



Confraternity of Saint James
Bulletin



December 2014

No 128

About the *Bulletin*

ISSN 1755-1617

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The *Bulletin* is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

The deadline for copy is the beginning of the preceding month.

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

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Cover photograph:
Lifesize Statue of
St. James as a Pilgrim
outside Cursillo-Hause St.
Jakobus, Oberdischingen
by Martin Davis.

Editorial

Gosia Brykczyńska

There is an inbuilt and unavoidable dichotomy of feelings at this time of year. Although the colours of autumn can be spectacular and invigorating and much appreciated, most of the time it is grey and rainy and miserable. And the days are too short and the puddles too deep. And then to totally confuse the senses and the heart somewhere towards the end of November we start to think about the joys and light of Christmas, the splendour and brilliance of freshly fallen snow and look forward to a new year. The poet probably puts it best stating:

*Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall.
Some days must be dark and dreary.*

Well, certainly rain is needed for the gardens – as much here in London as in Rabanal and Miraz! As my art teacher would say – where there are no shadows there is no light! For all the hard work (and sometimes even stress) involved, I recollect with much affection my *hospitalera* duties in Miraz; the amusement of being confronted by a sparrow in the dormitory, the unwinding peace each evening as we said pilgrim-prayers in the village church of St James, the delicious lingering taste of home-made apple crumble made by co-*hospitalera* Ruth (we had to do something with all those apples), and so on. Likewise in Rabanal there was much hard work for the *hospitaleros* and an all-out war was declared against beasties – but also much joy and pleasure was encountered through interacting with, and simply being there for, the pilgrims. As one American pilgrim noted in her letter home, “It was so great. They served tea at 4pm, lit a fire and took care of us. Such a great experience...”

Therefore the reports from Miraz and Rabanal are welcome reading indeed and the articles in this Bulletin are all full of the joys of pilgrimage – well mostly. James Cruickshank is certainly a pilgrim who knows how to appreciate the fine art of reminiscence, and Angela Bailey is left with an image that will not fade fast and

which she has set down as a poem for us. Eeva Teräsalmi and Robin Holmes both describe their pilgrimage experiences, one along *Camino Primitivo* and one on *Camino Portugués*; one undertook a strenuous mountainous route the other a well traversed path which is gaining – and rightfully so – much popularity. There are pilgrim paths out there to suit everyone. Meanwhile, Eric Walker (who has written several of



German pilgrim at Miraz

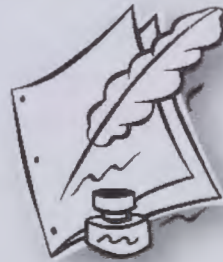
our guide books) presents us with his observations concerning the church of San Salvador de Merlán, in the province of Lugo; while Martin Davis presents us with the joys of walking the *Jakobsweg* in Switzerland and shares with us some of his beautiful photographs. Elaine Hopkins notes her thoughts on Rabanal and recalls walking the few kilometers around the village – which she thinks are some of the best on the camino. Well, if all this does not swell your pilgrim heart with pride, let Robert France (from Canada) bring you down to earth with the proverbial bump (or two).

According to Robert there is a strange and little

member in Staffordshire, who first gave me a cutting of her Santiago Begonia – but who knows? And then there is the singing of pilgrim songs and being a member of the CSJ choir, and so on. I think I am an incurable case, a chronic Caminophilic, with symptoms only relieved when I come across other pilgrims, like the Polish pilgrim couple passing through Miraz or enjoying the company of the German pilgrim undertaking *Camino del Norte* with her football mascot – to raise money for a children's charity.

I do fear however, that some of you may have caught the disease also, but I advise you not to fight it; just let the disease run its course. That is so much more exciting. Enjoy therefore the next year and in these dark autumn days start planning your next camino. It therefore only remains for me to say on behalf of all the CSJ trustees and Colin Jones our Chairman, Marion our secretary and all the office volunteers and workers and the whole Bulletin production team – have a wonderful and joy-filled Christmas. We hope to see you all at the next CSJ Annual General Meeting at the end of January 2015. And may the twinkling lights of the Christmas stars remind you of the Milky Way and the camino. (Oh dear, is that another manifestation of the malady?)

Wanted!!!

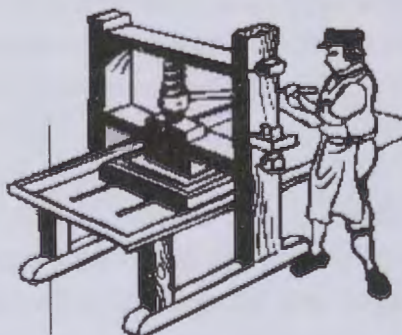


A Bulletin Editor and Copy production co-editor

Calling all CSJ members who have always hankered after a literary career or wanted to legitimately spend more time playing around on the computer. If organising, occasionally commissioning, selecting and preparing material for the Bulletin is something you feel called to do please phone or email the CSJ office for further details and information about this great job. Not everyone can do everything - but some people are better at editing than others. Maybe that someone is you!

Likewise, if you would like to work with the new Bulletin Editor preparing the issue for electronic publishing - please call the CSJ office.

All aspects of the Bulletin production are up for change - the new editor will have the possibility to start afresh, and put their stamp on the issue.



Roses in December

James Cruickshank

I trained for my camino until I was able to walk comfortably for two or so hours with a weighted pack, determined too, that sore big toes on downhill stretches would not again become my Achilles heel. In fact, the problem of ultra-thick toenails was sorted out soon after investment in an engineering file.

So, on 15th April, after a flight to Biarritz, I reached the arbitrary starting point of Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port on the French side of the Pyrenees. Next morning, as on three previous occasions, I took a taxi as far as possible up the mountain, reluctant to become one of those who wreck themselves or die (and they do!) when heading all the way by foot to Roncesvalles, an abominably arduous first-day for innocents. An hour later, midst wild splendour, the same unpretentious 'Navarra' sign welcomed me back to Spain. By contrast, it was distressing that, after having forked out 23 Euros in Saint Jean on a lightweight, compact, "definitely-waterproof" pack-cover, I never felt a drop of rain. Indeed, the sun kept taunting me.

After passing through Roncesvalles to Espinal to ease the next day's walk to Larrasoana, onwards I went to Cizur Menor, about 7km past Pamplona, feeling good until a knee started to hurt. In the morning, when it hurt significantly more, I deemed it foolish to tackle the imminent mountain whose many, mega-sized, electricity-generating windmills either enhance or tarnish the camino experience. It was on its descent that I damaged my toes in 2011 when, as a result, I took an unplanned rest-day at Puente la Reina. This prompted me to arrange a rest-day in advance this time, again at Hotel Jakue on the near fringe of town.

Then, enjoying being where I was and with toes and spirits in good order, I booked an extra night – then another, and another, etc, going on to stay five nights in all. There's not a lot to do in Puente la Reina but, having already walked the whole way to Santiago twice, in 1999 and 2006, it seemed in order just to laze about. Moreover, I came to think, it would be no disgrace if I were to 'call it a day' as I'd be 75 in a couple of weeks. Ambitions felt in no way unrequited and I was encouraged by the thought that acceptance of honourable defeat, if it

may be called that, would surely increase the chances that my knees would resolve to reward me with loyal, pain-free, long-term service.

An *albergue* occupies the building's semi-basement, so I still got to hear pilgrims' tales, mainly in the hotel's eateries. As I couldn't stay in Puente la Reina for ever, however, and, surprised to find myself in Spain with time on my hands, I flouted camino protocol by buzzing off to the Costa Brava. A bus back to Pamplona, a train to Barcelona, a Metro ride and another bus – got me to an old Mediterranean haunt, which I first visited in 1959 by van from Edinburgh with four lads, returning there in 1960 by train via London and Paris as a component of two young couples. Back in those halcyon days of youth, we sunbathed and swam at S'Agaro beach, a short walk from our accommodation in Sant Feliu de Guixoles.

The idea of returning there was triggered by a photograph taken from a hotel's terrace in a *Saga Holidays* brochure. This showed, in the foreground of a gorgeous bay, the very patch of beach to which we regularly gravitated more than 50 years ago! Swathes of development now dominate S'Agaro's few original houses, but its appeal remains. I checked in for five nights into an upper room from which the view revealed more of note than just our legendary spot and the contractually stipulated sea.

As on the camino I met most pleasant people, Saga's older guests in this case, rather a fine age group, I now proffer. Then came the flight from Barcelona to Luton, close to St Albans where I live, my knees and I all in good shape as a remarkable fortnight came to an end!

The camino will ever kindle diverse emotions in me, none more so than feelings of belonging catalysed by walking in centuries-old footsteps, aware that pilgrims of the future will walk in ours:

*The present/past
with future's cast,
our spirits fused as one,
And we today
are on shared way,
unending role begun!*

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, I also enthuse over JM Barrie's words at St Andrews University in 1922 when he orated that "...*Memory* is a gift to older people so that "*we might have roses in December*".

The Camino Português

Robin Dalton Holmes

On a car journey in Spain 35 years ago I spotted the odd pilgrim walking the wooded ways west of Santo Domingo de la Calzada. This fired my wish to become one of them in the luxury of retirement. It was to be six years after entering the Sixth Age of man before I set out upon the Way. I started my first camino from Logroño in 2009, and reached Santiago without difficulty. I resolved to complete the route two years later by starting from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port, walking as far as I could in a fortnight. My objective of enjoying the Route Napoleon was, at first, frustrated by torrential rain and a low cloud base, but thereafter I aimed to stay, as far as possible, where I had not rested before and I reached Sahagún before breaking off. In September 2012 my wife and I drove part of the route, and witnessed crowds of bedraggled pilgrims trudging against the rain and gales up to Cruz de Ferro. Then I resolved that if I were to undertake the camino again, I must choose an emptier route for my *retreat on foot*.

So, late in August 2014, I left Oporto on a very humid, foggy morning. My immediate observation was that this way was still very sparsely populated, and that neither the way markers, nor the Confraternity's guide were too helpful in the pre-dawn mist. First of all I was hailed from a newspaper kiosk to correct my navigation, but again I missed the arrows and even the locals were unable to guide me before I could read my soggy street guide and pick up the Rua dos Bombeiros. From then on John Brierley held my hand unwaveringly, until the southern approaches to Santiago lost me again, and instinct and familiarity took over.

At Vilarinho, a first day of sharp cobbles underfoot served to grab my pole or to herald the oncoming roar of tyres on the N19. It was at Laura's that my oft repeated meetings began with a quintet consisting of two Irish nurses prone to swimming in the many rivers, a recently unemployed American with fluent Brazilian-accented Portuguese and a youthful-looking Italian mother of four grown up children. This meeting took place over Laura's generous port and cakes. Occasionally we encountered the extrovert author of *Camino Primitivo* (camino-primitivo.slavko-djuric.de) who has written up most of the caminos in

an e-book, albeit mainly in German but with fine illustrations.

Although to have started walking from the airport would have halved the walk, it was good to have faced the rigours of the long shake-out from the Douro through the city; a route akin to the Burgos and León approaches. This balanced the later charm of this old empty route. For several days the early morning was warm and the days were hot with a westerly breeze shaking massive condensation from dripping trees. The rank smell of fast-growing maize and ruminating cows, and the constant accompaniment of running water was in marked contrast to my recollection of the dry high expanse of the Spanish *meseta* or the canals of the Camino Francés. Cafes do not open as early in Portugal so breakfast got later and later but the menus *del dia* were alive, well and ridiculously cheap. Though no altitude exceeds 405 metres, the path undulates challengingly and as yet there are few choices of *refugios* which means repeated encounters with fellow travellers, and a hunch that if the route becomes more popular there will be a real daily scramble for beds.

There were frequent Roman bridges over streams, a host of fine medieval multi-arched crossings over broader water courses and the glorious spans over the full Lima and Minho rivers all served to define the ancient pathways of this route. There were other enjoyments too, like that of the vast Thursday market in Barcelos, and the country-town, scaled-down versions of that market, and the elegant emptiness of Pontevedra and Tui contrasting with the coach-borne tourism of Valença. The broad sweeps of Ponte de Lima and the ennui of the long straight industrial approach to Porriño, were followed by the surprise first taste of Padron peppers under the bridge at Caldas de Reis near the shadow of the parish church, dedicated to St Thomas à Becket. The close pattern of little parish churches north of Porto with their chorus of electronic chimes repeating from several quarters simultaneously, and the cattle, and tool-bearing labourers wandering through villages, emphasise the continuing existence of simple agricultural communities in western Iberia. One disappointment was the seriously misleading, fly-posted, under-estimation of distances to cafes and accommodation, although the new Canadian devised *Quinta Estrada Romana* enterprise just north of Cabanas was worth the repetition of '300 metres to go'. The scenery may lack the grandeur of the high passes and the plains of central Spain but the intimacy and rapid transition from hill scrambles to the narrow twisting cobbled ways through frequent hamlets with delightful glimpses of grapes on

trellises around cornfields and frequent fountains, all added to the rapid kaleidoscope of simple joy.

This year I was so glad to encounter the friendly out-of-the-ordinary kindnesses on this route; a student who, late in the evening, guided me from the metro station to my first simple hotel; a private *hospitalero* carrying my rucksack in Redondela to another albergue on observing my distress that it might be another 3km to a vacant bed (though happily it was only 300 metres); cheery greetings from early farm workers; the sage guidance of an annual pilgrim from Lisbon that the shortest stages might be the most challenging; Laura's unsolicited decanter of Port, long after the *donativos* had been proffered; the car-borne returning pilgrim helping me on with my rucksack after early breakfast, whilst relaying the latest good news of Santiago; the delight expressed by a fellow traveller that our unconscious sharing of the day had helped her to realise what she could achieve in future; the easy ability to reconnect with new-found fellow travellers even in the larger towns, and in Santiago itself; the friendly voices of greeting at the Dean's office although sadly the old staircase, but not the final queues, has gone.

My regret was imagining that newish lightweight boots were appropriate for the cobbled roads of Portugal, and my delight was in finding the transept doors open at 8am granting the peace of an empty Cathedral in Santiago and the opportunity for a solitary salutation to St James behind the high altar.

I empathized with several of the articles in September's Confraternity *Bulletin* which arrived three weeks after my return home and I can underline that there are more ways than one to Santiago de Compostela.

