage from Salisbury to Mont-St-Michel in July. Nine members responded for the twelve day 280 km walk, with about twenty walkers from Normandy starting on 19 July and others joining variously along the route in England and in Normandy. Our route mainly followed the Millennium Footpath and Le Chemin de Saint-Michel with variants, some intentional, some accidental. Our accommodation varied between abbeys, gîtes and small hostels in France.

At 8 am on Monday 19 July we received a benediction from Bishop David Stancliffe, already known by several of our group. He gave us the first stamp on our credentials. We then set off from the garden of Salisbury Youth Hostel after breakfast and reached Portsmouth after four days of good walking under the guidance of CSJ member Hugh Watson who had worked on setting up the Way for the Millennium. We were all grateful to him also for additional research for the Walk. Just a few of the highlights were:- compline at Broughton Church after which the lay reader, Gina Livermore, gave us all a little shell from her grandfather's collection; an excellent early breakfast at Winchester Youth Hostel before Lauds and Eucharist at the cathedral; the warm welcome at Swanmore from the Rev Peter Kelly and Deacon Mary Morfill; and Thursday lunch in the shady pub garden at Southwick following a visit to the church of St James Without the Priory Gate.

By this time we had all got to know each other aided where necessary by the translation skills of Alison Parkes and by the excellent weather. With only ten minutes of rain throughout the twelve days, conversation in both languages could flourish without continual analysis of the weather. The English section finished with a reception followed by a very good substantial English tea at the RC Cathedral in Portsmouth before we took the overnight ferry to Cherbourg, with additional walkers joining at both ports.

Leaving Cherbourg early in the morning, we followed an attractive route to Valognes, avoiding a steep climb by curving eastwards through Tourlaville. At Valognes we were welcomed at the monastery by some



of the community of forty Benedictine nuns. There we had the tranquillity of Vespers, with chant by the nuns, a delicious supper in the refectory, a chance to sample their speciality product of *pâtes des fruits* and the use of the monastery garden

before a very early night.

The following morning Saturday 24 July a local historian guided us around Valognes showing us some beautiful *hôtels particuliers* amazingly unscathed by wartime bombing, and some thirteenth-century houses by the river as well as the church. A picnic lunch in the monastery garden ended the morning before more French walkers, some already known to Liz Keay, joined us for the 6 km walk to Montebourg.

Now St James really comes into focus as the church in Montebourg is dedicated to him and his feast day is celebrated every year on the Saturday prior to 25 July. On arrival at Montebourg we installed ourselves in the abbey accommodation, and then assembled in the *parvis* of the church to witness the traditional crowning of the statues of St James, one outside and one inside. For the statue over the west door, a boy was accompanied up a tall ladder in order to crown him with a wreath of red roses, watched also by members of the *confrérie de chevaliers de Saint-Jacques* dressed in their splendid red robes. This was followed by the statue inside being crowned with a white wreath. The Mass followed, accompanied by music from organ, trumpet and violin, and I had the privilege of being asked to read the gospel from St Matthew in English following the reading of it in French. There was just time to look at the fifteenth-century windows, several of which portrayed St Jacques. We then returned to the abbey for an *apéritif* and a buffet supper for a large number of people before going back to the *parvis* for an intriguing *pièce de théâtre*. This concerned a mysterious story of a mixed bunch of five – or possibly six – pilgrims meeting with soldiers as they tried to cross the French/Spanish border in the Pyrenees in 1777. (No such worries, we hoped, for Raymonde Guede and Jean-Paul Limabasse, two of our group who were continuing on to Santiago!)

So after St James had been duly celebrated there was now St Michael to look forward to, though our frequent opportunities to sing *Utreia!*, among other songs, kept Santiago in everyone's mind. Five days of mixed path and minor roads thus followed, which included two contrasting highlights – a fascinating guided tour of the outstanding Romanesque/Gothic cathedral at Coutances and a delicious and convivial lunch, much of which was produced on their farm, provided by Maurice and Elizabet Vimond Saint-Denis-le-Vêtu (le vêtu meaning “the elder” in local patois, not “the dressed”!).

Then on Friday 30 July we left our hotels at la Haye-Pesnel at 6.30 am, along interesting paths and minor roads lined with wildflowers. Accompanied by a variety of brightly-coloured butterflies and the summer sound of crickets chirping, we made the last descent with a distant view of our destination before walking around the bay from Genêts on a sandy path to le Bec d'Andaine. There we had much needed refreshment while preparing for our 5 km walk across the bay, with shorts and bare feet (or swimming trunks for some) being essential for going through sand, mud, and water up to nearly a metre in depth. Our guide led us on a curving route, pausing at the tiny little island of Tombelaine (once held by the English), with St-Michel itself looking superb in the early afternoon sunshine as we drew nearer. After the compulsory and most welcome foot-washing at the base of Le Mont, we made the steep ascent to the church of St Pierre (with a good statue of St Jacques) for a welcome from the priest who presented us all with a pilgrim badge of St Michel before giving a blessing to Raymonde and Jean-Paul. Our credentials were finally stamped by a jolly nun in the *maison de pèlerinage* thus completing a concise summary of a rewarding pilgrimage.

Those fortunate enough to be able to stay on ended their pilgrimage the following morning after the mid-day Mass in the chancel of the abbey, with the permanent small community of monks and nuns – a memorable experience.

It was impossible to thank everyone enough for all the kindness and consideration we received, but of course I must mention Jean Margueritte for his overall organisation and care during the whole pilgrimage, and the press coverage of it as well, Hugh Watson for the research in England, and also Jean-Marie Senne, Bernadette Gornorvel and Patricia Rouille for their contributions. I am sure Alison, Liz, Lindsey, Terry, Richard, Emlyn and Judith would join me in saying “*Merci a chacun*” and “*à l'année prochaine*”.

Gaucelmo visitors on Saint James's Weekend 2004

Paul Murray



As a first time warden at the Refugio Gaucelmo this summer, I, along with my fellow wardens Vincent and Roisin Cowley, had not expected there to be so relatively few pilgrims, especially during Holy year. Reports in the media that many refuges were full to bursting seem to have discouraged many Spanish pilgrims from tackling the camino though the number of foreign pilgrims from countries as far away as Bosnia, Romania, the Ukraine, Colombia, El Salvador and even Samoa showed no sign of diminishing.

Saint James's weekend was probably our quietest period enabling us to enjoy offering *empanadas* and red El Bierzo wine through the lounge and library windows following 12.00 Mass on his feast day to the villagers and our pilgrims. Later in the day it was our turn to relax and join in the celebrations organised by the friendly and tightly-knit community of villagers.

Many visitors passed through the main doors, some welcome like the former pilgrims who would always check with us before conducting friends on a brief guided tour and others less so who would waltz through in their finery, invading our pilgrims' privacy

until challenged. Apart from the jolly and very approachable arch-abbot from the German mother house of the monks in the monastery next door, two visitors especially come to mind. The first was Manuel Rodriguez Alonso from the village of Camponaraya near Villafranca del Bierzo who was back to survey his handy-work for the first time since the early nineties. It turns out that he, together with the six men in his team, were responsible for transforming the refuge from the run down parish priest's house into the terrestrial paradise it is today. The company employed was based in Ponferrada from where the builders travelled every day for the renovation which in all took three years. Manuel was intensely proud of their work and led me on his own highly personalised conducted tour, pointing out among other changes that the smaller wardens' bedroom used to be the kitchen. Many times during his half hour visit did his wife attempt to prise him away from his journey down memory lane but he would not be deflected! Sadly he has had to take early retirement due to an arm injury sustained at work.

I had heard so much about Jesus Jato, the warden from the Ave Fénix refuge at Villafranca, and, when he also appeared that week-end, it was the fulfilment of an ambition for me to meet a character who gives so much in his own intensely humanitarian style to the pilgrims who stay with him. His daughters now work in larger cities in Spain and he relies on volunteers to help him run his refuge. He came bearing gifts of home grown tomatoes for our pilgrims and Roisin quickly reciprocated with coffee from our store-room supplies. I have rarely met someone for such a brief few minutes who has made such a lasting impression on me.

As a good Cuban friend of mine used to say to me after serving the customers in the bar where he works in La Coruña, *mucha gente, pocas personas* or "many people but few individuals". Visitors came in all shapes and sizes to Gaucelmo this summer!

Reunion Service for Returned Pilgrims

John Crawford



On the bright and blustery morning of 2 October, twenty-three returned pilgrims gathered at Stoke Lyne where Ricky Yates, Rector of Finmere, gave us a warm welcome to St Peter's church, one of the ten in his care. Over

a bring-and- share lunch in the parish room old friends met, new friendships were made and we pooled our experiences of the camino. To condense all these into one short article would be impossible. I can only summarise it by saying that between those present several routes through France and the Caminos Francés, Portugués, Primitivo, del Norte and the Vía de la Plata had all been recently walked or cycled, by people ranging in age from 70 to 12. This lower age is not a misprint; from the age of 8 until now Jonathan Escalante-Phillips has been walking different routes on the camino in stages and has covered 2,000 kms so far - quite a feat for the ripe old age of 12.

After lunch Marion rehearsed us (unaccompanied) through a Gregorian chant and another hymn from the *Codex Calixtinus*. We then gathered in the church for a service led by Ricky in which he asked us to recall why we had undertaken our pilgrimage, what we had learned from it and what we could take back into our daily lives. The quiet and thoughtful nature of this service was balanced by a couple of rousing pilgrim hymns from John Read on the organ and drawn to a close with a special blessing for Gill Anlezark and Jimmy Walker who were due to set off the following day on their own pilgrimage.

Thank you, Ricky, for making us all so welcome at St Peter's and to Marion for making the arrangements. Support for this first event suggests that it would be worth repeating next year.

Members' Page

From Pat Quaife

In Bulletin 85 (March 2004) John Revell's article 'Mostly about Precedents: Walter Starkie Revisited' provides a timely retrospective of Starkie, author of the classic *The Road to Santiago: Pilgrims of St James* which was reissued in late 2003. A note records John's appreciation of conversations with CSJ members Vincent and Mary Kelly about Starkie's days in Dublin.

In contrast, Starkie's time in Madrid is affectionately recalled by two sisters of Scottish and Spanish extraction: Magdalena Stork de Yepes (a La Coruña member) and her sister Carmen Stork de Kobbe, a long-term resident of Madrid. Back in the early forties Carmen and Magdalena attended literature classes in the British Council School set up by Starkie as well as borrowing books from its Library. Carmen writes as follows:

My sister Magdalena and myself (Carmen) met Walter Starkie in 1943; we were teenagers and it was our first cocktail party. He was a real character, jovial, plump – Pickwickian in appearance and very *simpático*. The British Government hit the nail on the head when they sent him to Spain during the war as Cultural Attaché. A born liaison person, a Catholic, and his wife, Anglo-Argentinian, was also ideal for the job: very elegant and with perfect Spanish.

Starkie completely uninhibited, played the fiddle on any occasion, indifferently but very endearingly. Behind the scenes, I believe he also did much more than entertaining. Besides setting up a flourishing British Council School, he carried out an important liaison role with Intelligence for the British Government in those difficult war years.

With many thanks to Magdalena and Carmen for their recollections of Walter Starkie in the 1940s.

