



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



March 2007

No 97

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Cover picture:
Boss of St James, National
Museum, Bucharest.
Photograph by the editor

Editorial

Gosia Brykczynska

As I write this springtime editorial, the CSJ is in the middle of conducting its annual series of Practical Pilgrim days. Up and down the country (and even in Scotland) groups of experienced pilgrims are talking to neophyte pilgrims about the joys and tribulations of journeying to Santiago. It just so happens by an undeserved abundance of serendipity, that I have recently had the great fortune to be able to view with some CSJ friends the thoughtful and reflective film about life of Carthusian monks in La Grande Chartreuse, entitled in English *Into Great Silence*.

Carthusian monks feel the call to make a silent life-long pilgrimage inwards to reach their goal of a Divine Presence and Fulfilment in their lives – to truly recognise and be enraptured by the Face of God. We meanwhile as pilgrims of St James wend our way down the busy (and oh so noisy) highways and footpaths which criss-cross our lives in order to locate those crucial precious yellow arrows and thereby follow our chosen designated pilgrim-path – to reach our chosen goal of Santiago. We too search – often over many years and down many pilgrim paths – for a Divine Presence and Fulfilment. This we know is found not so much at journey's end in Compostela, but in the pilgrimage itself, in the onward and forward movement of foot following foot in search of its quest ... A prayer which is spirituality expressed and lived with our weary feet.

Obviously, not all pilgrims to Santiago are overtly and primarily religiously motivated in their quest but a transcendent element to their peregrinations is still nonetheless always present. Since the very footpaths to Santiago have been etched into the European landscape by generations of pilgrims who have prayed their way to Compostela with their feet, it is hard for those who follow today not to be affected by this. Yellow arrows, shell-shaped sign-posts, guide-books, web-sites and leaflets have all been simply added to the pilgrims' preparations for the journey in recent times in order to illuminate for our generation of doubting and hesitant would-be pilgrims a trusted and proven path forward. Novice monks need the guidance of novice-masters to help them on their journey inwards while pilgrims to St James in Santiago

need guidance from experienced pilgrims for example at the CSJ office and from Practical Pilgrim days, and so on.

All these themes are evident in this spring *Bulletin* starting from the thoughtful report of our Chairman, William Griffiths.

John Rafferty, like many a pilgrim before him, recounts how he undertook the pilgrimage upon closing one part of his life and before embarking upon another. For him the particular timing of the pilgrimage was a rite of passage from one occupation and way of being to another – not unlike the rites of passage for monks and nuns. Richard Barry tried to prepare for the journey ahead but ultimately found that for all the preparations in the world – life just does not always work out as planned. However, there is always another day, another opportunity to undertake the pilgrimage, this time wiser and more composed (oh, for the wisdom of those silent and patient monks). Roger and Julie Davies ask the perennial question – when is a pilgrimage not a pilgrimage? A question that must be asked by all who undertake the journey to St James if it is to make any more sense than just a glorious long-distance walk – a question all folk need to pose in regards to their lives – and one central to the life of a monk. Meanwhile, Adele Birnbaum was eager to start her pilgrimage but found that perhaps some advice prior to starting off would have been helpful – but still she did persevere and did make it to Santiago in the end. As we know, none of our pilgrim experiences would make sense or be as rewarding as they are, without the help, warmth and generosity of people along the way, including *hospitaleros*. Susan Edwards recounts her perspective of being an *hospitalera* along the Camino Francés and it is so reassuring to know that among past pilgrims there are those who wish to give something back to the pilgrimage experience itself. Like our Carthusian monks there is a palpable feeling of community, responsibility and above all warmth and gentle encouragement to stick at it from past and more experienced pilgrims. It is a reassuring thought and an interesting link to the spirituality of Carthusian monks and nuns that generations of pilgrims have stopped by the Charterhouse at Burgos – Cartuja de Miraflores – to pray and rest and recoup their energies on their way to Santiago. I still remember my experience there over twenty-five years ago!

Finally, few of us can have been more challenged undertaking the pilgrimage to Santiago than Tim O'Neill McCoy. Time and time again he has set out on the pilgrim road - sometimes he reaches his destination and sometimes he does not - and meanwhile all manner of

misadventures assail him. But having focused his sight on Santiago he puts one foot in front of another – in order to reach his goal. And six times he has reached his goal - the last time having followed down the ancient English way - by sea and along the Camino Inglés.

As the pilgrim-poet Stephen Malone so beautifully expresses the sentiment –

*Feet
Follow
Feet that followed.*

*Give me my staff and I'll follow the well-worn stones
Where even the longest road
Finds its way home.*

Therefore I wonder, are our pilgrims roads to Santiago really focused outward or inward? Indeed, are we in reality Carthusians in disguise or are Carthusian monks and nuns really pilgrims in disguise...

Chairman's Report

William Griffiths

A couple of months ago, I went to the island of Malta, my home country, for a most interesting conference on pilgrimages and religious routes. The scope was wide, including Jewish, Christian and Islamic perspectives, but the pilgrimage to Santiago did get a look-in. I was struck by one of the speakers, Rabbi David Meyer from Brussels, comparing the concepts of sacred place and sacred time in Judaism. Ancient Judaism certainly gave great importance to the pilgrimage to the sacred place, the Temple in Jerusalem, and we are still inspired by the psalms sung on these pilgrimages. Modern Judaism places much more emphasis on the sanctification of time than of place. He quoted a modern Jewish thinker, Abraham Heschel (1907-1972) who metaphorically answered the question : "Where are the great Cathedrals of the Jewish tradition?" with the statement "The Sabbath days are great Cathedrals". Our tradition of pilgrimage to a sacred place is also, of course, an adventure in the sanctification of time. I can imagine encountering a pilgrim who is on a section of the road that is not rich in human monuments, perhaps the Meseta of Castille. I can imagine that pilgrim, if questioned, saying "Today I have walked, I have prayed, I have rested, I have encountered others, I have eaten my food and drunk my water. Metaphorically, I have entered a Cathedral. Perhaps even, I have contributed to the building of a Cathedral".

In this spirit, of recognising the sacredness of time in every day of our pilgrimages, I would like to look back with you at the year 2006. It was not a Jubilee Year, not a Holy Year with a capital H. We did have a very joyful and memorable occasion in the blessing of the Casa Rectoral in Miraz for its new purpose as a pilgrim refuge. But Miraz was already receiving pilgrims last year, and the work of gathering funds for the continuing works there is by no means finished. So the special characteristic of 2006 is the same that makes every year special for us: that people set out into the state of pilgrimage, and that all of you, those here today and those absent today, make it possible, by banding together in this Confraternity, for people to be pilgrims. Metaphorically, that is the Cathedral we are helping to construct.

At Miraz, and at Rabanal, our two *refugios*, the construction is not just metaphorical. Literal building works take place whenever a working party goes out. Metaphorical works of building hospitality take place whenever an *hospitalero* receives a pilgrim. Essential works of fostering pilgrimage take place whenever anyone organises or contributes to the many and varied works of fundraising. You will be hearing more details shortly about both Miraz and Rabanal. I would just like to recall two particularly beautiful events concerning Miraz in the past year. One was the blessing of the house on 28 September. The Bishop of Lugo, Fray José Gomez Gonzalez, was prevented by illness from coming himself, so, after Mass in the church of St James, the house was blessed by the Dean, Don José Fernandez Fernandez. The gathering included many of the villagers, the local authorities, members of the Confraternity and the Galician Amigos del Camino, and most importantly, five pilgrims (one of whom performed for us on his trumpet). The small group of members that I was with, driven by the indefatigable Mary Moseley, took the opportunity to visit the refuges immediately before and after Miraz, at Baamonde and the Cistercian monastery of Sobrado, so as to have a better understanding of our place in the network of hospitality.

The second event on which I look back with particular pleasure was the reception at the Spanish Embassy in aid of the Miraz appeal, by kind invitation of Their Excellencies the Count and Countess of Casa Miranda. His Excellency has been our President since coming to London some two years ago, but this was the first opportunity for a large number of our members to meet him, and to be greatly encouraged by his commitment to our cause. Many distinguished guests including His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio and Members of both Houses of Parliament joined our members in enjoying the Embassy's hospitality and in hearing the Revd Colin Jones give an inspiring illustrated account of the Miraz project. It was particularly fitting to discover that the Civil Guard there to protect us came from Baamonde, just up the road from Miraz. Together with all the other ways of raising funds that people have thought up and carried out, the Embassy evening was thoroughly imbued with the pilgrim spirit, the spirit of hospitality. We are very grateful to Alison Thorp for her work in co-ordinating this and the other fundraising activities.

These two events symbolically announce that the first phase of the continuing Miraz project is now achieved. It makes a fitting moment for Maureen and Keith Young to tell us that, having nurtured the

New Refuge project through its early stages of discernment, guided us to the providential choice of Miraz, and co-ordinated all the early processes of work there, they now wish to step down from the role of co-ordinators as Chairman and Secretary of the Miraz Development Group. We owe them an immense debt of gratitude. Happily, they are not leaving the scene altogether, and will remain active for Miraz, Keith concentrating on the property and Maureen on the fundraising. Many of our members have become involved with Miraz, and you will be hearing a detailed report shortly, but I must mention especially Alan Cutbush's co-ordination of the *hospitaleros*, and Peter FitzGerald's co-ordination of the structural work on the building.

What of our senior *refugio* at Rabanal? The Refugio Gaucelmo was inaugurated in October 1991, so 2006 was its 15th anniversary. Another very significant milestone is approaching: it is expected that the 100,000th pilgrim will be welcomed there some time in the summer of 2007, and you will be hearing of a proposal to celebrate that event. Paul and Cristina Spink have continued to do magnificent work heading the Rabanal Subcommittee, along with Stuart and Tricia Shaw, Michael Krier and Graham Scholes, and I shall leave it to them to give you the more detailed account of the year.

Here at the AGM, you will find Walter Ivens ready to help you to sponsor a week, either at Rabanal or at Miraz. You will find the co-ordinators of *hospitaleros* for both refuges ready to discuss signing you up as an *hospitalero*, if not for 2007 then certainly for 2008. And you will also find John Hatfield, the man from Vézelay. Ah, Vézelay! Most beautiful of the four French starting-points of the Roads to Santiago. Its Basilica the glory of Romanesque architecture, with its relics of St Mary Magdalene and its sublime liturgies of the Jerusalem Community. Its route wending through Burgundy, through the very rich hours of Berry, of the Limousin and the truffle-scented riches of Périgord. A route far from crowded, still a *route de solitude*... When John Hatfield wrote his Guide to the Vézelay route for the Confraternity, it was the first such guide in any European country. The route then was still lacking in accommodation and a real challenge for pilgrims. This has changed over the years, thanks to Monique and Jean-Charles Chassain and the Amis de la Voie de Vézelay. They were themselves inspired by John's pioneering Guide to produce their own mighty *Itinéraire*, to waymark the route, and to foster the provision of accommodation. As you know, a particular link of friendship has grown in the last few years between our Confraternity and the

Vézelay Amis. John has been the first to recognise that his pioneering Guide has been superseded by the Chassains' *Itinéraire*. One little difficulty remained: could the *Itinéraire* be used by a British pilgrim with limited French? This difficulty has been overcome: I am proud to introduce to you the English edition of the *Vézelay Itinéraire*, its glowing golden cover enhanced by the distinctive blue slip. This masterpiece of bilingualism, principally the work of Alison Raju, contains the integral IGN maps and French route directions, a glossary translating any obscure terms in those directions, and translations by Alison of the important introductory booklets. This monument to the international spirit of the pilgrimage rolled off the French presses in the autumn of 2006. How to get it to England? Was the Confraternity to squander the hard-earned pennies of its members' subscriptions on freight charges? Certainly not! Taking advantage of the presence of some of our members at the excellent Symposium on "Les Chemins de Saint Jacques; Mythe ou Réalité" in Paris in December, 66kg of *Itinéraires* were handed over to our members, and trundled in a variety of wheeled suitcases onto the Eurostar, not without exciting a certain amount of interest from the Customs. "Watch the wall, my darling, when the *Itinéraires* go by!" The *Itinéraires* are with us; they are for sale on the bookstall for a modest sum.

And what of accommodation on the Vézelay route? The Chassains have researched and inspired a wide variety of types of lodging, among which are the refuges run directly by the Amis de St Jacques de la Voie de Vézelay, as we ourselves run Rabanal and Miraz. For the last three years, a number of Confraternity members have served as *hospitaliers* at the refuges of Corbigny in Burgundy, and Sorges in Périgord. This year a third refuge is to open, in the province of Berry, shortly after the town of St Amand-Montrond. It is in a village called Boozzy, or, to be more accurate, Bouzais. (I have already warned the Chassains that its name will inspire great hilarity among English pilgrims and *hospitaliers*.) If any of you, having been pilgrims anywhere on the roads to Santiago and possessing reasonable French, are inspired to serve for a fortnight in one of these refuges, do please contact John Hatfield, who co-ordinates these matters on behalf of the Chassains.

