



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



Michael O'Brien

September 2006

No 95

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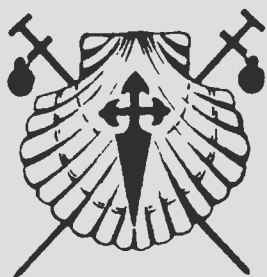
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Bulletin

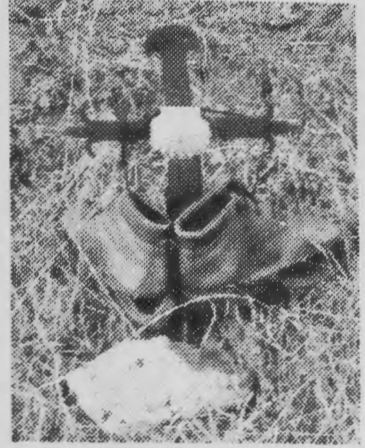
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Editorial

Gosia Brykczynska

If I said I had a wonderful pilgrimage once, I have said it a hundred times. Indeed, how does one come back from a pilgrimage and explain to all and sundry what it was about? How does one talk about that which is unexplainable, verging on the mystical? How does one talk about walking through the forests and woods of Languedoc and the Tarn not meeting a single soul for days on end; and actually enjoying the experience? How does one recount the joys of being woken up by an owl sitting on the roof of one's chalet, hooting its head off, at two in the morning? Or encountering mountain streams with water which was cooler and fresher and more life-restoring than could ever be imaginable? Or finding churches to be open when the soul was more parched than the sand-dunes of Cape Cod? Or finding solace and peace at the Benedictine Abbey almost too much to bear, could heaven be any better – and cannot I stay here forever?



However, the real question that is still intriguing me, is a question that was posed by my first companion on the way, my goddaughter. After a particularly difficult hill climb in 40+ temperatures, on the stretch from Le Bousquet-d'Orb to Murat-sur-Vèbre, she turned to me and asked, "Does pilgrimaging have to involve suffering?" The question took me aback a bit as I have never looked on myself as a martyr, or indeed a masochist, as my usual approach to life is more akin to - if there is an easier way to do something, go for it. So why did I put up with extreme temperatures, exhaustion, hills and rough terrain? I, who will have engraved on my tombstone She said she didn't *do* mountains!

I think the answer lies not in a recognition of excessive sporting prowess, nor the bizarre one-upmanship concerning the number of blisters one endured or kilometres traversed. (I must interject here that I did not have a single blister or muscle-pain or episode of sun-stroke during the whole three weeks – just plain normal exhaustion at the end of every day, which was quickly put right by kicking off my boots, a

shower, rest and a wonderful evening meal.) I think the answer to that question must surely be that since a pilgrimage is a microcosm of real life - out there in the big bad world, so too on the camino - one should attempt to take the good and the bad that the pilgrimage throws at you with equal aplomb. It also helps to say thanks to St James at every possible occasion! To put it another way, it's not that one has to carry a (heavy) rucksack, walk in the midday sun and go up vertical cliffs like an Olympic rock-climber. One only does all of these things because one wants to reach a safe refuge that night; and I don't fancy spending the night in the middle of the woods - even if I did encounter deer, birds of prey and other wonderful animals, big and small, as I traversed their habitat. Had my camino been in the autumn the heat would not have been an issue, but incessant rain, and so on. By the same token, if I could have arranged to hop on a canal boat approaching Toulouse and thereby speed up my approach to Santiago, I most certainly would have. That particular glorious temptation was seriously contemplated by me and my companion, Susie Q. Too bad that we could not materialise that option. The fact that Monsieur Pierre-Paul Riquet (the magnificent designer of the Canal du Midi) had not blessed our planet with his presence till 1609 is, as they say, neither here nor there.

Medieval pilgrims, like pilgrims today, wanted to get from their homes to Santiago in one piece and return safely in as reasonable a time-frame as possible. Professional full-time pilgrims, like St Joseph Labre, Marjorie Kemp, St Roch, and Antoine (whom I met in Revel, on his way *back* from Santiago) and a few others I won't bore you with, are the exception to the rule.

Pilgrimage is not designed to be painful; quite the opposite, it's supposed to be a time of joy and freedom, but sometimes the price of that joy - that we are on our way to Santiago - is blisters, sun-stroke, broken legs, flea-bites and so on; but it doesn't have to be so and certainly not all the time. Life throws enough nasties at us, as it is. We don't need to invent for ourselves more of them. For more such jolly reflections I suggest that CSJ pilgrims who have returned from their caminos this year consider attending the Returned Pilgrim celebrations in October, and those who cannot make that date, please put aside the date of the next AGM. But whatever you do, get out there and talk to other returned pilgrims. That is what the Confraternity is all about; bringing together people who have a common narrative, a common story that only the initiated can truly comprehend. For more details about the Returned Pilgrim Day look at the CSJ Events page.

What contributors to this *Bulletin* have in common is that they all found the camino so invigorating and enticing that they either wanted to go back again - Marion Clegg, constantly discovering something new, something more about the camino and those who have helped create it, such as Beatus of Liébana and the medieval monks of Santo Toribio - or they wanted to give something back in a practical manner, like Jane and Michael Bradshaw in Germany. Some like John Revell are intrigued and bemused by the colourful pilgrims and long-distance walkers they encounter along the way; while Michael Hargreaves has contributed a reflective poem. Ann and Cady Scott write succinctly what every pilgrim swears to do and put down on paper those priceless pilgrim insights, which even the best guide books forget to mention... Unfortunately they forget to mention *my* own two favourites, about the rucksack always being heavier at the end of the day, even if the two litres of water have been consumed before midday and the one about the longest two kilometres of the entire day being the ones spent looking for the *refugio* in the evening in a three house hamlet... One has to smile at Angela and Sylvia's adventures and I certainly hope they are brushing up on their basic French for next year's pilgrimage. However, with dispositions like theirs, they could smile their way out of any predicament, and live to tell the tale - with gusto. Meanwhile, Robert Neale shares with us the serious concerns of a well-shod pilgrim who has few illusions of catching sight of kingfishers, or gracious Spanish women with spare pancakes (see the Scotts' Reflection 23), or even that his "valleys [will be] made low", but he does say at the end of his tale "...it would sadden me almost beyond measure to discover that I can't soon wave a cheery "*buen camino*" and set out to do something as simple as putting one foot in front of the other all the way to Santiago". It would sadden me also, and that is why I go on pilgrimage, and why I for one don't see it as necessitating "suffering".

Meanwhile, there are many events awaiting us this autumn, including a reception with the Spanish Ambassador, the Constance Storrs Lecture, the CSJ Burgundy trip (now only accepting people on the reserve list), and the CSJ Exhibition of Paintings to be held at Guildford Cathedral from mid-September. For more details concerning all these events please consult the CSJ Events page! And for those of you who really like to plan ahead, can you think of ways of how the Confraternity could celebrate its Jubilee year in 2008 and the production of *Bulletin* No 100 in December of next year? All suggestions will be seriously considered. ¡*Ultreia!*

Jakobusweg im Deutschland:

Gehen wir! Singen wir!

Jane Bradshaw

The Confraternity has an honoured tradition that when you have completed your pilgrimage you give something back to the Way. This could be, among other pilgrim-related activities, hosting a Practical Pilgrim day offering help and advice to would-be pilgrims, fund raising (for example for Miraz), or going as a *hospiteler/a* to Rabanal or another pilgrim hostel. When my husband Mike and I had recovered from our thousand mile pilgrimage we wondered 'what next?', and since then we have hosted a couple of Practical Pilgrims and raised money for Miraz. Our lack of Spanish makes us reluctant to offer to go as *hospiteleros* to Rabanal. But then we read Sheila McGuirk's account of going on pilgrimage with a waymarking group on the Jakobusweg between Nürnberg and Konstanz, and in spite of our lack of German thought 'why not?'



Every early summer for the last ten years Gerhilde Fleischer has set out with a group of pilgrims to repair the waymarks on this stretch of the overall pilgrim route which goes from Prague to Santiago. She likes to mix nationalities and denominational allegiances as a contribution to international and inter-church understanding. Each day begins, and many end, with a short church service. Everyone is provided with a pocket-sized hymn book which has the tunes as well as the words, and all sing with enthusiasm: some of the singing in rounds and parts we found to be particularly fine. During the day the group follows and checks the waymarks, nailing up scallop labels to replace any that have fallen, cutting back undergrowth which may be obscuring the signs and where necessary repainting yellow arrows.

Our German friends proved shame-makingly fluent in English, and we wished very much that we could reciprocate. They were, though, very forgiving, and we still correspond with some of them.

We walked from Nürnberg to Ulm in 2005, and joined the group again in Ulm this year to walk to Konstanz. The length of the stages varies, the shortest being 15 km and the longest 28, with stops to admire the many beautiful churches to be found along the Way. Accommodation (pre-booked by Gerhilde) is in small hotels and guesthouses. This year was special, with celebrations to mark the tenth year of this particular pilgrimage, culminating in a splendid sung Mass in Konstanz Cathedral with some wonderful singing by a Lutheran choir from Gerhilde's home town of Isny.

We have just received advance notice of next year's waymarking pilgrimage, which will begin in Nürnberg on 4 May and end in Konstanz on the 24th. Anyone interested should write to Gerhilde at the address below. Be prepared to carry hammer, nails, small hacksaw and/or paint pot and brush – and a reasonable knowledge of German would be an advantage, but you can get by without it.

As for us, we are brushing up our French and perhaps, just perhaps, we might apply to be *hospitaliers* in the one country of whose language we have some knowledge.

Annual Jakobusweg Pilgrimage 2007

Nürnberg – Konstanz

Each year Gerhilde Fleischer organises a group of pilgrims to walk the Jakobusweg and update the waymarking as and when required. This takes place over a three-week period, starting in Nürnberg and finishing in Konstanz on the Swiss border, but pilgrims interested in joining the group do not have to participate in the entire journey: they can, if they wish, join/leave the route in Nürnberg, Nördlingen, Ulm, Bad Waldsee or Konstanz

Accommodation is in guest houses and small hotels and prices per day (including a copious breakfast) are in the region of 25-30 euros per person (there are very few single rooms). Participants pay for their accommodation and meals as they go along and carry their own rucksack (there is no back-up vehicle). Daily distances vary somewhat according to the availability of accommodation but are normally between 20 and 28km (the route is not particularly strenuous). Many members of the group come from different parts of Germany but there are frequently participants from other countries as well, such as Australia, Britain, Holland and Sweden, and who are always made very welcome.