From Dutch Association St Jakobs Magazine

Any pilgrim going through Antwerp on the way to Santiago can have overnight accommodation free among association members (on showing their pilgrim passport).

Perhaps we should start something like that in the UK?

From John O'Keefe in Ireland

This past summer the remains of four individuals once buried in the grounds of the medieval Augustinian priory of Mullingar were reinterred by the Bishop of Meath – Dr Michael Smith – in a ceremony that took place in Mullingar Cathedral. They were buried in a prominent place in the cathedral grounds. At the time of the discovery of the burial site several other skeletons were found to be wearing scallop shells. These pilgrim skeletons are now to be found in the pilgrimage section of the National Museum in Dublin, while a plaque explaining links with Santiago de Compostela is to be placed within the cathedral grounds. Mullingar is within County Westmeath and is well inland from Dublin port, so pilgrims from Mullingar had to first get to Dublin, make their way to Saint James Gate and from there they would go by ship to south-west France or to La Coruña in northern Spain.

From Colin Jones

I would be interested to hear from anyone who might like to go on a coach pilgrimage to Santiago around 23 or 30 May 2005 – details are sketchy. I'm afraid as it will depend upon getting sufficient interest before I can negotiate an itinerary and price. Those interested can contact me either on my e-mail address at *pacharan@btinternet.com* or send a letter to The Vicarage, Church Road, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2LB (tel 0121 356 7998).

From Peter Robins

As a follow-up to John Blackwell's article in the last Bulletin, the Roussillon Amis walked their route Narbonne-Perpignan-Perthus as part of Europa Compostela (there's an overview on their list of events <http://amis.compostelle.free.fr/programme.htm>), but the route is not the same as the route in the book John mentions – it's much further west. I've always been suspicious of this book and John's comments confirm my suspicions that it's an armchair traveller's book rather than a proper pilgrim guide. From the events page it looks like the Amis are busy way-marking the route to the Cerdagne, though what the status is on the marking on the main North – South route I wouldn't know – there certainly wasn't any on the northern bit when I was there a couple of years ago. Interesting to read that John found markings on the Spanish side of the Col d'Ares route as none of the Catalan sites mentions this route – hmmmmin!

From Christine Battye

We live about 20 miles from Vézelay in the beautiful village of Montéal famous for its medieval architecture and twelfth century collegial church. This year I walked the camino starting from St Jean-Pied-de-Port arriving in Santiago de Compostela for the Holy Year of St James. Whilst I was away my husband welcomed several pilgrims into our home for *chambre d'hôte*. We hope this will continue, and offer all members of the Confraternity of St James discount on *chambre d'hôte* and *gîte* bookings, plus a complimentary supper for all walking pilgrims. Our web-site is www.maisoncremeanglaise.co.uk

From Betty Moore



I was in Finland in July this year as my friends there wanted to give me a birthday party. However St James followed me even there. I read in the local paper that there was to be a two-day pilgrimage from Turusta to Rymättylän with visits to churches on the way at Raisio, Naantali and Marimaskun. The church at Rymättylän is dedicated to St James. I was unable to join in or visit the churches as I was at a cottage in the forests being given a champagne breakfast and later a surprise party. However I bought myself a new pair of walking boots for my 80th birthday. I am ever hopeful.

Betty joined the CSJ pilgrimage to Walsingham in 2003 and belongs to a special group of pilgrims whose birthday or feastday falls on the feast of Saint James. Many happy return of the day. Betty also enclosed two short articles about the pilgrimage event in Finland – does anyone in the CSJ translate from Finnish?

From Graham Brown



I am a member from Rutherglen, NE Victoria (Australia) and a returned pilgrim having cycled the Le Puy route to Santiago de Compostela commencing at Vienne. My friend John Hennessey with his wife Joan are also CSJ members from Beechworth, NE Victoria.

Our nearest St James of any description is some 90 kms distant and is a small village in the heart of the wheat belt west of Wangaratta and south of the Murray River. Huge outdoor bunkers store last season's wheat which could not fit into the silos and canvas covers protect the grain from opportunist galahs and cockatoos.

John and I set off separately on cycles from our respective towns at midday on 25 July and met at a well known coffee shop in Wangaratta's main street. Fortified with the cyclists' staple cappuccino we then cycled on another 50 kms to St James where our wives Margaret and Joan met us with champagne, balloons and party poppers. Incredibly, Joan had managed to bring a friend with her whose name was James, so all five of us stood by the roadside and toasted St James, the CSJ, Santiago de Compostela and pilgrims past and present. On this quiet Sunday afternoon in this sleepy village some three or four cars with bemused occupants passed us by as we were celebrating.

My thoughts drifted to the Plaza del Obradoiro where I could imagine thousands gathering for the festivities. There had been one thousand pilgrims arriving at the cathedral on the day of my arrival – 800 walkers and 200 cyclists – and I was one of four to be interviewed

and photographed by a young reporter from *El Correo Gallego* for the following day's edition. I tried to imagine just what it would be like with many thousands more on such a special day. So I was particularly pleased to receive my copy of September's Bulletin and read Christabel Watson's descriptive account of the celebrations.

Just some background to the village of St James and the cut-out effigies of St James which adorn the four entrances to the village (see photo). Evidently the early squatters – settlers in Aussie terminology, not vagrants – arrived in the 1840s and the first arrivals in this locality came on 25 July. From what I can find out it appears that an enterprising young artist on a 'work for the dole' scheme obtained a government grant and created the effigies of St James for the village.

Australian members may be interested to know that the CJ. Coles retail empire, similar to Woolworth in the UK, actually commenced, albeit in a very small way, at St James. CJ's father Sir George had stores at St James and nearby Lake Rowan and when these were sold to his son CJ, the well known supermarket chain evolved. Today St James features a pub, the aforementioned silos and bunkers, and an Anglican church with the inappropriate dedication of St Thomas and a small bric-a-brac store with the unlikely name of St Jimmies!

John and I, hopefully with continued back up and support from our wives with requisite festive supplies, intend to make this an annual event. Any other local or visiting CSJ members are welcome to join us.

Sounds like the start of a great tradition.

From Jane Bradshaw

A meeting for the west, south-west and Wales (though all are welcome) will be held on 26 February 2005 at Oldbury on Severn. We will meet at 12.30 pm in Oldbury's Methodist Church for a picnic lunch (drinks provided), then, weather permitting, we will walk to Oldbury's holy well about a mile from the village (waterproof boots will be essential), returning for tea, followed by reminiscing, photographs and we hope some singing. In the evening we intend going to the Anchor Inn in the village, which features in the *Good Pub Guide*, for a meal, for which booking will be necessary. Oldbury Methodist Church is dry, so we can catch up at the Anchor.

Meeting at Oldbury will give everyone good practice in map-reading. The village is north of Bristol, about 7 miles from junction 14 on the M5 and about 8 miles from the Almondsbury interchange

(M5 junction 15, M4 junction 20). There is no public transport nearer than Thornbury 3 miles away. For anyone wishing to come to the Anchor, it is essential to book beforehand by 19 February with Jane Bradshaw, whose address, phone number and e-mail appear below. Anyone needing more detailed instructions should also contact Jane, and if anyone wants to be picked up in Thornbury we will try to do our best with that as well.

Jane Bradshaw, The Bank House, Oldbury on Severn, S Glos BS35 IPR. Tel: 01454 413199. e-mail: jl3bradshaw@btinternet.com

About Barbara and Dalie

Barbara Reed made her pilgrimage with Dalie the donkey in two stages: from Le Puy to the Pyrenees in autumn 2003 and along the Camino del Norte in spring 2004. When she eventually reached Santiago she learnt that her father in England was very ill. Sadly he died before Barbara could reach him, but he died happy knowing that she had completed her pilgrimage. In spring 2005 Barbara plans to walk again with Dalie, along the Nantes-Brest canal, to raise funds for the Brooke Hospital for working animals in Sudan and Egypt - see www.thebrooke.org for more information on their work.

From Doreen Hansen

Lauzerte is a fine medieval bastide town in the Tarn-et-Garonne region. It lies at an altitude of 224 metres and approximately 40 kilometres SW of Cahors and 25 kilometres NE of Moissac. In early September 2003 and 2004 I spent some time exploring the locality. Although in both years I saw many pilgrims on the GR65, and resting-refreshing themselves in Lauzerte's central square, it seemed few discovered the (signposted) pilgrim garden on the hillside below the southeast side of the town wall. The attractively presented pilgrim garden information boards illustrate different religious, geographical, and historical points of interest on the pilgrimage route reputed to have passed through the town since the 12th century. The garden is a quiet place and one can enjoy the beautiful view. Thoughtfully planted with figs, plums, grapes and walnuts, in September these are all ripe to refresh pilgrims. If you are passing do visit Lauzerte's pilgrim garden and rest awhile.

From Stephen Malone

Stephen is planning a Round the World sponsored Pilgrimage to raise money for HIV/AIDS projects in Bangkok, Thailand. He needs advice on how to manage the fundraising and asks if any members could set him on the way. He is also walking from Bayonne to Santiago, starting on 3 April 2005, to test his stamina and resources. Please contact him on *euromalone@hotmail.com* to sponsor and/or advise.

From John Hatfield, Slide Librarian

Another reminder that slides are available to illustrate any pilgrimage talks you may be giving this winter in the UK. Please give me at least one month's notice, so that a catalogue can be sent and your choices made. I have to operate on a first come, first served basis, so the sooner I hear from you, the sooner I can reserve the slides for your talk. I can be contacted at :

9 Vicary Way, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0EJ Tel: 01622 757814

Book Reviews

The Lotus that blossoms on the Camino: a spiritual and therapeutic journey to Santiago de Compostela through the chakras Lawrence Body, 2004 WalktheSnake Books, www.santiagochakras.com

Lawrence Body, the book's English author, lives and works in Andalucía where he now practises as an aromatherapy, Reiki and Bach Flower therapist. He has spent time at the ecumenical Monastery of Taizé in France, studied Yoga and Buddhism in Nepal, and helped at Mother Teresa's centres in Calcutta.

Lawrence himself describes his book as: "...a spiritual and therapeutic journey to Santiago de Compostela through the chakras." – which, in Tantric and Yogic philosophy, are the vital points of energy in the human body. There are seven such chakras, each one associated with a different part of the body and with our emotions, thoughts, "powers" and health. So, on his journey to Santiago, whenever he experiences a variety of physical and emotional difficulties, he associates these with the particular chakra linked to that stage of the journey and suggests ways through these difficulties using aromatherapy, exercises, visualisations, yoga and affirmations.

He opens each chapter with an outline of the associations and representations of a particular chakra, which he then links to events in that chapter. He discusses with the reader his personal thoughts and insights along the route, together with anecdotes about the people and places that he encounters. He describes too some of the places where he has stayed overnight, although it may prove difficult for other pilgrims to use his comments as a practical accommodation guide as his review does not usually include hard facts such as the number of beds, cooking or eating arrangements or the address of his resting place.