We are a Confraternity. Whatever we do, we do together. I must thank especially all those who have worked for us in the Committee: our Vice-Chairman Alison Raju; our Secretary Marion Marples; our treasurer Tony Ward; our Systems Officer Alison Thorp; our members Jane Bradshaw, Gosia Brykczynska (who edits our wonderful

Bulletin), Paul Graham, Revd Colin Jones, Catherine Kimmel, Mary Moseley, Graeme Taylor and Revd Ricky Yates. Jane Bradshaw and Paul Graham are not standing for re-election. We thank them for all they have given. Jane and Michael Bradshaw have shown a particular talent for organising West Country Practical Pilgrim days, which we hope will continue, not to mention their invitations to go on pilgrimage to the well of their local Saint Arilda. Warm thanks to all who help receive members and enquirers in the Office, not only Marion, Alison Thorp and Christine Pleasants but many volunteers. To Howard Nelson, John Hatfield and Michael Krier for offering us the riches of our Library, Slide Library and Digital Image Library. Howard also offers us the riches of the Website, with its number of “hits” up to 60,500 in 2006. Gosia’s quarterly offering of the *Bulletin* comes with the invaluable assistance of James Hatts, John Revell and the gallant band of stuffers. Our guide-writers keep the Confraternity’s guides the envy of all other pilgrims; Ricky Yates and his Publications Subcommittee keep them and our other publications rolling off the presses. Many of you have given talks about the pilgrimage, in this country and abroad. I say “abroad”, knowing that many of you have been far abroad to create links on behalf of the Confraternity. Laurie Dennett has spoken about Don Elías Valiña to the Amigos del Camino of Madrid ; Marion Marples has been all the way to Boulder, Colorado to tell the American Pilgrims about us. All of you, just by banding together in this Confraternity, strengthen and enrich our fellowship, and strengthen and enrich the pilgrim nature of mankind.

This is very well expressed in a letter we have recently received from one of our members, Alastair Millar, who lives in the Czech Republic. He says: “The role that the Confraternity fulfils in encouraging and helping pilgrims to prepare for their journeys, and to better understand those journeys and their motivations for them (both before and after the event!) cannot be lauded enough. As the Book of Proverbs has it,

*‘Desire without knowledge is not good,
and one who moves too hurriedly misses his way.’* (Proverbs 19:2)”

Lord, increase our desire, increase our knowledge. St James, pray for us, walk with us, that we may not miss our way.

A January Camino on the Vía de la Plata

John Rafferty

Almost as soon as I heard of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela the ambition to walk the route grew in importance in my mind, often at an alarming rate. I have long been in love with Spain and travel there several times a year, usually to Andalucia and to my beloved Sevilla. Therefore when I decided to give up a long-held career to seek a different way of life, walking the Vía de la Plata from there seemed an appropriate rite of passage.

As I was planning to walk the first half of the route in January I took a long time to plan this winter camino. I made extensive use of the message boards on the internet and the published guides, in particular the detailed and invaluable guide by Alison Raju. The Confraternity of Saint James in London could not have been more helpful and put me in touch with someone who had walked this route before. As it turned out almost without exception the route is well way-marked by local Amigos.

My main task before the start was to select good equipment, the most essential of which was a modern and very effective layering system of clothes. I debated questions such as should I take a down jacket or make do with a fleece plus good rain gear? As it turned out I heeded the advice which pointed out that Spain in winter can be as cold as Scotland and thankfully I erred on the side of more not less.

For many years I have spent New Year in Sevilla and so on 2 January I set off from Guillena having walked there with friends the previous couple of days. I wanted to break the journey in Salamanca some 518km on and I arrived there on 20 January.

Before starting I was aware that in January it doesn't get light until about 8.15am and the sun sets just after 6.00pm. One of my best decisions was to take a short-wave radio with me to listen to the world service in the evenings rather than sit around a local bar until dinner. What I hadn't accounted for was a thick, freezing morning fog for around 15 of the days which I simply had to walk in or I wouldn't have got anywhere at all! Most mornings it was simply me and the yellow arrows as if I were walking in a bubble, utterly tranquil. A bright body

light made walking on roads safer and fog is so alien to the Spanish that even they drove more slowly and carefully. Sometimes by 10.00 am, sometimes as late as 12.30, the sun would break through, burn off the frost and fog and the day would give birth to a clear landscape and rising temperatures. It was like walking in two worlds on the same day.

I found very good accommodation all along the way although some of the information I had been given in advance proved not to be accurate. January is the month when works are carried out on *albergues* and *Casas Rurales*. Eventually I simply put my trust in the arrows, the obvious awareness of the route amongst the locals, the goodwill I was experiencing and the fact that I was soon confident I had enough Spanish (and money!) to get me out of most difficulties. Very quickly I learned that whoever I was staying with could not only top up essential supplies of food to be carried next day but would also check that the *hostal* at my next destination or two was open. I was delighted on several occasions when people were expecting me!

The only deviation from the *albergue*, *hostal* or *Casa Rural* being thrown open and a hot meal cooked was in San Pedro de los Rozados as I approached Salamanca. The *Casa Rural* was closed...the *albergue* had *obras* but I was directed to a bar where they confirmed that these facilities were closed but then said, "But don't worry you can stay with my granny". And so I did!

I only met one other pilgrim in the whole time and that was only for five minutes in Monesterio, a Spaniard from Sevilla who was doing the Vía de la Plata in day trips. He had just arrived by car and was setting off for the day, intending to get the bus back again to his car.

Very quickly into the camino the routine and rhythm became established: sleeping a deep sleep, rising early, and setting off at dawn. And then the walking simply took over. It is difficult to describe but the simple cadence of putting one foot in front of the other for many hours each day seemed to create its own world in which I actually didn't think about anything else apart from vistas of where I had been and where I was going. I had expected times of deep reflection when in fact my experience was that despite the physical problems I experienced it was in fact the most mentally restful and refreshing thing I have ever done. In fact on the walk into Salamanca I had mixed feelings about the gradual invasion of the other reality to which I was returning. Deep, penetrating, freezing morning fog was the issue for me. I soon realised it was just like walking in Scotland - normal precautions had to

be taken, people had to know where I was leaving from and where and when I was to arrive. On this route at this time with no other pilgrims, few locals and diminished visibility a mobile phone was essential and in lots of towns and villages internet access was available to check weather forecasts. I had discovered with some relief beforehand that the emergency number 112 works throughout Spain even if there appears to be no network available from an individual mobile telephone. For me it is a route to be walked again at another time as it will have a different personality. But each day had its own treasures no matter how little I could see. The rare farm-worker stopping his motor bike for a chat or six or seven hours without seeing or meeting anyone else at all. Coming across isolated parishes where they actually sang during Mass. Some of the best walking and sun-filled scenery ever when the fog lifted. Taking off two layers of clothes to start the climb up to Pico de la Duena only to see banks of fog rolling towards me. More clothes than ever put on, hat...gloves...climbing only to the eerie swooshing of the unseen windmills which emerged like giants out of the fog...then breaking through into the most gorgeous sunshine above the fog and clouds like flying in an aeroplane where the ground could not be seen. One of the few disappointments was visibility of only 100 yards or so in the descent down into Salamanca...alas the famous vistas escaped me, this time. I loved seeing another Spain, far simpler than the sophistication of Madrid and Sevilla, but also a poorer Spain, more depressed. Like rural Scotland where the only ambition young people have is to leave. Many farms are abandoned and it seems that every second house is for sale. Yet this old, old route prevails and I did feel a deep sense at times of the continuity of pilgrims through the ages. Crossing a simple Roman bridge in a field, passing a Roman milestone and then walking under the Arch at Cáparra standing proud like a monument to the feet which have passed that way before.

However some events are unlikely to happen again. As I trudged across the impressive Roman bridge into Mérida, having walked 44.4km in eleven hours, all I wanted was a *hostal*, a hot meal and bed. “*Hola peregrino!*” a voice cried from among the on-coming pedestrians. This was Anna who had completed the Camino Francés and was visiting friends in Mérida. Despite not speaking English communication was immediately established. Realising I needed to rest she marched me off to the Parador, all four stars of it. “*El Jefe, por favor,*” she requested at reception. When the manager appeared

she explained in a demanding voice “this courageous pilgrim from Scotland has walked a long way into your city, please give him a good room at a good price”. And so they did. He instructed the *receptionista* to give me a room at less than half-price, including breakfast, and he stamped my Pilgrim Passport with great ceremony. Alas Anna was not there as I walked into Cáceres...

518km walked and now I have considerable impatience to get started again in April when it should only be rain I have to deal with!

Pilgrimage Preparation

Richard Barry

I understand that there are people who having heard of the camino almost immediately throw some things in a bag and take off for Spain. Over the past two years or so I have often wished that I was blessed with such impulsiveness, as the time lapse until my own planned departure date seems to drag on and on.

But nature cannot be denied and mine is undoubtedly one of life's planners. Years spent in the Scouts learning to "Be Prepared!", a career in property where projects linger and planning is the all and, perhaps most crucially – if you believe such things – being born a Virgo all conspire to dull any spark of spontaneity. So, having determined back in 2004 that, for employment and family reasons the earliest I could embark on my own pilgrimage was spring 2007, I have had more than ample time to research and plan. My kit list has been drawn up, torn up and redrawn. Practical Pilgrim Days attended. Guides have been read and re-read. Mentally I have been ready for months, while physically I have felt every aging ache and pain to be a sign that the sooner I go the better.

But with an in-built nature that says preparation is everything I could not help but wonder if it was sensible to plan a 40-day walk without proving to myself that I was indeed up to it both mentally and physically. I have done enough walking to know I can do a day's hike without ill effect and I have had week-long walking holidays in Spain so I felt confident about the conditions and the short term cumulative effect of the exercise. But those holidays have been in company, with a designated – and comfortable – base, without the need to carry more than a day-sack. So, encouraged though I was by these experiences, I still felt I needed to put myself to the test by carrying a full pack over consecutive days, without any pre-booked accommodation.

Living in north-west Bristol, I decided to walk to Gloucester via Chepstow and Monmouth following part of the Wye Valley Walk. This offered days of some 25-30km, mixed terrain, reasonably way-marked and towns that should afford a choice of beds for the night. The latter point was not the case when cutting back across country to reach Gloucester so I pre-arranged accommodation with friends for that last night, telling myself this was permissible as I shall wish to

book ahead on the camino for my rest days.

So, suitably booted, with an encouraging weather forecast, and carrying pretty well what I would expect to carry in Spain I duly set off from my front door to find my way along footpaths to the Severn Bridge and on into Wales. That first day went well, giving me previously unseen views of familiar territory. The walk across the Bridge itself seemed to last forever, with a buffeting from the wind that I cannot believe will be beaten by anything in Spain. Chepstow, which had looked so close when standing at the English end of the bridge, then took an age to reach, with feet that became increasingly tender with every stride.

That was not supposed to happen. I had walked a lot over the summer, in the same boots, and never had any problems with my feet. Yet once I got to my B&B in Chepstow and looked at my feet I found blisters and bruised toes – out came the needle and thread! I can only think that the combination of heavier pack, longer distance and harder surfaces had been my undoing. Indeed, recognising that discretion is the better part of valour, I thought I would have to abandon the trip and return home by bus the next day. But that of course would not be such a straightforward option at, say, Roncesvalles, so after a good night's sleep I decided to press on.

Thereafter the walk became something of an endurance test. My feet got worse, but I learnt to put up with the discomfort. Even so, I still managed to enjoy the route and the experiences it offered. To my surprise, the Wye Valley Walk (or at least the stretch I did) offers very little view of the river itself, but when it does those views tend to be spectacular. I had also expected to be encouraged on the last day by the sight of Gloucester Cathedral long before it eventually loomed into view. I was also surprised at how few walkers I saw. Those I did were either locals walking the dog or people doing no more than a few miles.

But that apart, I felt I had replicated in a small way the trials and tribulations I can expect along the way in Spain. In every respect I passed my own test, carrying my pack comfortably, finding my way, enjoying my own company and delighting in the beautiful surroundings. It had been intended to be a learning experience and it was – in very many ways.

So, notes to self:

- Take a *sharp* needle, with an eye big enough to be seen by its human namesake.

- Ditch the bladder in favour of bottles, so you can see what water you have got left and fill up easier along the way.
- Stop to attend to foot discomfort when you first feel it, not at the end of the day.
- Buy new socks and replace them along the way.

I am glad I did this. It was an experience in itself and I am pleased I achieved my aim, but most importantly I now definitely feel confident about tackling my pilgrimage, about what to expect and what to take. Roll on spring!

Getting started

Two days in Pamplona

Adele Birnbaum

September 27, Pamplona. The forecast is rain, cool nights, crisp days. The forecast for adventure. I am ready to walk. It is the first day of my walking pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. This is chilly, rainy Northern Spain. In real life I am an English teacher. But I have made my escape. This fall I am trying to recapture Chaucer's world of medieval pilgrimage.

The perfectly groomed manager of the Hotel Yoldi with his moustache, three-piece black wool suit, and slender patent-leather shoes follows me with his eyes as I clump through the lobby in my boots, sweat suit, 35 pound backpack, and my new Tilly hat trimmed with a scallop shell, all topped off with a blue plastic rain poncho. In the pack, in addition to spare clothes and my fuzzy pink slippers, I have my patchwork quilt project, very light weight, intended for the long lonely evenings in the pilgrim *hostals*, a folder of letters from a woman named Marina, who hiked the trail back in April, and my first aid kit.

I know that the pack under my poncho - the "very large rucksack" recommended by *A Practical Guide to the Pilgrimage of Santiago de Compostela* by Abbe Bernes - makes me look like a hunchback. In my arms I am carrying my overflow items in a plastic shopping bag: Spanish dictionary, travel journal, water bottle, tape recorder. I barely fit through the front door.

"*Hoy marchamos*," the manager murmurs.