A Father and A Son

Angela Bailey

*At the front of the long queue they stood
A father and a son,
An arm around the waist of a crooked body,
Two pilgrims
One supporting the other,
One hundred kilometres behind them,
A camino lovingly walked.*

*Dos peregrinos, por favor, I called
And in they walked,
Two pilgrims
One supporting the other,
A father and a son.*

*Their faces shone as they left,
Each clutching his compostela,
One with supple fingers
The other with fingers twisted,
Twisted like his body, so young.*

*Down the stairs they walked
Past the silent pilgrims
In awe of a father and his son.
Further down they clapped
Sharing in the devotion
Of a father for his son.*

*Who am I but a pilgrim,
A witness to the love of
A father for his son?
Am I worthy to share their journey,
The journey of a father and his son?
God's love manifested in two pilgrims,
A father and his son.*

I worked as a volunteer Amiga in the Cathedral's Pilgrims Office for the second time in 2013. In the final two weeks of August 2013 we welcomed 22,000 pilgrims of all ages from all over the world; however, these two in particular will remain forever in my mind.

San Salvador de Merlán – an Enigma in Stones

Eric Walker

In 2006 I wrote a small article for the *Bulletin* entitled *Questions, Questions* about the fascinating decoration on the lintel above the South Door of the small Church of San Salvador de Merlán, on the *Camino Primitivo*, in Lugo Province. My interest in this church started some four years before I actually saw it for the first time, as I read about it in a guidebook¹ given to me by a former member of the Confraternity, John Durant, who took a special interest in this part of Spain.

The phrase that stuck in my mind, describing a feature of this church, was:

“...es una pequeña iglesia románica, con rústica decoración de posibles árboles apocalípticos en el dintel (lintel) de la puerta sur”.



That phrase “...árboles apocalípticos...” still sticks in my mind, still without a definitive answer to my question about the meaning of this unusual collection of symbols. I had hoped that there would be someone in the Confraternity with scholarship enough to be able give me some enlightenment

on the subject. So far there has been no response but it has given me many enthralling hours of investigation with numerous exciting discoveries and a great deal of satisfaction. I am still not attempting to offer a solution but I thought it might be well worthwhile letting you accompany me along some of the paths that I have trodden whilst attempting to decipher this visual conundrum.

1 El Camino de Santiago del Norte en la Provincia de Lugo
Diputación Provincial Lugo

This is a drawing of that lintel, although the actual carving is more weathered and less crisp than the drawing, the isolated circular disc by the left-hand image may not be a perfect circle but is so badly worn it is difficult to decide exactly what it is.



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/96877455@N00/15206634179>

Part I THE TREES

Looking at the two similar symbols near each end of the lintel, assuming that they do represent trees, the first questions that come to mind are, why two trees and why only six branches?

When the author of the Spanish guide book description uses the term “apocalyptic trees” my thought is immediately directed to the relevant part of the New Testament:

“1. And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb,

2. in the midst of the street thereof. And on this side of the river and on that was the tree of life, bearing twelve manner of fruits, yielding its fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.....”²

After considering these short sentences without getting very far, a friend pointed out to me that the description of the apocalypse by St. John was not the only one. He drew my attention to the Apocalypse of St. Peter, not from the New Testament this time but from early Christian manuscripts unearthed at Akhmim in Egypt and to be found within the Apocrypha:

2

Revelation 22 1. 2

“ . . . And the Master (Lord) answered and said unto me: Understandest thou not that the fig-tree is the house of Israel? Even as a man that planted a fig-tree in his garden, and it brought forth no fruit. And he sought the fruit thereof many years and when he found it not, he said to the keeper of his garden: Root up this fig-tree that it make not our ground to be unfruitful. And the gardener said unto God: (Suffer us) to rid it of weeds and dig the ground round about it and water it. If then it bear not fruit, we will straightway remove its roots out of the garden and plant another in place of it. . . .”³

Now, looking at these two passages together, I was beginning to see a glimmer of light. As a graphic designer I am always looking at ways to get a message across simply, clearly and economically; the producer of these carvings had exactly the same problem. Two points are clear:

Looking at the first, New Testament passage, there is a tree on each side of the river, hence, our two trees.

From the Apocalypse of St. Peter, a poorly cared for, fruitless tree is better destroyed but one that is nurtured and cared for will flourish and produce the desired result (none are beyond redemption?).

Bearing in mind the allegorical nature of these illustrations, can it be that the designer was attempting to encapsulate all the ideas from these two passages within the one two-part graphic? By drawing two trees was he illustrating the difference between caring and neglecting? Each tree has only six branches and we would normally be expecting twelve but should we be remembering that he is really trying to show how the one tree can respond to different treatments?

Two in one, one in two, taken together we have the twelve. The tree to the right is certainly a poor specimen compared to the one at the left and could the disc above the stronger-looking one represent the sun (symbolising God, perhaps) and be the reason for its healthier appearance?

All of this is conjecture on my part and I may be well clear of the mark. A more mundane reason might be that the mason found the very hard, coarse-grained granite impossible for delicate work, the only way

3 The Ethiopic Text. First published by the Abbe Sylvain Grebaut in *Revue de l'Orient Chretien*, 1910: a fresh translation from his Ethiopic text by H. Duensing appeared in *Zeitschr. f. ntl. Wiss.*, 1913.

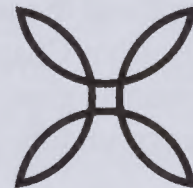
to get the twelve branches within the limited height of the lintel was to divide them between two trees.

Part 2 THE CENTRAL MOTIF

Moving on to the central symbol, it didn't take long to find the three legged version of it, the Triquetra, also known as a "trinity knot". This has been used as a religious symbol by both Pagans and Christians who use it to represent the Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: three distinct persons of one divine essence. The constructional relationship between the two symbols can be clearly seen:



Triquetra



Merlón Symbol

Only after a very diligent search did I eventually find a book, by the eminent German typographer and researcher, Rudolf Koch⁴ where the two symbols shown above were each incorporated into another one and which, in his words these were:

"Two signs used to exorcise evil spirits ..."

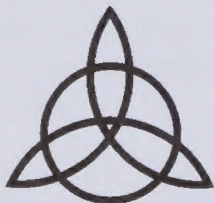


Fig. A



Fig. B

Other than in this book by Koch, I had been unable to find any example of the four-sided cross. The nearest that I felt bore some family resemblances to it were these:

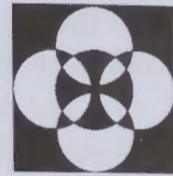
4. The Book of Signs. Rudolf Koch 20/11/1926 – 9/04/1934. B. Nurenburg, Calligrapher, Typographic Artist and Teacher. ISBN. 0-486-20162-7



The Mmusuyida



St. John's Cross



Rosslyn Chapel

1. The Mmusuyida is an Adinkra Symbol from the Ashanti in Ghana meaning "...that which removes bad luck". Identical construction, negative/positive feeling.
2. St. John's Cross or 'Shield Cross' (Norse), very similar in feeling, without the acute corners.
3. Rosslyn Chapel Symbol, (Templar connections?). Fragment from stained glass window, original is coloured, central cross is red, surrounding circles yellow.

Recently I started looking at photographs of churches in Spain rather than websites with diagrams of symbols. Another friend directed me to the Flickr Photostream of a Spanish Couple, Georges y Larisa F., especially one, superb picture of a symbol of an identical format to the one from Koch's book (Fig. B).

It is described as:

"A Romanesque relief (XII-XIII) from the Church of Santa Maria Mayor in the town of Ayllon, in the province of Segovia, Castile and León, Spain". This can be seen at:

https://www.flickr.com/photos/visit_spain/8591974778/

Georges F., the photographer, describes the relief depicted in his photo as possibly one of the following:

1. A Celtic knotwork ring;
 2. A metope⁵
 3. Geometric decoration;
 4. A pearl patterned scroll with an interlaced rosette.
 5. A cross of entwined configuration showing Celtic influences.
- He mentions here "... another cross of identical configuration

⁵ Metope. In Classical Architecture a rectangular architectural element that fills the space between two triglyphs in a Doric frieze.

appears in Galicia, in the tympanum of the Church of San Salvador de Merlán”.

6. A symbol related to the combination of the meanings of the circle and the number 4 as well as other numerical evocations of this work.
7. A symbol associated with the stylistic individuality of work by Mudejar⁶ craftsmen at a place elsewhere that had links with the Templar Tradition.

Part 3 A SUMMATION (of sorts)

It is still very difficult to be certain of anything, especially about the overall meaning of this particular combination of symbols. Knowing this area as I do, three or four, at least, of the explanations put forward by Georges F, (the photographer) have great relevance. There is certainly a celtic feeling in the district or perhaps something even older – within the collective memory of the people – and in the atmosphere of the area. I have perhaps a better understanding of some of the individual elements of the design now and am left in no doubt about the sincerity of whoever was responsible for the lintel's production.

Considering some of the possibilities suggested by the photographer, with Templar connections etc., I feel as though I am getting desperately near to wandering into Dan Brown territory here and allowing myself to be influenced too much by the feelings that I have experienced when passing through this highly atmospheric countryside.

Looking at this work I certainly think its creator had something of a mystical nature about him, and I wonder if he was also responsible for the strange carvings to be found a few kilometers back along the camino; the puzzling work on the Iglesia de Santa Cruz de Retorta?

6 Mudejar. Work done for Christians by Islamic craftsmen.

Resting at Rabanal

Elaine Hopkins

In September 2014, I spend a week working on the camino as a transformational coach and guide with Adam Wells of *Discover The Camino* (www.discoverthecamino.com). We walk with a small group of clients from Haro on the *Camino Interior* to Burgos on the *Camino Francés* – with spectacular results. One of the group reconnects with his heart's desire to be a songwriter and even starts composing a camino song. Another, who had a serious wobble prior to starting and almost didn't join the group, finds her inner strength and carries on walking by herself after the group disperses.

At something of a loss after this exhilarating experience and with a couple of days at my disposal, I jump on a train to Astorga. I shall walk from there to Rabanal to visit the CSJ refuge. I've trodden this path before: when I completed the *Camino Francés* in July 2014. I didn't stop at Rabanal then; I carried on to the hippy village of Foncebadón because I wanted to be at the Cruz de Ferro at daybreak. The laying down of burdens is a task best performed at a mystical time of day.

After a multi-cultural night at the municipal refuge in Astorga, I set off early. Wiser pilgrims than me sit quietly in the hall waiting for first light. But I have a brand-new head torch that I'm eager to test. What's the worst that can happen?

My thoughts: that's what. Once I leave the suburban street lighting behind me, they start with a vengeance:

'There's someone dodgy following you.'

'You're about to fall into a ditch.'

'You've lost your way.'

Within minutes, I'm paralysed with fear. I am the proverbial rabbit caught in the headlights. 'If only there were some headlights', I think to myself. 'At least then I'd be able to see something.'

Sanity returns when I realise that these are only thoughts. They're only reality if I choose to make them so. On this occasion, I don't. I breathe deeply and continue, reaching Murias de Rechivaldo and El Llar (the best eaterie on the entire route, in my opinion) as dawn breaks. Proprietor Pilar greets me with a welcoming hug, fortifies my body with an organic vegetable smoothie and gluten-free sandwich, and sends me on my way with a packed lunch and complimentary mango.

The 12km stretch between Astorga and Rabanal is one of my favourites. It has everything: conveniently spaced villages with bars, well-defined tracks, and an uphill forest path with twig-crafted pilgrim crosses adorning the wire fence. When I passed this way in July, the crosses were bark naked; now, they are in their Sunday best: wrapped in gaily coloured ribbon, string, tape and scarves. The authors of this initiative are unknown to me, but the splurge of colour brings rebirth to mind. This camino season may be drawing to an end, but a new one awaits in the spring.

Revitalised, I yomp on and reach the Rabanal refuge at 11.20 am. Just as Ralph, a jovial American, and I are coming to terms with the opening hour of 1.00 pm, the door opens and *hospitalera* Nicola invites us to leave our rucksacks inside while we wait outside.

The refuge's reputation has preceded it. When I walked in the summer, I heard tales of tea in the garden combined with outstanding bed bug expertise. Can Gaucelmo possibly live up to all the hype? It can.

Hospitaleros Nicola and Bob extend a quintessentially English welcome: firm on the subject of bed bugs, rucksacks, and donations; overwhelmingly generous and helpful about everything else. The refuge is so well organised that my pilgrim duties are completed in no time at all. Just as well as the walled garden in the sunshine exerts an irresistible pull.

During the afternoon, Nicola and Bob dispense ice-packs, advice, encouragement, knowledge and that panacea peculiar to the English nation: four o'clock tea – enlivened by Nicola's scones, home-made jam from the monks next door, and Bob's reading of the section about Rabanal from Gitlitz.¹

Vespers at 7.30 pm in the monastery provides a suitable and soulful end to the day. Most of us had been planning to attend Compline, the last service of the day, and receive a pilgrim blessing at the end. But Nicola and Bob have catered to our earthly needs so well that we collapse into our bunk beds early: complete, replete and ready for another day on the camino.

1 The Pilgrimage Road to Santiago: the Complete Cultural Handbook, 2000, David Gitlitz and Linda Davidson

My Camino in September 2014

Oviedo - Santiago de Compostela

Eeva Teräsalmi

I first passed Oviedo on the *Camino Del Norte* in the summer of 2009 and only later realised what I had missed. This time my pilgrimage interest took me to the *Camino Primitivo* and so only finally this year was I able to find the time to visit Oviedo properly. I found myself in front of Oviedo Cathedral on the Sunday evening of the 8th of September. The church was closed, which was a typical feature for churches on this camino, as I later learned. It was also closed the next day – Monday morning – when I was ready to leave, as Monday was a bank holiday in Asturias and everything was closed! There was nobody to be seen and nothing was happening. With a little help from Saint James I finally found one person who could sell me a credential and put my first stamp into it. So, finally to the road!



The *Camino Primitivo* is an extraordinarily beautiful but hard-walking camino. There are 13 official *etapas* to Santiago but some of these are over 30kms long and also very challenging due to many ups and downs. I recommend anyone to take it easy, and to stop before you

are too tired. There are many good opportunities for doing just that. However, I didn't listen enough to my knees and so the left one gave up 13kms before Lugo. I'm still on *Ibuprofen*!

As this camino goes over mountain ranges, every day there were new and beautiful landscapes to enjoy. It is difficult to describe the feeling when you start your day in the dark, deep, dim cover of night and after a while, literally climb into the most beautiful day – clouds floating under you in the valleys below. The path goes beside the rivers in green forests, there are old bridges and fountains and the vegetation is thick and lush.

The climbing starts from Salas, goes via Tineo and then, depending if you choose to take the route via Hospitales – climbs to 1200 metres or to 1140 metres in Alto de Palo if you go via Pola de Allande. You descend to the valley of Salime where there is a big dam with a lake and river and then you climb back up again to 800 meters to reach Grandas de Salime. The next morning the climbing continues and you reach Alto de Acebo (1030 m) but also Galicia. This means that the scallop shells on the camino waymarks start pointing the opposite way to those on is accustomed to seeing in Asturias.