The author has an eclectic philosophy and, throughout his book, weaves in passing references to alchemy, the Tarot, Buddha, the Holy Grail, Atlantis, Knights Templar, the Kabala, and telluric energies along with the Corinthians and the Clash. At one point, he falls into an imagined conversation with a field of sunflowers. His descriptions of the churches, cathedrals and monasteries along the route are often a fascinating alternative insight, blending the Christian and the pre-Christian. This book could in no way be said to include the conventional Christian approach to walking the Camino.

In fact this book might appeal to people with no fixed spiritual preference and who are open to fresh viewpoints and have space in their rucksacks for a compact personal guidebook which nevertheless weighs 300 grammes. However, they would also need to carry with them one of the more usual accommodation guides such as the one

published by the Confraternity.

The book is well presented and the typography is clear and easy to read (if not always easy to fathom).

COLIN MAHONY

Available from the CSJ Office, £8 plus postage for 350g

Saint James and Father Tom: a Saint and his Priest compiled and edited by Terence Houlihan and Billy Browne, 2004

Fr Tom Lawlor went to Killorglin, Co Kerry in 1884, where he built up the parish and rebuilt the church of St James. This memoir, full of photographs, shows the energy of the man, including a wonderful illuminated address presented to him on his return from ten months of fundraising in the USA. As well as the church he built 6 primary schools in the area. Aileen O'Sullivan has contributed chapters on the Pilgrimage to Compostela as well as the angels depicted in the windows.

MARION MARPLES

Presented to the Library by Aileen O'Sullivan

Sue Kenney's My Camino: a true story about the spiritual journey of a woman confronting her deepest fear 2004, White Knight Publications, Toronto.

Sue Kenney is an energetic and intuitive Canadian who walked the Camino in November and December 2001. She set herself the spiritual goal of self-love and not getting involved with a man while on the way.

As a former rowing champion she describes well the development of stamina and motivation and mental exercises to keep one going while in pain. She reflects daily on her pilgrimage, developing a rhythm to give a pattern to the day with meditation and thinking of family and friends left behind. She is moved by the Pilgrim Blessings at Roncesvalles, Los Arcos and Samos. She seems to be on a journey of self-discovery, and rather like Shirley McClaine she travels inward to 'self love'. She learns the importance of 'being real' and caring for other pilgrims, and that pilgrims should always give thanks. But she hardly mentions God or St James as goals or purposes for the pilgrimage, which, for this reviewer anyway, would seem to be one of the outward goals of the pilgrimage.

In her last days she gradually feels attracted to Andrea, a German pilgrim. They stay together in the Hostal de los Reyes Catolicós - a re-entry in to '...the profane world off the camino'.

After completing this book and giving numerous workshops Sue set off again on the Camino Portugués in March 2004.

MARION MARPLES

Patricia Quaife Study Grant 2005

This annual Study Grant was established in 1999 to recognise the tremendous contribution made by Patricia Quaife, as Founder Member, Honorary Secretary, Bulletin Editor, Chairman and now Honorary Vice President of the Confraternity of Saint James.

Who may apply?

- Confraternity members of any age

The Grant is for up to £500, to allow research on a topic related to the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, where work is required in archives or libraries abroad or in Britain, at a distance from the applicant's home.

Preference is given to applicants wishing to study a topic relating to British aspects of the pilgrimage to Santiago. If the applicant wishes to conduct research abroad s/he must have an adequate command of the necessary languages.

Submissions must be made in writing and give a clear, concise statement of the proposed research, including the material to be consulted, the travel and maintenance costs involved.

When the research is completed the applicant should submit a report for the CSJ Library and possibly provide an article for the *Bulletin* or material for a lecture.

Applications should be received by 30 March 2005, addressed to The Secretary, CSJ, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY.

*NB The Study Grant was awarded in 2000 and 2001 to Dr Katherine Lack to help with her research for **The Cockleshell Pilgrim**. No further award of the Study Grant has yet been made.*

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

New Honorary President

We are delighted that the new Spanish Ambassador at the Court of St James, Señor Don Carlos Miranda, Count of Casa Miranda, has graciously agreed to become Honorary President of the Confraternity during his term in London. He has long experience of Spanish foreign affairs, serving in Washington, Algiers and most recently at NATO. We wish him and his wife, Doña Elena Meneses, Countess of Casa Miranda and Marchioness of la Rambla, a happy stay in London.

Premio Principe de Asturias

Each year the Principe de Asturias, Crown Prince Don Felipe de Borbón, awards prizes in the fields of Arts, Science, Music etc. To mark the 2004 Holy Year his Prize for Concord has been awarded to the Camino de Santiago, in recognition of the way in which it fosters international understanding and for the work of volunteers, particularly "...*hospitaleros voluntarios*, in caring for pilgrims." The Archbishop of Santiago, Mgr Julián Barrio Barrio was presented with the prize in Oviedo recently.

2004 Statistics

The Pilgrim Office has not published monthly pilgrim statistics since March. Numbers were high until July, when the huge numbers foreseen did not actually materialise. The English language website www.santiago-today.com gives a selection of statistics: here are a few:

- 650,000 pilgrims have walked between January and end of October, 14% up on the figures for the 1999 Holy Year
- The Xunta's *albergues* have been 'practically full since March'
- 500 volunteers have helped 9667 pilgrims with information and 7177 with medical help. Working in teams of 6 or 7 they have been in various locations in Galicia throughout the year.
- the number of pilgrims on *Los Caminos del Norte* has tripled this year, partly due to the publication of a Guide in Spanish by *El Pais*.

The new refuge project

Keith and Maureen Young are carrying the initiative for the New Refuge Project at present. There will be meetings in the Vaughan Room, Christ Church, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 on Saturday 8 January and Saturday 12 February at 12.30. If you have not already indicated your interest in being on the mailing list for this group please contact Keith on 01276 503000, or write to: 19 Old Acre, West End, Woking Surrey GU24 9JT; email *keithyoung100@hotmail.com*

Cards

Cards (A5 size postcard, with envelopes) of the carved pilgrim on a bench end shown on the cover of this Bulletin are available from the Office, price 25p each. We are most grateful to Cornwall member, Bridget Holden, who has supplied copies of these cards for us to send to our European and other colleagues for Christmas this year.

BBC CDs

A staggering number of people enjoyed listening to the Radio 4 LW Daily Service recorded in churches along the Camino in September and to the Morning Worship from Santiago on the following Sunday. The effect on the pilgrimage on the young choir members was recorded in an online Diary, of which we have Library copies and we have CDs of the Recordings of the services. We also have a CD of the Sequence for St James's Day by the Monteverdi choir and The Early Music Show from Santiago with Catherine Bott. As with all Library loans these are available to Members, for the small charge of the return postage.

Membership renewal

We are very grateful to all those Members who have responded promptly to the annual Renewal letter. So far, of those who have renewed (approximately half the membership) about one-third have opted for the discounted 3-year renewal. We are also extremely grateful for the generous donations included by a significant number of people.

Pilgrim Register Reminder and Request

When Pilgrim Records are issued a Pilgrim Register Form is included to return to Eric Walker, who sends any feedback enclosed to the relevant Guide writer. When the Forms arrive at the Office they are filed and provide a useful reminder and picture of who has made

which route when during the year. The form includes space for a brief description of the journey – ‘The Via de la Plata has proved quite a challenge’ or ‘exceeded all my expectations’. Some people also say they will submit fuller articles, reports etc once they have been completed. We have not managed so far to follow up these offers, but I guess there are many people who have ‘never quite got round to it’. So if you have an un-submitted report please do send it to the Office: it would be good to receive it for the Library archive. This collection of contemporary accounts will be a resource for pilgrims of the future.

Feedback

If you have been on Pilgrimage along the Camino Francés, especially in the later part of this year, please send us your feedback and updating as soon as possible. William Bisset has already started his work on revising the Guide for the 2005 edition, which will be published during January, at the latest by the AGM.

The Guide Writers for all other Routes will also be grateful for all information which would improve the accuracy of their Guides: please contact them directly. Early in 2005 there will be a review of all the Guides and some new people will be needed to take over responsibility for some routes. If you would like to be part of this process for any route, please contact me at the Office.

American Pilgrims on the Camino

This is the new organisation serving pilgrims in the US and Canada. If you’ve been a long-time member of “Friends of the Road”, the organization formed by Linda Davidson and Mary Jane Dunn, you may know that the two organisations, *Friends of the Road*, and *American Pilgrims on the Camino* have aligned their energies into one non-profit 501(c) (3) “public benefit” corporation.

As of January, 2005, American Pilgrims will be providing pilgrim resources such as a news journal, pilgrim credentials, annual gatherings, a website, and notices of various conferences and meetings. Their annual Gatherings have provided hospitalero training for those wishing to work within the Spanish refugio system, and they lend financial support for various services and infrastructure projects along the camino route. Their Eighth Annual Pilgrim Gathering will be in Toronto in May, 2005 (for more information, please refer to American Pilgrims’ website, www.americanpilgrims.com).

If you wish to join American Pilgrims you may do so by filling

out the membership form on their website. Their membership committee will then mail you a letter describing the organization and an enrolment form. Annual membership dues are \$40.00 which are tax deductible for American citizens. If you'd like more information on the organisation, please contact Kathy Gower at kathygower@hotmail.com

Keeping your camino alive

Many people feel that they want and need to keep talking about the experience of pilgrimage to help understand the changes in themselves and recapture the particular spirit of the camino. The new US Society (see above) has a listserv (mailing list) gocamino@oakapple.net

Confraternity Events

Saturday 8 January 2005

New Refuge

New Refuge Development Group Meeting, 12.30-3.30pm
Vaughan Room, Christ Church, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1
also Saturday 12 February

Saturday 29 January 2005

AGM

AGM, Talk and Late New Year Party, 2.30pm
St Alban's Centre, Baldwin Gardens, London EC1 – for more
information see AGM Papers

Saturday 19 February 2005

Practical Pilgrim

Nottingham Practical Pilgrim Day – Other Routes

New Mechanics' Institute, Nottingham
'Other Routes' includes the *Camino Primitivo*, *Via de la Plata*, *Vézelay*,
and *Camino Portugués* and NOT the *Camino Francés*.
The charge will be £2 for the day – see separate form.

Saturday 26 February 2005

Practical Pilgrim

London Practical Pilgrim Day

John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1, 10.30am-3pm.
Camino Francés and Le Puy routes.

Saturday 26 February 2005

Regional Meeting

Regional Meeting in Oldbury on Severn for members in the West of
England and Wales. For more information see Members Page.

Saturday 5 March 2005

Practical Pilgrim

Cardiff Practical Pilgrim

St Dyfrig and St Samson's Church 3 mins on foot from Cardiff Central
railway station 10.30-3.30

Saturday 5 March 2005

Regional Meeting

Regional meeting at St Neot, Cornwall – contact Tony Ward.

Saturday 12 March 2005

Practical Pilgrim

Co Durham Practical Pilgrim

Escomb Primary School, Bishop Auckland, 10.30-3.30pm

Saturday 19 March 2005

Practical Pilgrim

Practical Pilgrim in Scotland

St James Church, Coatbridge between Glasgow and Edinburgh,
10.30am-3.30pm

Saturday 30 April 2005

Office Open Day

10.30am-3pm for visitors to use the Library, browse publications and
obtain information about making the Pilgrimage.