I think that means "Today we march." I wobble. I puff and pant. My heels hit the pavement hard. I regret leaving behind my extra long pilgrim staff. It would help with balance. But it was either that or the shopping bag.

I enter the well-marked pilgrimage route, the *Camino de Santiago*, where it cuts diagonally through the park in the center of town. The cement path curves along a former moat that has been filled in, grassed over, and stocked with a herd of tame deer. I pass ivy-covered Roman ruins, slender young trees, plantings of chrysanthemums.

Here and there slender women in silken shimmering long raincoats

greet each other as they walk their little dogs. I smile at a guy who seems to be admiring the ancient Roman wall just as I am. Oops, I was wrong; he is relieving himself. Head down, I move on.

All at once the pretty trail turns into cinders at the edge of the N111 highway. Heavy trucks roar inches from my left car. On my right is a chain-link fence and behind it the rubble-strewn grounds surrounding close-set cement apartment buildings, all five or six stories tall, one after another, acres and acres of identical blocks. The logo of the Camino de Santiago, a golden sun and an arrow on a blue board, appears at intervals, nailed to the chain link fence.

Soon I expect to arrive at the real trail, the ancient path, picturesque among the fields and woods. I cling to the load in my arms, which keeps the load on my back from overbalancing me. As the wind whips I imagine a truck snagging my flapping poncho on his side mirror. But when the sun and arrow logo signals me to cross the highway I cross it. When the sun and arrow signal me to slip and slide down a steep road-cut, I do it. When I come to a series of three short ladders embedded in a cliff face I shift my lumpy shopping bag to my left arm and put my right hand and foot on the rungs. As I lift myself up I feel a strong tug backward and downward from the weight of my pack. "It's only a ladder," I think. But too late. I don't really fall but I have already visualized myself on my back in the mud, a big helpless bug wiggling its arms and legs in the air. I look around for other human beings, even the aging Lotharios Marina warned me about, anybody. Traffic roars several feet above my head. Maybe three hours have passed since I set out.

I turn back. Carefully, I turn back.

Before long I am back in the industrial outskirts of Pamplona. On this return trip I'm even more aware that greater Pamplona is not really the quaint town where Hemingway ran with the bulls on a narrow medieval street. Nor is the ancient Pilgrims' Way the path pictured in Conde Nast *Traveler*. Dripping and muddy, I remember my words to Maria Blanco, who encouraged me, "Oh, I like the rain." And where are the other pilgrims? Those tens of thousands every year? Worse, my left leg hurts.

Too embarrassed to face the patent-leather shoes at the Hotel Yoldi (no, today we don't march), I find a room in the Hostel Principe a couple of streets away. A huge room with a shared bath. Weeping all over my muddy poncho I take off my boots. The swollen veins in my left leg scare me. I hadn't realized what a hike carrying a loaded

35-pound pack would do to varicose veins. In fact I had forgotten that I have varicose veins. They disappeared after my last pregnancy, and that was twenty years ago. But with this backpack I weigh 35 pounds more. I stretch out on my bed with my legs propped up on pillows.

How in the world did the Wife of Bath manage this at her age, which must have been about my age, I ask myself, staring up at the plaster cupids holding their garlands to the ceiling.

What will I say to my friends back home? What will Maria Blanco say? Maria's family is expecting this pilgrim to be striding into town in about two weeks with pilgrim stories to tell. Oh, why on earth did I tell everyone that I was doing this?

I decide to piece together tiny hexagons of cotton cloth for a while. Big flowers, tiny flowers, stripes, and stars. It calms me.

But sleep won't come.

After a while I fish out Marina's letters from her pilgrimage. I see pain, anger, tears, and illness. Sleep won't come. I turn to my journal. Today's entry catches me. "I am well. I am so well I glow in the dark of the room. The forecast is rain, cool nights, crisp days. The forecast for adventure. I am ready to walk." And finally I fall asleep.

This is an extract from the book written by Adele Birnbaum, an American CSJ member

To the pilgrim

Go

from the day of your birth
you have been on the journey.

Go

an encounter awaits you
with whom ?
perhaps with your own self.

Go

your steps will be your words
the journey your song
your fatigue your prayer
and your silence will at last speak.

Go

with the others
but out of yourself
you that think yourself surrounded by unfriendliness
will find joy.

Go

although your spirit may not know where
your feet will carry your heart.

Go

another is coming to meet you,
and is searching for you
so that you can find Him in the sanctuary
at the end of the pilgrimage,
in the sanctuary deep inside your heart.

HE IS YOUR PEACE, HE IS YOUR PEACE.

This poetic invocation was in a credencial carried by a South African pilgrim and presented at Refugio Gaucelmo. It seems to have been made for sharing.

Santiago Six

In only two weeks

Tim O'Neill McCoy

Confraternity members who attended the study evening in London “Special Pilgrims on the Way to Santiago” in October 2002 will remember the contribution made by Major Tim O'Neill McCoy. In reading what follows you may wish to recall that the writer had been the victim of a vicious assault near Euston Station some years earlier which resulted in serious ongoing disabilities.

My main reason for walking the pilgrimage, and I give thanks to St James for helping me in this, has been to find out what now, after my injuries, I have left of what I used to have, what I used to be. So it was, in early Lent in 1997, that I set out from Le Puy on the Via Podiensis, and very quickly came face to face with more problems than I knew then that I had. The first was post-traumatic vertigo: anything less than smooth underfoot just makes me fall over. Even now, inside my own front door, I often bounce off door frames and walls, but outside I must use a stout blackthorn staff. Then, *anterograde amnesia* makes me forget what I started to do. Another problem is *Tullio's Phenomenon*. I am distressed and disorientated by loud, sudden and extraneous noise. Noisy, busy, pilgrim refuges are quite out of the question for me.

In 1997 I only made it to Aumont Aubrac before my problems became too much for me. That was my Santiago One. So, for the first time ever having failed in anything I'd set my mind to do, I returned, very demoralised, to my home in Totnes and thought and planned, determined to walk the pilgrimage somehow.

In 1998, on the day after Ash Wednesday, I set out from Totnes again, reached Chartres on 26 February, and at 7.30 the following morning began walking from Notre Dame Cathedral on roads or their hard shoulders. On Thursday 30 April, 63 days later, I reached Santiago, but with bad indigestion the previous day on the road between Melide and Arzua. After gaining my first *compostela* on Saturday 2 May I went to hospital by taxi to learn that I'd had a heart attack, not indigestion. Santiago Two did not end well.

Then as the NHS seemed to be in no hurry to sort out my cardiac

problems, in 1999 I went on Santiago Three, an attempted walk again at the beginning of Lent, close to Los Caminos del Norte, from Santander to Santiago. All went well until the Asturias. Winding up and down the mountains on increasingly narrow roads often with little or no hard shoulder became increasingly hazardous. On the day that I walked down into Gijón I was clipped or nudged four or five times by vehicles. It had become foolhardy to continue, so I gave up once again. However, with the NHS still moving me from one waiting list to another, in 2001 I walked the Camino Portugués from Oporto to Santiago in fourteen days from 20 February. During 2003 the NHS had me into hospital for angioplasty. The delay had been because, due to my injuries, not have been likely to survive major cardiothoracic surgery, I later discovered.

Still filled with ardour for the pilgrimage, and now coming to terms with the wreckage my injuries had left me, on the day after Ash Wednesday, 10 February 2005, I set off once again walking the Vía de la Plata from Salamanca in what turned out to be the worst winter in Spain for over forty years. Nonetheless, some 460km and 22 days later I reached Santiago for my third *compostela*, this time with a left knee that had ceased to co-operate halfway along the journey, so I dragged it with me.

Still with plenty left in me, despite 66 years and my impairments, last year with the help of my eldest niece Margaret, I determined to walk the Camino Inglés from Ferrol. Margaret, due to her work, was able only to have fourteen days in which to do it, with time spent travelling included, but I considered it to be possible. So, Ash Wednesday being 1 March, on Thursday the 2nd, dressed for pilgrimage and with my pack a mere 35 pounds, I went by three different trains with a tight schedule between them to Portsmouth on a cold, wet, windy day for the 21.15 P&O ferry *Pride of Bilbao*. The ferry terminal was packed with people and was in chaos. Margaret arrived from Salisbury an hour or so after me, and when we tried to book in for our passage we learnt that the ferry had not arrived due to heavy weather in the Western Approaches. Our plan was to catch a train from Bilbao to Oviedo, then another train to Ferrol. The ferry, however, left over six hours late and I found that Margaret was a very bad sailor: I saw little of her on the voyage and we were still later berthing at Santurtzi on 4 March. So, we were late reaching Bilbao Abando station and missed the Oviedo train.

With Margaret still green at the gills I rushed her out of the station



to a taxi and we went to the autobus station. The weather was still cold, sleety and windy, but late that evening we reached Gijón: the wind was so strong we had difficulty standing, let alone walking. At dawn the next day we caught a snow-plastered autobus to A Coruña, arriving there only ten minutes before another bus to Ferrol, which we reached before the train from Oviedo did!

Allowing my companion a *café con leche* and a couple of buns, we set off. I found the beginning of the Camino Inglés in the harbour, and that day did the 15km round the ria de Ferrol to Neda where we found rooms at the friendly and welcoming Hostal Maragoto for the night.

Monday 6 March: We were on the road by 8.30am in, for once, fine weather. Margaret was not happy about walking on roads, but at first, unable to find the pilgrim footpaths, we were on the domestic roadside pavements. However, when the path became rough and muddy, I fell twice heavily. My post traumatic vertigo was still very much with me. I fell again crossing the *ponte* entering Pontedume. However, on reaching Miño there was no accommodation to be found, so we had to push on to Betanzos which we reached during the evening, finding rooms at the Hotel Los Angeles. It had been 35km that day. Fifty in total.

Tuesday 7 March: After *desayuno* at 8am we were out into a cold, rainy day. Not finding any waymarks we had to go on roads with a great deal of *autopista* construction work going on, via Manegondo and Montoutos, after which it had to be on roads, some quite dangerous, to the Hotel Cainama at Mesón do Vento in very cold, damp weather.

Wednesday 8 March: There had been no heating or hot water in our rooms the previous night, but they did an 8am *desayuno* and we were out and on the road before 9am. We had to walk on roads as the pilgrim paths were very wet, deep in mud, and therefore very hazardous for me. However, we did the 14km to Ordes, then walked on to Sigüeiro, finding cold rooms (again no heating or hot water) in the Hotel Miras II.

Thursday 9 March: After a cold, very uncomfortable night, we were down for *desayuno* on a cold, rainy day. In planning the route ahead of us the Pilgrim Guide and the more up-to-date notes given to me by Pat Quaife were daunting, with warnings of major road works, dicey-sounding river crossings and so on. So we walked in heavy rain south down the minor AC250 road under the major *autopista* to the N634 by the airport, then along to Lavacolla, which we reached in icy, torrential rain. The traffic on the N634 became quite heavy, and fortunately we came across the turning towards the now well-developed pilgrim site and facilities just east of Monte del Gozo, where we picked up the Camino Francés, which we followed on the pilgrim bridges over the *autopista*, the N550 and the railway into Santiago. Stopping for a coffee and a chance to warm up on the outskirts we carried on into the city to the cathedral which we reached mid-afternoon. After I'd carried out my by now ritual end-of-pilgrimage rites, we went to the pilgrim office, gained our *compostelas* (this being my fourth) and then went to the Hostal Mapoula where I'd booked rooms. We calculated that the route that we'd walked came to about 120km, thus qualifying for the *compostela*.

Finally, on Sunday 12 March, we went by ALSA autobus to Santander for the ferry crossing to Plymouth. The crossing which I thought quite smooth troubled Margaret badly again, but I met the challenge and had her back at work within the two weeks allowed.

So, I'd done it again, and had found out more about what my abilities are now. When we reached Santiago it was only a few weeks to my 67th birthday, and after having used my locomotor gear fully and properly all my life before I was injured, the medical prognosis on my left knee is not good. I shall now rest it.

When is a pilgrimage not a pilgrimage?

Roger & Julie Davies

About five years ago we walked from Pamplona to Santiago de Compostela. It was highly significant for us. Neither of us are regular hikers, nor are we deeply religious but the effect of the pilgrimage was nevertheless profound. We had talked about doing the pilgrimage for many years but did nothing about it. One morning Julie picked up the phone, made all of the necessary arrangements and off we went. No real preparation and no real planning.

The pilgrimage gave us so much that we regularly volunteer to be *hospitaleros* at Rabanal and we do this because we want to give something back to the camino. We are often asked by our family why we walked the camino but we have no definitive answer. I flippantly said at the time “to get Wolves promoted to the premier league”. Well, St James did in fact perform that miracle!

Why do people do it? A pilgrimage is, of course, many things to many different people. To some it is something you plan with military precision. For others it is something you embark upon for deeply personal or religious reasons. Some collect distances like trophies, their walking poles clicking until late into the evening. Some do it by instalments because their jobs demand it. Most find that the pilgrimage has an entirely different effect upon them than they thought it would have and many find it a truly life-changing experience. You can even start off being “a pilgrim tourist” but the ways of St James are many and subtle and can easily transform your life by the simple act of merely walking, facing adversity and having time to contemplate. St James even tolerates chauvinists! A man was overheard saying “men do it to find God: women do it to find a man”. If chauvinists can be tolerated, who can possibly pass judgment on any person’s reasons for starting the pilgrimage? Could it be that what matters most are your experiences on the journey and what you are left with at the end?