The programme for 2007 will be as follows:

04.04 Travel to **Nürnberg**, 05.05 Nürnberg - Unterreichenbach,
06.05 Unterreichenbach - Abenberg, 07.05 Abenberg -
Kalbensteinberg,
08.05 Kalbensteinberg - Gunzenhausen, 09.05 Gunzenhausen
- Heidenheim, 10.05 Heidenheim - Oettingen, 11.05 Oettingen -
Nördlingen,
12.05 **Nördlingen** - Neresheim, 13.05 Neresheim - Giengen,
14.05 Giengen - Nerenstetten, 15.05 Nerenstetten - **Ulm**,
16.05 Rest day in Ulm, 17.05 **Ulm** - Donauwörth,
18.05 Donauwörth - Maseheim, 19.05 Maseheim - Muttensweiler,
20.05 Muttensweiler - **Bad Waldsee** 21.05 **Bad Waldsee** -
Weingarten,
22.05 Weingarten - Brochenzell, 23.05 Brochenzell - Markdorf,
24.05 Markdorf - **Meersburg/Konstanz**.

Anyone interested in taking part should contact Gerhilde in writing (she speaks excellent English) by 15th March at the latest:

Gerhilde Fleischer, Rainstrasse 11/3, D-88316 Isny, Germany,
tel/fax 00-49-(0)7562/55 385

An Incident on the Arles Route

John Revell

Twelve years ago – and it seems like a lifetime! – a fellow pilgrim remarked to me that the fundamental difference between the pilgrim routes in France and Spain was that in France the journey was a walk whereas in Spain it became a pilgrimage. At that time there was a certain amount of truth in what he said, but since then the revival and promotion of the Vézelay route as a pilgrim-dedicated, pilgrim-friendly progress from Burgundy to the Pyrenees has done much to swing the balance back in France's favour. I walked the Vézelay route in 2004 and fell in love with it and all it stands for. How then would I feel earlier this year taking on the challenge of the Arles route? That high-level blend of the sacred and the secular? That collision of the Pilgrim Way and the GR653? In terms of the expression coined by Rowan Guthrie in her overview in *Bulletin No 93* would it be *Communitas* or *Conflict*?

* * * * *

The time is a Saturday night in May and the scene is the small village of St Jean-de-la-Blaquière between St Guilhem-le-Désert and Lodève in the French *département* of the Hérault. Fairly remote stuff – time-forgotten and a world away from the nearby Mediterranean. The *gîte d'étape* is housed in a former presbytery and consists of a conglomeration of small rooms crammed with an assortment of double beds, double-decker bunks and put-you-ups. May in France is sprinkled liberally with public holidays so even the most footloose (not to mention footsore) pilgrim learns to book accommodation in advance, much and all as it offends the right of pilgrim freedom to roam at will.

My walking companion Max booked for us both at St Jean and as he arrived in advance of me he established himself in a quiet inner nook in a room where a double bed took up most of the cat-swinging space. I arrived and set up home in an adjacent room. Female pilgrims had arranged themselves in a larger room at the front of the house. Most beds were occupied and pilgrim harmony prevailed.

Temporarily.....

Rumbles as of a storm blowing up heralded the arrival of four walkers – two couples (uncharitable thought: did they have a car parked around the corner?) who proceeded to order a complete rearrangement of the *gîte* to their own particular requirements. They informed Madame that it would be convenient to all parties (particularly themselves) if Max and I, having booked together, should inhabit the same bed together so that all would be well and all would be seen to be well. Max and I united in our inability to understand any other language than Swaheli, and fellow pilgrims urged us to stand our ground. The ringleader of “the intruders” (codename: Bossy) eventually prevailed on Madame to introduce a put-you-up into Max’s already crowded domain for me, and the controversy raged as I took up my bed and walked. An ally from Rotterdam who had learned his English in America told us to stick to our guns (not bad for an idiom) and retired surgeon Claude from Marseille tried to mediate because he was in the unfortunate pilgrim position of sharing his language with the interlopers. An uneasy truce was established, only to be exploded by the sudden *and* unexpected *and* complete departure of the offending foursome. They appeared to lose all interest and exit-ed upstage left. Whether Madame waved a magic wand and caused their timely disappearance I don’t know, but pilgrim accord was restored

and I took up my bed and walked for a third time because a further double bed had now become available in another room.

Four of us went out to eat pizzas and drink wine in the village square – and the eight elbows resting around the festive board represented Rotterdam, Marseille, Melbourne and London. In all the uproar my arrival at the *gîte* had gone unrecorded and unpaid and I promised myself that I would make financial amends at the cathedral in Lodève the following day. I lived to redeem my promise, but as Max and I munched our pizza in the square at St Jean-de-la- Blaquière on that Saturday night we little imagined what awaited us in Lodève the next day. All will be revealed in the December *Bulletin*.

Chemin de St Jacques

Haiku

Michael Hargreaves

Dawn - blossom, last frost
Late most nights skewered by work
The pull of the road.

Forest stone road, rain
Cocooned in prayer, dreams stick leads
day's close a dry bed?

Woods - walk, dream, birds call
finding words lost thirty years
coucou in both tongues.

Green shade, five *femmes* gave
coffee, dried fruit - walk each spring
- ten years to Saint Jacques.

A trail of stone halls
husks of an old faith - silenced
here these many years.

Dry farming country
far from the wars woods, a deer
leaps, farm boys long gone.

A shared meal four lands
three tongues wine, cheese, pasta, *fraises*
- more than we could eat.

Green crops, rain - driving
home, super-market weekly
shop heart walking still.

Reflections on the Camino as a Metaphor for Life

Ann & Cady Scott

- It can be short or it can be long but it is what you make of it.
- There are parts that are challenging; there are parts that are difficult; some that are lovely; and some parts that are just plain boring.
- Don't spend all your time looking down.
- Don't only take time to smell the flowers. Listen to the river; look at the world around you; feel the sun and the rain.
- The rain can seem a threat but now that you have spent a day in it, you know you can survive it.
- Sometimes the downhill can be more difficult than the uphill.
- Sometimes you think your goal is so far off and then suddenly there it is!
- Be very careful to avoid the bogs.
- Be very wise about your travelling companions.
- Something as small as a shell can be your guide.
- You can meet a lot of interesting people along the way. Don't be put off by the way they look.
- Pay attention to little pains as they can become big problems.
- Most of the time there are bridges, but if you have to you can take off your shoes and wade across.
- Watched socks never dry!
- Remember: the rain makes the world very green, lush and rich.
- Don't let some people hold you back.
- Be sure to take something to keep you warm.
- Don't forget your sunscreen!
- At the end, may you find great joy – or at least a paradox!
- You can make the journey with a few well-chosen possessions.
- Pay attention to the arrows.
- Sometimes it is important to take the advice of others.
- Who knows? Sometimes you might just run into a woman with sugar *crêpes* but you will have to pay for them!
- The way is long and fluid; adjust your intermediate goals as you need to.

- After a while, you don't even feel your burden. At other times, you don't think you can carry it all.
- You can get through it with just a backpack, but it helps if the contents are of high quality.
- It takes a lot of planning, a lot of sweat and a lot of faith.
- Try not to judge others on their camino, lest you be judged.
- Just as the mists eventually rise, so the sun will be obscured by a cloud.
- Dung can make the road slippery; avoid stepping in it!
- Sometimes you can count on the kindness of strangers.
- The bonds of the Way are very strong when you have done it together.
- Make the best out of any setback. It may open up other opportunities.
- Don't litter. Carry out what you carry in.
- Be respectful of your neighbours and if you are on an upper floor, walk softly!
- Carry a stick!
- Respect another man's dog and the way he treats it.
- Solitude is important; use it!
- If you lose your map, keep going; trust in the way markers who have gone before you.
- It is nice to have someone to depend on but don't put too much of your burden on them.
- If you walk long enough, you will reach Xen. And Xen is not the end of the journey!
- If the path is not the most obvious one, it will be well-marked.

Ann and Cady Scott are American pilgrim members of the CSJ



Cistercian abbey at
Canas (Michael O'Brien)

Santo Toribio de Liébana

Marion Clegg

In May I visited Spain with my husband. This visit was not intended to be a pilgrimage but a walking holiday. We spent some of the time in the Picos de Europa. I had wanted to do this ever since we walked past those imposing



mountains on our pilgrimage along the Northern Route in 2002. I also wanted to visit the monastery of Santo Toribio, not far from our base in Espinama because it was the home of Beatus de Liébana, who in the eighth century wrote an enormously influential commentary with superb illustrations on the Book of the Apocalypse. There are so many wonderful surviving manuscripts of this important work that I feel he is still among us, even though dead for 1200 years. At least twenty-four manuscripts with illuminations are known to have survived, while others must have been lost. The original manuscript was written in 776 but there were later additions to it by Beatus himself. Beatus was also a great theologian and was involved in the “adoptionist” heresy defending the orthodox view at the Council of Ratisbon in 792 against those who argued that Christ was only the adopted son of God. He is also said to have written the hymn *O Dei Verbum* for the feast of Santiago in the Mozarabic liturgy and therefore said to have contributed to the beginning of the cult of St James as patron of Spain. Alcuin who was also involved in defending the Church’s position in regards to the adoptionist heresy and corresponded with Beatus over this matter stated that Beatus was elected Abbot at Liébana. The last time that Alcuin (by then himself the Abbot of Tours) wrote to Beatus was in 798/799. I was definitely intent on making my visit to the home of Beatus.

The monastery which is in the municipality of Canaleño is 3kms from Potes, a charming though “touristy” town. I knew that there was a pilgrim route from the north coast of Spain which went south to León but I had not expected to find that there was a pilgrim refuge in Potes and another at the monastery. Neither did I know that this

was a Jubilee Year in Santo Toribio de Liébana. Liébana, incidentally means Lebanon...

Santo Toribio was Bishop of Astorga in the eighth century and had made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and indeed lived there for a while. Upon his return to Spain he brought back with him a large relic of the true cross. One authority claims that the relic is part of the left arm of the True Cross and had been left behind in Jerusalem by St Helena. This relic of the cross is said to be the largest known piece and bigger than that in Rome!

Much of the early history of the monastery however is confusing, as an earlier sixth century Bishop of Palencia was also called Toribio and is credited with having founded the original monastery as a Benedictine Abbey. The two Bishops called Toribio tend to get confused in the early documents! What is definite is that the body of Santo Toribio (Bishop of Astorga) and his precious relic were brought to the monastery for safekeeping in the eighth century and have been kept there ever since.