Thursday 5 May 2005

Lecture Recital

A musical pilgrimage with Saint Francis of Assisi to Santiago de Compostela Lecture Recital by Dr Mary Remnant with the CSJ Choir,
at Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, 89 Addison Road, London
W14, in aid of the St Francis Leprosy Guild.

Saturday 21 May 2005

Office Open Day

Details as above.

Constance Storrs Lecture – details to follow

Saturday 25 June 2005

Office Open Day

Details as above.

July 2005

Pilgrimage

Walk Salisbury-Poole-Montebourg. More information to follow.

Monday 25 July 2005

St James's Day

St James Peckham –Centenary Events
More information to follow

Saturday 24 September

Office Open Day

Details as above.

October 2005

Retreat

Returning Pilgrim and Gathering Retreat; Ampleforth, Yorkshire

Saturday 22 October 2005

Office Open Day

Details as above.

Saturday 26 November 2005

Office Open Day

Details as above.

New Members Evening – more information to follow

Other Events

Friday 14 January 2005

Film

Preview of the film *Ultreia! Within The Way Without*, a film by Larry Boulting and pilgrims

At BAFTA, 195 Piccadilly, London W1

Tickets at £10 from the office of the CSJ. See AGM papers for details.

2 February 2005

Lecture

The façade of the great church from the 4th to the 12th centuries lecture by Barrie Singleton. British Archeological Association at the Antiquaries in Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, 5pm

29 April to 19 May 2005

Walking Pilgrimage

Jakobusweg: Nürnberg - Ulm – Konstanz

This group pilgrimage (no back-up vehicle to carry luggage) will take place from 29th April to 19th May 2005. Daily stages vary between 20-25km and accommodation is in simple guesthouses and small hotels, 25-30 Euros per night in double rooms (very few singles are available) and participants arrange their own travel to and from the starting point. Those who do not wish to undertake the whole journey can start/finish in any of the places given in bold. 29.04 Nürnberg, 30.04 Nürnberg - Unterreichenbach, 01.05. Unterreichenbach - Abenberg, 02.05. Abenberg - Kalbensteinberg, 03.05 Kalbensteinberg - Gunzenhausen, 04.05 Gunzenhausen - Heidenheim, 05.05 Heidenheim - Oettingen, 06.05 Oettingen - Nördlingen, 07.05 Nördlingen - Neresheim, 08.05 Neresheim - Giengen, 09.05 Giengen - Nerenstetten, 10.05 Nerenstetten - Ulm, 10.05 Rest day in Ulm, 12.05 Ulm - Öpfingen, 13.05 Öpfingen - Maselheim, 14.05 Maselheim - Muttensweiler, 15.05 Muttensweiler - Bad Waldsee, 16.05 Bad Waldsee - Weingarten, 17.05 Weingarten - Brochenzell, 18.05 Brochenzell - Markdorf, 19.05 Markdorf - Meersburg/Konstanz.

A detailed programme will be sent with confirmation of booking. If you are interested, please contact (in writing) Gerhilde Fleischer, Postfach 1229, 88306 – Isny, Germany by 15 March 2005.

New Members

LONDON

2005032 Mr. James Anderson-Thompson
308 Sullivan Court, Block K Peterborough London SW6 3DA
2004588 Mr. Joseph Bannen 020 7286 1086
258 Scott Ellis Gardens St Johns Wood London NW8 9RT
2004571 Rev Marjorie & Ms Alison Brow 020 8806 1463
The Vicarage 37 Clapton Common London E5 9AA
2005010 Mrs. Mercedes Buehlmann 020 7584 1587
20 Rutland Gate Knightsbridge London SW7 1BB
2004590 Mr. Patrick Burke 020 7237 7827
69A Lynton Road London SE1 5QT
2004591 Mr Peter & Mrs Carol Gibson 020 7428 9169
1 Parkhill Walk London NW3 2YU
2004537 Mr. Andrew Hopkinson 020 8693 5198
17B Henscowe Road London SE22 0AP
2005036 Mrs. Maureen Measure 020 8558 5491
90 Richmond Road Leytonstone London E11 4BO
2004567 Mr. Barry Mellor 020 7263 6916
304 Beaux Arts Building Manor Gardens London N7 6JW
2005020 Miss. Fiona Notman 020 8676 0233
162 Parish Lane London SE20 7JH
2005030 Mr. Alan Ravenscroft 020 7240 2674
7 Siddons Court 39 Tavistock Street London WC2E 7NT
2004547 Mr. David Rich 07855 952124
26 Chatham Road London E17 6EU
2005054 Mr. Jan Zajackowski 020 8997 5609
7 Mount Park Road London W5 2RP

HOME COUNTIES NORTH

2004546 Mrs. Helen Bassill
38 Villiers Crescent St Albans Herts. AL4 9HY
2004545 Mr. James Brodie 01784 461003
4 Birch Green Staines Mddx TW18 4HA
2005018 Ms. Maggie Cartridge 01628 525567
Cobblers Cottage The Common Blackwell Heath Bucks. HP10 9NJ
2004543 Alex Crockatt & Diana Hiddleston 01865 794825
12 Vicarage Lane Oxford Oxon OX1 4RQ
2004556 Mr. Terry Hart 07789 845818
27 Ulverscroft Monkston Milton Keynes Bucks. MK10 9DD
2004592 Ms. Luciana & Mr Leo Magalotti 020 8868 5954
26 Barrowdene Close Pinner Mddx HA5 3DD
2005041 Mrs Margaret & Mr Oliver Parkinson
The Millers House Churchill Oxon OX7 6NT

HOME COUNTIES SOUTH

2004587 Mrs. Margaret Brady 01732 450255
51 Dartford Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 3TE
2005017 Miss Anne Froud 020 8546 9493
5 Brae Court Kingston Hill Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT2 7QD
2005048 Mr. Paul Gallagher 020 8786 6976
15 Imber Park Road Esher Surrey KT10 8JB

2005043 Mrs. Rosie Hayman-Joyce	01483 268669
8 John Wiskar Drive Cranleigh Surrey	GU6 8RA
2004585 Mr. Richard Knight	01959 524488
38 Warham Road Otford Sevenoaks Kent TN14 5PF	
2004561 Mr. Michael McCormack	01703 503918
60 Grand Avenue Worthing West Sussex BN11 5AE	
2005035 Mr Michael Mead	01903 232822
194 South Farm Road Worthing W Sussex BN14 7TP	
2005024 Mr. Peter & Mrs Mary Railton	01372 452350
13 Richmond Close Fetcham Leatherhead Surrey KT22 9NX	
2004534 Mr Martin & Mrs Heather Rush	020 8398 3775
19A Greenwood Road Thames Ditton Surrey KT7 0DU	
2005019 Mr. Peter Wills	01273 205158
64 Tamworth Road Hove E Sussex BN3 5FM	
2004575 Mr. John Woolgrove	020 8467 1656
2 Ripley Close Bromley Kent BR1 2TZ	
2004560 St Richard's of Chichester RC Parish	01243 776999
Runcton Manor Runcton Chichester West Sussex PO20 6PS	

SOUTH

2004581 Mr. Andrew Lievesley	01252 680223
3 Kingfisher Close Fleet Hants. GU52 6JP	
2004573 Claudia Priester-Reading & Carla Villareal Fautsch	01747 871380
69 The Stables Fonthill Bishop Salisbury Wilts SP3 5RZ	
2004535 Mr. Martin Reed	01380 723480
11 Broadleas Road Devizes Wilts SN10 5DG	

SOUTH WEST

2004574 Mr. Richard Barry	0117 962 9003
40 Cooper Road Bristol Avon BS9 3RA	
2005050 Mr. Kenneth & Mrs Joan Davies	01830 854773
Highbury Higher Furzeham Road Brixham Devon TQ5 8QZ	
2004539 Mr. Sean Evans	01934 420844
Flat 9, Knightstone Park 7 Clarence Road East Weston Super Mare Avon BS23 4BS	
2004569 Rev. Fr Martin Hood	01761 235113
Downside Abbey Stratton-on-the-Fosse, Radstock Bath BA3 4BH	
2004564 Mr David & Mrs Ann Nash	01326 250327
Chy-an-Mor, Trelawney Close Maenporth Falmouth TR11 5HS	
2005026 Mr. David & Mrs Elspeth Rymer	01458 850524
36 Cornish's Cottages Butleigh Glastonbury Somerset BA6 8UA	
2005027 Mr. Bob Tomlinson	01803 762383
No 6, Sherwell Close Staverton Totnes Devon TQ9 6PH	

WALES

2004536 Mrs. Nicola Benson	01873 855545
41 Park Crescent Abergavenny Mon NP7 5TH	
2005033 Mr. Robert & Mrs Julie Clapham	01792 865139
1 Bryn Celyn Pontardaur Swansea W Glam SA8 4LG	
2005040 Mr. Jeff Pillar	
40 Glanymor Park Drive Loughor Swansea W Glam SA4 6UQ	
2004540 Mr. Anthony Sanger & Mrs Helen Griffith	01792 390863
Corner Farm House Pitton, Rhossili Swansea Glam SA3 1PH	
2005044 Mrs. Elizabeth Lingard	
67 Manor Park Gloddaeth Avenue Llandudno Conwy LL30 2UN	

MIDLANDS EAST

2004589 Mr. Ian Mackey 01509 416093
55 Loughborough Road Quorn Leics. LE12 8DU
2005051 Mr Michael McCullin & Mrs Marilyn Wilson 01652 678110
"Calvi" Main Street, Howsham Market Rasen Lincolnshire LN7 6LD

MIDLANDS WEST

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6 Malvern Street St Peter's Cheltenham Glos. GL51 9DG
2005031 Mr. Peter Long 01594 834947
Trelawney, 9 Park Road Coombs Park Coleford Glos. GL16 8AX
2005052 Mr. David Martinson 0121 745 5857
10 Caldeford Avenue Monkspath Solihull West Midlands B90 4UD
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133 High Street Wickham Market Suffolk IP13 0RD
2004580 Dr. Michael & Mr Tom Morris 01206 230512
Broom Knolls, Parrington's Farm Lawford Manningtree Essex CO11 2LP
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2005034 Mr. Denbeigh Kirkpatrick 01890 883446
Kaim Cottage Wark Cornhill on Tweed Northumberland TD12 4RE
2005042 Mr. Terry Maxwell 0191 286 8418
25 Wilmington Close Tudor Grange Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 2SF
2005037 Mr. Peter Morrill 01902 850005
1 Rothwell Road Gosforth Newcastle-upon-Tyne Tyne & Wear NE3 1TY

NORTH WEST

2004562 Rev. Vincent Coyne 0161 792 2152
The Servite Friary, 500 Bury New Road Salford Gt. Manchester M7 4WP
2005046 Ms. Karen Duffy 01942 831352
79 Haigh Road Aspull Wigan Lancs. WN2 1RN
2004558 Mr. John Norcross 01772 784170
79 Higher Road Longridge Preston Lancs. PR3 3SY
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13 Braidburn Crescent Edinburgh EH10 6GL
2005029 Mr. Christopher & Mrs Margaret Burn 01899 860356