I had very good luck with the weather; it was warm and sunny most of the time. After Grandas de Salime the warmth was cooled by heavy thunderstorms in the late afternoons. I have to admit that the thunder made me run down the mountain slope – it is not a nice feeling to be out there when Tor or Zeus is angry!

In Grandas de Salime I visited the little ethnographic museum. It was a charming illustration of life about hundred years ago in Northern Spain and I recognised it as being similar to the culture in which my grandparents were living, at the beginning of the 20th century. I felt very much at home!

On this camino one sees many closed and abandoned churches and hospitals and it is fascinating to think what life would have been like before people moved into the cities, when all those places were in their glory and pilgrims joined the locals to pray. It is especially sad if this situation has arisen because of the wandering pilgrims themselves – possibly pilgrims not behaving appropriately in churches and/or sleeping or camping in these quiet places, oases of peace and prayer?

In Lugo I found out that my Confraternity friends Gosia, Ruth and David were in Miraz working as *hospitaleros*. As my leg was not able to take me any more forward on the camino I decided to take a taxi to Miraz and visit the *refugio*, the place where I left my heart during my first camino.

I was so happy to be there and see how friendly the atmosphere was and how every pilgrim was taken care of. There is a big difference in the whole camino experience when *hospitaleros* are living in the *refugio* instead of pilgrims being thrown together, with only a key from the police station reminding them that they are part of some community out there!

In Miraz the *hospitaleros* were keeping the church open in the evening and organising

every day a short service with a hymn at 7 pm. This took place when I was there and I could enjoy the readings and singing. It was then that I really understood how much I had been longing for this sort of experience during my camino!

This year is a commemoration of Saint Francis of Assisi in Santiago, as it is the 800 anniversary of his pilgrimage there. In the Franciscan Convent there is a photographic exhibition about various caminos and pilgrims can get a specific Franciscan Holy Year Compostela. There is also an exhibition about Terra Santa, a balanced and neutral view of an area where Christians, Muslims and Jews should be able to live together.

Ed Note: The Franciscans have been custodians of the Christian sites in the Holy Land for the past 600 years – their connection with the place going back to St Francis' own pilgrimage and peace overture in the Holy Land in 1217; hence the permanent exposition in Santiago about their work in the Holy Land.



Eeva with hospitaleros Ruth, David and Gosia in Miraz

Walking the Jakobsweg :

St James' Church, Nürnberg to Einsiedeln Abbey

Martin Davis

Bulletin readers will be well aware that there isn't just one camino, westwards from Roncesvalles. Eric Walker's map in the back of the Confraternity's Pilgrim Record indicates the intricate network of ways to Santiago de Compostela developed over the centuries, reflecting that travellers to far North-West Spain beat their paths from all over Europe, each from their own front door. And back again.

Through Germany alone there are several *Jakobsweg* routes, one of the best known running from Nürnberg (in Northern Bavaria) South-West to Konstanz. From there the way passes through Switzerland into France and joins up with the Voie du Puy. Ninety kilometres south of the German/Swiss border, at a point high above Lake Zürich, the Schwabenweg or way from Swabia, as the Jakobsweg becomes known, meets the route from Budapest. The meeting point is at the Abbey of Our Lady of the Hermits, Einsiedeln, home of a famous black Madonna and itself therefore a place of pilgrimage.

Walking the nearly 500 kilometres from Nürnberg to Einsiedeln in days in April, I found it testing, but not too strenuous a challenge for a 70-year-old. Once in Switzerland – by which time I was ready for them – a couple of two-hour climbs presented themselves: otherwise the ups and downs are gentle compared to Galicia's.

There are flat bits, notably crossing the Nördlinger Ries (a crater, 24 kms. in diameter, formed by a meteorite some 14 million years ago),



Modern Pilgrim Sculpture across the Scherzach River, Weingarten

2 5

but the countryside is seldom boring and often beautiful. Though many of the field tracks are paved with concrete, you can usually find grass verges to walk on. Much of the way lies within or alongside woodland or forest, or amidst orchards. Entering and leaving towns, quiet paths seem to emerge from nowhere, and though the exits from Nürnberg and Ulm are alongside busy thoroughfares, main roads are generally avoided.

Besides a rich and varied landscape, the *Jakobsweg* passes through dozens of villages and many beautiful small towns. I saw the places where Paracelsus, Dürer, Einstein and the original Bosch were born. Coming in from the countryside, there is always at least one building or feature worth stopping to admire: you could make a book of the wayside crosses, hanging signs and sundials – or of the varied buildings with solar panels. Many of these would be Listed at home in the U.K., and so “protected” from such “excrescences”; (although I found them a sign of hope!)

Finding water, food and accommodation is not a problem, though the latter costs more than on the camino in Spain, with its chain of *albergues* and *refugios*. In April, I didn't find it necessary to book more than 24 hours in advance, except for my last night in the monastery at Einsiedeln, where I knew space to be limited. That was my third night amongst monks, joining in their Daily Office, and I passed at least three other former monasteries on my way. Everywhere, as a pilgrim I felt welcome: this was not something one might have expected, with Santiago more than 2,000 kilometres distant.

Signage on the *Jakobsweg* differs from that on other caminos: the “shells” are fewer and farther between. If you miss one, there is no “X” sign to show that you have strayed: I found myself lost on a number of occasions, most frequently in the forest. Germany and Switzerland are both great walking countries, and the number of different short, middle and long-distance paths (apart from the *Jakobsweg*) traverse this problem area.

Passing into Switzerland, and the Canton of Thurgau, you feel you will never be lost again, so frequent are the *Schwabenweg* signs: alas, they do not continue into the Cantons of St Gallen and Schwyz! Generally, it is imperative to have good maps, a compass and guide books to hand.

The German *Jakobsweg* website – www.deutsche-jakobswege.de/nuernberg-konstanz.html - includes a link to enable download of GPS tracks: I now regret that I did not make use of it!

Whereas in Spain I have often found the village churches shut when



St. James by Ernst Steiacker, Oetingen

passing on the pilgrimage route, on my *Jakobsweg* they were – much more often than not – both open and welcoming. A pilgrim stamp was usually to be found, as well as a visitors' book and water. But the churches, whether Catholic or Evangelical Lutheran, were uniformly worth visiting for much more than this: many of them gothic or baroque, they reflect a Christian heritage that is clearly still cherished by each community. My experience bears out what Charles Taylor says in his book, *A Secular Age*, "The human aspiration to religion will not flag. Religion remains powerful in memory; but also as a reserve fund of

spiritual force or consolation."

"You ought to have been sponsored!" my wife said when we were reunited. I must say, that had never occurred to me, and I think it might have spoiled it. What I relished on this pilgrimage was becoming an eavesdropper on the day-to-day world of others. Until Easter Week, I met hardly another soul on the path, which intensified my feeling of anonymity.

Yes, choosing a pilgrimage route makes you a pilgrim, but hardly to compare with pilgrims of long ago. Even they, however, could be accused of religious tourism, preoccupied as they often were with indulgences and relics. The *Jakobsweg* was for me all of the following: low-carbon holiday, nature study, retreat-on-feet, photo opportunity, healthy challenge and cultural odyssey.

And because of my timing, it was in particular a Passion Art trail: as coined by the Manchester artist, Lesley Sutton. She recently coined this title for an exhibition this Lent and Eastertide – which was a means of combining art and faith. She persuaded six local art venues (three secular, three religious) to link up so as to provide a Way of the Cross, winding between more than 60 chosen art works in Manchester city centre – a sort of pedestrian traffic-calming measure. Critic Laura

Gascoigne described it as “part pilgrimage, part sanctuary”. Sutton, curating the project, used a series of small red and gold “PassionArt” tags placed alongside the trail’s highlights as a key. And of course a website.

For my part, on the *Jakobsweg* I was overwhelmed by the artistic riches I came across all along my route, and particularly the paintings, sculpture and stained glass that represented the events of Passiontide and Paschaltide: they brought a new dimension to a solo journey made in the time immediately before and after Easter.

I was intrigued to see Protestant churches in Germany and Switzerland continuing to revere their pre-Reformation icons (usually no longer in evidence in Anglican churches at home). Adapting one of the slogans used by practitioners of receptive ecumenism, it occurred to me that pilgrims could boast “wounded feet, healing gifts”. Certainly, pilgrimage can still, as ever it has, lead to a renewal of faith.

Looking for a theme for my time away was not difficult. One of the favourite readings for funerals contains this familiar exchange (from St John’s Gospel): “You know the way to the place where I am going,” says Jesus.” “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Thomas replies; and Jesus answers, “I am



St. James’s Well, Unterteurigen

the way and the truth and the life.”

When – as I often did – you walk for a while without seeing the familiar shell direction signs, you know you have lost your way; so this passage and the subtitle of Michael Schnelle’s excellent *Jakobsweg* guidebook, *Der Weg ist das Ziel* (“The Way is the Goal”) fit the bill. (I should of course also mention Alison Raju’s Pilgrim Guide to the Nürnberg-Konstanz route, published by CSJ in 2003: though now in need of revision, I could not have managed the German section of my pilgrimage without it.)

There is also a Taoist saying, “The journey is the reward”, and Robert Louis Stevenson puts the same thought more elegantly in these often misquoted words: “Little do ye know your own blessedness; for to travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive, and the true success is to labour.” Finally, in his poem *Ithaca*, the Greek poet Cavafy evokes Homer’s *Odyssey* in stressing the importance of the journey over the destination:

*Ithaca gave you a splendid journey.
Without her you would not have set out.
She hasn't anything else to give you.*

I commend the *Jakobsweg*!

Editors Note: The author’s book “On the *Jakobsweg*: get up and go!” is published by Blurb and available via www.blurb.co.uk/b/5409785-on-the-jakobsweg.

The Pilgrimage Disease: Diagnosis Caminophilia!*

Robert Lawrence France

Earlier [i.e. in the book *Along the Way: Pilgrimage Scenes from the Camino Frances to Santiago de Compostela*] I made the analogy that the Camino of today is rather like Venice of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, in that travellers to both have often been compelled to write about their experiences which they imagine to be much more unique and therefore worthy of note than is often the case. Judith Martin, in *No Vulgar Hotel: The Desire and Pursuit of Venice*, coined the expression “Venetophiles” to describe the fixation that some feel toward the famous lagoon city. Likewise, the obsessive behavior displayed by some veterans in relation to the Camino pilgrimage can assume the state of being likened to a form of landscape stalking. I offer the following list of observable symptoms to what might be referred to as “Caminophilia”:

- (1) Creating a special pilgrimage shrine-like area in your guest or sun room at home in which to concentrate and display all your Camino related paraphernalia.
- (2) Frequently checking the weather forecast for northern Spain on the computer or in your weekend newspaper.
- (3) Marking the Feast Days of various saints found along the Way on your refrigerator calendar and calling in ‘sick’ to work year after year on July 25th in order to celebrate Saint James’ Day.
- (4) Developing a predatory ‘search image’ and acquisition zeal for anything remotely related to the Camino or northern Spain.
- (5) Displaying your framed *compostela* on the wall of your office or home in a place of greater prominence than any of your university degrees or professional certificates.
- (6) Resolving to always walk to and from church.
- (7) Trying to use your pilgrim passport to obtain cheaper rates in hotels, motels and B & Bs when traveling to other countries far from Spain and France.
- (8) Writing and self-publishing your pilgrimage diary even if you have not strung together more words than those in your signature

- on cheques since leaving school four decades ago.
- (9) Saving insignia-embazoned bags from Santiago de Compostela shops to reuse at home.
 - (10) Buying and consuming wine only from those specific regions of Spain or France that you have walked through.
 - (11) Proudly continuing to display a scallop shell on your daypack years after returning from the Camino.
 - (12) Visiting hitherto ignored museums close to home to gaze at medieval Spanish paintings.
 - (13) Purging your portable music player of all music of a date more recent than the fourteenth century.
 - (14) Speaking Spanish or French to anyone at any time when back at home for no logical reason.
 - (15) Trying to convince your priest that the single best solution to declining church attendance would be to remove the relic from beneath the altar and instead display it in a grand, faux jewel-encrusted reliquary in order to attract visiting pilgrims.
 - (16) Insisting that everyone start referring to you by the Latinized version of your name as shown on your compostela.
 - (17) Changing your hallway night-light covers and all your bathroom soap-bowls to those shaped as scallop shells.
 - (18) Consulting your guidebooks each day when back at home after walking one section of the Way in order to vicariously travel the rest of the journey in real time with fellow pilgrims you met whom are continuing onward to Compostela.
 - (19) Dutifully loitering about in front of the replica of the Pórtico de la Gloria at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London so as to inform visitors about how it differs in slight details from the real one you walked to in Compostela.
 - (20) Repeatedly rearranging your library of Camino literature in different ways to reflect date of publication, country of author, or judged quality.
 - (21) Volunteering to work in a refugio during your next summer vacation.
 - (22) Joining all English-language Camino confraternities regardless of whether or not you originate from, have family connections in, or have ever been to Canada, Australia, New Zealand or South Africa.
 - (23) Searching out cookbooks and visiting restaurants specializing in Spanish cuisine.

- (24) Dressing up year after year as a medieval pilgrim for Halloween costume parties.
- (25) Nailing up replica yellow-and-blue stylized shell or yellow arrow way-marking signs around your property and house.
- (26) Finding yourself, if you live on the eastern coast of North America, visiting beaches and staring nostalgically eastward back toward Finisterre.
- (27) Consuming *Coquilles Saint Jacques* or *pulpo* at least once a month.
- (28) Travelling distances from your small town to the city in order to view, for the third time, Martin Sheen's movie *The Way*.
- (29) Seriously considering switching religious denomination to be able to attend a church dedicated to Saint James located in your neighbourhood.
- (30) Launching into mini-lectures to your friends and family about Romanesque architecture, medieval pilgrim apparel, the Reconquista, scallop shell symbolism, and the like, often at the most non sequitur of times and completely oblivious to any ensuing eye-rolling.
- (31) Retaining your pilgrim garb and especially your boots long after they should have consigned to the rubbish bin as if they were holy relics that had somehow absorbed the spirit of the Camino.
- (32) Booking your next flight to Spain or France for another pilgrimage months in advance but within only a few days after returning home from your last pilgrimage.
- (33) Finding yourself exclusively dating Spanish men or women in order to practice your language skills.
- (34) Reading your own daily journal entries in real time on recurring anniversaries of your own pilgrimage.
- (35) Engaging in long-winded punditry about what separates a 'true' pilgrim from a religious tourist and becoming protective of the word 'pilgrimage' and hyper-critical of its ascription to anything other than a destination that is walked to.
- (36) Checking out used car advertisements in newspapers and websites to see if anyone nearby might be selling an old El Camino.
- (37) Experiencing nightmares in which Tony Blair or George W. Bush appear dressed as Saint James the Moorslayer.