The monastery was originally known as San Martín de Turieno, and there are references to it under this name in manuscripts dating from 828, and we know that in 915 there were eighteen monks living in the Benedictine Abbey. By 1125 however, the Abbey was already known as Santo Toribio. The present Gothic church was built in 1256 and the first official mention of the relic being housed in the monastery dates from 1316. Around 1700 the splendid Chapel of the Lignum Crucis was built by Archbishop Francisco Gómez de Otero y Gossio to house the relic. The relic has been analysed recently by scientists, and the wood was confirmed to be a *cupressus sempervivens* L. that grew in ancient Palestine – an evergreen coniferous tree of great antiquity. Benedictine monks lived on the site until the abolition of monasteries in 1837, but since 1961 a community of Franciscan friars live and worship in the restored monastic buildings. They also provide pilgrims' with refuge.

The day we arrived at the monastery was the eve of Pentecost. There were forty coaches parked outside and more cars all down the road. People had spread all the way up the hillside with their picnics. They had all brought at least one granny with them who sat in their canvas chairs managing to make them look like thrones. This was all a great surprise to us because we had not known about the Jubilee. Jubilee years, as at Santiago, occur when the feast of the saint (16 April) falls on a Sunday. Because this year 16 April was Easter



Sunday the celebrations began two weeks later. The *Puerta del Perdón* was opened but, unlike that in Santiago, it is only kept open when Mass is being said. I did not believe the young doorkeeper who assured me that all my sins would be forgiven as I passed through it, because I knew there was a bit more required from those who, like me, had clocked up a fair list! At Santo Toribio the *Misa del Peregrino* is at noon every day during Holy Years, which occur every 6, 5, 6 and 11 years. The next Holy Year is due in 2017.

The right to celebrate a Holy Year however is not very long established. Although the *Lignum Crucis* has been venerated in Liébana since the eighth century the Jubilee was only ratified at the beginning

of the sixteenth century by Pope Julius II and by Leo X with plenary indulgences to be granted for up to seven days from 16 April. In 1967 Pope Paul VI extended this privilege to the whole Jubilee Year. Thus, Santo Toribio claims to be fourth in importance as a place of pilgrimage after Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago. So if you have already walked or cycled to the first three perhaps you might like to add Santo Toribio to your list.

In fact there are several pilgrim routes/paths around this area, including a six-day 123km *Camino de Santo Toribio*, from Santander to Toribio. There is another route leading from Potes and the route is known as the Ruta Vadiniense and it goes to Mansilla de las Mulas via Portilla de la Reina, Riano, Cisrierra, Gradefes and Puente Villarente. La Ramoña is the highest point on that route at 1783m. If you think that the Camino Vadiniense would be too great a challenge then you might treat this as a deviation from the north coast. There is a bus from Santander via Unquera to Potes. There are several routes which could be followed to Potes such as the Camino Lebaniego from San Vicente de la Barquera. However, I suspect that other pilgrimage routes may be difficult to follow and need a tent and good navigation skills.

Later, in a redundant church in Potes we managed to visit an exhibition of facsimile manuscripts by Beatus from his commentary on the Book of the Apocalypse (*Comentario al Apocalipsis*). Moreover, the girl on reception offered to show me the 40-bedded refuge and outside we saw camino marks in the pavement! On another day while walking near Potes we went through the remains of a village and a monastery which had sheltered pilgrims in the Middle Ages.

After we had walked in the Picos I went to work in Miraz and on one day we welcomed seven German pilgrims. They had gone south from the north coast route at Unquera and had stayed in the refuge at Santo Toribio. They continued their journey via Espinama, the Cares Gorge and Covadonga!

Since I began to write this article I have found useful sites at www.peterrobins.co.uk / www.rutavadiense.org / www.santoribiodeliebana.com and one all about Santo Toribio in English at www.mosheh.net

If anyone has practical information on these pilgrimage routes I would appreciate hearing from them.

Vézelay to Nevers

The adventures of two English pilgrims

Angela Honeyford & Sylvia Black

Our early morning plane lands in a chilly mist at Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris, at 9.10am. Plenty of time to get the train to Avallon en route for Vézelay. We aim to arrive mid-afternoon at the convent for our first night's stay on the *Voie de Vézelay*. The trouble is we've omitted to ring and book our accommodation and, sadly, they are "*complet madame*". We only half-believed in the necessity of booking ahead and now all the other *chambres d'hôtes* are full, too. Vézelay is a tourist destination, a beautiful ancient hilltop town, and also a place for youth groups and French ramblers.

The Romanesque basilica calms us and once we've had a big bag of cherries from a stall under the trees, we do find a bed in a hotel, expensive but very comfortable. Later in the evening we try to telephone ahead for a B&B. Is it the phone or us or the card? Is St James looking after us? Yes, he finds us Zoë, a warm, racy young woman, aghast that we want to walk to Bazoches tomorrow. "Walk? You want to walk? Why? There's nothing at Bazoches!" She takes us under her wing and gets us a B&B at a farm.

Next morning we re-visit the basilica, overwhelmed by the magnificence and scale of it. But there in the soaring splendour and ancient coolness a very human exchange takes place. A frail, elderly nun approaches us and asks Sylvia sweetly if she would administer her eye-drops as she cannot do it herself. Such trust and simplicity.

After a few wrong turns and backtracking we get on our way and walk through beautiful countryside, watching Vézelay get further away by the hour. We get a shy welcome from the farmer at our *Ferme Ecosse*, an organic farm B&B. His wife Chantal gives us a lovely *petit déjeuner* - *fromage blanc*, honey, bread and croissant and, of course, huge bowls of milky coffee. No other pilgrims yet... We realise now that the temperature is rising and we resolve to make earlier starts if possible. We call at the shop/restaurant where we ate deliciously last night to pay for the coffees we had but were waved off with a smile. "*De mien! bonne route! bonne courage!*" Twenty-one kilometres today to Corbigny. We've managed to book the refuge ourselves - this does

wonders for our self-confidence and we step out but soon we're forced to shelter and cool off under trees by the roadside. We beg water from the villages en route. More kindness and "*bonne routes!*" Rounding a corner in the small village of *Le Chemin*, we come upon a Dutch couple working in their garden. No sooner is their offer of *café* heard than we are sitting at their shady table, sweating embarrassingly on to their chairs. All the pilgrims have to pass their garden gate but, they say, not more than 150 or so a year.

At Corbigny refuge, Jacques, our *hospitalier*, is an immediate hit for making us a cup of tea and showing us a fridge full of iced water – all ours and promising to give us breakfast in the morning! "Where are all the other pilgrims?" we ask. "You're too late, they've all gone. Too hot!" Our six bed dormitory, with curtains, is next to a tiny chapel and we go to Mass at 6.00pm. Our linguistic listening skills are being honed as no one so far has had any English. The priest is thrilled with our presence, we swell the numbers by fifty per cent, and he does his best to include us and, yes, we *do* feel included, very much so. At last, too, Sylvia gets her shell here and we tie it on the rucksack with due ceremony. Another hot bright day and although it's only 17km, it feels like a lot more. The scenery and the creamy cows and the wild strawberries in the woods compensate however, and we find the refuge in the *mairie et école* in St Révérien. It is tiny, just two beds, a shower, basin, cooker and table and chairs. The toilet is a stroll away opposite the Romanesque jewel of a church. Today is the feast of St Peter and St Paul but there is no sign of a Mass. On exploring the village we find the only restaurant has closed its doors for good in March, but a small dusty *épicerie* opens at 5.00pm and we feast royally on Morvan pâte
, bread, two large tins of mixed vegetables and a *bière* each. Monsieur Burin comes at 7pm to register us and we find out that since the refuge opened in 2004 only one English pilgrim has stayed here. We advertise our pilgrim presence by placing the clothes airer with our pilgrim washing outside the front door.

We start really early the next morning at 7.10am and it is cool in the woods but not for long. There's a lot of road walking today but totally rural so no traffic. Grain fields shimmer in the heat and the orange/gold tracks are heating us up. We straggle into Prémery down the main street and creep into the first *chambre d'hôte* we see – St James looking out for us again, as we haven't booked anywhere.

"A room? Certainly. Do you mind sharing a bed? No? Good. Follow me. Supper here tonight? A pilgrim menu, mesdames?" "*Oui*,

bien sûr, merci beaucoup, madame.” And tonight we meet our first pilgrim! But first we need a late lunch and to book our bed for tomorrow at Guérigny so we walk into Prémery town. We wait for the food shops to open at 3.00pm, then ring the one and only place to stay in Guérigny, the Hotel Commerce. The *hôtelier* seems to be saying yes, he has a room, but then he is trying to tell us something very complicated. Ah, he is *absent* tomorrow so we have to go round the back, climb up some stairs...then what? He is becoming very Gallic, expressive and emphatic but is getting nowhere with us. At length, he gives up trying to explain and says he’s coming to find us. Where are we? We tell him and resist the temptation to abscond before he gets here, as there is nowhere else to stay in Guérigny. He arrives and all is revealed. Simple, really, we need to know a code to get into the hotel through the fire escape door. Great relief and laughter all round, then he takes out a phrase book, ruffles through and asks if we are vegetarians. Ah, “*non monsieur, mange tout, mange tout...*” He gets a warm hug from Sylvia and looking slightly shocked, drives off. His name is Gérard.

Back to our *chambre d’hôte* and a delicious supper. Mme Mole, who has some English, introduces us to Antonius from Cologne, a history and Latin teacher, and over coffee and *digestifs* we have our first encounter with a fellow pilgrim. He is quite happy not to meet fellow travellers but assures us we are exceptions, enough so for him to slip his address under our door at 6.00am. He was walking fast and hopes to be in Nevers the next day. Monsieur Mole gives us breakfast at 7.00am - yogurt, *pain au chocolat*, juice, milky coffee and lots of “*bonne routes!*” Today’s way goes through woods, by way of the *Route Forestière de Poiseux* and the shade is welcome.

When we pop out of the forest and into the leafy suburbs of Guérigny and the hot sun again, there is Gérard waiting for us with an embarrassed smile. It seems we and he, have “*un petit problème!*” The room he has earmarked for us is still occupied, by a chap who has broken his leg and is in hospital. No other rooms. Gérard flings open the boot of the car, dumps our rucksacks in, opens the car doors and we fall in, too hot, dusty and overcome to bother with our pidgin French. We arrive at the Hotel Commerce. The upshot is that Gérard, obviously working directly on the order of St James, gives us the run of the hotel for the night. Except the bedrooms. He makes us up two beds on his dining room floor, complete with towels, soap and a torch. He shows us a room with a shower that we can use. He puts up a picnic table, sun umbrella and two chairs in his backyard and plonks

two cold *bières* on it. He shows us the kitchen refrigerator and tells us to help ourselves to cold food. He shows us the coffee machine on the bar, the drinks behind the bar and the wine in the cooler cabinet. He will see us for breakfast at 7.30am? "Anything else?" "Oh yes, don't forget to go out and see our beautiful town, especially Vieux Guérigny. Here's the keys. *Bon nuit.*"

I am afraid to say that we do not sleep well. It's the World Cup and as France wins their match all the cars in Guérigny hoot and roar about all night, as do the youths. Is it a mob? We tremble. We are pleased to see Gérard at 7.00am and have a delicious breakfast in his backyard. Two other customers appear for breakfast and Gérard tells them the story of the mix-up. Their comment is "*Gérard? Il est magnifique, formidable!*" We agree, and recall that when he was making up our beds he said "*C'est normale!*" As the church is locked, (it's Sunday) we set off and it's hotter than ever, 30C at least. We walk alongside the River Nièvre for a while, through some pretty villages, cross a railway line, then up a wooded track. Apart from two weekend horsemen from Auxerre, we see no one. Into Nevers, we are waylaid, no, saved by a cool bar on a street corner and have *bières* and a plate of olives to give us strength for the last trudge to the convent. We pass Chapelle Saint Silvain with St James in a window and a shell at the door but it is locked. Not a soul or a car is abroad, a French Sunday.