Old Joiners Shop Skirling by Biggar Lanarkshire ML12 6HD
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 2005021 Mr. Robert Mullen 0131 447 2160
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 19 Fonab Crescent Pitlochry Perthshire PH16 5SQ
 2004577 Mr. John Smith 01888 563212
 Noltland Muiresk Drive Turriff Aberdeenshire AB53 4SB
 2004568 Mrs. Kathleen Yates 01796 482409
 Cherry Cottage Ballinluig Pitlochry Perthshire PH9 0LG

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 2004579 Mr. Jeff Wille & Mrs Fiona Galea 0061 2 9400 2469
 PO Box 1428 N. Sydney NSW 2060

Confraternity Publications

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

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

Pilgrim Guides to Spain

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | <i>Camino Francés</i>
£6.00 | William Bisset, 3 The Pines, Wormelow, HEREFORD HR2 8JN
(01981) 540925 editorcf@csj.org.uk |
| 2 | <i>Camino Mozárabe</i>
£5.00 | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| 3 | <i>Finisterre</i>
£4.00 | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| 4 | <i>Los Caminos del Norte</i>
£2.50 | Eric Walker, 4 Gawthorpe Avenue, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire BD16 4DG
(01274) 562559 eric@gawthorpe40.freemove.co.uk |
| 5 | <i>Camino Portugués</i>
£3.00 | Rod Pascoe, The White House, Pensilva, LISKEARD, Cornwall PL14 5NA
(01579) 362819 |
| 6 | <i>Madrid to Sahagún</i>
£4.00 | Marigold & Maurice Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH
(01763) 244525 |
| 7 | <i>Camino Inglés</i>
£4.00 | Patricia Quaife & Francis Davey, 1 North Street, Topsham, EXETER, Devon
EX3 0AP |

Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through France

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | <i>Paris to the Pyrenees</i>
£5.00 | Marigold & Maurice Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH
(01763) 244525 |
| 2 | <i>Vézelay to the Pyrenees</i>
£4.00 | John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ (01622) 757814 |
| 3 | <i>Le Puy to the Pyrenees</i>
£5.00 | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| 4 | <i>Arles to Puente la Reina</i>
£7.50 | Marigold & Maurice Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH
(01763) 244525 |

Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through Europe

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | <i>Nürnberg to Konstanz</i>
£5.00 | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
|
 | | |
| Practical Pilgrim Notes | for Walkers | £1.50 |
| | for Cyclists | £1.50 |
| | Winter Pilgrim | £1.00 |

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

Confraternity of Saint James

Registered Charity number 1091140

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

Information and Publications available from Registered Office:

27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY

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

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

Honorary President H E The Spanish Ambassador

Secretary Marion Marples

Please contact her via the office (above) except in an emergency
45 Dolben Street, LONDON SE1 0UQ (020) 7633 0603

Pilgrim Records Secretary *Please apply with SAE (quoting membership number) to:*
Eric Walker, 4 Gawthorpe Avenue, BINGLEY, W Yorks BD16 4DG

Committee 2004 Charity Trustees and Company Directors

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

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

Vice-Chairman Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB

Other Members Jane Bradshaw, Gosia Brykczynska, Gerry Greene, Colin Jones,
Mary Moseley, Ricky Yates

Rabanal Committee

*Chairman
and Company Secretary* Paul Graham, Somer House, The Street, CHILCOMPTON, Somerset
BA3 4HB (01761) 232630 c/o office@csj.org.uk

*Wardens' Coordinator,
Refugio Gaucelmo* Tricia Shaw, 159 Browns Lane, STANTON ON THE WOLDS
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Spinks

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County Guides* Ann Clark, 49 Gledhow Wood Avenue, LEEDS, West Yorkshire
LS8 1NX (0113) 266 2456

Other Officers

Finance and Systems Manager Alison Thorp, 18 West Farm Avenue, ASHSTEAD, Surrey KT21 2LG,
treasurer@csj.org.uk

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

*Membership Secretary
and Database Manager* *Membership applications should be sent to the office*

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

Slide Librarian John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ
(01622) 757814
*Members wishing to borrow slides should make their selections
from the catalogue four weeks in advance.*



The Confraternity of Saint James
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended: 30 September 2004

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 and 31 January 2004. The company grew out of an unincorporated association founded on 13 January 1983 and registered as a charity (No. 294461) on 19 August 1986.

- O - o - o - o - o - o - o - o - o -

Honorary President

HE The Spanish Ambassador

Directors and Trustees

Mrs J. Bradshaw	appointed 27 th August 2004
Dr M M Brykczynska	
Mr P Graham	
Dr J G Greene	
Dr W E O A G Griffiths,	Chairman
Mr C Jackson	(resigned 23 rd July 2004)
Revd C Jones	appointed 27 th August 2004)
Mr W King	(resigned 20 th February 2004)
Mrs M C T Moseley	
Mr H G H Nelson,	Vice-Chairman
Mrs A B Raju,	Vice-Chairman
Miss A O'Sullivan	(resigned 31 st January 2004
Mr E Walker	(resigned 4 th July 2004)
Revd W J Yates	

Company Secretary

Mr P Graham

Secretary

Ms M Marples

Treasurer

Mr. A. Ward (appointed 28th May 2004)

Rabanal Committee (appointed annually by the directors)

Paul Graham, Chairman	Marion Marples
Stuart & Tricia Shaw, Wardens' Coordinator	Alison Raju
Laurie Dennett	Anthony La Roche (deceased April 2004)
Alan Howard	

Registered Office

27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON	SE1 8NY
Telephone	020 7928 9988
Fax	020 7928 2844
Website	http://www.csj.org.uk
e-mail	office@csj.org.uk

Bankers

CAF Bank	25, Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, WEST MALLING. Kent ME19
4JQ	
Lloyds TSB	364/366 Lordship Lane LONDON. SE22 8NA

Reporting Accountant

Mr I S McLaughlin FCA

21 West Farm Avenue, ASHTEAD Surrey KT21 2LG

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 September 2004

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year.

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 include promoting research, presenting educational programmes, identifying and preserving monuments, providing information on routes, establishing paths, maintaining hostels, and working in close co-operation with other bodies in furthering similar aims and objectives.

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. All Committee members serve as directors of the company. 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.

Financial Review & Future Developments

Having celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2003, the CSJ has prospered in the Holy Year 2004, with increasing levels of subscriptions, sales of educational literature and in the number of its members. It continues to support the Refugio Gaucelmo, a refuge for pilgrims in Northern Spain and to provide a personal information service to, and answer queries from, the public whether in person, by telephone, email, through the website or by arranging speakers and visits. Interest in our website has continued with over 45,000 visits in the year to 30 September 2004, up from 30,000 in the previous year.

During the financial period, the trustees continue to reinforce the principles of good practice recommended within the charity sector, having carried out a Risk Assessment Review, established a Financial Policy, a Reserves Policy and by reviewing the administrative and internal control systems in the previous year. The latter is the final part of a 2-year review begun in May 2002 which has considerably improved the communication ability and the efficiency of the charity. The Risk Assessment Review will be revisited in the year 2005.

The trustees continue to build on the strong foundations of the CSJ. A new treasurer was appointed in May 2004 and a part time paid office administrator commenced in September 2004. Our main bankers were changed in January 2004 from Lloyds TSB to CAF Bank where interest is paid on current account and bank charges are minimal. The recent increase in membership rates has not deterred renewals and, in particular, the offer of a reduced subscription for a 3-year commitment is proving successful (approximately 1/3 of renewing members electing for this option) and should ensure that our membership remains at a reasonable level. However, 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.

A new membership software system (known as Maximiser) was introduced in June 2003 and has proved a great success, especially with the current 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. Thanks are due to Alison Thorp, our Finance and Systems Manager and Chris Jackson who was until recently membership secretary for their work and interest in installing and maintaining the system with the minimum amount of disruption. The work of Alison in handing over the treasury and finance function to the new treasurer in a seamless and professional manner has been much appreciated.

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. The survey which was sent to members in October 2003 has gained much information and many suggestions on how to retain members, to improve the CSJ's services and to identify the type of major projects that the members would be likely to support in order to continue achieving the charity's objectives. The first results were available at the AGM in January 2004. New initiatives over the last months have been moves towards the formation of regional groupings and reunions of returned pilgrims. The survey continues to provide the trustees with the names of members who can assist with the work of the CSJ.

Risk Management

Early in 2003, the trustees conducted a thorough analysis of the CSJ's activities, in the light of the Charity Commission's "Practical Risk Management Guidance", in order to identify areas where action might still be needed to safeguard the charity's assets and to ensure its continuity.

The trustees consider the most significant risks to this charity continue to be the loss of key personnel and those risks related to, or arising from, loss of or damage to property. Lesser risks were financial irregularity and incompetence of trustees. Risk Assessment Tables were drawn up and each individual and function perceived to be at risk was prioritised according to the Charity Commission's guidelines. The trustees approved an action plan early in 2003, as a result of which the tables have been reviewed and the appropriate steps taken to minimise the risks. These steps have included cover / deputies for key personnel, increased insurance cover, improved documentation of systems and back-ups of data. Details of several of these initiatives are mentioned elsewhere in this report. Further reviews of the tables will take place at the trustees' training day to be held early in 2005.

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

Reserves Policy

The trustees review the level of reserves annually, based on financial results for the current year, the forecast for the following year and the results of the annual review of risks. In particular, they wish to ensure that the charity can continue to fulfil its current objects and activities in the event of a significant fall in membership. The charity maintains a level of unrestricted funds which consists of a) a period of 6 months of operating costs (12 months for Rabanal due to its seasonal nature) and b) sufficient funds to cover known risks, contingencies and capital expenditure. Discussions are at present taking place regarding the possibility of the CSJ being involved in a new refugio project, the expenses for which could well impact on the level of reserves. Further reviews may occur during the year as and when urgent requests for funding are identified.

General – Unrestricted funds

The free unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £40,000, after deducting £2,000 for known contingencies and a designated fund of £2,000. The trustees consider the most appropriate level of free reserves at 30 September 2004 would be £34,000 to cover 6 months of operating costs.

Rabanal – Restricted Income Fund

The level of reserves required to cover 12 months operating costs is £2,500 which leaves a surplus of £5,300 at 30 September 2004. This is retained for use on future repairs and improvements to the property and to the facilities for pilgrims.