Two years ago I had a serious stroke. Thankfully most of my faculties have returned (well, I think they have) but I was left much weaker. Because we have always wanted to walk the Vézelay route through France to St Jean-Pied-de-Port, Julie and I had the idea to walk with a donkey to carry my backpack. We had the good fortune

when at Rabanal to meet Barbara Reed, who has travelled extensively with her donkey, Dali. Barbara has proved to be our guru and also our guardian angel. She found us a donkey (Marguerite) in France and taught us the ways of donkeys. She trained us on her beloved Dali and took us to a saddler and pannier-maker in Cahors in February last year to get us kitted out. We were all set for our walk in September/October.

Unlike our first pilgrimage this one did not last the expected six weeks but merely four days. Although I was the one who was expected to conk out, it was Marguerite our donkey who unexpectedly developed a respiratory infection. The vet was called and on his recommendation our pilgrimage drew to an end. I should add that Marguerite is now in good health having made an excellent recovery.

Before, during and after our pilgrimage was halted, the generosity we found in France was staggering. People en route were welcoming and helpful, passers by gave food and water and places were found for us to stay. Our guardian angel Barbara Reed rescued us in her horsebox from a remote area of France. Not only that, she insisted on making her *gîte* available for us for two weeks whilst our friends in the UK put together a rescue package (code named Operation Wonky Donkey) to bring Marguerite back to England. Our close friends Sue and David were going to collect us when we reached St Jean-Pied-de-Port, but dropped everything and changed all their arrangements to ship us and donkey back home at the earliest opportunity.

I am a solicitor and my wife Julie is a retired teacher and we think that we are down-to-earth people. So why then do two perfectly rational people (well, we think so) whose faith could be described as humanist/agnostic and who understand the history surrounding the original reason for the pilgrimage, perpetually talk of St James as if he actually exists? And why do we keep saying "St James will provide"?

What did all of this teach us? To begin with I found out that I was much physically stronger than I thought I was. We found tremendous support from our friends who got us back across the channel. You get to know who your real friends are when you need help. Barbara Reed, our donkey guru, has helped us in so many different ways. Perfect strangers too numerous to mention have been so kind to us.

Was it a pilgrimage? We do not think that it is the length of time that counts but the experiences along the way. Our conclusion therefore is that even on a four day pilgrimage St James has been working overtime yet again. Or could it be that we are simply in awe of the coincidences?

Reflections on Rabanal

One year later

Susan Edwards

We were a match made in heaven. I didn't know what to expect from my Gaucelmo term of duty or from my roommate Barbara Dawe, a fellow American from New York City. Walking from León, I wondered if she would be approaching Rabanal on foot, and as I got closer to my destination, I listened for an American voice. I was half afraid she would be an intense, fast-talking city girl, while I am a middle-aged mom and art teacher at a large public high school on a small Caribbean island. My apprehension was unfounded. Barbara and I complemented each other perfectly, down to the blue and orange colour scheme of our re-decorated dream room.

We were expecting two English gentlemen to join us, but one had to cancel. Bruce Hunter dramatised his arrival by not appearing until 9pm, which seemed terribly late to us but wasn't even dinnertime in Spain. We couldn't have been more relieved if he had ridden in on a white charger like Don Quinoines on the bridge in Hospital de Orbigo. Barbara had served as a *hospitalera* in Ponferrada, but I was a novice with a sketchy command of the language, mostly hand signals. Our knight in shining armour was a repeater and spoke in several tongues.

As I had arrived first and been given a whirlwind tour of the grounds and village, meeting most of the cast of characters, I had an idea of what my preferred assignments would be. The outgoing wardens detailed their dizzily rotating duty roster, but three of us worked out our own schedule that was to our liking. I was up at five every day to brew the coffee and slice the bread and after breakfast headed for the bathrooms with *Señor Limpio*. Barbara was laundress extraordinaire, spoiling Bruce and me by doing our clothes as well as the sheets, blankets and tea towels. Bruce was up early and last to bed, official greeter, accountant, kitchen and library cleaner, patio hoser, gas tank wrangler, pan man negotiator, and best of all, luncheon organiser. No slap dash meals on the run for us. After we bade our last guest farewell, we enjoyed a tranquil breakfast together. We invariably

had the same take on our diverse array of visitors and enjoyed them all. I taught Bruce and Barbara the West Indian trick of placing a broom upside down by the door to persuade a reluctant departing guest to be on his way. We only had to do it twice, and it worked both times.

Cleaning the bathrooms was hard work, but rewarding. One day I was blessed with the miracle of the glowing sink, an ethereal sight that must happen only once a year, if that, when the sun shines through a tiny window in the upstairs *john* at exactly the right angle to illuminate only a circle of white porcelain surrounding the drain of the wash basin closet closest to the door. My favourite chore however, not just because it was the last one of the morning, was taking the rubbish to the tip, a new set of words for our American ears that Barbara and I laughed about daily. That job had the added bonus of delivering bread scraps to the owner of chickens at the top of the village.

And then the highlight of the day – our trip to Angela's for lunch supplies and our famous smorgasbord of salad, cheeses, sausages, olives, succulent fruit and crusty bread, taken every day, save one, outside on the picnic table under the brilliant blue Spanish sky. Fortunately, Bruce thought to bring the Grey Poupon (mustard) from home. Every day we said "this is paradise". The one rainy, cold day that we dined inside was Barbara's birthday, a celebration complete with cake, candles, gummy worms, presents and an honoured guest, Julian, on leave from the Sisters of Mercy in Calcutta.

After lunch, we opened the floodgates, Bruce recited the rules in four languages, Barbara stamped the *sello*, and I heaved the backpacks *arriba*

y abajo. After a few days, Bruce decided we were ready for alternating afternoons off, so we were able to explore the nearby villages and countryside. Barbara and I always had dinner together at 8pm and we enjoyed Gaspar's and Antonio's equally, though for different reasons. They adjusted to our odd eating habits (no French fries!) and we relaxed into our hedonistic lifestyle. Bruce went out after lock-up at 10pm, by which time I was sound asleep in our cosy quarters, while Barbara stayed up chatting with the night owls.

Amidst all this activity, we took time out for God. The glorious chant of our neighbouring Benedictine monks in their restored Romanesque church across the way was my main reason for wanting to return to Rabanal del Camino, and I was never disappointed. One evening, a cycling pilgrim treated us to a cello concert in the church.

On 11 July - the feast day of St Benedict, the monks filled the church with fresh flowers, a preview of the festivities of St James's Day.

I have memories enough to last me a good while, but before they fade away, will sign up for another stint and gather some new ones. And this time I will bring a bread knife with me. And super new grout cleaner!

Susan Edwards is an American member resident on St Thomas - US Virgin Islands

St James's Day 2007

Rabanal del Camino

Paul Graham

Yes, we expect 2,000 pilgrims through here each year". That expectation, back in 1990, would today bring the total number of pilgrims to have stayed at Refugio Gaucelmo to about 34,000. But this summer we are expecting to receive the 100,000th pilgrim.

Together with the El Bierzo Association, the CSJ funded and developed this refuge. The Confraternity, therefore, plans to mark this event by celebrating Saint James's Day this year in Rabanal. All CSJ members are, of course, welcome – together with family and friends.

Briefly, the plan is to spend three nights there: 23rd, 24th and 25th. On the afternoon of 24th there will be a *tapas* party in the *huerta*, with local hams and cheeses and other good things to eat and drink. On the evening of 25th, there will be an evening service in the church with the Arch-abbot of St-Otilien ('mother' house of the Rabanal monks) presiding. This will be followed by a special meal at Gaspar's restaurant in the village. Otherwise, your time is your own to do as you please; some will team-up with others to go on a walk, others will take a car-load to re-visit a favourite place and some may simply stay put.

Some administrative matters

Those coming are asked to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, we have made a block booking of rooms at both Antonio's and Gaspar, but once these have been taken up on a first come – first served basis (sharing will help) it will be 'over to you'. With regard to meals, a simple pilgrim breakfast will be available in Gaucelmo each day at 8 o'clock – after that night's pilgrims have left. But you may prefer to have breakfast in your hotel. We shall supply you with a voucher for each of the three evening meals. For the first two evenings the voucher will cover the cost of a pilgrim supper; if you chose to have something more expensive, the waiter will ask you to pay the difference. The meal on 25th will be a set menu. The vouchers will only be usable in Antonio's or Gaspar. To cover the cost of the vouchers, we ask that you send to me (see my address below) a cheque

for £30, payable to the CSJ. We will then settle up with the hotels at the end.

If you plan to come, please write to me at Somer House, Britannia Close, The Street, Chilcompton, Somerset BA3 4LB, enclosing your cheque for £30 and, if you hope to stay in Rabanal, stating whether or not you are prepared to share a room. It would be helpful if you could indicate how you might be travelling so we can put people arriving at similar times in eg Astorga in touch with each other, so taxis could be shared. Tel 01761 232630, email p.graham2712@btinternet.com. I should be able to tell you quite soon whether or not I have secured a bed for you.

Book Reviews

The Santiago Tales

Adele Birnbaum, 2006, *Walking Stick Press, Salem, Oregon*

ISBN 0-9779044-0-7 Copy in CSJ Library

This book is the result of an intriguing idea, conceived by an American retired professor of medieval literature and Chaucer enthusiast, in search of the experience of the Wife of Bath from *The Canterbury Tales*, having alighted on the destination of Santiago as more representative of pilgrimage in present times. It is an idiosyncratic book, difficult to pigeon-hole as it contains much already familiar to the modern pilgrim to Santiago yet with some striking insights here and there. A detailed description of the *botafumeiro* in action is very evocative, and reactions to the camino by residents of Barcelona, where the author began her visit to Spain were revealing.

Much of the book is devoted to her personal quest of tracking down friends and contacts from earlier days in Spain and the friendship and hospitality she found from the Spanish families she encounters. It is difficult to engage with these stories from a pilgrimage angle as her contact with actual pilgrims on the camino is fairly limited, and so many of the tales she tells are more of a general traveller's diary. Her enthusiasm for Spain, the Spanish friends she meets with and the old Spain she eventually tracks down near Arzua are counterbalanced by her disparaging and sweeping comments on the Spanish *refugios*, which are unfair, particularly in view of her lack of first-hand experience and limited contact with actual pilgrims. She decided early on that the Wife of Bath would have travelled in far more comfort and on horseback: "upon an amblere esily she sat", not on foot, and would have slept in more comfortable accommodation.

As she progresses along the camino, working on a patchwork at intervals and staying mainly in hotels in the larger towns, walking short distances then continuing by bus, trying to recreate the Wife of Bath's pilgrimage, she realises too late that she had undertaken her journey under a misapprehension of the likely style and route of her English predecessor, an amusing dénouement. There are some humorous touches in the discrepancy between the accounts in the guides and diaries she uses here and there, and her actual experiences. She also comes to the conclusion that it would have been useful to have contacted the Confraternity before embarking on her travels: her unsuccessful attempt to find Laurie Dennett in Leboreiro rather than

in O Cebreiro through a confusion of names would then have been avoided. The figure of the Wife of Bath is conjured up towards the end of the book and an imaginary conversation ensues.

At the end of the book is a translation into modern English of the relevant section from The Canterbury Tales. (Does not “Boloigne” in the original text refer to Boulogne rather than Bologna?) An unusual and attractively produced book, 156 pages long, and illustrated with some colour plates and maps plus the author’s own line drawings.

LIZ KEAY,

Forgotten Diamond

Charles Randal & John Sorell 2006, , 316pp.

ISBN 978-1-84728-358-0 Available on: www.lulu.com/content/376488 for £7.97 plus p&p. Copy in CSJ Library

Initially, *Forgotten Diamond* focuses on Santo Domingo de la Calzada with the parallel narratives of two hapless victims. One, a present-day pilgrim, garrotted as he prayed inside the cathedral, is now fighting for his life. The other is his medieval counterpart, the young German pilgrim who, unjustly accused of theft and hanged, was miraculously saved by St Dominic (and his innocence confirmed by the crowing of a roasted cock and hen). Within a few pages, however, the reader realises that *Forgotten Diamond* is not a camino novel.....

Summer 1907, and the Russian imperial yacht is cruising around the Baltic. On board, the courtiers accompanying the Tsar and Tsarina include a trusted favourite, Prince Vladimir Varlov. During the voyage, Nicholas and Alexandra – already fearful for the future of the Romanovs – entrust a priceless 150 carat uncut diamond to the Prince for safe-keeping and instruct him to ‘look after it and treat it as if it were your own’. Maybe in the years to come they will have need of it, maybe not. Despite the confidential nature of this exchange, rumour reaches the yacht’s commander Admiral Kortaski who for years has nurtured a visceral loathing towards Varlov. He despises the Prince’s privilege, abhors his homosexuality, and hates him for having married Anya – whom he had hoped to wed. The ‘gift’ of the diamond further fuels his enmity.

Fast forward a century and in London, Vladimir’s grandson, Peter, is facing a ruinous debt of £2.5m – incurred as a Lloyd’s ‘Name’. His contact at Lloyd’s, the agent who first recruited him and who is now pursuing the debt, is none other than the Admiral’s grandson, Anatole.