At Maison d'accueil Saint-Gildard we settle into a modern block of rooms and are later woken from a doze by singing. We creep out and follow the sound to the end of our corridor, where an old wall meets the new. Three steps up and through an open door and we find ourselves in the organ room of the *chapelle*. The room is bathed in light from a stained glass window and we can see below us a Mass in progress. We sit transfixed in a moment of thanksgiving and total peace.

The *chapelle* is a shrine to St Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes and pilgrims come from Lourdes to pray and worship. Her embalmed body lies in the *chapelle*.

Now we have a day to explore Nevers and its treasures. Antonius had done his homework and given us a shortlist of places to visit but we don't get past the first two. Saint Cyr-Sainte Julitte Cathedral takes us most of the day to study the wonderful modern (1977 onwards) stained glass and our basic French is just enough to read about some of the designs in detail. The church of Saint Etienne is magnificent in a totally different way, a massive Romanesque building,

dark and atmospheric inside but still a much-used church. The map shows the River Loire at Nevers so we go in search of it, spiralling down steep steps to the bridge, and find a wide river with sandy islands and grassy banks.

Our next pilgrimage journey will take us over this bridge and on into rural France, ever southward to the Spanish border.

For now we return home, to remember with gratitude and affection all the ordinary and extraordinary people we've met who helped us on our way.

NB: We used the loose-leaf *Itinéraire du Pèlerin de Saint-Jacques, Voie Historique de Vézelay*, taking out the pages we needed. It was invaluable and if we made mistakes it was due to our inattention to the text! The tracks are extremely well signed and the town plans are included. It is available from the Confraternity.

A Short Walk in Northern Spain

Robert Neale

With a longstanding enthusiasm for trekking in the wild, and living as we have done for more than seven years now in the mountains of Andalucia in southern Spain, I've clearly been remiss in not having familiarised myself earlier with the Camino de Santiago. It was getting late in the year (early November) and Galicia is famous for having wet misty and generally inclement weather at the best of times (which has for a long time made it a favourite destination for Spanish holiday-makers escaping the oppressive heat of central and southern Spain in the summer) so I decided on a shorter walk of the final 212km from Ponferrada to Santiago. The train journey from Ronda to Madrid and thence to Ponferrada was uneventful and fairly uncomfortable; the pinks and ochres of the early evening's progress through the southern sierras gave way to a somnambulant blandness beyond the tinted carriage windows. A shriek of light and bustle as I changed stations in Madrid and then off again in the blackness to Ponferrada, where I descended alone at 3.30am on a cold but not otherwise disagreeable morning.

Nothing was stirring and, as I had misunderstood my Guide, I spent the next few hours unsuccessfully trying to find the pilgrims' *refugio* adjacent to the basilica; it wasn't there at all and it was gone 6am before I finally located it on the outskirts of the town, found a sheltered porch and lay down to await the morning's activity within. Having obtained my *credencial* and generally spruced myself up after the journey north, I set off - to the accompaniment of the reverberating hails of "*buen camino*" - through the centre of this unprepossessing industrial town, as it was stirring itself awake. I started by following two other pilgrims but soon lost them in the suburban streets as they probably popped into a bar for breakfast.

I made no less than three important discoveries in my first hour: -

- I was carrying far too much kit
- This made my progress slow and it therefore was folly to try to follow people
- Walking on metalled streets and highways was very hard on my feet, which sometimes felt as if they were on fire.

The first and last of these were simple problems but it was the second - my slow progress - that was to sadden me most as I continued westwards towards Compostela. No other pilgrim walked as slowly as I (and I know it's very uncomfortable to walk slower than one's optimum pace) so I was never able to walk alongside a group of pilgrims. It was on the overnight halts that I was able to realise how generally companionable they were.

I breakfasted in a small bar in Fuentesnuevas and then the day - and the countryside - opened up before me; it was then, and throughout my walk, the most perfect walking weather - sharp frosty mornings, clear blue skies with a cooling breeze to deflect the warmth of the afternoons. Not how I remembered Galicia when I had been on an excursion with neighbours from Andalucia almost seven years earlier. And I don't think I'll see the like again.

I arrived at the *refugio* in Villafranca del Bierzo at about 3pm, ready to rest up after my first day's excursion and the lack of sleep from the previous night. I was surprised that many of the pilgrims who'd set out that morning from Ponferrada were also minded to call a halt so early in the day. I learned that the next day involved a long hard climb to O Cebreiro.

A rather withdrawn pilgrim, probably in his early fifties, had been ruing the loss of his *credencial* earlier that day. I had no idea of how many days he had walked but several hours after his arrival at the *refugio* and the discovery of the loss a further pilgrim arrived with the precious thing in his hands seeking its owner! Soon the general hubbub slowly abated as we each recognised that the pilgrim was sobbing like a baby - tears scalding his cheeks and his chest and shoulders heaving in convulsions. Nobody could know from what well of melancholy this had come (for they didn't seem like tears of relief at the return of his *credencial*). We have all at times in our lives shared with Shelley the observation that :

*I could lie down like a tired child,
And weep away the life of care
Which I have borne, and yet must bear...*

Sometimes one just needs to cry: to let it all out. And where better than amidst the quiet support of a band of pilgrims seeking refuge, somewhere on the Camino de Santiago?

The next day's 30km was hard going uphill to O Cebreiro and mercifully the weather continued to be ideal in spite of an overnight fall of snow on some heights to our north and rumours of mist in

front of us. If it had started misty this had all been burned off by the sun as I climbed the metalled road bypassing La Faba to the tiny hamlet of Laguna de Castilla. As I neared the hamlet I met Carlos, lately of Majorca but originally from Huelva in Andalucia. He had started out from Logroño some 450km and several weeks previously, and was resting his feet which were “on fire” from treading tarmac. (This was very reassuring to yours truly). He tut-tutted at the weight I was carrying: “*Hombre*, a tent... sleeping bag... changes of shirt/underpants...!” By the time I had passed Laguna de Castilla and was gently contouring around to the village of O Cebreiro which I could see 2.5km ahead Carlos had disappeared ahead.

O Cebreiro hardly seemed like a village. Rather, a collection of hostels, bars, restaurants and shops selling local artisan and gastronomic specialities, and pilgrimage paraphernalia to day-tripping motorists. The countryside around the settlement was lovely and the views from these heights were worth the day-trip on the rare days they were not shrouded in mist.

The pilgrims’ *refugio* was set aside from the commercial enterprises but later in the evening my way was lit by a clear sky crowded with stars, to the only restaurant which seemed open at that time of year. There I had three large bowls of broth and a huge beef chop nestling on a plate of chips. And so to bed.

The next morning I arranged to send my rucksack 21km ahead to Triacastela by taxi. This seemed to me a bit of a cheat at the time but was clearly quite common in both the *refugios* in which we stayed. Indeed there were official looking enticements to do so. Thus unburdened I strode out along yet more highway - ever westwards

making a better pace and cutting away from the main road to go through Fonfira where there had been a pilgrim refuge from as early as 1535 until the middle of the last century. The refuge would offer free bread, milk and lard to sick pilgrims. Although my toenails were showing the effects of the long slog downhill and the associated braking with my feet in their boots I was startled when an old woman suddenly appeared around a corner of a farm house building and proffered a plate of hot, sugared pancakes. I was glad to take one and of course she asked if I would care to make a donation for her trouble. Although the eventually agreed upon one euro seemed a bit excessive I thought it churlish to demur and consoled myself with the optimistic hope that, had I been a genuine and impoverished pilgrim, she would have insisted that my prayers for her at the cathedral altar in Santiago

would be recompense for her trouble.

It was a lovely drop further down towards Triacastela, with the wind stiffening and making a veritable howl in the trees and pylons, and with extensive views over the lower country to the west. To my surprise I even managed to overtake some other pilgrims; a French couple, who had walked all the way from Arles. They clearly seemed in no great hurry to cover the remaining 140km or so and seemed accustomed to stopping for frequent picnics or - as in this case - to collect chestnut windfalls to roast at their next overnight halt.

In Triacastela I retrieved my rucksack from the designated *hostal*. After a good lunch I decided it was too early to stop at the pilgrims' *refugio* and that I would press on - laden anew with my pack - to the monastery at Samos 11km away. The old Benedictine monastery dominates the village; pilgrims can sleep in the granary and I'd heard from Dieter who had walked all the way from Vienna that one could attend the Mass in the eighteenth century church and/or vespers which were sung in Gregorian chant in a small chapel above the granary, by the dozen or so monks currently resident at the abbey. During the monastery's heyday there were around five hundred monks at the abbey. I got there late afternoon, and so decided I would give Mass a miss and settled to await the *hospitalero*'s call to vespers at 7.30pm. At the appointed hour we were all escorted upstairs, along the upper gallery, and into the chapel. Immediately I was drawn into the serenity and simplicity of the service and its plain chant.

During supper in the small restaurant across the road from the monastery I sensed that my dining companions (one of whom, Roberto from Brazil, was doing the camino from Roncesvalles for the thirteenth time) could smell Santiago some 113km away. Like horses attracted to water from afar they felt they had almost arrived and were anxious to quicken their pace over the following days. My feet were blistered and sore and I knew I could not keep up with them so it was an occasion to say my farewells and wish them all "*buen camino*" for the last time.

The next day was Sunday and very quiet. I was the last to leave the monastery and had decided - in view of the condition of my feet - to aim no further than the 12km or so to Sarria during the day. There was a lot of roadwork including a longish stretch where the pedestrian route across country and through dense undergrowth was clearly impassable and I was constrained to remain on the alternative metalled road otherwise signposted for pilgrims with bicycles. The last

few kilometres into Sarria, through the centre and up the old hill town to the *refugio* seemed to take forever. Earlier I had walked along in the dappled shade of the delightful valley floor below the small hamlets of Sivil and Hospital exulting in the prettiness and tranquillity but disheartened by the probability that I should have to curtail my walk.