- (38) Suggesting to your church planning committee, regardless of denomination, that the altar would benefit from the presence of an enormous gilded Baroque retablo.
- (39) Seriously considering sending off your troublesome teenage son or daughter to the monastery in Samos or that of las Huelgas in Burgos.
- (40) Restricting your family's playing of board games to only the Game of the Goose.
- (41) Wishing that the judges on those reality courtroom television shows so popular in the United States would sentence guilty individuals to penitential pilgrimages rather than menial fines.
- (42) Building a backyard *bodega* wine cellar or *palloza* stone hut that would make Bilbo proud.
- (43) Having your name legally changed to 'King,' 'Roy,' or "Kaiser' upon returning home because you were the first in your company of pilgrims to ascend Monte de Gozo.
- (44) Driving to Saskatchewan or Kansas for the next family holiday just because it reminds you of the *meseta*.
- (45) Naming your next born offspring, James...regardless of gender.
- (46) Thinking you should write a book no matter how unqualified you may be for such a task.

And thus, if any five of the aforementioned symptoms accurately describes your situation, this is indication that you have progressed from being merely an enthusiastic pilgrim to being one suffering from Caminophilia. For treatment, intervention by friends and family might be needed...or a return to the Camino Francés, required.

*Excerpted from *Along the Way: Pilgrimage Scenes from the Camino Frances to Santiago de Compostela* (Libri Publishing, 2014)

PS Do you know of any other symptoms of Caminophilia than the forty-six I've listed here? If so, please pass them along to be compiled in an expanded list.

The future for Miraz is becoming clearer. The mists of uncertainty are rising as the Xunta has decreed that the Northern Route will have two variants starting from Vilalba. One via Miraz and the other via Guiterriz. This appears a satisfactory solution for those on *Etapas 32* who have worked so hard to lobby the powers that be in Galicia. However we can still expect pressure in numbers until the resources for the other path are fully established. We are becoming increasingly aware that the politics of the Camino are somewhat fraught. The Ministry of Tourism has the responsibility for policy in Galicia. We may expect some positive changes to regulations which hitherto have been concerning us. There is indication that charitable not-for-profit *refugios* like our own, may be spared much of the tourist oriented legislative burden.

Thus some bureaucracy and improved governance are the backdrop for all *refugios* in the 21st century. It seems a long way from the rural priest's vicarage that the diocese kindly bequeathed to the Confraternity over a decade ago. We recall the passion and enthusiasm of those pioneers who turned a vision into a reality. Now the modern pilgrim is charged with smart technology and plans his route via the internet. Our pilgrim visitors have contemporary expectations of what they expect from modern accommodation, which the CSJ bravely struggles to provide with its band of volunteers. Oh, remember the days of a cold shower and a Galician stove to warm your heart!

Other news is that Helena seems likely to open a 12 bedded facility nearby in Witericus, whilst the hamlet of Roxica is about to increase its accommodation as well as supplying breakfast. Saint James appears to be lending his support to the *Campus Stellorum*. Pilar has become a grandmother and is planning a well-deserved retirement next year. Miraz itself is also likely to obtain a *Casa Rural* in the near future. Watch this space for the development of a restaurant in the village. There certainly is much change afoot. The camino cannot stay still or as the writing on the garden statue states: Our path comes to an end – but the Way continues.

At the end of a long season it is good to lift one's spirits with hope for the future. May I thank the Miraz Committee for its efforts in 2014 and wish them and all pilgrims a Happy 2015.

News from Refugio Gaucelmo

Julie Davies

HOSPITALEROS:

31st August/16th September – Betty Tuite (IRL), Elaine Kroner (USA), Roberta Ardern (UK)

15th September/1st October – Nicola and Robert Grove (UK)

30th September/16th October – Margaret Simonot (UK), Tony Green (UK)

15th October/1st November – Dave Arthur (UK), Peter Garlick (UK)

The last day of the season was 1st November. During 2014 pilgrims from sixty-five countries choose to spend a night of their camino at Refugio Gaucelmo. The total number of pilgrims staying in 2014 was 4,903 – just over 10% down on last year (however, last year the *Refugio* stayed open until the end of November to accommodate pilgrims whilst Isabel was away).

Top five Nationalities:-

USA – 695

Spain – 561

Italy – 526

Germany – 508

Very encouraging to see UK in fifth place with 293 pilgrims just ahead of France with 264 pilgrims.

From June 1991 - October, 2014 there has been a total of 140,296 pilgrims staying at Gaucelmo. Thank you David Wesson for providing Gaucelmo statistics for the season.

The *hospitaleros* during the latter part of the season have had to cope with bed bugs, fiestas lasting three days – music playing until six in the morning, a chimney fire and an intruder who stole money from sleeping pilgrims! All stoically borne by the *hospitaleros* on duty, who kept the refuge running smoothly, despite all the problems.

Most years September has been notorious for regular sightings of bed bugs with evidence of their bites displayed by pilgrims – the same was certainly true this year. There is a set procedure which *hospitaleros* go through when there is a suspicion that pilgrims have been bitten.

It is not always easy to identify accurately whether the bites are bed bugs or other creepy crawlies. However, *hospitaleros* err on the side of caution and treat all cases as suspected bed bugs. Better to be safe than sorry. It creates extra work for *hospitaleros* as pilgrim clothes are washed at 60 degrees, spare clothes are given, and beds are stripped and sprayed. The pilgrim, after recovering from the shock of having bed bugs, leaves not only with clean dry washing but normally also a smile. Pilgrims are grateful for our pro-active approach which is not uniform in other *albergues*.

Two more serious events were the theft from pilgrims as they slept and a chimney fire in the salon. The theft happened during the night when everyone was sleeping. It was not discovered until the next morning when pilgrims were checking their belongings. Out of 14 pilgrims 5 had their money taken. Mobile phones, loose change, credit cards etc. were not touched – only paper bills. The police were very helpful and it transpired that two other *albergues* in the village also had money taken that night. A week later an article from Cadena SER Palencia – Radio Palencia, reported the arrest of a 42year old man from León by the *Guardia Civil*. He was caught “*in flagrante*” taking money from pilgrims as they slept in the village of Boadilla del Camino. Comments on Refugio Gaucelmo Facebook page after



Travelling light

the incident showed there was a genuine concern and affection for Gaucelmo. *Hospitaleros* Betty, Elaine and Roberta counselled pilgrims to be extra vigilant with their personal belongings.

The chimney fire was dealt with expertly by *hospitaleros* Nicola and Robert. Pilgrims were evacuated to the barn whilst everything was checked out. The chimney was swept and has been in constant use throughout the rest of the season. In Rabanal the chimney is swept from the top downwards with the sweep sitting on the roof. It can be a bit disconcerting for *hospitaleros* from the UK who normally see chimneys swept from bottom up. But our *hospitaleros* take it all in their stride.

The village was awash with fruit during the autumn. Plums, peaches, apples and pears – ripe and ready for eating. Pilgrims were



End of season washing line at Refugio Gaucelmo

guaranteed fresh fruit to take away to enjoy on their caminos. Father Tambo and Father Pius visited several times to fill large bowls. We in return received delicious conserves made by Father Pius and enjoyed for breakfast by everyone. Good neighbours supporting each other.

When Gaucelmo closed on 1st November the last pilgrim leaving was posted on Facebook, and this received 88 “likes” and 11 comments. One of the comments was from Gazer on Camino – a pilgrim who struggled with his journey and was able to find rest and peace at Gaucelmo. He wrote:-

“Good night *Refugio* Gaucelmo have a nice rest for the winter. Stayed in May 2014 and dropped in again in July. If you walk the camino it is the number one place to stay of all *albergues* on the route. Hope to get back there asap 2015. Might cut grass and do some cleaning and plumbing again. Wish you all the best *Refugio* Gaucelmo and all who put so much into keeping the *Albergue* the best on the camino”.

With many thanks to all the *hospitaleros* who generously gave up their time in 2014. Your welcome and hospitality has maintained the high reputation which *Refugio* Gaucelmo has created over many years.

Members' Pages

From Carole Vose: Wessex Group

On a wet and blustery 6 October, members of the Wessex CSJ Group met at St. James' Church in Avebury, Wiltshire. We were welcomed by Revd. Maria Shepherdson, along with two churchwardens, David Davidge and Maureen Dixon. We didn't expect to be greeted with mugs of tea and coffee, plus home-made cake!

Revd. Maria Shepherdson gave us a talk about the discoveries made by Martin Palmer. Martin found that between the 10th and 16th century, pilgrims staying overnight in Fyfield Winterbourne Basset and Berwick Bassar, would then come to St. James Church, Avebury to attend the early morning Mass and Blessing, before they left on Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Rome and Jerusalem. We were told of the various etchings made by these pilgrims, on the walls and pillars in the church, but much of this "grafitti" was removed during the Victorian period. However, we were shown some marks that were clearly visible, including one depicting a cockle shell.

After showing us around the church, inside and out, Revd. Maria Shepherdson led us in a short Pilgrim Service, which was a beautiful end to our visit.

From Pat Quaife: A Christmas Stocking Filler?

Francis Davey's third pilgrimage book (after his first two on William Wey) is *Richard of Lincoln: a Medieval Doctor Travels to Jerusalem*, published in 2013. It consists of an edited translation from Danelaw Middle English of ten folios of a much longer mid-fifteenth-century manuscript, *The Physician's Handbook*, held by the Wellcome Trust in Euston. As the Trust not only gave permission for the relevant ms pages to be reproduced but also digitised Francis's book, he is now able to offer CSJ members a copy, with nothing to pay but postage and packing of £2-50. If you would like a copy then please send Francis a cheque for £2-50 (or stamps to that amount) to: 1 North Street, Topsham, Exeter, Devon EX3 0AP.

PS It is thought that the paths of William Wey and Richard of Lincoln may have crossed in northern Italy, on the River Po, at the town of Ostiglia, the former travelling in 1458 and Richard in 1454.

From Paul Murray: One Thousand Kilometre Pilgrimage from Seville to Santiago

A talk to be given in the pavilion at St Peter's High School, Stroud Road, Gloucester, GL4 ODD on Saturday 14th March starting at 7.30 and finishing around 10.00 with a break for snacks and refreshments. Hear Paul's experiences walking the *Via de la Plata* in October 2012 and April this year. Admission is free and all donations gratefully received going to Prostrate Cancer UK.

From Maurice Hickman: Santiago-Finisterre

I am planning to fly out from Gatwick on Tuesday 21 April on the 1740 Easyjet flight and return on 1015 morning flight on Thursday 7 of May (Easyjet flights are only on Tuesdays and Thursdays from and to both airports). Anyone is welcome to join Maurice on this venture. They can join for the whole of the walk or only part of it. He is planning to stay a couple more days at the end of the walk in Santiago to soak up more of the atmosphere of this fantastic city but there is a more expensive evening flight back to Gatwick on Tuesday 5 May if people prefer that. The total cost including the flight will be about £600-£700 as where possible we shall stay overnight in the Spanish refugios which usually charge about 6 Euros for a bed for the night. Of course you have to carry all you need for the whole journey (including a sleeping bag) on your backs. Mattresses and pillows are provided at the refugios!

From Sandra Collier: Pilgrims in Sydney

Pilgrims in Sydney is an informal support group for camino pilgrims in Australia. All prospective and returned pilgrims are most welcome. Our group meets monthly and aims to provide a vehicle for support and planning of pilgrimages. Returned pilgrims have walked to Santiago de Compostela along many of the pilgrim routes in France, Portugal and Spain.

Meetings are held at 6.00pm (for those preparing for pilgrimage, 7.00pm for the general gathering) on the 1st Wednesday of the odd numbered months (i.e. January, March, May, etc.) and at 11.30am (12.30pm for the general meeting) on the 1st Saturday of the even numbered months (i.e. February, April, June, etc.). Pilgrim meetings for the next few months are: 7 January, 7 February and 4 March, 2015. For further information about our group and for the location of our meetings, please see our website <http://www.pilgrimsinsydney.org> or email Sandra@pilgrimsinsydney.org

From Pat Quaife: Showing the Path to Heaven ...

A lovely title for a really delightful book, sub-titled *A Celebration of Painted Panels in Devon Churches*, written by Diane Wilks, who lives in Broadclyst, near Exeter.

This large and lavishly illustrated book, published in August 2014, records the paintings of saints (and others) to be found on the rood screens of 39 Devon churches, each of which enjoys a double-page spread, with colour pictures on the left and a brief history of the church and screen figures on the right. A useful appendix lists the images in alphabetical order, together with a glossary and bibliography.

CSJ members in the South-west will be pleased to know that there are 28 references to St James (the Greater), depictions of whom can be found in Exeter, Kenton, Powderham, Widecome-in-the-Moor and many other Devon churches. A county map is provided, showing their location and post-code – useful for the sat-nav if visiting by car.

Showing the Path to Heaven ... is available from Diane Wilks (to whom cheques should be made payable) at Burraton Bungalow, Broadclyst, Exeter EX5 3DB, at a price of £15-00 which includes inland postage and packing (£18 per volume for European addresses and £22 for other countries).

From Brendan Mulcahy

In respect to the article in Bulletin 127 about St Francis in Santiago – surely the proof of St Francis' visit to Santiago is that his baston is preserved on the walls of the sanctuary of the cathedral. If you stand with your back to the altar in the sanctuary of Santiago cathedral, the staff of St Francis is hung (in a metal tube) high up on the wall on your left. The metal case is certainly there to be seen by all but who told me that it contained the saint's staff I don't remember. But then again is it, perhaps, a legend. I wonder.

From Priscilla White

May I request that members who already know that they would wish to sponsor-a-week in Miraz send in their requests for the specific week to me (via the CSJ office) – so that this information can be taken to Miraz by the spring working party. As in the past it will still be possible to talk to someone from the Miraz committee at the AGM about the Sponsor-a-week process. This is a very good way to promote the work of the *albergue*, even if you have never been to Miraz or walked the Camino del Norte – or indeed precisely because you have stayed in the refuge!



STEP BY STEP TO SANTIAGO



St James Church, Audlem, Cheshire
by Howard Hilton

**Wishing all CSJ Members a
Merry Christmas and
blessed 2015**

Book Reviews

Earth Under My Heel - A journal of a walk across Northern Spain on the Camino de Santiago by Captain David Littlejohn Beveridge, 2014, Upfront Publ.; 192pp ISBN-13 978 1784560638, £18.90

The book is beautifully written and produced and filled with colour photographs which give a real sense of life on the French Camino. The captain tells of his pilgrimage with humour and the precision of a Swiss watch. Times of trains and the start and end to each day are recorded to the minute, a detail that is perhaps a habit that he finds necessary for navigation. His list of what he found useful to take and do beforehand, plus sending the weight of his pack home or ahead by road, is simple but valuable; so too the advice to start slowly and work up to walking long days in order to avoid either injury or illness. In Captain Littlejohn B's case that included avoiding the mountain pass on his doctor's advice because of a heart complaint. There is a sense that he gains strength as he walks and understands why the Camino has claimed him since he was a child and first learned of it.