The scene is now set for a riveting drama that ricochets between

London, Moscow, Antwerp, Geneva, and Lisbon. At the heart of the action is the Tsarina's diamond, which, despite the book's title, is by no means 'forgotten'. In addition to Peter and Anatole, those preoccupied with the giant gem include Anatole's scheming, vindictive brother, a duplicitous banker, a light-fingered diamond worker and two ex-KGB operatives who retain their pre-*glasnost* ruthlessness. None of these characters – motivated by greed or vengeance or both – is particularly pleasant and, at times, 'a plague o' both your houses' sums up one's reaction to the Kortaski-Varlov feud.

Members of the supporting cast are, however, more likeable. Especially François and Wilhelm, walking companions on the way to Compostela who – in the wrong place at the wrong time – get caught up in the story's frenzied dénouement at Santo Domingo de la Calzada.

This multi-faceted, fast-moving tale has been meticulously researched. There is in-depth detail about every topic introduced from Russian imperial yachts and whippet coursing, to diamond cutting and, of course the City (no surprise here as both authors have a background in finance). Perhaps there is too much detail: research should inform but, like an iceberg, only show its tip.

If *Forgotten Diamond* reaches this happy stage of being reprinted, that could be an opportunity to remedy the uneven word spacing – a distracting irritation – and to use a more robust binding. The CSJ library copy started to disintegrate on its second reading.

CATHERINE DELL

The Slowest Pilgrim

Harry Townsend, 2006, with Foreword by Alan Titchmarsh;

£5.99; Dreamtime Publications, ISBN 0-9554396-0-4

Copy in CSJ Library and for sale in Bookshop

Fundraising was Harry Townsend's reason for walking the Camino Francés. Fundraising for the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Research Fund, a charity Harry and his three sons set up after his wife Myfanwy sadly died in 1999 from malignant melanoma.

As fundraising goes Harry's 38 day walk to Santiago is not very successful: only £112.50 raised. As for the pilgrimage experience: it has been one of the great experiences of Harry's life.

Having completed successfully other challenges like climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, and running the Death Valley Marathon, it would be easy to think that walking 760km on the Camino would just be another challenge. However, when retired Harry (who used to work

at Kew Gardens) sets off from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port at the height of summer 2003, he is facing some surprises: that he likes *café grande con leche* (despite hating coffee at home), that arriving at 2pm at a refugio does not give him a choice of bunk bed, and that there is often no toilet paper to be had.

He adapts to life on the Camino by trying to leave early in the mornings in the cool of the day. Yet, he cannot leave too early as it is too dark to see, and Harry is prone to losing the way. He meets numerous interesting characters and fellow pilgrims, like Popeye the unsuccessful juggler, the flute, bagpipe, and accordion playing Worzel Gummidge, the Gloucester Girls, and the delectable Charlotte, an aspiring German actress, ...

As he gets nearer to Santiago the worry increases that for some reason he might not be able to complete the Camino. So he is awe-struck when finally arriving in the Cathedral. Receiving the *Compostela* is one of the great moments of his life.

The book is organised in a very straight forward manner: it begins with a short general introduction about the Camino with tips and hints for others who don't know much about the pilgrimage. This is followed by the description of the walk, broken up into daily stages. The heading of each chapter gives the stage, with additional information on the daily distance, and total distance left to Santiago. Small maps illustrate the distances walked and the location on the Camino.

Written in an idiosyncratic style Harry provides a wealth of information, i.e. the times he sets off in the mornings, the prices of shopping and meals etc. He also clearly illustrates the pressure and stress pilgrims can find themselves under when walking in the summer months of July and August. He often worries whether he will be 'in the team' on arrival at a refugio, meaning: will he get a bunk? Summer is also the time of year when there seem to be lots of people on the Camino who look on it as a cheap and well-supported challenge trail. Harry's conclusion to that is that whatever their initial intent, every challenger gains from the Camino.

The book is the personal narrative of what daily life can be like on the Camino Francés during the peak season. In this context it would be useful for those who consider walking the Camino Francés in summer.

• If you would like to support the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Research Fund visit www.melanoma-fund.co.uk; or contact Harry on harry@melanoma-fund.co.uk

ANGELIKA SCHNEIDER

Members' Pages

From Francis Dunlop

I was very interested to read Priscilla White's article on St Vincent of Zaragoza in the December 2006 edition of the *Bulletin*, a saint probably better known in Spain as San Vicente Mártir. From the article we learn that, after many appalling trials and tribulations, the saint's body was buried beneath a chapel "outside the walls of Valencia". Now it seems unlikely to be a coincidence that the old Santiago pilgrimage route from Valencia (about which I wrote in a recent number of the *Bulletin*) begins at Valencia Cathedral and follows the Calle de San Vicente Mártir along its entire course, past the ancient hospital of St Vincent, past a Gothic cross (now in the centre of the road) which marked the bounds of the old city, and as far as the suburb of San Marcelino, over 2km from the cathedral. This might well be (this is my guess) the location of the chapel beneath which the martyred saint was buried. An important Roman road ran south from the city, and the modern pilgrim will be constantly reminded of the fact. One who takes this pilgrim route will also be frequently reminded from church dedications and street names of the importance of St Vincent in the Spanish church.

From Kate Lack

If you are interested in knowing more about medieval pilgrimages to Rome I can recommend the following two positions:

Ortenberg, V (1990) Archbishop Sigeric's Journey to Rome in 990 *Anglo-Saxon England* 19, 197-246.

Magoun, F (1944) The Pilgrim-Diary of Nikulas of Munkathvera *Medieval Studies* 6, 314-354.

From Sandra Collier

Pilgrims in Australia will be meeting at 12 noon on the first Saturday of the even months in 2007; ie - 7 April (Easter), 2 June, 4 August, 6 October and 1 December at the Spanish Club

88 Liverpool Street, (near Town Hall Station).

Our functions will be recorded on www.csj.org.uk. Please check for details on: Other English-language Associations Australia and New Zealand Australian Pilgrim Events.

Please note that I will no longer be sending group e-mails. For

more information you can contact Sandra Collier on 00 612 9362 1912 or 00 614 14 677 386.

From Catherine Widdicombe

I am a member of the Confraternity who had a providential meeting with two pilgrims in France. My sister Paula and her husband have a farmhouse in France, situated on one of the routes to Compostela. I have stayed with them several times and I've often walked along that road hoping to meet some pilgrims. However I never did. Not until the summer of 2006. Getting out of bed rather later than usual I looked out of the window to see what the weather was doing – and there were two people with huge rucksacks standing there looking around them. Putting a quick comb through my hair and donning slippers and an old but brightly coloured M&S dressing gown over my nightie, I rushed downstairs and out of the gate onto the road. “Good morning,” I said. To which they replied in unison, “Good morning, are you English?” I said “Are you going to Compostela?” They were.

Within five minutes we were animatedly swapping our pilgrim tales over big mugs of tea made by David who, wondering what all the noise was about, had wandered in clad in his pyjamas. Paula soon joined us, hearing all the racket from the kitchen.

Mark and Connie turned out to be a recently retired Catholic couple from Anchorage, Alaska, where they live close to a retreat centre run by Jesuits and where they go to Mass.

They told us how they had previously walked from the Pyrenees to the shrine in Compostela, and how they had looked after a Catholic *refugio* in Spain for three weeks.

Now, they told us, they were taking several months to walk there again, this time starting from Namur in Belgium. They hoped to be in Compostela by November. Before we tore ourselves apart, and after they had ascertained that my affiliation with The Grail was not really like being a member of the Opus Dei, Paula and I received an invitation to stay with them in 2008 in Alaska either in May or June, which are the mosquito-free months. As it is rather a long way to go, both Paula and I thought we would precede it with a retreat at the Jesuit Centre.

From Brian McKenna

Having cycled the Tours route last year I would like to share with the membership the following information:

Melle: go to tourist office - they will phone a couple living in the Presbytery and check if they have room for you - extremely comfortable - eat with family - very homely.

St Jean d'Angély: Two rooms in private house for pilgrims:

Catherine Gair

36 Avenue de Rochefort

17400 St Jean d'Angély

Mirambeau: Hotel De L'Union

Bordeaux: Centre Louise Beaulieu

145 rue de Saint Genes

33082 Bordeaux

Lesperon: L'Escalandes Hotel

Biarritz: Maison Diocesane

10 Avenue Jean Darrigrand.

Exhibitions 1

New member Jill Swainson has an Exhibition in Brighton called *Reflections*, with over 50 photographs of landscapes in France, including on the route from le Puy, Ireland and Southern England. Chris Gull Gallery, Ship Street, Brighton, open Friday 30 March 4-7pm, Sunday 15 April, 4-7pm. See www.jillswainsonphotography.com for pictures and phone 07802 539752 or email jill@swainson.fsnet.co.uk for more openings.

Exhibitions 2

Oliver Harland (son of Mcfo Phillips) who showed some of his work in Pilgrim's Eye, the CSJ's 2006 Art Exhibition in Guildford cathedral, has a solo exhibition entitled Vézelay from Saturday 28 April to Wednesday 9 May at Georges House Gallery, 8 The Old High Street, Folkestone, Kent CT21 1RL. Exhibition open to public Monday to Sunday, 10am - 5pm.

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

AGM Lost property

A nice bright striped narrow scarf was found after the AGM. Also an A5 'niceday' exercise book diary with handwritten notes please contact the office to reclaim.

Volunteer needed

The case the load of the Secretary we are looking for a Minutes Secretary to attend committee meetings and prepare the Minutes. Meetings are held at 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 on the first Tuesday of odd numbered months, from 7-9.30pm. There is one Saturday Garden Meeting in July or August which a Minutes Secretary would be welcome to attend. The Minutes should be prepared about one week after the meeting and emailed to the Secretary for wider circulation. This would suit a local person who is reasonably familiar with the Camino, if not with the CSJ. If you think you might be interested please contact Marion at the Office. We are very grateful to Pat Watson who has undertaken this task for the last couple of years.

Opportunity for 18-26 year olds

Do you know any young pilgrim who would be interested to join a group of other young people on an expenses paid (but they have to pay their travel to Spain and back) for a familiarisation tour of the Via de la Plata organised by the Junta of Extremadura from 9-15 April. Any names to the office asap please.

Pilgrim burials in Aberdeen

The excavations at East Kirk of St Nicholas continue. In week 46 (December 2006) a 12th century burial with 2 scallop shells was found. The shells were placed near the head and may have been stitched to a large hood. Fragments of bark may be the remains of a pilgrim staff. See www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/LocalHistory/NC/loc_ArchKirk_wk46.asp

Help needed on the Via de la Plata

One of the sites considered for the CSJ's second refuge was an old hotel at Miraltajo, just north of Caceres. The passing trade had declined due to the building of a motorway but there was a need for some pilgrim accommodation. The hotel was bought by a Dutch couple, Linda and Maarten, who are running special interest holidays as well as being open for pilgrims. However, they would like help from a couple or friends looking after the refuge side from March to June 2007. See www.lindamar.net for more information. Email info@lindamar.net, tel 00 34 927 192 092.

Slide Library

Slides (donated by members of the CSJ) are available for loan to those giving talks about the Camino and the pilgrimage. Please contact John Hatfield 01622 757814 preferably a month before slides are needed and he will send a catalogue. Slides are available for nearly all routes.

Camino Portugués: Lisbon - Porto

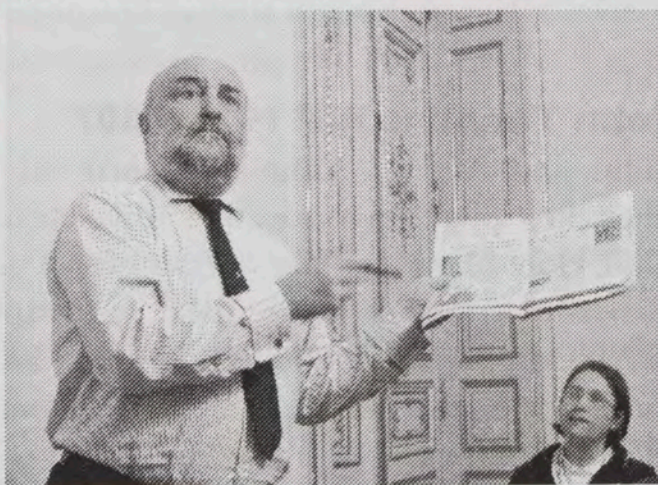
John Brierley, the author of the guide to the *Camino Portugués* from Porto to Santiago (Camino Guides: Findhorn Press, 2005) is currently studying the Lisbon-Porto section of this route. He points out that, although this route is now well-waymarked, it lacks pilgrim infrastructure so that at present it should only be undertaken by experienced walkers with good physical fitness and a reasonable grasp of the Portuguese language. However, if you fulfil these criteria and are interested in walking the route, John has prepared two basic information sheets with coloured maps, which are available in pdf format direct from www.caminoguides.com (click on updates).

International Colloquium in Paris, December 2006



William Griffiths, Gosia Brykczynska, Pat Quaife, Francis Davey, John Hatfield and I all attended this Colloquium organised by the Société des Amis de Saint-Jacques de Compostelle. It was in part a tribute to the late M. Renée de la Coste Messelière, their founder. The Secretary, Mlle Jeannine Warcollier, fondly but exasperatedly recalled the early years of the Association when M de la Coste would pull many strings to, and always by the skin of his teeth, organise exhibitions to publicise

the towns and regions of the four main routes through France as well as pilgrimages on foot, by bicycle and horseback to Santiago. Other contributors addressed the theme: *Les Chemins de Saint-Jacques: Mythe ou Realite?* An intervention was made by our own chairman – on the subject of vicarious Pilgrimages. See his Chairman's Report for further exploits at the conference. The conclusion? The 'Myth' is the 'Reality'.