The *refugio* was up by the old convent on the hill overlooking Sarria from the far side so I had another rather disagreeable plod through the town and up a long flight of steps before coming to rest. It was only about noon but I had decided to go no further that day; rather to stay overnight and visit the *podólogo* or foot specialist, who was advertising prominently in the lobby of the *refugio*. I should explain that earlier in the year I had been diagnosed as a Type 2 (non insulin-dependent) diabetic and since then had repeatedly been made aware of the special care that I should take as regards my feet. Could I - or even should I - go the remaining 120km? Or would I be causing more permanent or serious problems from the standpoint of my diabetes?

I lunched in the town, returned to the *refugio* and settled to the long day ahead of me. It was interesting to chat at length to the *hospitalera* and to hear her complaining about the different scene encountered in the *refugio* during July and August. To qualify for the *compostela*, a pilgrim must walk at least 100km and so Sarria has become a major starting point for pilgrims to be able to meet the requirement. It's generally the busiest stretch of the camino but in the holiday months of the summer the official pilgrims' overnight halts also provide hostelling holidays for groups of youngsters "with their alcohol, noise and graffiti leaving no accommodation available for the real pilgrims - from Roncesvalles, Vienna, Holland, Arles etc," she observed.

Earlier in the long afternoon He arrived. About 30 years of age, with a highly polished shaved head and wrap-around designer sunglasses. He showered and then set into a series of stretching and tensing exercises - feet up on the top bunk, or pulled up into the small of his back. All the time taking various pulses and scrutinising his stopwatch. He was doing 60km per day and would be demanding his *compostela* and free lunch at the *Reyes Católicos* parador in Santiago in no time at all. I asked good-naturedly if he was doing 60km per day on foot or bicycle and his look - but otherwise lack of response - dismissed me as a mental and physical incompetent. And was not my loafing on my bed so early in the day absolute proof of his supposition? He put on a fresh pair of lycra buttock-hugging shorts, adjusted his scientifically and ergonomically packed knapsack, wrapped his

aerodynamically favoured sunglasses around his face, and strode out to rejoin the camino. I envied him his feet - without blisters and disengaging toenails, but the rest (the pulling and puffing, tugging and tweaking) seemed unnecessary.

That night I slept fitfully to the background of some insensitively noisy conversation and the loud snoring of a rather large lady making an improbable assault on the 120km remaining to Santiago. I found myself pinching her nostrils together for minutes at a time but she was completely oblivious to this device and snored even more loudly when I released her. In the end I chewed some tissue to stick in my ears as earplugs and reversed my sleeping position so that my head was alongside her feet instead of her noisy nostrils.

The next day the foot man did of course insist that I discontinue the walk.

So, what had all the fuss been about? Only four days and less than 100km of the camino left to go. Beautiful countryside. Beautiful weather. Almost without exception the most engaging and supportive of travelling and overnight companions; however, I never once heard anybody talk of why they were doing it. Was it an endurance test, a challenge, a vow, or religious devotion to St James? For my part all I can say is that in spite of the briefness of the encounter I found it rewarding and uplifting in so many different ways: so quickly immersed in one's tranquil passage through such lovely countryside and yet buoyed up by the ancient and enveloping sense of purpose that one encounters everywhere. In the polished stones of the trail, the chapels, monuments and *refugios*, and in one's fellow pilgrims. In his *Roads to Santiago* the Dutch poet and author Cees Nootteboom describes the reaction of the priest responsible for maintaining the records of successful pilgrims in Santiago. He states how impressed he was with the answer a Dutch chemistry teacher gave for the motive of his walk as "thinking". In common with almost all arrivals what had started out as a long-distance walk had become a contemplative, reflective pilgrimage. And already I miss it terribly.

I have asked my *podólogo* down here in nearby Ronda to oversee the recovery of my feet and to prepare them to take the camino from Vézelay, Le Puy, Arles or (at least) Roncesvalles in their stride! For it would sadden me almost beyond measure to discover that I can't soon wave a cheery "*buen camino*" and set out to do something as simple as putting one foot in front of the other all the way to Santiago.



Refugio Gaucelmo News

Graham Scholes

Hospitaleros

- April: Bill & Wynne Kelly
May: Michelle Peyrot, Erika Laurent
Callie Hemmings and Charles Bidwell
June: Roger & Julie Davies and Sarah McBain
Terry & Ann Maxwell, Per Hovland and Bev Parslow
July: Vincent & Roslyn Cowley and Robert & Jane Longhurst.
Gilbert Cabergs and Paul Murray.

April and May saw pilgrim numbers averaging in the twenties, but not the weather, being decidedly chilly in the mornings and evenings.

June saw quite a low occupancy at Gaucelmo, ranging from 40 to as low as 24. After talking with Isabel, it was reported that pilgrim numbers have been extremely low at Pilars also, so the influence of the World Cup maybe having an effect. There is still unease within the village regarding the increased pilgrim capacity at Angela's (tents in the field), but fortunately Gaucelmo is keeping outside the controversy.

Although the numbers have been low, it has been a celebratory time as Gaucelmo received its 95,000th pilgrim, a young South African. The incumbent hospitaleros presented the pilgrim with a bottle of champagne in recognition of this milestone.

During June, Gaucelmo had received pilgrims travelling with 2 donkeys and 3 horses. Also, a group of 50 Irish pilgrims, who were the ones who had kindly donated the stained glass window currently hanging in the library, visited Gaucelmo. They stayed in the village at Pilars, the hospitaleros volunteering to help wait on tables in the evening for her, which did wonders for village relations.

Three new green garden tables were bought from Astorga, which were located in the huerta and have been much appreciated by the pilgrims.

There were no reports of rowdy Pilgrim behaviour, or late returnees to the refugio as the World Cup was now in full swing – other than the hospitaleros that is!

There was an earthquake reported on June 6th that measured 2.7

on the Richter scale. The epicentre being in the Pyrenees some 100km north of Pamplona, but the aftershock could be heard and felt in Rabanal. There were no reports of local damage.

The weather in June had been warm and sunny with odd thundery showers, including an ice storm, which in the words of the hospitaleros' '... with ice the size large enough to mix with your whiskey'.



During July we had our first ever pilgrims from Saudi Arabia and the Lebanon.

Numbers again, seem generally down on previous years at this time and have swung between the low twenties and low forties. During this period a major repair to the hot water system and replacement of parts, was carried out by the boiler supplier. The hospitaleros also made sure that a necessary repair was effected to the new windows in the main hospitaleros bedroom.

Last minute circumstances meant that in spite of Tricia Shaw's best efforts we had only two hospitaleros for this peak time of the year. Paul and Gilbert did a magnificent job, keeping the barn open and having over forty pilgrims on some nights, but again on some nights had lower numbers. Paul was in contact with his local radio station, giving news of Gaucelmo and on 25th July, El Dia de Santiago, our intrepid pair opened early, so that the pilgrims could enjoy the village festivities and later on gave them empanada and drinks, to celebrate the day. Gilbert even stayed on for most of the following week, to help three first-time hospitaleros, as the fourth had not turned up without informing the hospitalero co-ordinator. Well beyond the call of duty Gilbert, and we hope you have recovered by now!

During this second fortnight 8 new fire extinguishers were installed and we lost a branch from a tree in the patio garden.

A list is now being assembled of prospective hospitaleros for 2007. If you would like to know more about the role, or wish to volunteer for 2007, please contact the CSJ Office or Tricia Shaw via e-mail at stuartandtricia@btinternet.com

*We welcome Graham Scholes and Michael Krier
as new members of the Gaucelmo sub-committee*

Book Reviews

Pilgrimage: The Great Adventure of the Middle Ages

John Ure, 2006, Constable, 258pp, £20 ISBN 1841197866

With a scrip full of credentials in the diplomatic service, travel journalism and pilgrimages Sir John Ure is well qualified to write about his chosen subject. His style is both intimate and scholarly, erudite and companionable. He describes pilgrimage as ‘both an aspiration and an adventure, an external experience and an internal inspiration’. The book concentrates on the travel aspect of pilgrimage rather than chronicling shrines, relics and miracles, or descriptions of routes and architectural glories. Selected pilgrims’ accounts illustrate his theme.

Jerusalem, Rome and Santiago de Compostela are dealt with in turn, each through accounts which Ure feels illustrate pilgrims’ responses to their journeys. Canon Casola, for example, beginning his pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the age of 67, reveals in his frank account a whole set of mixed motives. Brother Felix Fabri is shown to be a popular pilgrim in contrast to the weeping Margery Kempe’s lack of companionable merriment.

Other pilgrimage centres, besides the main three, are described: Mount Athos in Greece, St Catherine’s Monastery in Sinai, Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset, Canterbury Cathedral with its shrine of St Thomas Becket and Walsingham, though this does not exhaust all the shrines mentioned.

Surprisingly, given the more conventional view of pilgrimage as fulfilling a vow or a penitential exercise, undertaken voluntarily or imposed, Ure also includes warlike activities that were represented as pilgrimages: the Crusades to the Holy Land, the Albigensian Crusade and the Pilgrimage of Grace. The term pilgrimage, as used by the leaders, was meant to justify their belligerent actions. The First Crusade was preached as defending pilgrim routes and shrines in the Holy Land from the infidel. Attacking the Cathars was meant to expiate the combatants’ sins. Robert Aske used the term Pilgrimage of Grace to sanctify armed rebellion against Henry VIII’s evil advisers.

When Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell had destroyed the monasteries and looted shrines, and the reformers had preached against the idolatry of pilgrimage, the pilgrim idea survived more as an

interior journey, as instanced by *Pilgrim's Progress* where Christian seeks the celestial city rather than an earthly Jerusalem. But the concept of physical journey remained as shown by the use of the term Pilgrim Fathers for those crossing the Atlantic to seek religious freedom in America in 1620. In modern times pilgrimages, retracing the medieval routes and venerating ancient shrines, have flourished again.

As a journalist, contributing to the *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph*, Ure gives the reader a taut, well-constructed read. Overall, it is a work to value and savour, to read and re-read. Parts of the content may be familiar, but the relating of the stories and versions of events, is done in a fresh, confident and interesting way. Ure reserves his own pilgrim reminiscences – often humorously told – for the epilogue. Intriguingly, his final scene adds a motive (not developed elsewhere in his book) for the pilgrim and pilgrimage: peace and reconciliation.