He has a calling, a Christian mission which comes in handy along the way. Many pilgrims walk for a reason, often to gain forgiveness or peace for themselves or a loved one, or to find themselves. The captain walks to give of himself and to share his love of Christ with others. He is most convincing, although for my part I do not need or want to be convinced, having recently shed my Christian beliefs in the hope of replacing them with those of a different set. Muslim perhaps.

I enjoyed revisiting the place names and the account of early risers unable or unwilling to leave anyone else asleep, the need for solitude, sustenance, sunshine and smiles. I too have experienced the phenomenon of making firm friends in an instant, recognising a fellow traveller with whom spending time will be mutually pleasing and beneficial, and the urge to write of it afterwards.

There is a strong voice here and we learn a little of the Captain himself. He has been a sea captain, is a master mariner, is married with sons and his middle son Joe accompanied him part of the way. I would have liked to learn more of him. Perhaps for that, one must read *Water Under the Keel*, Captain David Littlejohn Beveridge's other book.

MARY HOWELL

Strangers on The Camino - A Father, A Son - and a Holy Trail by Sanjiva Wijesinha, 2014, Vijitha Yapa Publications, 188pp, ISBN: 13 - 978 9556652291, \$19.59

Dr Sanjiva Wijesinha is a doctor in Sydney and a captain in the Australian Army Reserve. This explains why at the age of 60 and with diabetic

difficulties, he is still fit enough to be able to keep up a good pace on his camino. In addition he keeps a detailed record of his interesting journey. Dr Wijesinha and his son Shivantha, originally from Sri Lanka, made their journey along the Camino Francés, starting at St Jean-Pied-de-Port, in the spring of 2011.

There is no doubt that *Strangers on The Camino* will have considerable and deserved success in Sri Lanka where it is published and where the camino is not so well known. But for those who already know the Camino Francés there is a lot that is familiar.

However, Dr Wijesinha's non-Christian viewpoint of the camino is a fascinating one. He is shocked by the cruelty of a lot of the religious images he sees and contrasts them to the more peaceful images of Buddhism. Additionally, when he is walking through the Basque country and becomes involved in a discussion over the Basque political situation, he is able to offer interesting comparisons with the Tamil Tiger conflict in Sri Lanka.

Many pilgrims will be envious of a father who can persuade a son to go on a long walk with him. However in this case, it would have been interesting to have had more detail of this relationship. Presumably over the years it has had its ups and downs as in every family, but perhaps these are private matters.

Despite being a Buddhist, and with due respect given to Christian traditions, Dr Wijesinha is not afraid to give his opinion on Christianity and the camino. He finds both the Cruz de Ferro and the arrival in Santiago something of a disappointment. It was not so for me. He also draws an interesting lesson from an altercation with a rather bad tempered Spanish shopkeeper near Hospital de Órbigo. Instead of counselling humility he advises pilgrims to stand their ground and stick up for themselves! That is one thing which I certainly can agree with.

There are passages of considerable sensitivity in the book. When an elderly man, who is walking with his son in law dies unexpectedly, Dr Wijesinha and his son go out of their way to include him in their group. He writes that there is a strong tradition of Buddhist solidarity with someone who has been bereaved.

Dr Wijesinha concludes that walking the camino is one of the best things he has done in his life. A lot of other pilgrims would surely echo this sentiment. Perhaps the real importance of *Strangers on The Camino*, is that it may encourage more pilgrims from Sri Lanka, and elsewhere, to set out to discover this Camino magic for themselves.

RORIE SMITH

Grandma's On The Camino, Mary O'Hara Wyman, 2012, AuthorHouse, Bloomington, 360pp, ISBN: 10-1477289232

This book is intriguing in that it is written in three concurrent sections. The point of the title is that Mary is writing daily postcards to her granddaughter Elena, aged five and also writing a daily journal. The latter is what many of us pilgrims routinely do. Rather remarkably though when returned to California she managed to remember the emotions that each day travelling the camino brought her.

I think we all have vivid memories of certain events on our pilgrimage which we relive and possibly recount to friends or companions at reunions or meetings years later. This is the gift of the camino. She is able to recall each day in great detail including conversations that had a lasting impression on her. She is at pains to say many of these people, who she shared thoughts with, were never met again!

I particularly liked her interest in the birds especially the nesting storks which fascinated her all journey long. Also she made note of all the varieties of flowers along the path. This might prove tedious to some readers; it all depends on ones one point of view.

The narration does have a lot of spiritual content, particularly her own method of *centred prayer* which is something she is deeply involved in, leading groups in San Francisco.

We will probably all wince, when reading that on the first day of her walk, spurning walking poles, she had a fall, damaging a large toe so badly that it did not heal the whole time she travelled and she did not follow advice to rest for a period of several days! Her pains were increased in that it was a particularly wet spring and therefore there was copious amounts of mud, poor woman. I think it was to her great merit that she did achieve her goal of reaching Santiago.

This book made me get out my own journal to compare the distances she walked daily. There are more refuges available now than during my walk in 1995 but it was still a great endeavour. If her grand-daughter ever dons the pilgrim robes, as Mary wishes, I think she will be in awe of what grandma, aged 72 achieved.

I recommend this book for those reasons alone.

CHRISTINE PLEASANTS

From the Secretary's Notebook

NEW www.csj.org.uk website

We hope that all members will take time to look at the new CSJ site and bookshop. Please support the bookshop: online sales have been down this year as the old shop stopped working in June, and sales provide a sizable part of our income. We are not Amazon in speed of delivery (though we process orders as soon as can), but we hope you can also enjoy shopping knowing that you are further supporting CSJ. You will notice that on the Home Page we have space for the latest News, and the latest posted on Twitter and Facebook. Incidentally, Refugio Gaucelmo and Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz have their own Facebook pages, so please do look at those to get the latest news and to stay in touch.

CSJ and Camino Wine Bar

Thanks to all those who have offered to host our Camino evenings. We had a very enjoyable evening at Camino wine bar in October and gained one new member as well as a lapsed member returning. The informal surroundings and shared food and wine brought lots of laughter as well as good exchanges of information. We now have some CSJ 'flags' to place on the table – come and ask for the Pilgrims between 6 and 8pm at 33 Blackfriars Lane, EC4. The next evening will be Monday 19 January.

New Members

So far, the decision not to charge a £10 Joining fee any longer is encouraging more people to join the CSJ. It is also possible to complete a form online so it could not be easier. Please tell your friends!

Pilgrim Guide to the Camino Francés 2015

The 2015 Guide has been updated by the new editor, Tricia Griffiths, who has used her own research as well as information sent in by 2014 pilgrims to revise the Guide. It should be available in early January.

Opportunities for wardens on the Vézelay route

One of the four main historical routes to Santiago, described in a 12c pilgrims' guide, the *Via Lemovicensis* (so-called as it crosses the Limousin and the important city of Limoges) runs from Vézelay in Burgundy, with its magnificent Abbey, down to the Pyrenees with a diverging branch to the East.

The Northern part as far as Gargillesse is managed by the Friends and Pilgrims of the Way of St Jacques of Vézelay who manage three

refuges along the way: Ainay le Chateau (Allier); Bouzais (Cher) and Saint-Ferme (Gironde) providing accommodation for up to 6 pilgrims each. From March to October these are manned in fortnightly shifts by volunteer wardens (*hospitaliers*) who provide a welcome for pilgrims; breakfast and dinner (at a modest charge); information about the way and generally look after the refuge. A small room is available for the *hospitaliers* who need to speak good French and have walked at least part of the Camino though not necessarily to be familiar with the Vézelay route. It is necessary to have a car in order to reach and to provision the refuge. See <http://www.vezelay-compostelle.eu/>

There still remain a few gaps to fill – look at the French site under ‘*Etre hospitalier*’ where there is a table of availability.

There is also a need for volunteers to staff the advisory office in Vézelay which gives information about the route, overnight lodging, credentials etc. Familiarity with the route is advisable for this. See under ‘*Permanences*’ (duty periods) on the French site and ‘*Hébergement pèlerin*’. The southern part of the route is described on <http://www.compostelle-limousin-perigord.fr/> They support 3 refuges: Sorges, La Coquille and a new one in Périgueux – which are manned by volunteers but separate applications have to be made to this Association.

Christmas Holidays at the Office

The Office will be closed from Tuesday 23 December until Tuesday 6 January.

Amigos Service

If you would like to know more about the Amigos service of welcoming pilgrims in Santiago please send an email to the office. We should know before Christmas what the plans for 2015 are.

Camino de Invierno

This less well known route from Ponferrada to Santiago running to the south of the mountains of O Cebreiro will be recognised officially by the Pilgrim office from 1 January as qualifying for a *Compostela*.

New Pilgrimage Initiatives

In the last few months there have been several new pilgrimage initiatives:

- Launch of *PilgrimsWayCanterbury.org* : a website to help link pilgrims planning to walk from Winchester to Canterbury with the parish churches en route was launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury in early October. Pilgrims gathered at the West gate

gardens to accompany ++ Justin and the Bishop of Dover along the High Street. I was pleased to meet several CSJ members in the crowd and also amazed to meet Carlos Mentley, former chair of American Pilgrims on the Camino, in Canterbury for the weekend.

- Green Pilgrimage Network: with other groups, the GPN is planning a pilgrimage from London-Paris in 2015 to draw attention to climate change talks/agreements.
- Scottish Footpath Forum www.sprf.org.uk
Way of St Andrews group www.thewayofstandrews.com is gathering together information on newly created pilgrimage routes in Scotland

And further afield

- Abraham Path: linking the places known to Abraham in Jewish, Christian and Muslim faith traditions, has launched www.abrahampath.org.uk for the UK organisation

Missa Sancti Jacobi: A Pilgrim Mass

John Read's latest work, *Missa Sancti Jacobi*, draws on many of the themes from the *Pilgrimage Cantata* which has been performed variously by the Fairford Choral Society, Canoryon Lowen based in St Neot, Cornwall, Newent Scottish Choir and the CSJ Choir. The Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei are supplemented by an Introit and Gradual-Alleluia. In some ways it was frustrating to hear some of the great tunes from the earlier work develop in unfamiliar ways. I look forward to an opportunity to sing the Mass liturgically which will be the chance to appreciate how John has worked through the themes and taken them in new directions. At the premiere the work was part of a programme of music to recall the World War I centenary. The themes of persistence, courage and camaraderie echoed through all the works.

Cautionary Tale

An American pilgrim living in Spain was rescued by the *Guardia Civil* last summer after getting lost on a path near Finisterre. She has now been billed for 3800 euros.

Exhibition: The Romanesque-a shared inheritance

An exhibition of paintings by former member Janet Q Treloar in the Visitor Centre, Norwich Cathedral from Sunday 7 December to Saturday 3 January. Open Mon-sat 9.30am-4.30pm, Sun 12noon -3pm

Confraternity Chapel in Levante, Liguria (picture)

A recent enquiry was from someone who had been on holiday in Levante, Italy and been told about the Chapel of a Confraternity with a scallop shell on the façade and which had something to do with the pilgrimage to Santiago. Thinking that only Spain and France were linked to the pilgrimage, he asked if I could add any information. I was



delighted to be able to say that pilgrims passed through this area both on the way to France and Santiago as well as on their way not only to Rome but also to Genoa and Livorno (Leghorn) for the Holy Land. I discovered too that Levante has an annual festival of St James on 25 July. I wonder if anyone else has seen this chapel and knows any more about the Confraternity in question?

Discover the Camino

Adam Wells, whose life was certainly transformed by his camino experience, and who spoke at Practical Pilgrim a couple of years ago, has set up Discover the Camino, to help those needing to gain confidence before setting out on this great adventure. He is helping with the Camino wine bar meet ups and also organising his own walking days/weekends in preparation. See www.discoverthecamino.com for more details.

Pilgrims Crossing Borders

82 pilgrims have now signed up to participate in this pilgrim relay from Norway to Italy and Jerusalem. The first group of pilgrims will leave Nidaros cathedral (Trondheim) on 22 April after a special service. The itinerary has 175 daily stages of c 20km and the pilgrims expect to arrive in Rome for 15 October. After a short rest pilgrims depart by plane to Tel Aviv. The walk continues from Nazareth to Jerusalem arriving Tues 27 October. Please contact office@csj.org.uk for more details and information on how to register to join in any of the national stages.

CSJ Events

Tuesday 20 January

Meet up at Camino, EC4

Informal gathering at Camino Wine & Tapas bar, 33 Blackfriars Lane, EC4V 6EP, 6-8pm. A few minutes from Blackfriars tube station.

Saturday 31 January

AGM & Party

11am for 11.30am AGM, St Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, EC1 Talks, Camino Music, Party. See separate papers for Agenda, details and form

Saturday 21 February

London Practical Pilgrim

John Marshall Hall, London SE1 8NY, 10am-3pm. Practical advice, talk 'What the Camino did for me', Elaine Hopkins. Form in AGM Papers.

Saturday 28 February

Office Open Day

27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NY, Drop in, Open for advice, bookshop, library. 10.30-3pm

Saturday 14 March

Scottish Practical Pilgrim

Edinburgh, venue tbc, 10am-3pm. Practical advice, talk. Form in AGM Papers.

Saturday 28 March

Office Open Day

27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NY, Drop in, Open for advice, bookshop, library. 10.30-3pm

May and June: other events to be confirmed

Saturday 25 July

St James Day

Our Lady of Grace Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Trinity Chapel, Southampton

Friday 28 to Monday 31 August Greenbelt Festival

Volunteers are needed to join this 3 day annual festival at Boughton House, near Kettering. Camp, stay in your camper van or come for a day to help spread the word about the Camino as well as enjoying talks on a wide range of issues or music of all kinds in beautiful English parkland. If interested please contact office@csj.org.uk for more details.

LOCAL EVENTS

Wessex Group

Monday 12 January

We welcome anyone to join our group, especially when we visit a church, or building in your area. We next meet at 11am in the Cathedral Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury. At this meeting we aim to plan – how, when and where – visits to churches dedicated to St.James, within our area.

Exeter

Saturday 10 October

Terry and Valerie Brighton invite you to a meeting at the Friends Meeting House, Exeter, on Saturday 10 October. Contact camigos@countrysidematters.org.uk for more information nearer the time. For CSJ and Camino Forum members. Parking available.