Investment Powers

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

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

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

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

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

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Dr W E Griffiths
Chairman

Report of Reporting Accountant

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

Basis of Opinion

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

Opinion

- (a) The accounts are in agreement with the accounting records kept by the company under section 221 of the Companies Act 1985;
- (b) having regard only to, and on the basis of, the information contained in those accounting records
 - (i) the accounts have been drawn up in a manner consistent with the accounting requirements specified in section 249C (6) of the Act; and
 - (ii) the company satisfied the conditions for exemption from an audit of the accounts for the year specified in section 249A(4) of the Act, as modified by section 249A(5), and did not, at any time within that year, fall within any of the categories of companies not entitled to the exemption specified in section 249B(1)

I S McLaughlin FCA
Reporting Accountant

21 West Farm Avenue
Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2LG

Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 30 September 2004

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted Funds (Note 2)			Total	2003
		General Fund	Rabana I	Bursary	Other		
INCOMING RESOURCES		£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations, Legacies etc							
Donations	3	5,768	2890	-	95	8,753	13,441
Subscriptions	4	45,148	-	-	-	45,148	43,233
		50,916	2,890	-	95	53,901	56,674
Operating Activities							
Books and Publications— Sales	5	26,677	-	-	-	26,677	25,273
Other Items - Sales	6-	2,367	-	-	-	2,367	2,397
Visit Income	7/13	-	-	-	-	-	15,040
		29,044	-	-	-	29,044	42,710
Investment Income	8	1,294	244	367	145	2,050	1,790
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		81,254	3,134	367	240	84,995	101,174
RESOURCES EXPENDED							
Grants	9	-	-	500	242	742	3,206
Charitable Activities							
Refugio Gaucelmo	10	-	2,076	-	-	2,076	3,898
Bulletin	11	11,495	-	-	-	11,495	9,782
Library	12	2,580	-	-	-	2,580	2,880
Speaker Meetings	13	428	-	-	-	428	1,266
Books and Publications—Costs		18,866	-	-	-	18,866	15,290
Other Items – Costs		2,098	-	-	-	2,098	2,077
Visit Expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	14,097
		35,467	2,076	-	-	37,543	49,290
Support Costs	14	20,639	-	-	-	20,639	21,006
Administration	15	25,654	-	-	-	25,654	26,994
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		81,760	2,076	500	242	84,578	100,496
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	22	(506)	1058	(133)	(2)	417	678
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		44,410	6,737	9,171	3,868	64,186	63,508
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		43,904	7,795	9,038	3,866	64,603	64,186

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2004

		Unrestrict ed	Restricted Funds			Total	2003
		General Fund	Rabana I	Bursary	Other		
		£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	16						
Office Equipment		1,431	-	-	-	1,431	1,918
Works of Art		3,900	890	-	-	4,790	4,790
		5,331	890	-	-	6,221	6,708
CURRENT ASSETS							
Stocks and Work-in-progress							
Books & Publications for Sale	21	5,051	-	-	-	5,051	6,149
Other Items for Sale	21	538	-	-	-	538	834
Postage Paid Envelopes		1,950	-	-	-	1,950	3,277
		7,539	-	-	-	7,539	10,260
Debtors	17	6,085	-	-	-	6,085	2,581
Cash at Bank and In Hand		55,068	6,905	9,038	3,866	74,877	51,218
		68,692	6,905	9,038	3,866	88,501	64,059
CURRENT LIABILITIES							
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18/19	(30,119)	-	-	-	(30,119)	(6,581)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		38,573	6,905	9,038	3,866	58,382	57,478
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		43,904	7,795	9,038	3,866	64,603	64,186

Audit Exemption

- (a) For the year ended 30 September 2003 the company was entitled to exemption under section 249A(2) of the Companies Act 1985 ("the Act").
- (b) Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 249B(2) of the Act.
- (c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
 - i) ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Act; and
 - ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of section 226 of the Act, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company;
- (d) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions in Part VII of the Act relating to small companies.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by

Dr W E Griffiths
Chairman

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2004

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Statement Of Recommended Practice on Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) issued in October 2000, applicable accounting standards and the Companies Act 1985. The length of the current and previous accounting periods was one full calendar year.

(b) Donations and similar incoming resources

Except as specified in Notes 3 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 in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) at the same time as the gift to which they relate. Subscriptions paid in advance under the new 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, except as specified in Note 17, 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 assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Depreciation of computers and other office equipment is charged over two years.

2. Restricted Funds

	At 1 Oct 2003	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	At 30 Sep 2004
	£	£	£	£
Rabanal	6,737	3,134	2,076	7,795
Bursary	9,171	367	500	9,038
Ted Dickinson Fund	2,389	145	242	2,292
Galicia Disaster Appeal	-	25	-	25
Pat Quaipe Fund	-	50	-	50
St Christopher Fund	1,479	20	-	1,499
	<u>19,776</u>	<u>3,741</u>	<u>2,818</u>	<u>20,699</u>

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

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

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 has been maintained around the £10,000 mark and awards are generally paid out each year.

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

Pat Quaife Fund – discretionary awards for members, primarily out of general funds towards study grants.

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

3. Donations

Donations have fallen back from the previous year. These are funded partly from legacies but mostly from the many generous voluntary contributions made by members in addition to their subscriptions.

4. Subscriptions & Gift Aid

Net subscription income remained at a similar level to last year but the total of Gift Aid reclaimed has reduced. Tax reclaimed amounted to £8,466 (2003 £9,298). Subscription rates had remained unchanged for the past 8 years as follows:

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£15	Overseas	£20
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£20	Overseas	£25

For renewals for the new subscription year commencing on 1st October 2004, rates have been increased as follows: -

1 year				
Individual Members	UK and Europe	£20.00	Overseas	£25.00
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£25.00	Overseas	£30.00
3 years				
Individual Members	UK and Europe	£54.00	Overseas	£67.50
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£67.50	Overseas	£81.00

5. Books and Publications

Turnover rose by 5% to £26,677, owing to the continuing popularity of our secure, on-line bookshop. Income from postage has been split between books and publications on a pro-rata basis. This gave rise to a trading surplus of £1,362 for books and £6,449 for publications, £7,811 in total. This compares with an overall trading surplus of £9,983 in 2003.

6. Other Items

Sales of other items (principally badges and sweatshirts) produced a surplus of £269 compared to £320 in the previous year.

7. Visits

The major visit to Oviedo and Santiago organised by the CSJ took place in October 2004 and therefore the income and expenditure will be shown on next year's accounts. Other visits have been classified as speakers meetings and details of these are shown in the secretary's report.

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 a replacement for the Lloyds TSB account which was closed during the accounts year.

9. Grants

Bursary application forms are issued to universities and colleges of further education at the start of the academic year. Students between 18 and 25 are asked to submit proposals for the research they wish to undertake and to indicate how it would be facilitated by financial assistance from the Confraternity. Short-listed applicants are invited to interview before a panel consisting of Mark Hassall, Lecturer in Archaeology at UCL, and James Maple, Hon. Vice-President of the CSJ, and awards may be made for one outstanding project, or shared between several, up to a maximum of £1,000. They are generally paid in two tranches, part in advance of the research and the balance when the resulting dissertation has been commended after being academically reviewed. The best of these are published in the Bulletin. The Bursary of £500 was awarded to Cleo Masliah of the Courtauld Institute for a study of the development of Hospitality along the Camino. A grant was also made from the Ted Dickinson Fund to provide financial assistance to enable a member to travel to act as a warden at the refugio in Corbigny on the Vezelay route.

10. Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino

Expenditure of £2,076 for this year includes	£
- Wardens Workshop and first-aid courses	1,129
- Postcards and Printing	413
- Travel & subsistence	311
- Other eg insurance, printing, translations, etc	223

NB. Pilgrim donations for the period March to September 2004 amounted to €23,474 and related expenditure on food, hospitality, cleaning etc was €17,085. Any surplus is put towards overheads such as electricity, bank charges, repairs etc. These are for the benefit of the refugio and do not form part of the Confraternity funds or its accounts.

11. Bulletin

The Bulletin is published quarterly and the costs include printing and distribution. A special edition entitled "Give me my scallop shell" By Pat Quaife, a history of the CSJ covering the 20 years since its formation, was produced and distributed to all members in December 2003.

12. Library

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

13. Speaker Meetings

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

14. Support

The costs directly attributable to charitable activities are	£
Personnel	18,911
Office Direct Costs	401
Finance Direct Costs	<u>1,327</u>
Total	<u>£20,639</u>

15. Administration

	£
Personnel	7,752
Accommodation	6,862
Office Running Costs	8,577
Finance charges	1,202
Member Meetings & Sundry	<u>1,261</u>
Total	<u>£ 25,654</u>

Personnel costs include £1138 paid to 8 trustees for travel expenses.

16. Fixed Assets

	Works of Art £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Costs			
At 1 Oct 2003	4,790	6,326	11,116
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>1,074</u>	<u>1,074</u>
At 30 Sep 2004	<u>4,790</u>	<u>7,400</u>	<u>12,190</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 Oct 2003	-	4,408	4,408
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>1,561</u>	<u>1,561</u>
At 30 Sep 2004	<u>-</u>	<u>5,969</u>	<u>5,969</u>
Net Book Value			
At 1 Oct 2003	<u>4,790</u>	<u>1,918</u>	<u>6,708</u>
At 30 Sep 2004	<u>4,790</u>	<u>1,431</u>	<u>6,221</u>

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

17 Debtors

	2004 £	2003 £
Prepayments	4,641	597
Accrued Income	<u>1,444</u>	<u>1,984</u>
	<u>6,085</u>	<u>2,581</u>

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2004 £	2003 £
Trade Creditors	4,456	4,426
Tax and Social Security	-	1,670
Deposits and payments held for CSJ Visit October 2004	10,580	-
Deferred Income - Subscriptions in advance	14,264	90
Accruals	565	350
Sundry Creditors	<u>254</u>	<u>45</u>
	<u>30,119</u>	<u>6,581</u>

19. Deferred Income

Subscriptions paid in advance total £14,264 of which £8044 relates to the year 2004/2005, £3110 to the year 2005/2006 and £3110 for the year 2006/2007. These have been shown as falling due within 1 year as the actual subscription has been received.

20. Related Parties

As from 1st August 2004, Ward Randall Ltd, a Chartered Accountancy Firm in which the treasurer Tony Ward has a material interest has carried out the bookkeeping function of the CSJ. He is not a trustee of the organisation or a director of the company. The amount provided for this service within the accounts is £247

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. Net Movement in Funds

The levels of primary purpose trading income, subscriptions and donations mean that there is a slight deficit in this financial year. The subscription rates, having been held at their current level for the last 8 years up to and including the year 2003/04 have been reviewed by the trustees, and, to protect the objectives of the CSJ, the subscription rates have been increased as outlined in note 4 above.

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 of the CSJ's activities.

Refugio Gaucelmo

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

Following the CSJ's offer of help, made via the Federation of Spanish Associations, the Diocese entered into a contract in 1989 with the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago del Bierzo ("El Bierzo") whereby, for a peppercorn rent, El Bierzo would develop what was at that time a tumble-down house and orchard, making it available for the overnight accommodation of pilgrims. Thanks to the Federation, El Bierzo had by then formed an alliance with the CSJ for the necessary fund-raising for the rebuilding of the house and its subsequent administration.

The cost of administering the refuge on a day-to-day basis during the pilgrim season (usually April to October) and maintaining the fabric of the building is largely met from the voluntary donations of pilgrims staying there overnight. El Bierzo is responsible for organising the insurance of the property, paying for the utilities of the refuge and for compliance with all statutory and local regulations.

During the pilgrim season, postcards and Pilgrim Guides are sold at the refuge. These are donated by the Confraternity so that the full proceeds are used locally for the benefit of the refuge and do not form part of the pilgrim donations. Spanish Pilgrim Passports are also available.

Since its opening in 1991, Refugio Gaucelmo has been run by the CSJ with the object of providing simple overnight accommodation for pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. So far (by October 2003) 75,000 pilgrims have stayed there.

Each year, a relay of wardens welcome and care for pilgrims staying there overnight. There are about forty-five beds and floorspace is utilised when necessary. Wardens work in pairs (sometimes threes) and usually stay for a period of two weeks. Apart from providing a bed for the night, the wardens also provide a simple free breakfast and are responsible for maintaining the property in a clean and tidy condition.