JOHN CLAIRNS

Camino Chronicle: Walking to Santiago

Susan Alcorn, 2006, 256pp, Shepherd Canyon Books, USA, \$14.95 (available on www.amazon.co.uk for £7.05) ISBN 0936034033

When Susan Alcorn together with her husband Ralph leaves her Californian home to walk the Camino Francés from Roncesvalles to Santiago in September 2001, she does so with the intention of having an interesting vacation with the added benefit of improved physical fitness.

Her time on the Camino is full of surprises: from the fact that shops close during Siesta time to how much depth there is to the history and legends of Spain and the Camino, and how physically and mentally demanding walking the Camino can be.

Susan shares her experience by using her journal entries from the walk. These are divided into regional sections. Each section begins with a map of Spain and the Camino, highlighting the relevant part, plus a list of towns and the mileages between them (to have the towns included on the maps would illustrate the distances better). The journal entries for each day then describe Susan's walking experience. She expands on these by adding more information and thoughts together with cameo pieces on history and legends of places en route.

Moreover, with the tragedy of 9/11 unfolding, emails between friends and family are reprinted to convey how deeply shocked Susan and Ralph are. They decide to carry on walking, and the demands

of the Camino take over again. Blisters, heat, the snoring in refugios, the stress of having to secure a bed in the next refugio, and to have to achieve a certain mileage to reach Santiago in time for the flight home are all taking their toll. They decide to take the bus between León and Ponferrada, thus taking the pressure off. Arriving in Santiago, and experiencing the Botafumeiro during the Pilgrims' Mass proves to be the highlight and a suitable finish to their walk (pilgrimage?).

The book is based on the desire to not just share her experience with the reader but to provide the history and background to the pilgrimage she didn't possess before setting out. It is also a direct result of her Camino experience. Initially thinking it hadn't affected her much at all, her outlook changed greatly between the time of walking and writing the book in 2005/2006. With the first-timer in mind, she adds very useful information on how to prepare for the Camino. Among them are a packing list, and a comprehensive action plan of preparing for a longer stay away from home. Answers to frequently asked questions, a short chapter with statistics about the modern day pilgrims, and a comprehensive bibliography complete the book.

The result is a book that will mainly appeal to (American) people who haven't walked the Camino as it provides practical information combined with the experience of Susan's walk, and it details the rich history of the pilgrimage.

ANGELIKA SCHNEIDER

Members' Pages

Special Congratulations to...

Jinty Nelson, professor of Medieval History at King's College, London on being made a DBE for Services to History in the Queen's 80th Birthday Honours.

Mefo Phillips, who rode Lco, from Canterbury to Rome to raise money for the Alzheimers Society

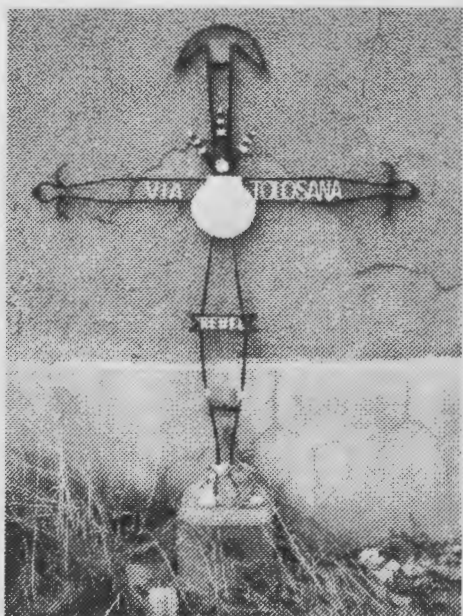
Ann Milner who walked from Santiago to Rome (see www.walk2rome.me.uk for her online Diary)

Alison Raju, who walked from Canterbury to Aosta just over the Great St Bernard Pass, taking notes for a new Guide to the *Via Francigena*.



Jinty Nelson with husband Howard and CSJ chairman William Griffiths

From John Revell



In her recent pilgrimage on the Arles route our Editor took this photograph of the wayside sign at Revel, south-west of Castres on the approach to the Canal du Midi. It is the same sign as Marigold and Maurice Fox chose to illustrate the cover of their Confraternity Guide to the route. On a personal level it tempts me to change the spelling of my surname to enhance the cross-referencing. But I have to bear in mind that in 2002 Marion Marples passed the village of Réville in Normandy en route from Barfleur to Mont-St-Michel

with her group from Southwark Cathedral. Therefore before making any far reaching decisions I am waiting to see what subsequent years will produce. Is there perhaps a Reville lurking somewhere in some forgotten corner of the Limousin, or a Revil hiding in the Vosges?

From Gosia Brykczynska

During my absence this summer, as I was walking the Arles route, my computer at home was cleaned, upgraded and reformatted... In the process all the e-mails which I still had in my mail-box were unwittingly obliterated and are now unfortunately permanently lost. To all CSJ members who e-mailed me with information for this September *Bulletin* and concerning my Arles route pilgrimage please accept my apologies for not getting back to you upon my return. Please e-mail me again with any information for the *Bulletin* if at all relevant, as there are different ways of getting information out to the membership and articles for the *Bulletin* can always go in the next issue. Also, fellow Arles route pilgrims, I had a splendid pilgrimage and I am planning a lunch-time get-together during the AGM – any takers?

From Stuart Frost at the Victoria and Albert Museum

I thought you might be interested to know that the plaster cast of the Pórtico de la Gloria at the V&A is the subject on a podcast in the latest edition of the V & A's audio magazine. The July edition of the V&A podcast is now available via iTunes. The following link should provide some further information: www.vam.ac.uk/vastatic/microsites/podcasts

From Mervyn Samuel

In No. 94 (p8) of the CSJ *Bulletin*, I was astonished to see a reference to Keynsham Abbey in Somerset (the old county of Somerset, between Bath and Bristol) in the article on 'Shelles of Galice' by Will Anderson.

As a boy (in the 1950s) I lived with my family in a lovely Victorian house called Abbotsford, on the site of Keynsham Abbey. My school was the Bristol Cathedral School, and before the Reformation St. Augustine's Abbey, Bristol (now the Anglican Cathedral) was a sister house of Keynsham: both belonged to Canons Regular of St. Augustine and St. Victor of Paris, an order which had only 6 houses in pre-Reformation England. Thus, I have a certain affection for this Order and its lost English houses. Our lovely Abbotsford was destroyed by Somerset County Council to build what was known, rather inadequately, as the Keynsham By-Pass (it destroyed the most attractive part of Keynsham!), but after we moved out the Folk House Archaeological Group (of Bristol) did manage to do a rescue dig which

added considerably to information available on this not terribly well-known Abbey.

From John Hatfield – Slide Librarian

May I remind members about the CSJ slide library. Not only do we have a collection of slides from the *Camino Francés*, we now also have a growing collection of slides from the alternative pilgrim routes. Slides from the library are available to illustrate pilgrimage talks you may be giving this year in the UK. Please give me at least one month's notice, so that a catalogue can be sent out to you and your choices made. I have to operate on a first come, first served basis, so the sooner I hear from you, the sooner I can reserve the slides for your talk. I can be contacted at: 9 Vicary Way, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0EJ Tel: 01622 757814

From Charles Ranald

Forgotten Diamond: If you enjoy the pleasure of a really good read, this first novel by me and my co-author John Sorrell will surely fit the bill.

It has taken over five years to produce this book following an extraordinary adventure when I walked a 1000 mile pilgrimage from Le Puy-en-Velay to Santiago de Compostela. By chance I came across a remarkable and little known medieval legend involving the unwarranted hanging of an innocent pilgrim and his subsequent salvation. From this legend I was inspired to meld it with a modern time story of greed and financial dishonesty. This has developed into an astonishing tale that will grip you from cover to cover.

Forgotten Diamond is available to you now in full pre-release form at the special low price of £7.97 plus p&p. In a few weeks it is expected to be in both 'on line' and traditional book shops world wide including Amazon, but the price will of course be higher.

Now, you have the opportunity to preview it, buy it, enjoy reading it, review it and recommend it to others. All you need to do now is visit: www.lulu.com/content/376488

Delivery is approximately ten days.

From the Secretary's Notebook

Obituaries

Owen Gilbert RIP

Dr Gilbert joined in 1987. His bookbinding skills were well used by CSJ Librarian Stephen Badger in the repair of historical volumes and the binding of periodicals. In 1991 he made a splendid slipcase, edged in black leather for a presentation copy in Spanish of *The Pilgrimage to Santiago* by Brian and Marcus Tate with Pablo Keller which was presented to the Bishop of Astorga, Monseñor Antonio Briva Mirabent at the Opening of Refugio Gaudelmo in October 1991. He also made a slipcase for a rare hardback copy of Walter Starkie's 1957 classic *The Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela*. Which was presented to Patricia Quaife to mark 5 years as CSJ Chairman in 1992.

James Hogarth RIP

James Hogarth joined the Confraternity in 1989 when he drove to Santiago. He later deposited a 144pp account in the Library. He translated William Wey's Itineraries for *Medieval World* and was responsible for the translation from Latin of *The Pilgrim's Guide: a 12th century guide for the Pilgrim to St James of Compostella*. First published by CSJ in 1992 and reprinted in 1996 it sells steadily and there are frequent requests for Permission to use sections in Medieval Anthologies of writing and pilgrimage. In spite of the claim by Italica Press that they published the first translation in English, by Prof William Melzer in 1993, the CSJ version actually appeared first. It remains, alongside *The Pilgrim's Guide: A Gazeteer* by Annie Shaver Crandall, Paula Gerson and Alison Stones published in 1995 by Harvey Miller, authoritative and accessible.

Jean Bourdarias RIP 1923-2006

Distinguished co-author with Michel Wasielewski of *Guide des Chemins de Compostelle* (1989) and *Guide Européen des Chemins de Compostelle* (1996).

The Reception at the Spanish Embassy

The Confraternity has been fortunate to enjoy the goodwill of Spanish Ambassadors who have been Honorary Presidents of since we first became an official charity. The relationship has been developed with each new Ambassador- I think we have known five – and we are most grateful for their interest and support. In 1989 HE D. José Puig de la Bellacasa very kindly hosted a Reception for members to launch the Rabanal Appeal. D. Alberto Aza Arias invited several small groups to the Embassy to advise him on his various pilgrimages and even came to speak to us himself.

The current Ambassador and CSJ Honorary President, HE The Conde of Casa Miranda has graciously invited the CSJ to the Embassy to support the Fund Raising Appeal for our new refuge in Miraz.

The Embassy itself dates from the mid 19th century. Belgrave Square is the heart of Belgravia, flanked by grand terraces, with substantial detached houses placed diagonally at the corners. Number 24 is a 10 minute walk from Victoria, Knightsbridge or Hyde Park Corner stations. The elegant Reception rooms are decorated with Spanish tapestries and paintings. Drinks and delicious tapas will be served.