Other Event

Arundel and Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage (Saturday 15 August to Sunday 30 August 2015)

The A & B Walking Pilgrimage will be around the diocese of Arundel and Brighton as next year the diocese celebrates 50 years since its foundation as a separate diocese from Southwark. The walk will start in Chertsey on Saturday 15 August and finish at Arundel on Saturday 29 August. There will be rest days in Crawley and Brighton. There will also be splendid accommodation at St John's Seminary in Womersley and at The Towers Convent in Upper Beeding. There will be one Leader from Dorking to Redhill and a second Leader from Redhill to Crawley. More information as it comes available from the pilgrim website: www.thepilgrims.org.uk. www.stfrancisofassisiwalkers.org.uk

New Members

Information is provided for members' personal use only

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

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

Other Members Ruth Abrahams, Tom Barton, Alan Bibby, Dick Crean, Liz Crean,
Paul Graham, Richard Jefferies, Mary Moseley, Ken Spittal,
Clare Taylor, Tony Ward, Priscilla White

Rabanal Committee

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

Rabanal Committee Members

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

Miraz Committee

Chairman Richard Jefferies, Magnolia Cottage, Westwood Lane,
Normandy, GUILDFORD, GU3 2LG rjefferies@hotmail.co.uk

Miraz Committee Members

Richard Jefferies (Chair), Alan Cutbush (Hospitalero Co-ordinator),
Colin Jones (Hospitalero Training), Trevor Hockey, Rick Baldwin,
Averil Jones, Ted Jones, Judith E Burrows, Ken Spittal,
Carole Vose, Priscilla White

Other Officers

Membership Secretary Tony Morwood-Leyland amleyland@live.co.uk
Treasurer Tony Ward, Syracuse, St. Neot, Cornwall PL14 6NJ
and Company Secretary Work (01579) 343215 mail@tonyward.biz
Librarian Margaret Simonot simonot.m@gmail.com
Website Manager Colin Goodier web@csj.org.uk
Slide Librarian John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ
(01622) 757814

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



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

**Report of the Trustees
and
Financial Statements**

Year ended 30th September 2014

Company no. 4096721
Charity no.1091140

www.csj.org.uk

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Legal and Administrative Information

Status

The Confraternity of Saint James (CSJ) is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 October 2000, registered in England & Wales (Company no.4096721), and registered as a charity (no.1091140) on 15 March 2002. The governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association, both as amended on 26 January 2002, 31 January 2004, 29 January 2005 and 30th January 2010. The company grew out of an unincorporated association founded on 13 January 1983 and registered as a charity (No. 294461) on 19 August 1986.

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Honorary President

HE The Spanish Ambassador

Directors and Trustees

Mrs R Abrahams

Mr T Barton

Mr A Bibby

Dr G M Brykczynska

Vice-Chairman

Mrs E Crean

Mr R Crean

Mr P Graham

Mr R J S Jefferies

Revd C Jones

Chairman

Mrs M C T Moseley

Mr K Spittal

Mrs C Taylor

Resigned 1st September 2014

Mr A Ward

Mrs P White

Secretary

Ms M Marples

Company Secretary & Treasurer

Mr A Ward

Registered Office

27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY

Telephone 020 7928 9988

Fax 020 7928 2844

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

E-mail office@csj.org.uk

Bankers

CAF Bank

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

Reporting Accountant

Mr I S McLaughlin FCA

23, West Farm Avenue, ASHTEAD Surrey KT21 2LD

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 September 2014

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2014. The Board of Trustees confirms that the annual report and financial statements comply with current statutory requirements including the revised SORP2005 Accounting & Reporting by Charities and the Charities (Accounts and reports) Regulations 2008.

Structure and Objects of the charity

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

Under the Articles of the company, the members of the Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of two years, half of their number being subject to re-election each year. The directors of the company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Chairman and other honorary officers are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. An invitation has been included with each annual report asking for members to act as trustees. Existing trustees also make recommendations to the committee regarding suitable candidates. At the last Annual General Meeting, no new trustees were appointed and one has resigned since. As part of their induction process, new trustees are provided with copies of minutes for the previous 12 months and an introduction to the finances of the organisation is given. They also spend time in the office to familiarise themselves with current procedures. In the coming year, the Finance and Compliance Committee hopes to finalise its work on a procedures manual which when completed will provide new trustees with detailed information as to the duties and responsibilities of the constituent parts of the company and its committees.

Financial Review & Future Developments

The CSJ celebrates its 31st anniversary this year. It continues in the delivery of its aims and objectives. However, the general global recession in parts of Europe and electronic technology continue to impact on the finances of the organisation. A plethora of information is now available on the internet and the need by prospective pilgrims to become members before setting out on their Caminos is much reduced. Indeed, there are many English pilgrims who are totally unaware of the CSJ. It is hoped that our new website will begin to address this lack of knowledge. Perhaps surprisingly, our membership has stood reasonably firm and the amounts claimed under gift aid have only decreased slightly. Overall, there was a very moderate loss on our general account and a very modest surplus on our Miraz account, the latter (when compared with the previous year) due to the cost of the improved borehole and a reduction in the value of the euro which reduces our £ sterling donativos.

Books and publications continue to sell via our on-line web shop with the annual publication of the Guide to the Camino Francés remaining the best selling item. However, there were problems with our on-line book shop which curtailed sales in the final three months of the year. The challenge from retailers such as Amazon offering keener prices and reduced postage costs is still a problem for us, but, of course it is entirely possible that we are missing out on a share of an increasing guide book market serviced by these retailers. We hope that our new web-site will ensure that we get a good slice of the available business.

Both the Refugio Gaucelmo in Rabanal and the Refugio at Miraz, refuges for pilgrims in Northern Spain continue to be supported. The Miraz project is no longer our major concern as far as finance goes. However, the situation with more pilgrims arriving on a daily basis in the busy summer period than the available number of beds is a huge problem, which although being addressed by the trustees, no simple or easy solution is available. The CSJ continues to provide a personal information service to, and answer queries from, the public whether in person, by telephone, email, through the website or by arranging speakers and visits.

During the financial period, the trustees continue to reinforce the principles of good practice recommended within the charity sector, having carried out regular Risk Assessment Reviews, established a Financial Policy, and a Reserves Policy. A review of the administrative and internal control systems is ongoing; the Trustees have considered the contents of the Charities Act which received the Royal Assent on 8th November 2006, in particular the possibility of changing legal status to a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" which may mean that accounts and reports only need to be filed with the Charity Commission. This change is now available. However, there appears little benefit to be gained from such a change and this proposal has been shelved at present.

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

It should be recognised that there will always be a number of members not renewing their subscription as they complete their pilgrimage or lose interest in the aim and objectives of the Confraternity. The 3-year discount scheme continues to be popular as can be seen by the volume of membership moneys held against future subscription years. Our membership has reduced slightly in the accounting year. As already mentioned, the trustees are conscious that there are a number of English pilgrims on the Camino who are unaware of the existence of the CSJ. The new website should go some way to remedy this situation.

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

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

Risk Management

In the year, the Finance and Compliance Committee has met to assist the trustees with ensuring that the CSJ organisation acts responsibly and in accordance with Company and Charity law.

The trustees now consider the most significant risks to this charity are the financial risks related to, or arising from a reduction in membership and demand for our publications being replaced by web-based information and on-line booksellers. A significant and equally important risk continues to be the loss of key personnel and the unavailability of un-paid volunteers to undertake some of the essential day to day tasks. Lesser risks are injury to hospitaleros or pilgrims and/or the loss of or damage to property and financial irregularity and incompetence of trustees. All hospitaleros training days include detailed health and safety briefings.

An update of our risk tables continues on a regular basis.

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

Public Benefit Statement

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

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

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

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

Putting these strategies into action we have, in 2014 provided:-

- a for the general enquirer
 - an open office every Thursday
 - 5 open office days on a Saturday
 - We also held 2 'practical pilgrim' days at which 90 people at one and 51 at the other received practical advice about making the pilgrimage.
 - We answer approximately 12 detailed telephone enquiries each week, apart from many quick queries.
 - Run a website with information, advice and guidance.
- b Sold many copies of this year's guide to the Camino Frances plus several of our other guides. The Camino Frances guide is updated every year.
- c Part-funded the Amigos Service. The service greets pilgrims arriving at the Pilgrims Welcome Office in Santiago between March and October.
- d Contact with the authorities in Spain and other important bodies has included attendance at symposiums and conferences.
- e 4,000 people of all ages stayed at Miraz and 4,900 stayed at Rabanal. and they came from over 50 countries.

Reserves Policy

The trustees review the level of reserves annually, based on financial results for the current year, the forecast for the following year and the results of the annual review of risks. In particular, they wish to ensure that the charity can continue to fulfil its current objects and activities in the event of a significant fall in membership. The charity intends to maintain a level of unrestricted funds which consists of a) a period of 3 months of operating costs (12 months for Rabanal and Miraz due to their seasonal nature) and b) sufficient funds to cover known risks, contingencies and capital expenditure.

General – Unrestricted funds

The free unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £24,356. At present part is needed to cover the deficit on the Miraz Fund. The support is shown on the balance sheet. However, the trustees have decided to keep the Miraz Fund separate. The trustees consider the most appropriate level of free reserves at 30 September 2014 would be about £13,500 to pay 3 months of operating costs plus £1,000 for known contingencies. The trustees are again budgeting for a small surplus in the year to 30th September 2015 to increase the general fund reserve and the deficit on the Miraz fund should be repaid within approximately 3 years from operational surpluses.

Rabanal – Restricted Income Fund

The level of reserves required to cover 12 months UK operating costs is £2,000 which is more than covered. This is retained for costs incurred via Blackfriars Road, other than the legacy received in the year (£5,000) which is awaiting drawdown by the Rabanal committee.

Investment Powers

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

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

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

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

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. Mid-year accounts are prepared on the same basis as the annual accounts and are available to any member who wishes to inspect them. These are not subject to the same external scrutiny as the annual accounts and therefore readers ought not to place the same reliance on them.

Approved by the trustees on 11th November 2014 and signed on their behalf by

C. Jones
Chairman

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

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30th September 2014 as set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

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

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

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

I S McLaughlin FCA
Reporting Accountant

23 West Farm Avenue
Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2LD

Statement of Financial Activities for Year to 30 September 2014

	General	Unrestricted Fund	Designated and Restricted Funds				Total	2013
			Miraz	Rabanal	Bursary	Other		
INCOMING RESOURCES	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	
from generated funds								
Voluntary Income								
Donations	3	4,365	27,445	13,322	-	2,401	47,533	47,984
Subscriptions	4	50,950	-	-	-	-	50,950	55,296
Books and Publications – Sales	5	29,940	-	-	-	-	29,940	36,957
Other Items – Sales	6	2,433	-	-	-	-	2,433	2,296
Visit Income	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
		87,688	27,445	13,322	-	2,401	130,856	142,533
Investment Income	8	28	-	13	42	24	107	140
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		87,716	27,445	13,335	42	2,425	130,963	142,673
RESOURCES EXPENDED								
Bursary Grants	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Refugio Gaucelmo	10	-	-	2,152	-	-	2,152	1,087
Miraz	11	-	23,159	-	-	-	23,159	23,465
Bulletin	12	12,171	-	-	-	-	12,171	11,442
Library	13	2,765	-	-	-	-	2,765	2,694
Speaker Meetings	14	(159)	-	-	-	-	(159)	(15)
Books and Publications – Costs	5	19,102	-	-	-	-	19,102	24,030
Other Items – Costs	6	2,079	-	-	-	-	2,079	2,033
Website Development		1,248	-	-	-	-	1,248	1,200
Visit Expenditure	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Greenbelt		785	-	-	-	-	785	-
Donations – Amigos Service	22	1,957	-	-	-	2,327	4,284	4,652
Direct Charitable Activities		39,948	23,159	2,152	-	2,327	67,586	70,588
Other Charitable Costs	15	24,040	2,577	2,577	-	-	29,194	31,454
Administration Costs	16	25,217	-	-	-	-	25,217	25,594
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		89,205	25,736	4,729	-	2,327	121,997	127,636
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	23	(1,489)	1,709	8,606	42	98	8,966	15,037
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD		25,845	(10,634)	1,933	10,273	6,283	33,700	18,663
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		24,356	(8,925)	10,539	10,315	6,381	42,666	33,700

Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2014

	Notes	Unrestricted	Designated & Restricted Funds				Total	2013
		General Fund	Miraz	Rabanal	Bursary	Other		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS								
Computers etc	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	609
Works of Art		3,900	-	890	-	-	4,790	4,790
		3,900	-	890	-	-	4,790	5,399
CURRENT ASSETS								
Stocks and Work-in-progress								
Books and Publications for Sale	21	5,185	-	-	-	-	5,185	4,682
Other Items for Sale	21	1,060	-	-	-	-	1,060	641
Postage Paid Envelopes		285	-	-	-	-	285	285
		6,530	-	-	-	-	6,530	5,608
Debtors	18	9,816	-	-	-	-	9,816	12,538
Cash at Bank and In Hand		29,785	-	9,649	10,315	6,381	56,130	40,310
NET CURRENT ASSETS		46,131	-	9,649	10,315	6,381	72,476	58,456
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19/20	(34,600)	-	-	-	-	(34,600)	(30,155)
NET ASSETS		11,531	-	9,649	10,315	6,381	37,876	12,655
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES								
		15,431		10,539	10,315	6,381	42,666	33,700
ADJUSTMENT – MIRAZ ACCOUNT								
		8,925	(8,925)					
TOTAL FUNDS								
		24,356	(8,925)	10,539	10,315	6,381	42,666	33,700

Audit Exemption

(a) For the year ended 30 September 2014 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act")

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

(c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

i) ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act; and

ii) preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 of the Act, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company;

(d) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Act relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

Approved by the trustees on 11th November 2014 and signed on their behalf by **Rev. C. Jones**
Chairman

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2014

1. Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting

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

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities. The length of the current and previous accounting periods was one full calendar year.

(b) Donations and similar incoming resources

Except as specified in Notes 4 and 19, these are included in the year in which they are receivable, (which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource), and any conditions for receipt are met; the trustees are reasonably certain that they will receive it; and the trustees are reasonably certain that the value can be reliably measured. Incoming resources from tax claims are included within the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the funds are received and a claim can be made. Subscriptions paid in advance under the discounted membership scheme are recognised in the membership year to which they relate.

(c) Investment income

Income from investments is included in the SOFA in the year in which it is receivable.

(d) Resources Expended

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

(e) Tangible Fixed Assets & Depreciation

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

(f) Exchange Rates

Moneys received and paid in Euros are converted at the actual exchange rate on the transaction date with the exception of moneys received and paid at Miraz on a daily basis where the seasonal mid point exchange rate is used. The exchange rate used at the accounting date was 1.285 Euros to the £. Net exchange losses in the year were £246.