Photographs by Gabrielle Latzel

Apology

If there are items of news which you were expecting to see in this Notebook and which are missing I apologise: my file of papers prepared for this section was lost when my bag was stolen on Ash Wednesday. I have compiled as much as I can from other sources.

Obituaries

Dominic McDonnell RIP

Dominic and his wife Mary joined the CSJ in the early days of 1985. Often mistaken for Bishop Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Dominic loved music from plainsong to Gilbert & Sullivan and was a generous host and bon viveur. His working life was in personnel and training, mostly for C&A. In retirement he and Mary travelled widely, especially to Spain. They were regulars in the CSJ group visits to France & Spain, and were to have joined the group visiting Burgundy last autumn. However, Dominic was already ill and by the time the diagnosis was confirmed he did not have long to live. At the packed funeral at his church of St Dunstan in Woking several of his grandchildren read and prayed. His daughter Claire is married to Paul Darke, who spoke on the Special Pilgrims Meeting about following the Camino by car and with a wheelchair. And his brother Terry hopes to follow the Camino Portugues this year.

MARION MARPLES

John Timmins RIP 1920-2007

John and Audrey Timmins joined the CSJ in 1993. They made their first pilgrimage together to celebrate their Golden Wedding in that Holy Year, arriving on the eve of anniversary day and gaining extensive coverage in the local newspapers. John had served in the RAF Coastal Command (relieved that he did not have to drop bombs on anyone) and was a meticulous planner. At the Practical Pilgrim day in Southwell he astounded us all with the care he had taken to research the difficult Camino Primitivo. He wrote to all the Tourist Offices in towns along the way and had a pretty complete list of all available accommodation. So when he and Audrey were struggling in appalling weather and turned away from a monastery due to the absence of the guestmaster they did not despair-there was a hotel some kilometres away in Oviedo which could be reached before dark! Although Audrey is a Christian, John set out as a walker to Santiago. On the way he got to know God and in 1996 was baptised and confirmed - his pilgrim faith gave him great pleasure and strength, especially in his final illness.

MM

CSJ Publications

Marion Marples

Camino Francés 2007

William Bissett has prepared an 2007 edition of the CSJ's annual guide. The main changes reflect the increased amount of accommodation available all along the route. Price £6.00

Los Caminos del Norte F Camino Primitivo Oviedo – Camino Frances

Eric Walker, 2007. A new edition of the Guide for this attractive and mountainous route, first taken by Alfonso II when he went from Oviedo to authenticate the discovery of the body of James by the hermit Pelayo. Price £5.00

The Cycling Pilgrim

Ed John Curtin. The 2007 edition will include revised suggested routes for touring bikes which had been omitted from the 2006 edition. Price £2.50

The Riding Pilgrim

A new booklet in the Practical Pilgrim series compiled with help from Mefo Phillips, Babette Gallard and Barbara Reed with advice for those contemplating pilgrimages on horseback with or without back-up or with donkeys. Price £2.50

Paris Pilgrim – ready April 2007

An updated version by Hilary Hugh-Jones giving two walks in central Paris around medieval sites connected with the pilgrimage to Santiago. Price £5.00

Warwickshire – ready May 2007

The second booklet in the County Guide series (Leicestershire appeared in 1995!). The churches dedicated to St James and representations of the saint to be found in Warwickshire were visited and photographed by John (RIP) and Katherine Jenkins, who also give an introduction to the routes pilgrims may have taken through the county. Price £5.00

CSJ Events

Please see also the Miraz Newsletter for other fundraising events.
More events may be organised in the second half of the year.

Saturday 31 March

Office Open Day

10.30-3.30pm. The Office is open for advice and the library for browsing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 28 April

Office Open Day

10.30-3.30pm. The Office is open for advice and the library for browsing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 30 June

Office Open Day

10.30-3.30pm. The Office is open for advice and the library for browsing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Mon 23-Thurs 26 July

Rabanal

Celebrations in Rabanal del Camino for the 100,000th Pilgrim who will be arriving at Gaucelmo this spring, and the visit of the Arch-Abbot of St-Ottilien. See article by Paul Graham.

Wednesday 25 July

St James's Day

Fri 28 September–Fri 5 October

Visit to Poland

An informal visit to Poland to meet with some of the new Confraternities being founded and explore the Polish connections. Please contact the Office for more details, including price, asap if you are interested.

Saturday 29 September

Office Open Day

10.30-3.30pm. The Office is open for advice and the library for browsing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 6 October**‘Giving Something Back’**

This is an opportunity to learn about the requirements and opportunities for becoming a *hospitalera/o* or *hospitalier/ière* in France or Spain and to hear about the experience of giving hospitality on the routes in France or Spain. John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road,. London SE1 8NY 10am - 5pm.

Fri 2–Sun 4 November**Returned Pilgrim Retreat**

To be lead by Fr Benjamin Griffiths, parish priest of Ilkey, Yorks. Meditations on the elements of the camino journey, time to share experiences and a local walk. Accommodation in twin or single rooms, price £100 to include meals. Please contact the Office with a deposit of £40 per head to reserve a place.

Saturday 17 November**‘Where Next?’**

A Practical Pilgrim-type day to learn about some of the Other Routes to Santiago, including the *Caminos del Norte* and the *Via de la Plata* as well as to Nidaros in Norway and Rome (in association with the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome).

John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1, 10am-5pm

Saturday 24 November**Office Open Day**

10.30-3.30pm. The Office is open for advice and the library for browsing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

New Members

Information is provided for members' personal use only.

LONDON

Ms Rachel Escott & Mr David Steel	020 7242 5373
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Mr James Noble	020 7348 7601
9 Hillbury Road London SW17 8JT	
Dr Peter & Mrs Sue Sanders	020 7168 8494
46 Gayton Road Hampstead London NW3 1TU	

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1 Rectory Close Slapton Leighton Buzzard Beds. LU7 9BZ	

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10 The Green Evenley Brackley Northants. NN13 5SQ

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107 Thorndale Road, Cheveley Park Belmont Durham DH1 2AQ	
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Miss. Laura McCormick 0061 3 9782 2620
630 Hall Road Cranbourne Victoria 3977 Australia
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45 Doncaster Drive Beechmont QLD 4211 Australia
Mrs Dawn & Mr David Miller 0061 2 9416 3643
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Ms Pura & Dr Hamid Mohsenzadeh
4/1 Wardie Street South Freemantle WA 6162 Australia
Mr John & Mrs Monica Murphy 0061 3 9703 5670
47 Willslie Crescent Berwick Victoria 3806 Australia

Mr Keith & Mrs Norma Nicholson	0061 7 3399 3052
33 Suvla Street Balmoral Brisbane QLD 4171 Australia	
Mr John Spiller	0061 7 3278 1899
20 Thalia Court Corinda QLD 4075 Australia	

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Mrs Barbara Mackenzie & Mr Michael Austin	0064 9817 1404
44 Tinopai Road, PO Box 60544 Titirangi Auckland 6042 New Zealand	
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The editors of our guides are always keen to receive feedback. If you have recently been on any part of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, have used one of the guides listed below, and wish to pass on the benefit of your experience to those who may come after you, please contact the relevant author/s:

Pilgrim Guides to Spain

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Camino Francés | William Bisset |
| | £6.00 | editorcf@csj.org.uk |
| 2 | Camino Mozárabe | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| | £5.00 | alisonraju@btopenworld.com |
| 3 | Finisterre | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| | £4.00 | alisonraju@btopenworld.com |
| 4 | Los Caminos del Norte | Eric Walker, 4 Gawthorpe Avenue, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire BD16 4DG |
| | £2.50 | (01274) 562559 |
| 5 | Camino Portugués | Rod Pascoe, The White House, Pensilva, LISKEARD, Cornwall PL14 5NA |
| | new edition in preparation | (01579) 362819 |
| 6 | Madrid to Sahagún | Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH |
| | £4.00 | (01763) 244525 |
| 7 | Camino Inglés | Patricia Quaife & Francis Davey, 1 North Street, Topsham, EXETER, Devon |
| | £4.00 | EX3 0AP |

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| | £5.00 | (01763) 244525 |
| 2 | Vézelay to the Pyrenees | John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ (01622) 757814 |
| | n/a | |
| 3 | Le Puy to the Pyrenees | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| | £5.00 | alisonraju@btopenworld.com |
| 4 | Arles to Puente la Reina | Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH |
| | £7.50 | (01763) 244525 |

Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through Europe

- | | | |
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| 2 | Nürnberg to Konstanz | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| | £5.00 | alisonraju@btopenworld.com |
| 4 | Via Gebennensis | Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB |
| | £3.00 | alisonraju@btopenworld.com |

Practical Pilgrim Notes	for Walkers	£1.50
	for Cyclists	£2.50
	for Riders	£2.50
	Winter Pilgrim	£1.00
	Which Camino?	£2.50

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

Confraternity of Saint James

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27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY

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

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

Confraternity of Saint James

2007 DIARY

See also Bulletins & Miraz Newsletter for other meetings

Saturday 27 January	AGM, Talk and Party: Baldwin's Gardens, EC1, speaker Stephen Shipley, BBC Religion & Ethics producer
Saturday 17 February	Practical Pilgrim: Camino Francés & Le Puy routes, New Mechanics Institute, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham
Saturday 3 March	Practical Pilgrim: Camino Francés & Vézelay route (John Hatfield), 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1, 10.30-6pm
Saturday 17 March	Practical Pilgrim: Camino Francés, Our Lady & St George Church, Penilee, 50 Sandwood Road, Glasgow G52 2QE
Wednesday 21 March	Lecture Recital: <i>The Musical Road to Santiago de Compostela: the 15th c route from Einsiedeln of Fr Hermann König von Vach</i> , Dr Mary Remnant, 6.30pm, Cervantes Institute, 102 Eaton Sq, SW1, £10, conc £8. In aid of Miraz Appeal. Tickets from Office.
Saturday 31 March	Office Open Day , 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 28 April	Office Open Day , 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 30 June	Office Open Day , 10.30-3.30pm
Mon 23 –Thurs 26 July	St James's Day and 100,000th pilgrim celebration: Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino
Wednesday 25 July	St James's Day Mass , St James's Church, Spanish Place, W1, 6pm
Fri 28 Sept-Fri 5 Oct	Visit to Poland: discovering St James
Saturday 29 September	Office Open Day , 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 6 October	Giving Something Back- hospitality on the camino in France & Spain, John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1, 10-5pm
Fri 2-Sun 4 November	Returned Pilgrim Retreat , Ampleforth Abbey, Yorks, led by Fr Ben Griffiths, approx £100pp
Saturday 17 November	Where next? Pilgrimage to Rome, Nidaros (Norway) and the Caminos del Norte and Via de la Plata (Spain): practical advice and information, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1

Saturday 24 November **Office Open Day**, 10.30-3.30pm

For further information on any of these events please contact:

Confraternity of Saint James, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY
 Tel 020 7928 9988 • Fax 020 7928 2844 • Email events@csj.org.uk • Web
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Confraternity of Saint James

Publications List / Spring 2007

Order by post or through www.csj.org.uk/bookshop

Guides, Historical & Contemporary Accounts

Abbé de Ste Foy, Hosp St Jacques	En Chemin vers St Jacques , 1993, 92pp (Info on Le Puy route, prayers & hymns in French)	£2.50
Association Rhone- Alpes	De Genève au Puy-en-Velay , 2007, 60pp (Guide in French, German to 350km way, accomm and facilities)	£6.50
Association Via Francigena	Vademecum A , 2002, 95pp (Guide to route London, France –Alps, in French, Italian, English)	£6.00
Association Via Francigena	Vademecum B , 2002, 95pp (Guide to Alps -Rome, in French, Italian, English)	£6.00
Association Via Francigena	Topofrancigena A , 2004, 42pp (Route maps in colour Canterbury-Great St Bernard Pass)	£13.00
Association Via Francigena	Topofrancigena B , 2004, 42pp (Route maps in colour Alps-Rome)	£13.00
Auberger, Fr J-B, ofm	Livret Culturel et Spirituel du Pèlerin de St-Jacques , sur la Voie de Vézelay	£10.00
Baldwin, David	Santiago de Compostela - the Way of Saint James , 2001, 86pp (Account of walk from Le Puy & selected devotional material)	£1.95
Brierley, John	A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino Fisterra , 2003, 95pp (practical guide with sketch maps to way to Finisterre and Muxia)	£9.95
Brierley, John	A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino Francés , 2005, 317pp (practical guide with sketch maps of way in Spain)	£16.99
Brierley, John	A Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino Portugués , 2005, 175pp (practical guide with sketch maps of way in Portugal)	£12.95
Champion, Christian	miam-miam-dodo en el Camino Francés , 2007 (schematic guide in French, with glossary, to route and facilities in Spain)	£12.00
Clouteau, Jacques	miam-miam-dodo , 2007 (schematic guide in French to Le Puy route with food and rest info, plus glossary)	£11.00
Chassain, J-C & M	Itinéraire du Pèlerin de Saint-Jacques: Voie de Vézelay , 2005, (Notes, route description, maps, accommodation, in French plus introduction and glossary in English)	£24.00
Davey, Francis	William Wey: an English pilgrim to Compostella in 1456 , 2000, (illus, 2 maps, includes translation from Latin of Wey's Itineraries)	£5.50
Foot, Judy	Foot by Foot to Santiago de Compostela , 2003, 100pp (author's pilgrimage from St-Jean)	£7.50
Frey, Nancy Louise	Pilgrim Stories: on and off the road the road to Santiago , 1999, 313pp, illus, b/w photos (Detailed anthropological study of modern pilgrims)	£12.00