There will be short slide presentations about the Northern Route and the Miraz Project,, a chance to learn more about work which has been achieved already and to consider the exciting plans for Phase 3 of Fund raising and building.

Dress: lounge suits and a chance for ladies to dress up a little.

We look forward to sharing the excitement of the project with the Ambassador and for us all to get to know each other better.

To reach 24 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8QA from Victoria station, exit to Buckingham Palace Road, cross to Grosvenor Gardens, walk along to turn L along Hobart Place. At St Peter's Eaton Square turn R along Upper Belgrave Street. At Belgrave Square turn L past one row of terraces to the corner with Belgrave Place. The Embassy has a double driveway at an angle to the Square.

Honoured Members

Those who have been members for 10 years and have reached the age of 70 are entitled to Honoured Member status and no longer need to pay the annual subscription. We try to contact everyone but if we have missed you, perhaps because we do not have your date of birth, please let Alison Thorp know at the Office.

New postage rates for Pilgrim Records

You will be aware that postage rates have changed for UK mail, with size now being taken into consideration. Please note these new rates:

1 Record (A5 envelope only)	30p
1 Record (A4 envelope)	42p
2,3 or 4 Records	61p
5 Records	85p

Thank you

Bulletin 94 contained a number of requests for help. We had a magnificent response. This edition shows the first results with two new Book Reviewers. We also have some new Office Volunteers for Saturday Open Days and people ready to think about a new edition of the Pilgrim Anthology and the Paris Pilgrim Guide. Thank you all very much.

Next request

The next target is the Pilgrim Guides to the Paris and Arles routes. The first editions were lovingly produced by Marigold and Maurice Fox who did a huge job sorting out routes and finding accommodation when there were not many easy sources of information. Ideally we would have new Guides but it may be impossible to find people with enough time, interest and energy to produce a second edition of the Paris route and a third edition of the Arles route. One interim solution might be to amalgamate all the updates (in print and on the web) and then walk (or ask others) to check the information. Please contact me if you might be interested.

St Christopher Fund

We have been slowly building up a Fund which can make money available to help any elderly or frail pilgrim to pay for a companion to help them complete their pilgrimage. Two payments have recently been made: one to allow Sr Elly Maria Pantecock to take her supporters and vehicles (adapted trike and support van) along the camino-she has so far reached Logroño and may be continuing the second half as you read this. The other award was to Tim McCoy who walked the Camino Inglés in Lent 2006 with his neice, Margaret.

Picture Gallery

On the CSJ website thanks to Howard Nelson and Michael Krier we now have the beginnings of an excellent collection of 492 digital images of the Camino Francés, Via de la Plata, Los Caminos del Norte, Arles route which are available for download and use. Full details of how to contribute and the terms on which pictures are offered are given.

Last Call for Photographic Competition ‘Hermanos’

Organised by the town of Vega de Valcarlos. Closing date 4 October for maximum 3 photographs in colour or black and white on theme of ‘Brotherhood’ in the Franciscan tradition found among people and creatures along the Camino de Santiago. For more details contact the Office with a sac for details. The CSJ has had winners in the two previous competitions: Hugh Richards and Susie Gray.

Last Call for Pilgrim Diary Competition ‘Liber Peregrinationis’

Organised by the city of Astorga. Entries should be in English (or 9 other European languages), not exceeding 100 A4pp, single sided, double spaced in 12point. Closing date 31 December 2006. Please contact the Office for full submission details if you are interested. First prize: 3000 euros and a medal, 2nd prize: 1500 euros and medal, 3rd prize: 750 euros and medal.

News from Spain and Jacobean Associations

Fires in Galicia

This summer Galicia has suffered badly from widespread forest fires, believed to have been started by arsonists. The worst affected areas are to the west of Santiago, on the way to Finisterre and on the Camino Portugués. Volunteers from the Asociación Galega are working with others to repair the damage. The affected sections are:

CAMINO PORTUGUES

Redondela-Pontevedra: sections in A Canicouba, Alcouce and Boullosa.

Caldas de Reis-Padrón: between Valga y Padrón.

CAMINOS FROM SANTIAGO TO FINISTERRE AND MUXIA

Santiago-Negreira: from Subida to O Mar de Ovellas

Santiago de Olveiroa-Fisterra: all the Camino between Hospital de Logoso and Céc. All between Céc and Sardiñeiro (Fisterra)
Fisterra to Muxía: whole route affected

New Refuges

Camino Inglés: Sigüeiro

Camino del Norte: Abadín, Trabada, Barreiros, Riotorto, Sobrado dos Monxes

Camino Portugués: San Pedro de Rubiaes

New Waymarking

Camino Mozárabe: from October 2006 there will be new waymarking from Malaga to Cordoba, information from Centro Cultural Jose Maria Gutierrez Romero,

Calle Fajardo 4, Meetings every Tuesday at 7.30pm , contact ajacobeamalaga@hotmail.com

News from Other Associations

CONFRATERNITY OF ST JAMES OF SOUTH AFRICA

This group has been established a few years and the founder members, especially the Secretary Marilyn Scholtz, have now stood down. There is a new Committee under the Chairmanship of Gep Maritz. The new contact address is 6 Horton Mews, Hemyock Road, Plumstead 7800, South Africa, email csjofsa@iafrica.com, website www.geocities.com/csjofsa

AUSTRALIA

Australian Pilgrims now have a dedicated page on the CSJ website www.csj.org.uk/australia for their Events and News.

Some CSJ publications will soon be on sale at Trek & Travel, 447 Kent Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000 tel (0) 9261 3435

CSJ Events

Saturday 23 September

Office Open Day

10.30-3.30pm. The office is open for advice and the Library for browsing.

Saturday 23 September

Walk for Miraz

See Miraz Newsletter for full details

Saturday 7 October

Returned Pilgrim Service

St Peter's Church and Parish Room, Stoke Lyne, Oxfordshire

This is an opportunity for returned pilgrims to reflect, share and celebrate their pilgrimages and address how to integrate the Camino experience into daily life. Those attending are invited to bring photographs, diaries and other memorabilia of their pilgrimage that can be displayed and shared. We would welcome suggestions in advance, of readings, music or prayers that could be included in the service.

Programme

From 11.30am: Reunion and preparations for the service followed by a 'Bring & Share Lunch'. Tea/Coffee/Cool drinks available.

2.30pm Pilgrim Service

The service will be led by The Rev'd Ricky Yates, Rector of the Shelswell Group of Parishes (of which Stoke Lyne is one) and a Trustee of the Confraternity. If you have material for the service, please contact him as soon as possible: Tel/Fax; 01280 847184 Email; rickyyates@supanet.com Post; The Rectory, Water Stratford Road, Finmere, Buckingham MK18 4AT

How to get there

Road: Stoke Lyne is 1 mile from Junction 10 of the M40. Take the A43 (signposted Northampton) and follow the signs to Stoke Lyne from the next roundabout.

Rail: Stoke Lyne is 4 miles from Bicester North Station on the London Marylebone - Birmingham Snow Hill line. For offers of and requests for lifts from the station, please contact the CSJ Office.

Saturday 7 October**Pilgrim's Progress**

Previously advertised Pilgrim's Progress walk postponed due to clash with the above event.

Sat 28 Oct-Sat 4 Nov**Visit to Burgundy**

including Beaune, Cluny and Vézelay, Fully booked.

Saturday 28 October**Walk for Miraz**

Leatherhead to Dorking. See Miraz Newsletter for full details.

Thursday 16 November**Lecture Recital**

by Mary Remnant. This event is postponed until 2007

Thursday 23 November**Fund Raising Reception**

6.30-8pm By kind invitation of H E The Spanish Ambassador, 24 Belgrave Square, London SW1.

With presentations about the new refuge at Miraz. Invitation by minimum donation. See enclosed Miraz Newsletter and *From the Secretary's Notebook* for more information.

Saturday 25 November**Office Open Day**

10.30-3.30pm. The office is open for advice and the Library for browsing.

The Rabanal *Hospitaleros* Reunion Lunch is also being held this day and *hospitaleros* may like to visit the office first.

Saturday 2 December**Storrs Lecture**

The Four Routes and the Architecture of the Pilgrimage, Prof Eric Fernie, John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1, 5.30pm, £5.

Prof Fernie, a former Director of the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London) is known for his study of Romanesque architecture. He will be speaking mostly about the Le Puy route and Conques and Moissac.

Dates for 2007

Saturday 27 January

AGM

AGM, Speaker & Party, St Alban's Centre, EC1

Saturday 17 February Practical Pilgrim, Nottingham

Mechanics Institute, Nottingham, 10-6pm

Saturday 3 March

Practical Pilgrim, London

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

Saturday 17 March

Practical Pilgrim, Glasgow

Saturday 17 November Practical Pilgrim - Other Routes

John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1

Other Events

Wed 4 – Sat 7 October

The Worcester Pilgrim

Alex's Jones highly acclaimed play brings the story of the Worcester Pilgrim to life with a professional cast and live Gregorian Chant. The Chant is sung by the Lay Clerks of Worcester Cathedral. Also an Exhibition in the Chapter House - The Pilgrim Books: Visual artists explore the themes of pilgrimage and create new artistic journeys in traditional and contemporary book form. Further details from the Box Office 01905 611 427

Wed 18 October – Sun 21 January

Velázquez

National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London, Mon-Fri 9am-9pm, weekends and bank holidays 10-5pm. Full programme of Lectures in association with the Instituto Cervantes, London. See www.nationalgallery.org.uk. First major exhibition devoted to Velázquez in Britain, with loans from the Prado and elsewhere.

October 2006

Spanish detective films

Season of 1950s Spanish detective films, Instituto Cervantes 102 Eaton Square, London SW1 9AN, tel 020 7235 0353, ccnlon@ccervantes.es

New Members

Information is for members' personal use only.

LONDON

Mr David Armitage & Mr Sheldon Fernandes 020 7489 0291
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Mrs Ute Davies 07957 587941
Henjo Houseboat Battersea Church Road London SW11 3NA
Mr Henry, Mr Edward & Mr George Fowkes
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Mr Edward Fyfe 07775 666740
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Mr Roger Warner
8 Jutland Street Mairangi Bay Auckland New Zealand

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

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

Pilgrim Guides to Spain

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

Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through France

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

Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through Europe

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

Practical Pilgrim Notes	for Walkers	£1.50
	for Cyclists	£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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*Members wishing to borrow slides should make their selections
from the catalogue four weeks in advance.*



How has the *gaítero* progressed?