2. Restricted Funds

	At 1 Oct 2013	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	At 30 Sep 2014
	£	£	£	£
Rabanal	1,933	13,335	4,729	10,539
Miraz	(10,634)	27,445	25,736	(8,925)
Bursary	10,273	42	-	10,315
Ted Dickinson Fund	3,333	24	-	3,357
St Christopher Fund	2,950	74	-	3,024
Amigos Fund		2,327	2,327	
	7,855	43,247	32,792	18,310

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

Rabanal Fund – for capital projects, upkeep of the fabric and miscellaneous expenses at Refugio Gaucelmo. A separate bank account is kept at Banco Etcheverria in Ponferrada which, due to the joint venture with the the Amigos del Camino del Bierzo is not consolidated within these accounts. The credit balance on this account at 1st October 2013 was €23,121.74 (£19,348.74) and at the accounts date €19,552.43 (£15,211.79) In the year, a transfer was made from this account to the CSJ bank account in London – see note 10 – this being the repayment of the cost of the solar panels originally paid for out of the London account.

Miraz – Funds are held on behalf of the Refuge at Miraz. A bank account is held at Banco Pastor in Frial but operated from Blackfriars Road to pay expenses such as electricity, telephone and insurance. This account also receives cash locally via donativos from pilgrims. This account is in deficit and is supported by the general funds of the organisation. It is expected that this deficit will be recovered over the next 2 years.

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

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

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

The Amigos' Fund – In order to assist the new Welcome Organisation (see note 22) designated donations have been paid into this account and subsequently forwarded on to Santiago.

3. Donations

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

4. Subscriptions & Gift Aid

Subscription income has reduced in the year by £2,476. However Tax reclaimed on subscriptions remained steady at £8,630. (2013 £8,960) Gift Aid tax claims are recognised when a claim can be made, hence when members are paying 3 years subscription, only a claim is made in the first year.

Current subscription rates are: -

1 year

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

3 years

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£67.50	Overseas	£81.00
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£81.00	Overseas	£94.50

5. Books and Publications

Turnover continues to reduce due to problems encountered in our secure on-line bookshop towards the end of the year and the diminution in business generally through competition from other internet book shops such as Amazon. This gave rise to a trading surplus of £10,838. This compares with an overall trading surplus of £12,927 in 2013.

6. Other Items

Sales of other items (principally badges, sweatshirts, caps and DVDs) produced a surplus of £354 compared to £263 in the previous year.

7. Visits

There were no organised visits during the year.

8. Investment Income

Investments which generate income consist of interest-bearing deposits with the Charities Official Investment Fund and one interest-bearing account with CAF bank. As can be seen, income continues at a minimal amount in the year.

9. Grants

In the past, bursary application forms were issued to universities and colleges of further education at the start of the academic year. Students between 18 and 25 were asked to submit proposals for their research and to indicate how it would be facilitated by financial assistance from the Confraternity. Short-listed applicants were invited to interview before a panel consisting of Mark Hassall, former lecturer in Archaeology at UCL, and James Maple, Hon. Vice-President of the CSJ, and awards were made for one outstanding project, or shared between several, up to a maximum of £1,000 per applicant. They were generally paid in two tranches, part in advance of the research and the balance when the resulting dissertation has been commended after being academically reviewed. The best of these were published in the Bulletin. No bursaries have been awarded in the seven years to 30th September 2014. An on-going review of the purpose and possible recipients of this award will be completed in the coming year and a report given at the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

10. Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino

Income of £13,322 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

	£
- Donations UK	1,981
- Legacy - McDougall	5,000
- Repayment to UK – cost solar panels	6,341

Expenditure of £2,152 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

- Travel & subsistence	657
- Hospitaleros Language Course	474
- Meeting room rents	358
- Hospitaleros Thank You Event	444
- Sundry	219

The above income and expenses relate to entries on the CSJ bank account in the UK. Pilgrim donations and related expenditure on food, hospitality, cleaning etc in Spain are for the benefit of the refugio at Rabanal and do not form part of the Confraternity funds or its accounts. Any surplus is put towards overheads such as electricity, bank charges, repairs etc.

11. Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz

Income of £27,445 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

	£
- Donativos and goods sold – Spain	23,924
- Donations (UK)	2,565
- Donation – Garden and Patio (including gift aid)	956

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

£

Expenditure of £23,159 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

-	Final Cost – Garden, Patio & piedra	3,448
-	Household, repairs, food, heat and light etc	10,722
-	Working Party costs	1,876
-	Goods for resale	876
-	Hospitaleros Language Courses	1,098
-	Sundries	99
-	Hospitaleros Thank You Event	444
-	Loss on Exchange	238
-	Bore Hole Improvements	4,358

12. Bulletin

The Bulletin is published quarterly and the costs include printing, distribution and a software publishing programme. Also included was the cost of 5,800 publicity brochures costing £580.

13. Library

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

14. Speaker Meetings

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

15. Other Charitable Costs

The costs directly attributable to charitable activities are

		£
	Personnel	27,772
	Other Direct Costs	<u>1,422</u>
	Total	<u>£29,194</u>
Allocated:-		
General	24,040	
Rabanal	2,577	
Miraz	2,577	

16. Administration Costs

		£
	Personnel	8,511
	Accommodation	7,775
	Office Running Costs	5,870
	Finance charges	977
	Member Meetings & Sundry	<u>2,084</u>
	Total	<u>£ 25,217</u>

Personnel costs include a total of £1,544 paid to 5 trustees for reimbursed personal travel expenses.

The only governance cost is £35 for the Data Protection licence. Due to this minimal amount, it has not been shown under a separate heading on the Statement of Financial Activities on page 8.

17. Fixed Assets

	Works of Art	Office Equipment	Total
Costs	£	£	£
At 1 Oct 2013	4,790	10,616	15,406
Additions	-	-	-
At 30 Sep 2014	<u>4,790</u>	<u>10,616</u>	<u>15,406</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 Oct 2013	-	10,007	10,007
Charge for year	-	<u>609</u>	<u>609</u>
At 30 Sep 2014	<u>-</u>	<u>10,616</u>	<u>10,616</u>
Net Book Value			
At 1 Oct 2013	<u>4,790</u>	<u>609</u>	<u>5,399</u>
At 30 Sep 2014	<u>4,790</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,790</u>

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

18. Debtors

	2014	2013
	£	£
Prepayments	801	759
Accrued Income and Other Debtors	<u>9,015</u>	<u>11,779</u>
	<u>9,816</u>	<u>12,538</u>

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2014	2013
	£	£
Trade Creditors	10,940	7,685
Deferred Income - Subscriptions in advance	<u>23,660</u>	<u>22,470</u>
	<u>34,600</u>	<u>30,155</u>

20. Deferred Income

Subscriptions paid in advance total £23,660; £15,435 related to the year 2015, £7,735 to the year 2016 and £490 for later years. These have been shown as falling due within 1 year as the actual subscription has been received.

21. Stocks

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

22. Donations

The major donation in the year was a grant of £1,500 towards the cost of the Amigos Service providing the Pilgrim Welcome in Santiago. Also included in this charge was the cost of 20,000 post cards to be given to pilgrims arriving at Santiago. A further donation was made with money especially given for that purpose.

23. Net Movement in Funds

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

24. Capital Commitments

All capital work undertaken at the Miraz refuge, including the chlorofication plant, has now been completed and all invoices received in connection with this expenditure have been paid. No further capital costs are expected in the near future although repairs and maintenance continue to be needed.

Supplementary Report for Members & Supporters

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

Refugio Gaucelmo 2014

During 2014, Gaucelmo saw a decrease in pilgrim numbers of almost 11%, 4903 compared to 5499 in 2013. However this is not really surprising as total numbers tend to fluctuate from year to year and plus or minus 10% is a normal variation. Also we were, unusually, open during November last year. This represents an average of 23 pilgrims per night and for many hospitaleros, this is an ideal number to cater for. However, during the quietest month, April, the average was just 15 whereas during the busiest month, June, it was 29.

Donativos totalled €31,436, the largest annual total to date. The average donativo was €6.41 per pilgrim, a significant increase on last year's corresponding figure of €5.50. With recorded expenses of €29,601.95, and anticipated expenses in the region of €10,600 and with assets (cash plus bank balance) of around €22,800, we hope to start the new season with a healthy contingency fund of around €12,000.

The main building project planned for the closed season is the remodelling of the salon, postponed from last winter. The final plan, which will hopefully be agreed by the committee later in November, will include an enlarged salon with folding doors and new furniture, total project costs around €3500. Additionally, we plan to have the main dormitory showers retiled, (€1880), and a shower installed in the warden's bathroom (€1540). We are currently trying to establish whether or not we need to make alterations to the fireplace for safety reasons. It may be that a new flue liner will need to be installed, potentially costly work, details as yet unknown.

Everyone on the committee has worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the refuge and particular thanks are due to Julie Davies (hospitaleros co-ordinator), Dave Arthur (premises manager), Paul Murray (sponsorship, secretary of CSJ de Ponferrada) and, as always, Marion who keeps tabs on everything!

In March we had a very amicable meeting with our Spanish partner organisation, the Amigos del Camino del Bierzo. We met in Ponferrada where the CSJ were represented by Paul Murray (secretary of the CSJ de Ponferrada), Dick and Liz Crean, Dave Arthur and Laurie Dennett. We were able to welcome their new president Roger Moran de la Cruz and had a very constructive discussion. One practical outcome was an agreement to swap articles between our respective bulletins but we were also interested to hear P. Miguel Angel describing possible changes in legislation by the Junta de Castilla y Leon which would result in more pilgrim accommodation being brought into the taxable income bracket, so we are watching this development carefully. Monsignor Antolin railed about the creeping 'mercantilismo' of the Camino, an issue of concern to us all.

During August there was a theft in the refuge. Several pilgrims had money stolen to the value of nearly €1000. It appeared that the thief had slipped in as everyone was preparing to leave and took advantage of the movement of people to poke around the main dormitory unnoticed. It was upsetting for everyone but fortunately this is a rare occurrence. A few weeks later, a man was arrested doing the same thing in Boadilla del Camino and it is quite possible that this is the same person.

The most important aspect of all this is, of course, the welfare of individual pilgrims and I will quote one recent email describing the impact Gaucelmo can have on weary travellers. This is from Alan Pearce, an Australian hospitalero

"Thanks once more for the opportunity to be a hospitalero at Gaucelmo. My favourite pilgrim remains the woman who had been stricken with grief by the death of her mother some 12 months before. There was no pleasure in anything she did. But on her arrival at Gaucelmo she was treated with such warmth and kindness that when she woke the next morning the pail of sadness and outright gloom was gone, and she could again find joy in life. She said "You have given me back my life", the "you" of course being the team. She floated out the door."

We are looking forward to the new season with great enthusiasm and we are confident that we can continue to provide a warm welcome for pilgrims.

Dick Crean

Miraz -10th Annual Report

The achievement of establishing a refugio on the Camino del Norte that is so welcome to pilgrims remains a credit to our Confraternity. The challenge continues in sustaining our developing our service and hospitality. We have invested heavily in facilities to maintain our modern premises. Our finances continue to improve, but, the need to update our bore hole to cater for our many pilgrims (cost €5,565 - £4,357) has taken much of our surplus for 2013/2014.

In June, the Bishop of Lugo blessed an iconic *pedra*, an emblem of the Camino to prompt inspiration for the way to Santiago. This was followed by a fiesta when the gaitero actually arrived with his band in Miraz.

In 2014 approaching 4,000 pilgrims have stayed with us in Miraz. This number is slightly down on previous year, due to Easter being later in April. Our costs of running day to day operations are met from pilgrim donations which are up by a euro to just over €8 per pilgrim.

40 hospitaleros served pilgrims at Miraz this year. On behalf of the CSJ and the grateful pilgrims, we thank them all for what they have given in 2014. Alan Cutbush deserves a special mention for his co-ordination in a difficult year. Hopefully we can continue to maintain the real ethos of the pilgrimage to Santiago. We are also grateful to the working party led by Ted and Averil Jones.

Change is all around us on the Camino del Norte with extra beds being planned on our *Etapas* 32. The refugio community from Baamonde to Sobrado has come together under the leadership of Helena who runs the local *punto de apoyo*. Interested parties have met on occasions to find a way forward for meeting increased pilgrim traffic. It appears that the route will divide after Vitalba with alternatives via Guiterriz or Miraz. This should reduce the pressure on our beds in the refugio.

There is a pressing need for volunteers to work at Miraz as hospitaleros. Whilst this does involve the usual tasks of keeping the albergue clean and welcoming pilgrims above all, we need people who have a good level of spoken Spanish. This is because the albergue is situated in a small village where only Galego/Spanish is spoken but also because a significant number of Spanish pilgrims stay at our albergue. To help relationships with both the village and pilgrims it is very important that we are able to provide Spanish speaking volunteers as hospitaleros throughout the year. Please help if you can.

We need to review regularly the state of the building and the training of our hospitaleros so as best provide a true pilgrim welcome. There is now doubt that a challenging future still lies ahead for our *Refugio de Peregrinos at Miraz*.

Richard Jefferies

Secretary's Review of 2013 -2014

During the year, as well as the regular programme of meetings, there have been several new initiatives to promote the CSJ and the pilgrimage to Santiago. A team of people spoke at Downside Abbey School: there will be a big pilgrimage on the Camino Portugués in 2015. Another team of members supported the CSJ stand at the Greenbelt Festival in August: they spoke to many people about the possibilities of pilgrimage. In the autumn a local meet up, mainly for London members, has been started at the Camino Wine Bar in Blackfriars on the last Tuesday of the month.

Trustees Ruth Abrahams and Tom Barton have been working with Marion Marples on the presentation and information on new website, which went live in November. From October the Membership Joining Fee has no longer been payable and there has been an encouraging start to new applications. From 2015 the CSJ will have a new smaller Pilgrim Record as well as the larger traditional Record available to members.

CSJ has again been represented at Conferences in Spain: on Christian Hospitality and the New Evangelisation in Santiago and the triennial conference of the Federation of Associations of Amigos del Camino, this year held in Burgos. We were also represented at the Annual Gathering of the American Pilgrims on the Camino. The Amigos service has continued to develop at the Pilgrim Office in Santiago, where a new *Compostela* and Certificate of Distance have been introduced.

Other events have included another 2 walks along the St James's Way, with more useful contacts made especially in Southampton, and in London with two churches dedicated to St James in Islington. Several parishes in Reading, including St James, made a pilgrimage from Sarria in the autumn.