Each Spring, before opening the refuge for the season, a group of about six volunteers forms a working party for a period of a week, during which they re-paint and thoroughly clean the place and replace any equipment as necessary. More extensive building or maintenance work is usually done in the autumn or early Spring.

The CSJ's objects include the maintenance of buildings on the Camino de Santiago and the provision of pilgrim accommodation. The Rabanal Committee fulfils both these functions, attempting always to enhance the service that it provides to pilgrims. Even in the busy periods, the wardens continue to strive to provide a particularly 'homely' atmosphere with freshly-picked flowers on the table, home-made jam for breakfast and cups of tea on a pilgrim's arrival. We are often told that it is appreciated. In the less-busy months of April, May and October there is a greater opportunity for the wardens to assist with other chores such as cutting wood. As 2004 was a Holy Year, we opened the refuge in early March and it will close at the end of November.

Paul Graham
Chairman of Rabanal Committee

Secretary's Review of 2003-2004

Secretary's Review for 2003-4

The CSJ's 2004 Holy Year programme picked up a number of the suggestions made in the 2003 Members' Survey, mainly for more local meetings for pilgrims to discuss their pilgrimages and a Pilgrim Reunion service, which was held in Oxfordshire in October. Other events included a Sussex walk, weekends in Salisbury and Winchester, a walking pilgrimage to Mont Saint-Michel in conjunction with the Normandy Association, a lecture at the Cervantes Institute about Navarre, a lecture by Katherine Lack on the Cockleshell Pilgrim and a week-long visit to Oviedo and Santiago to look at the Pre-Romanesque churches of Asturias and to follow the mountainous route of the *Camino Primitivo*. The climax of the year will be the special screening of *Within the Way Without*, a new film about the Camino by Larry Boulting.

H E the Count of Casa Miranda has graciously agreed to become Hon President of CSJ term during his term as Spanish Ambassador. The Office continues to be busy every Thursday, and this year on six Saturdays, with visitors and phone and email enquiries from all over the English speaking world. The CSJ Guides continue to be very popular; the Guide to the *Camino Francés* has sold over 1500 copies. The welcome appointment of Christine Pleasants as Office Administrator, whose responsibilities include the internet bookshop, has begun to reduce the routine paperwork for the Secretary, allowing her to work more strategically. The number of regular office volunteers is steadily increasing.

A new sub group has been set up by the committee, under Keith and Maureen Young, to consider the feasibility of developing a new refuge. During the year pilgrims have been looking at possible locations, mainly on the Via de la Plata and Los Caminos del Norte, with the aim of encouraging more use of these routes. As well as bringing together information from many sources, there has also been a useful broadening of the knowledge of group members and a gradual focussing on what the CSJ can and should be able to offer.

The Publications sub-committee, under Ricky Yates, has caught up with the backlog of Occasional Papers. Three have been published, including Number 7: *The Origin of Holy Years and the Compostela and Holy Year Curiosities* by Laurie Dennett and Patricia Quaife. Our thanks go to them for the texts and Howard Nelson and William King for their production work. We are very grateful too

to all our Guide writers for the continued updating of their work. Gosia Brykczynska continues to develop both the Bulletin content and the production team with great imagination. It is planned to review both the next generation of Pilgrim Guides and the *Bulletin* in the next few months.

The Bursary was awarded to Cleo Masliah of the Courtauld Institute for a study of the development of Hospitality along the Camino.

During the year there have been changes on the Committee. Tony Ward, a chartered accountant from St. Neot in Cornwall has taken over the treasury and finance functions from Alison Thorp. Three trustees resigned: Eric Walker due to ill health but continuing to issue 785 Pilgrim Records this year. William King continues to help with publications. Chris Jackson's responsibilities as Membership Secretary are temporarily split between me, Howard Nelson and Alison Thorp - and discussions continue as to the best way develop the task. Jane Bradshaw from Gloucestershire and Colin Jones from Birmingham have been co-opted during the year, increasing the geographical spread of the committee. We are grateful to all who have served as Trustees this year for the expertise and commitment they have brought to the work of the Confraternity.

Marion Marples

Systems Review 2003-2004

Efficiency and communication has continued to improve during the year. Whilst there have been many small changes the greatest benefit has been gained from increased familiarity and usage of the Maximiser membership database. It is proving useful in the administration, not only of regular events such as the AGM, weekend visits etc, but also particularly in implementing changes arising from the 2003 Membership Survey. These include regional meetings, reunions, discounted subscriptions and in planning a new refuge.

Over 1,000 members are recorded as having email addresses and we are therefore able, between Bulletin dates, to issue notices and newsletters to them, both quickly and at minimal cost.

The treasury and finance functions were handed over in August 2004 to Tony Ward, the new treasurer. It is more appropriate that some basic book-keeping tasks, such as sales analysis, are done in the office in London, and these are being taken over by Christine Pleasants, our new Office Administrator.

Discussions took place on the handling and control of publications and books. Whilst some improvements are being made it was thought that there would be little cost-benefit to the CSJ in introducing a new system at this time and therefore no major changes are currently planned.

The accounts and membership systems now in place allow for the flexibility for the CSJ to react to change and to facilitate volunteer members working from home. This adaptability became particularly apparent in the summer when the work of the Membership Secretary was easily transferred to a temporary team with minimal disruption to members. I have been processing the subscription renewals in late 2004 and we will be reviewing the role of Membership Secretary shortly with the aim of looking for a volunteer/s to take over these duties early in 2005.

Alison Thorp
Finance & Systems Manager

Analysis of Support & Administration costs

Administration 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

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

Salaries & NI - The company employs a Secretary, a Finance & Systems Manager and an office administrator, all on a part-time basis. The increase in salaries from £23,649 to £24,620 is due to the commencement of the additional clerical assistant and increases in employer's NHI.

Travel & Subsistence - trustees are generally required to attend 6 meetings per annum. More trustees now live out of London resulting in travel and subsistence costs for all committee members rising from £1,887 to £2,431,

Office Equipment - includes a new computer.

Printing & Stationery - has risen during the year. **Other Office Costs** - represents bookkeeping costs.

Member Meetings - This represents the net cost of various members' meetings including the AGM. Income this year was £1,109 and expenditure £2,174 compared to £1,523 & £1,793 respectively for 2003.

Support and Administration Costs

			2004	2003
	Support	Admin	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Personnel Costs				
Salaries & NI	18,524	5,708	24,232	23,650
Travel & Subsistence	387	2,044	2,431	1,887
	<u>18,911</u>	<u>7,752</u>	<u>26,663</u>	<u>25,537</u>
Accommodation				
Rent	-	6,295	6,295	6,260
Rates	-	-	-	-80
Insurance	-	445	445	733
Depreciation	-	1,561	1,561	474
Office Maintenance	-	78	78	107
Office Equipment < £500	-	581	581	979
Less Library Recharge	-	-2,098	-2,098	-2,289
	<u>-</u>	<u>6,862</u>	<u>6,862</u>	<u>6,184</u>
Office				
Telephone	-	1,510	1,510	1,299
Post	17	1,111	1,128	350
Printing & Stationery	384	3,368	3,752	2,940
Computer Support & Consumables	-	2,341	2,341	920
Company Database	-	-	-	7,756
Other	-	247	247	293
	<u>401</u>	<u>8,577</u>	<u>8,978</u>	<u>13,558</u>
Other				
Legal & Professional	-	50	50	40
Bank Charges	3	644	647	812
Credit Card Charges	1,324	558	1,882	1,328
Member Meetings	-	1065	1065	270
Sundry	-	146	146	271
	<u>1,327</u>	<u>2,463</u>	<u>3,790</u>	<u>2,721</u>
	<u>20,639</u>	<u>25,654</u>	<u>46,293</u>	<u>48,000</u>

Membership Statistics

Membership at 30 September 2004 stood at 1,925 paying members (1,862 at 30 September 2003) plus 142 (93) honorary and honoured (aged over 70 with 10 years' paid-up membership) and 35 exchange subscriptions with kindred organisations. The paying members were split as follows (2003 numbers are shown in brackets): -

	Individual	Joint	Institutional
UK	1,094 (1,051)	426 (408)	22 (26)
Europe	84 (87)	37 (34)	4 (4)
Rest of World	<u>173</u> (164)	<u>83</u> (85)	<u>2</u> (3)
Total	<u>1351</u> (1302)	<u>546</u> (527)	<u>28</u> (33)

Confraternity of Saint James



Annual General Meeting

Please bring this booklet and the Accounts with you

Notice of the 5th Annual General Meeting of the
Confraternity of Saint James (the Company) to be held on

Saturday 29 January 2005

at the St Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1 at 2.30pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting (31/1/04)
4. Chairman's Report for 2004
5. Annual Report & Accounts 2003-2004

Proposed further amendment to Article 6.1 of Memorandum and Articles of Association:

Add: Where authorised, the electronic approval by a designated trustee for internet bank payments of sums not in excess of £1,000 shall be sufficient.

The Committee requests this change to allow a Trustee to authorise the payment of routine bills as our bankers (CAF Bank Ltd) move towards electronic banking. All expenses claims will continue to be approved and paid by cheques under the existing 2 signature system.[See Notes below]

6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino
7. Report on the Bulletin
8. Report on the Slide Library
9. Programme for 2005
10. Election of Trustees: In view of the number of changes among the Trustees, the Trustees, in this particular year, consider it appropriate that all trustees should be re-elected at this meeting. Those standing for re-election: Gosia Brykcynska, Paul Graham, Gerry Greene, William Griffiths, Mary Moseley, Alison Raju, Ricky Yates. Standing for election: Jane Bradshaw, Colin Jones.
11. Presentation about 'A New Refuge'
12. Any Other Business

Note: Article 6.1 was changed last year to read: *The funds shall be used solely for the purpose of furthering the Object of the Confraternity. The signatures of two designated Trustees, or of one designated Trustee and one other person to whom this power has been delegated at a meeting of the Trustees, shall be*

required to withdraw money from the Confraternity's bank accounts. Where authorised Company credit cards are used a single signature shall be sufficient.

Programme for the Day

11.00	Doors open	Coffee available
12.00	Ten Best Slides	Main Hall Picnic Lunch (drinks available)
2.30	Annual General Meeting	Main Hall
3.45	Tea	Main Hall
4.30	Lecture	Main Hall
'My Family and other Pilgrims'-Al and David Milnes plus Ruby, Pearl, Max, Bonny and Olmo tell us about their pilgrimage.		
6.00	Annual New Year Party	Main Hall

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

Trustees: See above for details of vacancies. The recent Membership Survey brought many ideas for future activities. Would you like to help by serving on the Committee? For further information about what is entailed please contact any existing committee member.

Helping and participating on the day

Badges and Friendship

Everyone attending the AGM is asked to wear their name badge given on arrival. If you have any spare clip badges with your name on please bring them with you for recycling! Those attending for the first time will have a distinctive badge.

New Year Party As usual we ask people to contribute food rather than pay if possible. If you would like to help with the food shopping, preparation or serving please contact Sally Grover on 01869 331306, email sallyg@actuaries.org.uk . If you bring food to the value of £5 you do not have to pay to come to the party. If you contribute food to a lesser value we ask you to pay the balance for the Party. Otherwise the charge for the day and party is £5.