Gitlitz, David & Davidson, Linda	The Pilgrimage Road to Santiago: The Complete Cultural Handbook , 2000, 440pp, illus (Authors' commentary on Camino and changes since 1974)	£18.00
Guides du Bourdon	1. Le Chemin de Vézelay et l'Oberstrasse , 2000, maps 2. Le Chemin de Piémont , 2000, maps 3. Les Chemins d'Occident , 2000, maps (Guides in French to routes in SW France, inc Lourdes (2))	£9.00 £9.00 £9.00
Higginson, John	The Way of Saint James: a Cyclist's Guide , 2005, 203pp (route from le Puy to Santiago on minor roads, height profiles)	£12.00
Hoare, Mark	A Painting Pilgrim: a journey to Santiago de Compostela , 2003, 93pp (diary of walk le Puy-Santiago, illus with watercolours)	£22.00
Lack, Katherine	The Cockleshell Pilgrim , a medieval journey to Compostela, 2004, (possible journey of pilgrim buried in Worcester Cathedral)	£9.99
Moon, Michael	My Camino: a personal pilgrimage , 2006, 124pp, colour illus (account of camino in footsteps of William de Mohun)	£12.99
Mullins, Edwin	In Search of Cluny: God's Lost Empire , 2006, 245pp (history of powerful Burgundian abbey and links with Santiago)	£16.99
Mullins, Edwin	The Pilgrimage to Santiago , 1974, reprint 2000, 235pp (early historical account of the Pilgrimage through France and Spain)	£10.00
Phillips, Mefo	Horseshoes & Holy Water: on the hoof from Canterbury to Santiago , 2005, 276pp (Author's ride from Canterbury)	£7.99
Poë, Emma	Diary of a Pilgrim , 116pp, b/w illus (Walk from St Jean Pied de Port to Santiago, May-June 1992)	£7.50
Raju, Alison	The Way of Saint James: Le Puy to the Pyrenees , 2003, 186pp (Walker's guide, illus, sketch maps)	£11.00
Raju, Alison	The Way of Saint James: Pyrenees-Santiago-Finisterre , 2003, 218p (Walker's guide, illus, sketch maps)	£12.00
Raju, Alison	The Via de la Plata: Seville/Granada to Santiago , 2005, 310pp,illus (Includes route finding, accommodation, historical background etc)	£12.95
Raju, Alison	The Pilgrim Road to Nidaros: St Olav's Way , 2002, 224pp, illus (Complete guide to 643km route from Oslo to Trondheim)	£12.00
Robberstadt, Knud Helge	The Road to Santiago , 1997, 160pp (Account & photographs of author's walk from Le Puy)	£25.00
Spanish Diocesan Commission	St James the Apostle and his place in history: 1993 , 92pp 10 Study Themes (illus background to the pilgrimage for study groups)	£5.00
Storrs, Constance M	Jacobean Pilgrims from England to St James of Compostella: from early 12th century to late 15th century , 1994, facsimile, 202pp	£7.00
Townsend, Harry	Slowest Pilgrim: 2006 , 267pp. Account of pilgrimage in 2003.	£5.99
Valiña Sampedro, Elías	El Camino de Santiago , 1993, 112pp (hand-drawn maps by man who revived the Camino)	£4.95

Confraternity Publications

PILGRIM GUIDES TO SPAIN

1. The Camino Francés, 2007, 96pp, ed. William Bisset £6.00
Practical annual guide in English to the traditional route in Spain for all pilgrims
2. The Camino Mozárabe, part A, Seville to Santiago, 2005, 60pp, Alison Raju £5.00
Part B, Granada to Mérida, 2004, 48pp, Alison Raju £5.00
Part C, Zamora-Braganza-Santiago, 2005, 8pp, Alison Raju £3.00
3. Finisterre: 2004, 28pp, Alison Raju £4.00
4. Los Caminos del Norte : Introduction, 2004, 12pp, Eric Walker (intro and map) £2.50
A: Ruta de la Costa: 1. Irun-Villaviciosa, 2005, 88pp, Eric Walker £5.00
A: Ruta de la Costa: 2. Villaviciosa-Arzua, 2006, 88pp, Eric Walker £5.00
B: The Tunnel Route, 2002, 56pp, A Roberts & E Walker £5.00
F: Camino Primitivo (Oviedo- Lugo- C Francés) 2007, 60pp, Eric Walker £5.00
5. The Camino Portugués, *out-of-print*
6. Madrid to the Camino Francés (Sahagún), 2000 + update, 36pp, M & M Fox £4.00
7. The Camino Inglés, 2000 + 2006 update, 36pp, Patricia Quaife & Francis Davey £4.00

PILGRIM GUIDES TO THE ROADS THROUGH FRANCE

1. Paris to the Pyrenees, 1998 + update, 88pp, Marigold & Maurice Fox £5.00
2. Vézelay to the Pyrenees, 1994 + update , 62pp, John Hatfield *superceded*
3. Le Puy to the Pyrenees, 2006, 48pp, Alison Raju £5.00
4. Arles to Puente la Reina, 2003 + updates, 66pp, M & M Fox £7.50

PILGRIM GUIDES TO THE ROADS THROUGH EUROPE

2. Nurnberg to Konstanz, 2003, 64pp, Alison Raju £5.00
4. *Via Gebennensis*: Geneva-Le-Puy-en-Velay, 2005, 8pp, Alison Raju £3.00

PRACTICAL PILGRIM NOTES

- The Walking Pilgrim: Advice on training, kit and itineraries, prepared by walkers £1.50
- The Cycling Pilgrim: Advice on bicycles, loading etc, prepared by cyclists, new 2006 £2.50
- The Winter Pilgrim: Advice on walking in winter months £1.00
- Which Camino? Advice on how to choose a route £2.50
- The Riding Pilgrim: with horses & donkeys, with and without backup £2.50

CONFRATERNITY OCCASIONAL PAPERS

1. St James in English Literature, 1990, 20pp, Patricia Quaife £2.50
2. The Order of Santiago, 1990, 13pp, Derek Lomax *out-of-print*
3. The Pilgrimage and Path to Saint James, trans John Durant, 2001, 32pp £4.00
4. Pre Reformation Pilgrims from Scotland to Santiago de Compostela, 1997, 15pp, £2.50
Phinella Henderson
5. Pilgrimages to St James of Compostella from the British isles during the Middle Ages, *out-of-print*
R Brian Tate, 2003, 32pp
6. Pilgrim Souls: Marjery Kempe and other Women Pilgrims, 2004, 22pp, C Barron £5.00
7. Origins of Holy Years; Holy Year Curiosities, 2004, 36pp, L Dennett & P Quaife £5.00
8. Emperor Charles V as Santiago Matamoros, 2004, 36pp, Prof J van Herwaarden £5.00

CONSTANCE STORRS LECTURE SERIES

1. Peregrinatio Ad Limina Beati Jacobi, 1997, 21pp, Robert Plötz £2.50
2. Romanesque Sculpture of the Welsh Marches, 26pp, illus, George Zarnecki £3.50
(offprint from Medieval Art: Recent Perspectives ed by Owen-Crocker and Graham)

COUNTY GUIDES

- Leicestershire, 1995, 32pp, E & M Harper £3.00

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

- Pilgrims from the British Isles to Santiago de Compostela in the Middle Ages, 1991, £5.50
- Body & Soul: hospitality through the ages on the roads to Compostela, 2001, 92pp, £5.00

OTHER ITEMS

The Pilgrim's Guide: A 12th Century Guide for the Pilgrim to St James of Compostella, 1992, 98pp, trans. James Hogarth	£6.00
A Pilgrim Blessing, 1989, 4pp	£0.30
The First English Pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela, 12pp, Derek Lomax (offprint)	£1.00
Map of St James' churches in England & Wales, 1996, hand drawn & notes	£5.00
'Give me my scallop shell...': The CSJ 1983-2003, 200pp, History of CSJ, Patricia Quaife	£7.50

POSTCARDS

Ruta Jacobea: postcards of quilted hanging by Gillian Clarke (set of 6: one whole scene and five details)	£1.20
Waymarks of the Camino: set of 10	£2.00
Camino Scenes: set of 24 + 1 poem	£5.00

BADGES

Pilgrim Badge: reproduction of medieval scallop shell brooch from Santiago	£5.00
Woven Badge: 3" circle, gold on red. Large scallop with legend Camino de Santiago, Camino de Europa	£1.00

POSTER

WAYMARKS A3 size, colour, of various waymarks	£4.00
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DVDs

Within the Way Without: a film by Larry Boulting, 150 mins, PAL format (The journeys of three pilgrims of different nationalities in different seasons are woven together)	£15.00
El camino de Santiago: no un camino de rosas, José Alvarez, 120 mins, 2006, PAL format, English subtitles	£15.00

MIRAZ APPEAL

Mug, 10fl oz, with map of northern route and location of Miraz	£5.00
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Pilgrim Clothing

Order from Anne Truman, 31 Goodwin's Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5QY

TIES

Burgundy with one small gold scallop shell. £8.00

SWEATSHIRTS Available to order only

With white or black logo, front and back or front only, sizes S, M, L, XL £14.50

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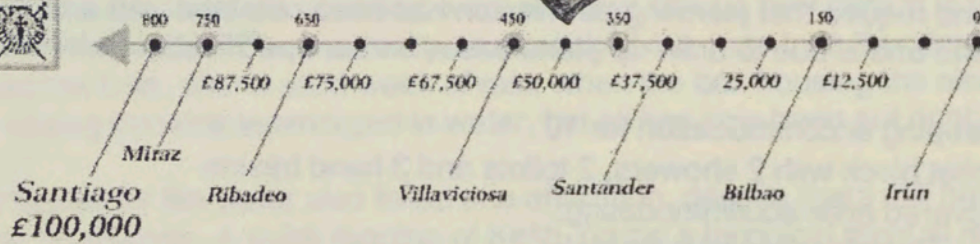
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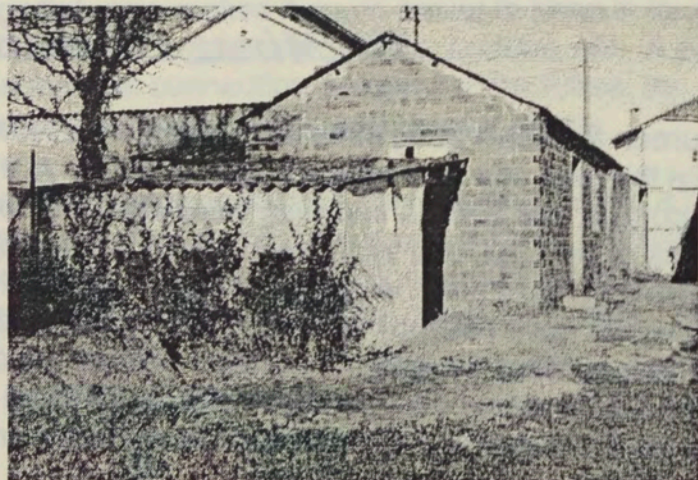
How has the *gaítero* progressed?



Appeal Total **£50,652 - THANK YOU**

What's Next?

Expanding the accommodation by replacing these outbuildings



*** *The Miraz Appeal* ***

History - In May 2006, the Bishop of Lugo gave us use of the *Casa Rectoral* (or priest's house) in the village of Miraz in Galicia, to provide a pilgrim *refugio*. Whilst structurally sound, the building needed to be renovated and equipped. We are therefore aiming to raise £100,000 to cover both these and future running and maintenance costs.

Progress - The work envisaged in phases 1 & 2 i.e. renovation of the main building, including the replacement of services and provision of necessary fixtures, fittings and equipment., has now been completed at a cost of just over £34,000.

What's Next ? - Under Phase 3 it is planned to convert or rebuild, and possibly extend, the outbuildings provided that sufficient funds have been raised. The idea is to replicate the character of the *refugio*, in particular the slate roof. With limited space available, priority will be given to beds, WCs and showers. An overall ratio of 7 permanent pilgrim beds per shower and toilet will be used. Considerable additional covered space can be obtained by roofing the area between the *refugio* and the outside buildings, which would be open at both ends, preferably with a pitched roof .

Our current aim is to have this completed by 2010, the next Holy Year. The budget for Phase 3 is £45,000. It is possible that we may be able to obtain a grant towards the costs from the *Xunta de Galicia*. The applications must be made before the end of June each year and require that planning permission has been obtained. An architect has visited the site and is due to draw up plans based on our specification which includes:-

- Sleeping accommodation for 10
- Toilet block with 2 showers, 2 toilets and 3 hand basins
- Covered area accommodating:
 - Two standard laundry sinks
 - Readily accessible storage for fire wood
 - Clothes drying area with lines
 - Outdoor cooking facility, possibly in the form of a gas barbecue
- Cycle shed
- Use of solar energy for hot water during the summer
- Suitable for pilgrims with a disability
- Capable of being shut down and made frost-proof during the winter

*** *Miraz Co-ordinators* ***

Maureen & Keith Young have co-ordinated the New Refuge Development Group ever since the idea of a new refuge began in 2004. At the 2007 AGM, William Griffiths announced that Keith & Maureen were standing down and he expressed the grateful thanks of the CSJ, and all those involved in the project, for all their hard work and dedication. Now that the refuge has been established and the first phases of the renovation have been completed, it has been decided to replace the NRDG with a more permanent Miraz Steering Committee and we are delighted to say that Colin Jones, one of the CSJ trustees who has been closely involved with Miraz , has now agreed to take over as Chairman and Co-ordinator as we move on to Phase 3.