We continue to work with the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome to host their Library and promote their meetings. This autumn a new website www.pilgrimswaycanterbury.org was launched to help people plan pilgrimages from Winchester and Southwark to Canterbury. Trustee Ken Spittal attended the Scottish Footpath Forum promoting routes in Scotland.

Marion Marples

Membership Statistics

Membership at 30 September 2014 stood at 1,520 paying members (1,660 at 30 September 2013) plus 314 (281) honorary and honoured (aged over 70 with 10 years' paid-up membership) and 39 exchange subscriptions with kindred organisations. The paying members were split as follows (2013 numbers are shown in brackets): -

	Individual	Joint	Institutional
UK	811 (903)	428 (446)	15 (21)
Europe	42 (51)	18 (19)	3 (4)
Rest of World	<u>132</u> (139)	<u>70</u> (76)	<u>1</u> (1)
Total	<u>985</u> (1,093)	<u>516</u> (541)	<u>19</u> (26)

See page 20 for details.

Analysis of Other Charitable & Support 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.

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

Salaries & NI - The company employs a secretary, a finance manager and an office administrator, all on a part-time basis. The small decrease in salaries from £37,195 to £34,715 is mainly due to a reduction in the NHI rate for small enterprises.

Travel & Subsistence - trustees are generally required to attend 6 meetings per annum. The majority of trustees now live out of London resulting in travel and subsistence expenses. The cost for all committee members was £1,545.

Member Meetings - This represents the net cost of various members' meetings including the AGM. Income this year was £1,616 and expenditure £3,606 compared to £2,402 and £4,500 respectively for 2013.

Other Charitable and Governance Costs

		Other Charitable Coets	Administration Coets	2014 Total £	2013 Total £
Personnel Costs		£	£		
	Salaries & NI	27,772	6,943	34,715	37,195
	Travel & Subsistence	-	1,568	1,568	1,832
		<u>27,772</u>	<u>8,511</u>	<u>36,283</u>	<u>39,027</u>
Accommodation					
	Rent	-	8,341	8,341	7,943
	Insurance	-	1,044	1,044	1,007
	Depreciation	-	609	609	609
	Office Maintenance	-	429	429	327
	Office Equipment < £500	-	-	-	-
	Less Library Recharge	-	-2,648	-2,648	-2,630
		<u>-</u>	<u>7,775</u>	<u>7,775</u>	<u>7,256</u>
Office	Telephone	-	308	308	635
	Post	-	61	61	32
	Printing & Stationery	95	886	981	1,442
	Computer Support & Consumables	-	1,865	1,865	1,519
	Book-keeping	-	2,750	2,750	2,500
		<u>95</u>	<u>5,870</u>	<u>5,965</u>	<u>6,128</u>
Other	Legal & Professional	-	35	35	48
	Bank Charges	-	535	535	245
	Credit Card Charges	1,327	442	1,769	2,043
	Member Meetings	-	1,990	1,990	2,098
	Sundry	-	59	59	203
		<u>1,327</u>	<u>3,061</u>	<u>4,388</u>	<u>4,637</u>
TOTALS		<u>29,194</u>	<u>25,217</u>	<u>54,411</u>	<u>57,048</u>

	Honorary	Honoured	Individual	Joint	Group	Exchange	Total
UK							
E Anglia	1	18	58	27	2	1	107
Home Counties - N	1	31	77	39	1	1	150
Home Counties - S	1	30	114	68	3	1	217
London	3	19	113	56	2	3	196
Midlands E	-	13	24	25	-	-	62
Midlands W	1	26	71	31	1	-	130
N Ireland	-	3	10	5	-	-	18
NE	-	20	44	30	1	1	96
NW	-	13	63	24	1	-	101
Scotland	-	9	78	37	-	-	124
Southern	-	32	63	35	2	-	132
SW	2	25	71	38	-	1	137
Wales	-	3	20	11	2	-	36
Channel Islands	1	-	5	2	-	-	8
	10	242	811	428	15	8	1,514
EUROPE							
Austria	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Belgium	-	6	1	-	-	1	8
Cyprus	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Czech Republic	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Denmark	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Finland	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
France	1	4	3	3	-	4	15
Germany	-	5	3	1	1	1	11
Italy	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
Luxembourg	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Malta	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Netherlands	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Norway	-	-	2	-	-	1	3
Poland	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Portugal	-	1	2	-	1	-	4
Rep. of Ireland	1	4	9	3	1	1	19
Russia	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Spain	4	4	9	2	-	17	36
Sweden	-	2	2	2	-	-	6
Switzerland	-	-	2	1	-	1	4
Turkey	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	6	27	42	18	3	29	125
Africa	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Asia	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Australia	-	11	64	32	-	-	107
Canada	-	3	18	4	-	1	26
N America	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
New Zealand	-	2	5	12	-	-	19
S America	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
U S A	-	11	42	21	1	-	75
	0	29	132	70	1	2	234
Total	16	298	985	516	19	39	1,873

Confraternity of Saint James



Annual General Meeting

Please bring this booklet and the Accounts with you

Notice of the 15th Annual General Meeting of the
Confraternity of Saint James (the Company) to be held on

Saturday 31 January 2015

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

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting (25/1/14)**
4. **Chairman's Report for 2014**
5. **Annual Report & Accounts 2013-2014**
6. **Report on Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino**
7. **Report on Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz**
8. **Report on Amigos Welcome Project**
9. **Report on Greenbelt 2014**
10. **Programme for 2015**
11. **Election of Trustees:** Half the directors stand down and are standing for re-election: Colin Jones, Gosia Brykczynska, Mary Moseley, Liz Crean, Ken Spittal, Priscilla White. Continuing: Dick Crean, Richard Jefferies, Tony Ward. [Resigned: Ruth Abrahams, Tom Barton, Alan Bibby, Clare Taylor, Not standing: Paul Graham]
New nominations: tba
11. **Any Other Business**

*If you would like an A4 copy (larger print!) of the Accounts
please contact the Office*

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

- | | | |
|--------|---|------------------|
| 11.00 | Doors open | Coffee available |
| 11.30 | Annual General Meeting | Main Hall |
| 1.00pm | Bring Picnic Lunch (drinks available) or pubs nearby | |

2.30-3.30pm *Music of the Camino Past and Present:*
the CSJ choir, directed by Dr Mary Remnant,
performs a selection of favourite pilgrim songs –
from the 12th century Codex Calixtinus to the 21st
century.

3.30 Tea Main Hall

4pm Short presentations on surprise topics!

5.00 **Annual New Year Party** Main Hall

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

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

Trustees: Existing and those Standing for Re-election

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

Gosia Brykczynska (joined 1983): She has walked several pilgrim routes in Spain and France and next year plans to walk from Assisi to Rome, before returning to Spain and completing her pilgrimage from Puente la Reina to Santiago. She has volunteered several times as a *hospitalera* and once as an *amiga* for the CSJ. Currently she is the Bulletin Editor.

Liz Crean (joined 2006): After four years as a trustee, I now feel I understand the CSJ reasonably well. I run a local group in Bristol, work as a *hospitalera* in Rabanal and /or attend the village party and meeting with Spanish colleagues there every year. Completed the *Via de La Plata* in 2014 and am hoping to walk the *Primitivo* in 2015.

Ken Spittal (joined 2003): My first camino was completed in 2003 from Roncesvalles. Since then further pilgrimages have been undertaken inc the *Primitivo, Via de Plata, Inglés* and a small part of the *Camino del Norte*. I have worked as a *hospitalero* in Rabanal and since it opened in which is Miraz my spiritual home. I have recently joined the Scottish Pilgrim Forum and now that my health has recovered (and ability to walk) I aim to help progress further pilgrimage in Scotland.

Priscilla White (joined 1992): After years of interest, but no formal education in medieval history, I joined the CSJ and subsequently walked from Le Puy-en-Velay to Santiago. This was followed by parts of the *Via de la Plata* and also the *Camino del Norte*. I am embarking on the *Camino Francés* from Astorga in Spring 2015.

Other Trustees

Dick Crean (joined 2006)

Richard Jefferies (joined 2006)

Mary Moseley (joined 1997)

Helping and participating on the AGM day

Book Sale & CSJ Publications

Second hand Camino books for sale and selection of free Bulletins to catch up on will be available. Also the full range of CSJ Publications including, I hope, the 2015 edition of *The Pilgrims' Guide to the Camino Francés*.

Hospitality

We are able to offer accommodation in London members' homes to people from far away who otherwise would not be able to come to the AGM. You are invited to make a donation to Miraz. If there are more London members able to offer accommodation, please make sure you indicate on your AGM Form. Hotels near the office are listed on www.london-se1.co.uk/hotels

Badges and Friendship

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

New Year Party As usual we ask people to contribute homemade food rather than pay if possible. If you would like to help with the food shopping, preparation or serving please contact Ruth Johnston on 01903 885068. 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, talk and party is £5. Please complete and return the enclosed form.

Hospitaleros/hospitaliers

Find out about hospitality on the Camino and becoming a hospitalero in Spain or hospitalier in France, or working with the Amigos Project in Santiago: please speak with Julie or Alan at the AGM. It is hard but rewarding work. We want to encourage more

UK members to volunteer at Rabanal and Miraz and to point people with good Spanish to volunteer in Santiago, or good French to volunteer on the Vézelay route.

Important Things to Bring with You

- this copy of the Agenda, and the Accounts
- any outstanding Library books you wish to return
- any photos/albums of your pilgrimage you would like to share
- any jiffy bags for recycling
- your contribution of food
- Money /cheques for Publications, including 2013 Camino Francés Guide.
- Raffle prizes with a pilgrim theme

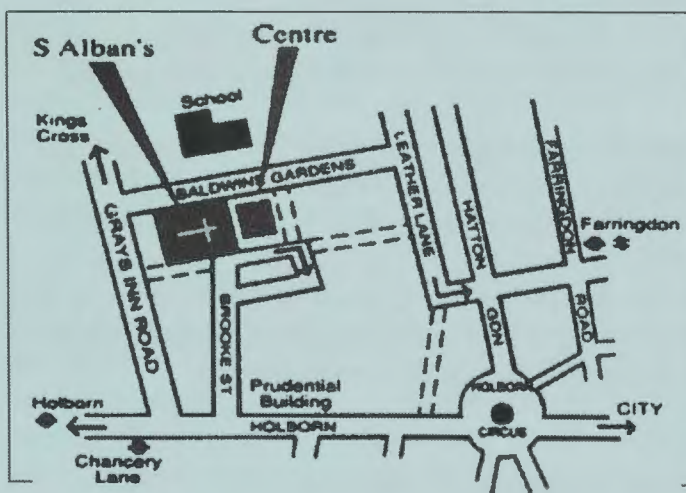
Things to do

Sponsor-a Week at Gaucelmo or Miraz.

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

Exhibitions: East & West Seminar Rooms *upstairs*

If you have any displays or photos you would like to share please take them to the east and west rooms upstairs at the Centre.



Holborn Circus or Grays Inn Road.

Arriving & Parking

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

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

Buses serving

IMPORTANT NOTICE

These are only 'skeleton' Minutes for the last AGM as the paperwork has been mislaid. Anyone who proposed or seconded any motion or who can fill in any of the blanks, ??? or xxxs is invited to let Marion at the Office know as soon as possible!

Minutes of the 14th Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity of Saint James (the Company)

Held on Saturday 25 January 2014

Welcome and Introductions: The Chairman, Colin Jones, welcomed members, particularly those who had travelled long distances, including the speaker, Dr Agnieszka Jaworska of Warsaw.

Apologies: 14 apologies received.

3. Minutes of 13th AGM of the CSJ (Company)

There being no corrections to the Minutes, xxx proposed acceptance, seconded by xxx: agreed

4. Chairman's Report for 2013: for full text please see Bulletin 125, March 2014. Colin Jones spoke of building the links with Spain, including the visit of the new Dean of Santiago, participation by members in the language courses at Santiago University and proposed changes in the route affecting Miraz.

5. Finance: Annual Report & Accounts: Tony Ward presented the Annual Report & Accounts for the year to 30 Sept 2013. As can be seen on the statement of financial activities on page 8, there was an overall surplus of just over £15,000. Our general account ran in surplus for the year. Perhaps, the most notable statistic was the surplus of £10,600 on the Miraz account. This has been hard earned by the hospitaleros working there in explaining to the individual pilgrims the voluntary nature of what we do. If we have another successful season in 2014, it will mean that the internal debt owed to the main account is repaid. This surplus has enabled us to replenish our reserves and these now stand at a reasonable amount. Our bank balances have also remained constant.

Proposed: to accept the Accounts & Report for 2012-13: xxx, seconded xxx, carried.

Proposed: to retain Ian McLoughlin as Independent Examiner: Tony Ward proposed, xxx seconded, agreed. Tony Ward was thanked for the presentation of complex accounts.

6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo: Dick Crean reported on the changes in Rabanal since Gaucelmo opened. The season had gone well. Members were again encouraged to support Sponsor-a-week.

7. Report on Miraz: Richard Jefferies spoke about the Etapa 31 campaign against the proposed diversion of the line of the Camino del Norte from Miraz and the continuing issues with numbers in the summer months.

8. Report on Amigos Welcome Project: In the absence of John Rafferty, Marion Marples gave a short report on spoke on the work of the 63 Amigos volunteers who each worked 2 weeks in Santiago from May-October.

9. Programme for 2014: outlined by Marion Marples

10. Election of Trustees

Reelected: Dick Crean, Richard Jefferies, Tony Ward. **Standing for reelection:** Colin Jones, Gosia Brykczynska, Mary Moseley, Paul Graham, Liz Crean, Clare Taylor. **Standing for election:** Ruth Abrahams, Tom Barton, Alan Bibby, Ken Spittal, Priscilla White. After a vote to take the election in one batch, the whole list was proposed and agreed.

11. Any Other Business

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Office Closure

The Office will be open on Thursday 18 December 2014, close for the holiday and reopen for visitors on Thursday 8 January 2015.

Practical Pilgrim Days 2015

London- Saturday 21 February 10-30-3pm
John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NY

Edinburgh -Saturday 14 March 10.30-3pm
Venue tbc

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

Approximate timetable : London

10.30 Introduction/ Spirituality and the Pilgrimage
followed by general Question & Answer

12noon separate groups for walkers and cyclists

1pm bring a picnic lunch, drinks available

1.30-2.30 Talk by Elaine Hopkins

"What the Camino did for me"

Followed by Sending Out of Pilgrims

Scottish Programme tbc

Tickets £5

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

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

Name (s):

Address/email:

Which Meeting? London Scotland (please circle)

Return details to office@csj.org.uk

Please send cheque or cc details in advance to or pay through
www.csj.org.uk

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

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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
5800 S. DICKINSON DRIVE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

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