- *Appeal Total* **£33,007 - THANK YOU**
- *Phases 1 & 2 nearly complete*
- *See inside for details of forthcoming events, including*
The Spanish Embassy Reception
and special offers from members eg walks, music,
holidays, books and CDs

*** 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 - Much of the work to the main building which was outlined in Phases 1 & 2 is now complete, apart from repairs to the roof and timbers and some electrical improvements, which have had to wait until the end of the pilgrim season. The total cost will be in the region of £34,000 and is therefore largely covered by the total donations raised to date.

2006 - So far this year, 872 pilgrims have stayed at Miraz making *donativos* of €4,592. Both these figures are over 50% up on last year which is encouraging in justifying our proceeding with the next building phase.

What's Next ? - Under Phase 3 it is planned to convert or rebuild, and possibly extend, the outhouse 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 outhouse, which would be open at both ends, preferably with a pitched roof which could possibly encompass the outhouse.

Our current aim is to have this completed by 2010, the next Holy Year. The budget for Phase 3 is £40,000. 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 is due to visit in early September 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

The fundraising group thank everyone who has given so generously of their time and their skills and, of course, their £££s and who have thus made this whole project possible

*** Recent Fundraising Events ***

We are particularly grateful for all the efforts made by all those involved in leading and supporting the following events and for the very welcome donations which were raised.

- Guided Tour of St Neot & BBQ
- Sussex Coastal Walk
- West Way Walk
- Showing of "Within the Way Without"
- Wye Valley Walk
- Cambridge to Grantchester Walk
- Loughborough Walk
- Spanish Brunch, Walk & Tea (raised £515 including Gift Aid !)

*** Forthcoming Events ***

Please help support the following members with their fundraising

Saturday 23 September Pilgrimage Day 1 - Ely to Santiago !! UK - E Anglia
10.00am. Meet at Michael Hargreaves and Peter Cousins at Ely Railway station for a visit to Ely Cathedral, with possibly a pilgrim blessing, before setting off along the towpath beside the River Cam to Waterbeach. It's about 12 miles of flat, easy walking through attractive countryside. We will stop at a pub for lunch, before continuing on to Waterbeach and catching the train back to Ely. In the event of bad weather we will spend the day in Ely. There will be a chance to see photos of Miraz too.
Suggested donation £10.

There are trains from London Kings Cross (8.45am), as well as local trains from Kings Lynn, Thetford, Cambridge etc.

*Further details from Michael - Tel: 01638 744113, email: Michael@lode33.fsnet.co.uk
Or Peter - Tel: 0208 560 0120, email: peter.cousins@merton.oxon.net*

Saturday 7 October "Pilgrim's Progress" Walk (cont'd) UK - Bedford
Postponed until 2007, due to clash with Returning Pilgrims event.

Saturday 28 October Brunch & Walk via Denbies Vineyard UK - Surrey
11.30am Meet at Alison's in Ashted for brunch, and photos of Miraz, followed by a walk along the "Mole Gap Trail". This follows the River Mole for about 6 miles from Leatherhead to Dorking and passes below Box Hill and through England's largest vineyard. In the event of bad weather we shall go direct to the vineyard! Ashted is close to Jnc 9 of M25 and there are regular trains from Waterloo.

Cost: Generous *Donativos*, (excludes official guided tours of Denbies which include a film, ride & wine tasting, and costs £7.50).

It would be helpful for catering purposes if you would let Alison know by Sunday 22 October if you would like to join her.

*Further details from Alison - Tel: 01372 274398 or email: alison.thorp@virgin.net
Or via the CSJ office.*

Thursday 16 November Lecture Recital- Mary Remnant & the CSJ Choir London
Postponed until 2007

Thursday 23 November Spanish Embassy Reception (see pages 4 & 5)

The Confraternity of Saint James

*by kind permission of
H E The Spanish Ambassador
The Conde de Casa Miranda*

Invites you to a
Fundraising Reception

Thursday 23 November 2006
6.30 - 8.00pm

*at The Spanish Embassy
24 Belgrave Square London SW1*

Dress

Ladies - the chance to dress up a little
(but tiaras not obligatory)
Gentlemen - lounge suits

*RSVP by 29 Oct 2006
to CSJ office*

*Minimum
Donation*

Official invitations will be sent out in November, directly from the Embassy.

See page 8 for application form.

*** *The Reception at the Spanish Embassy* ***

The Confraternity has been fortunate to enjoy the goodwill of Spanish Ambassadors who have been Honorary Presidents of since we first became an official charity. The relationship has been developed with each new Ambassador- I think we have known five - and we are most grateful for their interest and support. In 1989 HE D. José Puig de la Bellacasa very kindly hosted a Reception for members to launch the Rabanal Appeal. D. Alberto Aza Arias invited several small groups to the Embassy to advise him on his various pilgrimages and even came to speak to us himself.

The current Ambassador and CSJ Honorary President, HE The Conde of Casa Miranda has graciously invited the CSJ to the Embassy to support the Fundraising Appeal for our new refuge in Miraz. Please note however, that due to his budget restrictions, he asks us for a contribution to the costs.

The Embassy itself dates from the mid 19th century. Belgrave Square is at the heart of Belgravia, flanked by grand terraces, with substantial detached houses placed diagonally at the corners. Number 24 is a 10 minute walk from Victoria, Knightsbridge or Hyde Park Corner stations. The elegant Reception rooms are decorated with Spanish tapestries and paintings.

Drinks and delicious tapas will be served.

There will be short slide presentations about the Northern Route and the Miraz Project, a chance to learn more about the work which has been achieved already and to consider the exciting plans for Phase 3 of building and fundraising.

We look forward to sharing the excitement of the project with the Ambassador and for us all to get to know each other better.

To reach 24 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8QA from Victoria station, exit to Buckingham Palace Road, cross to Grosvenor Gardens, walk along to turn L along Hobart Place. At St Peter's Eaton Sq turn R along Upper Belgrave St. At Belgrave Sq turn L past one row of terraces to the corner with Belgrave Place. The Embassy has a double driveway at an angle to the Square.

If you are travelling from outside London, we may be able to find you accommodation with other members in London. See application form on page 8.

*** *For Sale - in aid of Miraz* ***

Mugs - £5 + p&P (UK-£1.50,
Eu-£2, ROW-£3.50

Available from the office or
the online bookshop at
www.csj.org.uk



*** Other Offers by Members ***

After 8 July **Bed & Breakfast** **UK - Cheltenham**
B&B offered to CSJ members for £12ppn. 1 single or 1 double room available. Convenient for University of Gloucestershire. Space for caravan parking. Profits to Miraz.
Further information from Doreen - Tel: 01242 248 188

September onwards **Cottages for rent in Rural France** **France**
Set in picturesque hamlet 5km from market town of Gorrion 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. 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 Gorrion, France. Tel: (0033) 243 08 00 20, Email: andreamast@libertysurf.fr Website: www.philm.demon.co.uk/HolidayCottages/

From Mid-September **"Within the Way Without"** **UK - NE**
Michael Naessens is prepared to organise showings of the film in Yorkshire and the NE from mid-September (as soon as he can find a suitable projector). If you are interested or can help, please contact Michael at 12 Dean St, Ilkley, W Yorkshire LS29 8JR or Tel: 01943 603149.

"My Camino : a personal pilgrimage"

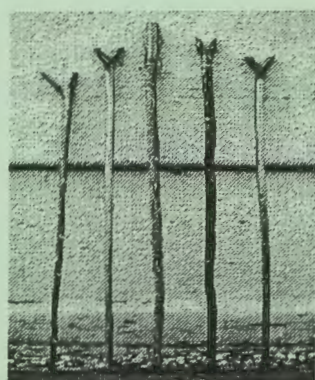
Michael Moon's book following in the footsteps of his ancestor who walked from St Jean-de-Pied-de-Port to Santiago in 1280AD. See Bulletin for details. Many colour photos. £6.50 per copy to Miraz. Order from office or online bookshop £12.99 + p&p (UK-£1.21, Eu-£2.10, ROW £3.95)

"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, 168 Newhaven Rd, Edinburgh EH6 4QB, Scotland. Tel: 0044 (0) 131 554 1737. Minimum of £4.50 per CD donated to Miraz*

NB: CD suitable for playing on computer, NOT on DVD player

Pilgrim Staffs



William Marques has hand-made some beautiful pilgrim staffs, in a variety of woods and heights, for us to sell in aid of Miraz. Available from the office. Prices £20-£35

*** Spanish Recipe ***

Another Spanish recipe - why not try this warming soup and invite friends round - in return for a donation of course !

Caldo Gallego *Soup from Galicia*

Ingredients

1	Ham knuckle
2	Chorizo sausages
500g (1 lb)	Potatoes
500g (1 lb)	Turnip tops, or cabbage (spring or savoy)
250g (1.5 cups)	Dried White Beans
2 litres	Water
Salt, pepper & paprika, to taste	

Instructions

1. Soak the beans overnight in plenty of cold water
2. Put ham, beans, 2 litres of water, salt, pepper and paprika into a large saucepan. Bring to the boil and simmer for an hour
3. Meanwhile, cut the chorizo into chunks, peel and dice the potatoes and coarsely chop the turnips or cabbage
4. Remove the ham from the stock and add the remaining ingredients to the liquid. Simmer for 30 minutes

*** Help Wanted ***

Raffle Prizes

We will be issuing raffle tickets in December for a Grand Raffle to be drawn at the next AGM in January 2007. Please let us know if you are able to help us obtain some top prizes from firms, shops or individuals.

Ideas for Fundraising Events

New ideas always welcome.

Offers to Host / Lead Events

If you would like to get to know more of your local members and help raise funds for Miraz at the same time, please let us know. A member of the fundraising team can help you and / or we can circulate details of your event to the members in your area. A favourite walk perhaps? Or a get-together over a cuppa (or *Caldo Gallego* - see above) to swap favourite stories, songs, quotes about the *caminos*?

Working Party

There may be spaces left (depending on your skills !) on the next Miraz working party 21-27 March 2007. Please contact Peter Fitzgerald - Tel: 01243 785681 or email: peter_of_chichester@tiscali.co.uk

CSJ - Miraz Appeal

Spanish Embassy Reception - 23 Nov 2006

Closing date Friday 29th October

Name

Address

☐ I am a CSJ member and my number is (if known)

☐ I wish to attend the Spanish Embassy Reception on 23 November and to apply for one ticket for myself and one for my joint member / visitor whose name is

.....

If you are travelling from outside London, we hope to be able to find you accommodation with members in London

☐ I can offer accommodation for people

☐ I would like accommodation for people

*Minimum Donation**

Individual Member £30

Visitor £35

2 Joint Members £50

** Please contact Alison Thorp via the CSJ office if the amount is difficult for you and you would like to come*

Payment

Total £ =====
=====

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

☐ I authorise the CSJ to charge my credit card as follows

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

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