*** Winter in Miraz ***

The changeover of the winter caretakers took place at the end of January as scheduled. The outgoing caretaker (Conrad Halloran) was just putting the finishing touches to the new slate floor of the *lavadero*, leaving me, as the incoming caretaker, free to go to work in the woodshed. The subsequent purchase of a larger and more ominous looking wedge has made it possible to split all but the most stubborn of last autumn's wood.

There have been two notable absences in the village this winter. Jesús, who is now in his nineties and suffering from respiratory problems, has been wintering with his niece in Lugo, and Rocky, the canine pilgrim who settled in the village some years ago, sadly passed away at the end of last year.

The garden has had its first trim of the new year and appears to be thriving. The grass is looking more and more like a lawn, and there are now herbs available for the kitchen all year round, as well as fruit and vegetables in season. The water in the new well has been declared "apta para consumo humano" and no longer contains visible particles.

The centre of village life remains the bar. Sadly for beer drinkers, the price of a *caña* has soared to €1.20, but a glass of *tinto* can still be had for €0.50. *Pacharan* drinkers are also catered for, at a price.

Luis has now completed the electrical work and also fitted a new cistern in the *hospitaleros* bathroom. The electricity was knocked out once by a thunderstorm and then a second time, after a solid week of rain, when the box housing the electrics inside the well-casing became submerged in water, but all has now been put right.

The gas heater for the water also failed one afternoon, despite there still being plenty of gas in the *bombonas*. A quick reading of Keith Young's technical manual revealed the problem: the batteries which provide the spark for igniting the gas had only to be replaced and "*Bob era tu tío.*"

The Miraz *Hospitaleros* Log for last year contained several suggestions worth considering. For pilgrims walking back from Santiago, the return route from Miraz to Baamonde is hard to follow, so how about an autumn or winter working party next season to improve the waymarking? Also, what about a more comfortable chair or two for the more elderly warden/caretakers? (Ed: the March working party have this on their list of things to do !)

The installation of a telephone - ¡*Por fin!* - now makes it much easier to keep in touch with the world as well as the neighbouring *albergues*, *ferreterías*, *taxistas*, etc. A pay-phone for the pilgrims, as well as an Internet connection, remain for the future, as *Teléfonoica*, like the *Todopoderoso*, works in strange ways, and usually slowly.

Finally, anyone glancing at the *Libro del Peregrino* will find the following: "*Paso a paso seguiremos cada uno nuestra senda pero la de Santiago nos une a todos.*" ("Step by step each one of us follows their own path, but the path of Santiago unites us all".) Whether this is original or borrowed, it is good to have it in the guest book, and it seems a good note on which to end.

Bob Mullen

*** Forthcoming Fundraising Events ***

Wed 21 March Lecture Recital- Dr Mary Remnant & the CSJ Choir UK - London
6.30pm. "The Musical Road to Santiago de Compostela: following the 15th century route from Einsiedeln of Fr Hermann Kunig von Vach". At The Instituto Cervantes, 102 Eaton Square, London SW1. Book early as tickets are limited and are also on sale to the public. Tickets £10 (Concessions £8). Apply to CSJ Office.

Sat 12 May Open Eco House UK - London
Anytime from 12 noon - 7pm. You are warmly invited by John & Wendy Beecher to an informal Open House afternoon at their eco-friendly home in SE London The "one-off" house was built in 2003, architect-designed to meet the difficult challenges of the brownfield site: hillside, triangular boundary, 10 immediate neighbours, and to be stylish but sustainable. The modernist design includes a glass tower, a bridge to the first floor front door, solar assisted water heating, underfloor central heating, rainwater harvesting and living roof. In 2006 the house received a Green Apple Award for the built environment and architectural heritage.

They will be happy to share their experiences of trying to be green, including a wormery and sustainable materials in the home and garden, with details of suppliers. Gardeners may be interested in the plants and shrubs they chose for a patio garden, alpine terrace and of course the roof! Stay as little or as long as you like. Drinks and finger food provided! All donations to Miraz.

Please contact John or Wendy Beecher for an invitation ("just so we know possible numbers and don't run out of food and booze!") and directions: "we are only 6 miles from Central London, street parking is unrestricted, and public transport is handy and frequent. There are pleasant walks from here to Greenwich and Blackheath."
Email john.beecher@ntlworld.com or telephone 020 8690 6974.

Sat 19 May "Just Walk" (60km !) UK- W Sussex
Angelika will be taking part in the Just Walk 60km challenge in West Sussex. Starting at Goodwood Race Course, the 38 miles will take in Arundel, Amberley, Bignor Hill, and then follow the South Downs Way with more ups and downs before heading back to Goodwood.

"Training is going reasonably well despite the recent wet weather with water and flooding everywhere. Fingers crossed for more sunshine! Especially as I've planned more training walks in Wales, the Lake District, and Croagh Patrick in Ireland where I'll be aiming for longer walks to get me used again to walking all day. One addition during the training has been the extra pair of shoes underneath my office desk. There's a very handy two mile loop, perfect for getting additional miles in at lunch time."

PLEASE SPONSOR ANGELIKA - *you can do this by*

- *using the form on page 8*
- *logging on to : www.justgiving.com/miraz-appeal*
- *calling Angelika on : 024 7636 5610 (evenings)*
- *cheering her on from the sidelines on the day*

For more information on the Just Walk challenge log on to : www.just-walk.co.uk;

Sat 9 June Pilgrims Progress Walk No.2

UK- Bedford

10.30am at Bedford Bunyan Museum. A short walk in Bunyan Country, including a visit to John Bunyan's birthplace. Walking alongside the River Ouse, across the fields to Elstow for a pub lunch. Then a guided tour of Elstow Abbey and Moot Hall before returning to Bedford past other Bunyan sites. Approx. 5-6 miles on level ground. Bedford Station is about 20 minutes walk from the museum.

Cost : Suggested donation £10.

Please tell Christine in advance if you are coming as she needs to know numbers for the tour etc. Further details from Christine Pleasants Tel: 01234 767754

Sat 23 June Wine & Food - Miraz & Rome

UK- Hertford

10.30am start. An opportunity to meet and eat and find out more about the refugio at Miraz and some other pilgrim routes.

The day is based at the home of William and Wendy Marques and is planned to include

Morning Coffee

An easy circular walk to the village of Little Berkhamsted - hilly, but only a couple of miles.

Lunch

A wine-tasting tour along the Camino for those interested (Separate donation - cost depending on numbers).

A Miraz presentation.

A *Via Francigena* presentation.

(A walking stick demo / talk may also be a possibility.)

Tea & biscuits to finish.

Cost : Suggested minimum donation £12.50

Further information from William and Wendy Marques: Tel: 01707 876805 (home) or 01920 860625 (day-time work) or email: w.marques@cuphosco.co.uk

***** No events in your area? *****

Would you like to help us but you're not sure how? We have lots of ideas so do please get in touch if we can assist you.

Following events such as the Spanish Embassy Reception, the *Hospitaleros* training day and the AGM, the fundraising team can now provide a digital PowerPoint presentation of the refuge showing the work that has been done so far, together with pictures of the village and surrounding area. We would be pleased to bring this along to your event if you can supply some refreshments.

We've found that events which involve food seem to have been the most popular, but please don't let that put you off if you're not a keen cook, because anything from a meal, to soup and / or sandwiches to afternoon tea or coffee and biscuits - all are most welcome.

***** eBay for Charity *****

eBay, the online auction site, now has a facility whereby a seller can elect to have part or all of their sale proceeds allocated directly to a nominated charity. The Confraternity of Saint James is now one of the charities registered with eBay and therefore able to benefit from the scheme. So, when you start your Spring-cleaning and find things you no longer need and you think of selling them on eBay, please remember Miraz.

*** Other Fundraising Offers ***

For Sale - Offers please A Spanish Language Course (on tape)

Offers are invited for a Readers Digest Spanish language course consisting of approximately 20 audio tapes together with a Spanish dictionary and text book. All in their own carrying case. The tapes are unused and have been donated by a member in aid of the Miraz appeal. They will be sold to whoever offers the highest bid received in the CSJ office by Thursday 5th April. If you are interested, please use the form on page 8 to send in your bid.

2007

Cottages for rent / guided pilgrimage walks in Rural France

Set in picturesque hamlet 5km from market town of Gorron in S Normandy / E Brittany. Variety of restored traditional accommodation, with modern facilities, for 2-6 people. Bayeaux and Le Mont-Saint-Michel within easy reach. Good walking and cycling area. Chris & Andrea have also offered to include some guided walks to historic sites connected with pilgrimage. Currently no availability in July, August or Sep26-Oct 10. Costs range from £140 to £300 per week of which 50% will go to the Miraz Appeal. *Full details from Chris & Andrea Masters, La Cretouffiere, Colombiers du Plessis, 53120 Gorron, France. Tel: (0033) 243 08 00 20, Email: andreamast@libertysurf.fr Website: www.philm.demon.co.uk/HolidayCottages/*

"My Camino : a personal pilgrimage"

Michael Moon's book following in the footsteps of his ancestor who walked from St Jean-de-Pied-de-Port to Santiago in 1280AD. See Bulletin for details. Many colour photos. £6.50 per copy to Miraz. Order from office or online bookshop £12.99 + p&p (UK-£1.21, Eu-£2.10, ROW £3.95)

"Compostelle -The Ceaseless Tramp of Feet"

CD - including over 300 photos - written diary of a member's experiences along the route from Le Puy to Santiago, as well as some historic perspectives along the way. Send cheque for £6 (UK) or £7 (non-UK) payable to "A J H Grant" to *Andrew Grant, 72 Easter Warriston, Edinburgh EH7 4QY Scotland. Tel: 0044 (0) 131 476 9576.* Minimum of £4.50 per CD donated to Miraz
NB: CD suitable for playing on computer, NOT on DVD player

*** The Miraz Raffle ***

Thank you to everyone who so generously bought tickets for the AGM raffle in aid of the Miraz Appeal. We are also very grateful to Rudolf Neuberger of Austro Diesel GmbH who donated the wine, to Audio Books Online who contributed 12 audio books and to all the members who kindly donated the statuette, theatre vouchers and many other prizes.

The first prize was won by a member who was delighted that he will now be able to make a return visit to Spain. A full list of winners appears on the CSJ website.

A total of £3,265 was collected giving a net £2,625 to the appeal (after deducting the 1st and 2nd prizes).

*** *Spanish Recipe* ***

*Why not try this recipe and invite friends in
(in return for a donation of course !)*

Gallo de Patrón

Ingredients

1	Corn-fed Chicken	Parsley
2	Onions	Herbs to taste
1	Garlic clove	Salt
1	Carrot	Extra virgin olive oil
1 glass	Spanish brandy	

Instructions

THE DAY BEFORE COOKING

1. Divide the chicken into pieces - reserving the wings and wobbly bits
2. In a mortar, crush the parsley, salt and garlic together adding a little oil
Rub this into the chicken pieces and place in a bowl ensuring that all of the chicken pieces are well covered with the mixture
3. Cover and place in the refrigerator overnight
4. In a saucepan make a stock with the reserved parts of the chicken, adding a carrot, a medium sized onion and herbs to taste

COOKING DAY

5. In a pan heat some oil (don't overdo the amount of oil !) and cook the chicken pieces until golden
6. Place the pieces in a casserole dish together with oil from the frying pan, as well as some of the stock, a glass of brandy, the whole peeled onion.
7. Place either on top of the stove or in oven (170 C, 325 F or mark 3, but in either case cook very slowly, stirring occasionally and adding some more stock as necessary. When the sauce is a rich brown colour cooking should be complete. (Approx 1 - 1¼ hrs)
8. Serve with new potatoes or chips, and cooked red peppers.

*** *Miraz Contacts* ***

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

Co-ordinator	- Colin Jones	- pacharan@btinternet.com
Fundraising / Newsletter	- Alison Thorp	- alison.thorp@virgin.net
Operations/ <i>Hospitaleros</i>	- Alan Cutbush	- alan@cutbush35.fsnet.co.uk
Property	- Peter FitzGerald	- peter_of_chichester@tiscali.co.uk
Publicity (Europe)	- Marion Marples	- office@csj.org.uk
Publicity (Rest of the World)	- Rebekah Scott	- rebrites@yahoo.com

Name

Address

☐ I am / am not a CSJ member and my number is (if known)

Spanish Language Course

I am interested in buying this course and wish to make an offer of

£

Entries to be received in CSJ office by Thu 5th April. Please do not send any money for this item now. We will contact you after 5th April if your bid is successful.

Either

Sat 19 May - Just Walk

I wish to sponsor Angelika on her 60km walk in aid of the Miraz appeal

£.....

Or

Other Donations

☐ I wish to support the appeal by making a donation of £.....

Payment

- ☐ I enclose a cheque made payable to "CSJ - Miraz Appeal"
- ☐ I authorise the CSJ to charge my credit card as follows

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

Security Code - - - (last 3 numbers from signature strip) Expiry Date - - / - -

Signed

Date

Gift Aid ☐ I am a UK taxpayer and wish to add 28p to each £1 by authorising the CSJ to claim Gift Aid on my donation

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