Ten Best Slides

Members are invited to show 10 slides relating to their pilgrimage, perhaps on a specialised topic or 'other' route. A maximum of 10 slides is stressed to allow as many as possible to participate. Alison Raju will arrange the Programme: please contact her on 0115 9626728 to ensure a place.

Important Things to Bring with You

- this copy of the Agenda, and the Accounts
- any outstanding Library books you wish to return
- any photos/albums of your pilgrimage you would like to share

- any spare paperback novels which could be taken to Gaucelmo for pilgrims to enjoy
- any jiffy bags for recycling
- your contribution of food
- Money /cheques for
- Publications, including 2005 Camino Francés Guide and especially for the

Raffle with pilgrimage related prizes

Contributions of prizes , value over £5 only please, are gratefully received.

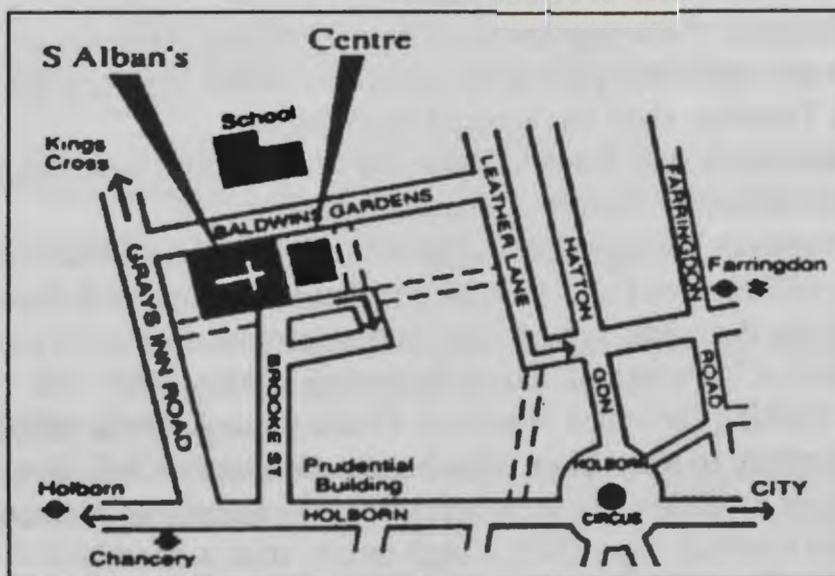
Things to do

Sponsor-a Week

This scheme allows pilgrims to continue supporting our work at the Refugio Gaucelmo. Keep in touch with events at Rabanal by sponsoring-a-week for £50 (or share with a friend), receive a letter from the wardens telling you of Gaucelmo news and know that you are supporting the pilgrims. See Walter Ivens at the AGM for details of weeks available.

Exhibitions : East & West Seminar Rooms

John Hatfield's display on the Vézelay route, and the development of pilgrim routes stretching back into Eastern Europe. Eric Walker has information on the North Coast Route. Any further displays welcomed.



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 Gray's Inn Road.

Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity of Saint James (the Company)

Held on Saturday 31 January 2004

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** The Chairman, William Griffiths welcomed all, in particular Leif Dahl from Denmark.
- 2. Apologies:** 29 apologies had been received.

3. Minutes of 3rd AGM of the CSJ (Company)

Accepted subject to: in item 7, addition of 'Paul Graham' at beginning of last sentence.

4. Chairman's Report for 2002: for full text please see Bulletin 85, March 2004. William Griffiths reviewed the first year of his Chairmanship, and thanked all the Officers, Trustees and Volunteers who contribute time and energy to CSJ. He mentioned in particular the fostering of international links with the Normandy, Voie de Vézelay Associations and webcompostelle in France. He quoted from the Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop of Santiago for the 2004 Holy Year.

5. Finance: Annual Report & Accounts: Finance and Systems Officer Alison Thorp gave her second Report on the Accounts, noting a 20% increase in both Subscriptions and Donations, and 16% sales growth due to the online bookshop. She hoped that the Management Accounts included in the Annual Report would be more user friendly. Ronnie James asked about the credit card charges: these are paid to Worldpay for processing transactions on the online bookshop. Rosemary Wells congratulated Alison on the Accounts, thanked her for answering her previous questions and for adding clarification to the Rabanal finances. John Hatfield suggested that there should be a higher charge for speaker meetings.

Acceptance of Accounts & Annual Report proposed by Alison Thorp, seconded by Rosemary Wells, carried. Alison gave notice that the committee had decided that subscriptions should rise by £5 pa from 1 October 2004.

The amendments to the Articles of Association:

In Article. 6.1: Substitute - "The signatures of two designated Trustees, or of one designated Trustee and one other person to whom this power has been delegated at a meeting of the Trustees, shall be required to withdraw...

In article 5.3 should have '...and Treasurer' deleted from it. Both were proposed by Alison Thorp, seconded by Heather Coleman, agreed.

Progress with the Systems Manager job included putting in place Financial, Risk Assessment and Reserves Policies, changing bank accounts to reduce bank charges, upgrading the Accounts system. She hoped to work on a stock control policy before the end of her contract, currently ending in May 2004. The Trustees would be looking for a new Honorary Treasurer and a book-keeper.

6. Report on the Survey to Members. Membership Secretary Chris Jackson spoke about the report (available for members) from the Survey conducted at the time of Membership renewal. There was a high rate of return. Members indicated a desire for Practical Pilgrim day-type meetings and opportunities to meet on their return. There were many offers of help and suggestions for new activities.

7. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo: 8000 pilgrims stayed at Gaucelmo in 2003, giving a total of 75,490 since 1991. Paul Graham thanked David Wesson for his help compiling the statistics.

8. Report on the Slide Library: John Hatfield said 246 slides had been donated through the year. Colin Jones asked about collecting digital photographs. There was a discussion about copyright issues-it was agreed that these could be solved by the conditions made when pictures are donated. The collection could grow as digital photos become more common and more people have digital projectors. It was agreed that there would still be a place for the Slide Library.

9. Programme for 2004: outlined by Marion Marples, incorporating suggestions from the members' survey.

10. Election of Trustees: William Griffiths, nominated by Francesco Mattioli, seconded Hilary Hugh Jones, Howard Nelson nominated by Ronnie James, seconded by Francis Davey, and Gerry Greene, nominated by Paul Graham, seconded by Mary Moseley, were elected. Gosia Brykcynska, Paul Graham, Chris Jackson, William King, Mary Moseley, Alison Raju, Eric Walker and Ricky Yates, having been elected at the 2003 AGM remain as Trustees.

11. A New Refuge? William Griffiths outlined the thinking so far. David Trueman said he favoured a new refuge between St Jean Pied-de-Port and Roncesvalles, Howard Hilton favoured diverting pilgrims from the Camino francés eg the Camino Inglés, Stuart Shaw the Basque country, Tony Leyland-the Northern route near Santander.

12. Any Other Business:

1. Peter Cox thanked Marion Marples for all her hard work.
2. Rosemary Wells asked for consideration to bring down the average age of members from c 60 and for more activities for those who are not active pilgrims and are interested in other aspects of the pilgrimage .
3. John Snell spoke of the problems of cyclists who were mostly not able to stay in the refuges.
4. Mary Remnant asked for dates for the Constance Storrs lecture.
5. Peter Fitzgerald said Rabanal did welcome cyclists.

December 2004 Newsletter

New Publications

The Pilgrim Guide to the Camino Francés 2005 will be ready by mid January, or by the AGM at the latest. Price £6.

Office Holiday

The Office will be closed on both Thursday 23 and 30 December. Orders and enquiries will be processed up to Wednesday 22 December and after Wednesday 5 January.

Gaucelmo Working Party

The annual working party for Refugio Gaucelmo - prior to opening for the season - will take place in Rabanal from the evening of Friday 18 March to Good Friday 25 March.

There will be the usual tasks of cleaning, painting and doing repairs. We so far have six volunteers - ideally we would have two more people who have not done it before. Please contact the CSJ office if you feel able to help with these tasks and would be interested in joining the working party.

Invitation

Friday 14 January 2005
BAFTA
195 Piccadilly, London W1

a film by Larry Boulting
first UK screening

Ultreia!
Within the Way Without

Reception 5.00pm
Screening 6.00pm
Film runs 150 minutes

Tickets £10 per head
from Ultreia! CSJ Office,
27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

As we expect great demand for tickets, there is maximum of 2 tickets per membership, but please indicate if you would like further tickets if available.

Cheques payable to Confraternity of Saint James, or send credit card details, plus (stamped if in UK) self- addressed envelope.

Other Routes Practical Pilgrim Form
Saturday 19 February 2004, Nottingham

(Further information will be sent when ready)

New Mechanics Institute, Nottingham-confirm address details later

This year the Sessions will give information about 'Other Routes' including the Vézelay route, Camino Primitivo, Via de la Plata and Camino Portugués

Please tick where appropriate

☐ I am new to these routes and am particularly interested in

_____ (specify)

☐ I am a returned pilgrim with experience on

French routes _____ (specify)

Spanish routes _____ (specify)

I am a walker ☐ [this is to help with arrangements]

I am a cyclist ☐

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

Number of people ☐ (specify number)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel (with code) _____ email _____

The charge for the day will be £2 per head, payable in advance. Cheques payable to Confraternity of Saint James.

Please return whole form with an sac, to Alison Raju, **Practical Pilgrim**, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 4BB.

If you want to book for any of the other Practical Pilgrim Days too, Alison Raju will forward the form to the relevant organizer.

Practical Pilgrim Form

Mainly concerning the Camino Francés and Le Puy routes

(Further information will be sent when ready)

The programme for the day generally follows this sort of pattern:

10.30 Coffee

11.00 Introduction to the Pilgrimage Questions & Answers (we assume you already know something of the pilgrimage and have started planning).

12noon Groups for Walkers and Cyclists for more specific information.

1.00 Picnic Lunch

2.00 Session includes a Talk by a returned pilgrim and a short walk.

4.00 Tea and close

Charge varies: please book and pay in advance £2 per person. In Scotland a cooked lunch is provided for a further £3.

I wish to attend the following Practical Pilgrim session: *please tick*

Saturday 26 February	<input type="radio"/>	John Marshall Hall, Blackfriars Road, SE1
Saturday 5 March	<input type="radio"/>	St Dyfrig & St Samson Church, Cardiff
Saturday 12 March	<input type="radio"/>	Escomb Primary School, Bishop Auckland
Saturday 19 March	<input type="radio"/>	St James's Church, Coatbridge, Scotland

I am a new Pilgrim ☐ I am a returned pilgrim ☐ with experience
on French or Spanish routes _____ (specify)

I could give a talk about _____ with slides?

I am a walker ☐ [this is to help with arrangements]

I am a cyclist ☐

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Tel (with code) _____ email _____

If you are interested in both the Other Routes and regular Practical Pilgrim Days please return the form first to Alison Raju, who will forward it to the relevant organizer.

Please return whole form, enclosing a cheque payable to CSJ of £2 per head per meeting, with an sae to **Practical Pilgrim, Confraternity of Saint James, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY**