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About the **Bulletin**

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Confraternity of Saint James March 2009

105

2

- Editorial Gosia Brykczyńska
- **Chairman's Report** 4 William Griffiths
- William's Walk 1 John Revell
- 9 To be a pilgrim Philip Wren
- The pilgrims' prayer Michael Perham
- A day in the life of a pilgrim Thomas Inglis 12
- 15 Two weeks as a Hospitalier Ken Bottrell
- Gaucelmo & refuge at Foncebadón 17 Rafael Canseco
- The Star over the Field 24 Colin Hudson
- A visit to Galicia & the Holy Land 25 Marion Clegg
- **Recollections of a Visit to Gdańsk** 30 **Tony Roberts**
- Refugio Gaucelmo News 33
- 34 **Members'** Pages
- 36 **Book Reviews**
- 38 From the Secretary's Notebook Marion Marples
- 40 Events

45 New Members

Cover picture: Statue of St James, Islington by Angelika Schneider

Gosia Brykczyńska

This last year and its celebratory festivities surrounding the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the CSJ, seems to have flown by at the rate of knots. We have just had another successful AGM where many friendships have been renewed and old friends have been greeted yet again. And we are now in our last year before the next Holy Year in Santiago and there is a palpable feeling of quiet before the storm breaking. The English are essentially a nautical nation and have even lent their name to a pilgrim route - Camino Inglés - which is basically the last leg of a sea-pilgrims' route to Santiago - especially for pilgrims from this northerly-located island. The question which has always fascinated me is just how many pilgrim churches dedicated to St James are located in the port towns of Europe and indeed just how prevalent was sea-voyaging to Santiago as opposed to going over-land? These questions have occupied not only my curiosity but that of medieval historians from many countries over many years, and in the CSJ bookshop scholarly texts and books can be purchased about these topics including Constance Storrs's thesis about English pilgrims, which has been such an inspiration for the CSJ.

What is known is that there are many churches and cathedrals dedicated to St James dotted around the Baltic coast from Riga to Szczecin (Stettin) and along the northern coastal borders of Germany and the Low Countries. Many of these fine Gothic churches were built with monies from wealthy merchants from the Hanseatic League but some were built simply as the result of local devotion to St James. In some localities there are as many churches dedicated to St James as in parts of Spain along the various caminos. In 1989 the Ghent exhibition about pilgrimage produced a map of churches dedicated to St James the Elder in Poland and to this day there is continuing research in Poland concerning the cult of St James. Moreover, current devotion to St James in central Europe seems to be flourishing and *refugios* along the caminos are welcoming increasing numbers of Polish pilgrims and natives of the Baltic States, not to mention Czechs, Slovaks, Austrians, Hungarians and Germans.

Two years ago members of the CSJ went in search of St James in

north eastern Poland along the so-called Camino Polaco, a route which eventually connects in Zgorzelec (Goerlitz) with one of the German routes leading to Santiago. In the autumn of this year the CSJ will again go to Poland – this time to the south of the country and follow the Małopolska Camino from Sandomierz to Kraków, where there are churches dedicated to St James all along the way at about 20-30km intervals. To emphasise this easterly shift of interest of the CSJ there are two articles in this *Bulletin* concerning Poland - one written by Marion Clegg, who was also present on the 2007 CSJ trip to Northern Poland and who accompanied me on a recent reconnaissance to Kraków in preparation for the autumn trip, and one by Tony Roberts, about the cult of St James in Gdańsk (Danzig).

All the articles in this *Bulletin* are introduced by our chairman Dr William Griffiths who summed up the activities of our previous year in his Chairman's Report which he presented at the CSJ's annual meeting at the end of January. He encourages us to think and work as pilgrims during this next year and to be a people of hope. We are also fortunate to have a pilgrim prayer by the Bishop of Gloucester and a lovely poem by Colin Hudson. There are also some pilgrim observations – in Philip Wren's insightful and sensitive article and in Thomas Inglis's account of a day in his pilgrim life. These and other articles are illustrated by Peter Garlick, who is sharing with us some of his camino sketches. Finally, both Ken Bottrell and Rafael Canseco (the latter's article beautifully translated by Paul and Cristina Spink) remind us about the pivotal role played by *refugios* and *hospitaleros* along the pilgrim way.

Whether you are contemplating becoming a *hospitalero/a* or would like to help out in Rabanal or Miraz, or you are going on your first or even a repeat pilgrimage – what unites us all is the multi-faceted pilgrim spirit. This year the pilgrim spirit will be kept going in a special way in England during the St James's Day weekend through a pilgrimage from London to Canterbury. So, if you would like to join the CSJ in Poland this autumn or are thinking of walking along the Pilgrim Way in England over the St James's weekend – please fill out your forms and let the confraternity office know of your intentions; and above all else keep that pilgrim spirit alive.

Chairman's Report

William Griffiths

hen we gathered in this place one year ago, we were celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Confraternity. We reflected on Hope as the essential virtue for a pilgrim, on celebration and on giving thanks. We have continued through the past year to celebrate and to give thanks. For one more year, the vision of our six founders has been put into practice by our 2000 or so members, as we explored the nature of pilgrimage, stepped out into pilgrimage, and invited and assisted others to be pilgrims. Much to celebrate, much for which to give thanks, much for which to continue to be hopeful. As an expression of our reflection, thanksgiving and hopeful desiring, there emerged, thanks to the initiative of John Rafferty, the small and precious book Roads to Santiago: A Spiritual Companion. To mark our 25 years, 25 members have reflected on different aspects of the pilgrimage, matched with beautiful photographs and passages from Scripture. The book is a jewel with 25 facets, but of course there should be 2000 facets to it. Every pilgrimage is unique. Each of us has unique insights into the nature of pilgrimage. Use the book as a stimulus to your own reflections, and create that other book with its 2000 facets.

Looking back on the last year, as always there is much for which, on your behalf, I want to give thanks. We are a Confraternity; what we do we do together. I thank you for your activities at meetings of various kinds, Practical Pilgrim meetings, Returned Pilgrims' meetings, meetings in various parts of the country, services to celebrate St James's Day and our 25th anniversary, meetings of intending and returned *hospitaleros*. Thank you for sharing your insights in the *Bulletin*, the Slide Library, and our on-line resources. Thank you for giving generously to our *refugios* at Rabanal and Miraz, in fundraising, sponsorship and as *hospitaleros*. Thank you to all who have offered themselves as *hospitaliers* in the *refuges* run by our sister Association on the Vézelay route.

There are several individuals I must thank for their special contributions to this work that we do together. Our new President, HE Don Carles Casajuana, who has succeeded the Count of Casa Miranda

as Spanish Ambassador. Those who serve on our Committee, our Vice-Chairmen Alison Raju and Revd Colin Jones, our Secretary Marion Marples, our Treasurer Tony Ward, our Finance Manager Alison Thorp, our *Bulletin* Editor Dr Gosia Brykczyńska, Roger Davies, Sue Goddard, Paul Graham, Catherine Kimmel, Mary Moseley, Angelika Schneider, Cristina Spink, Graeme Taylor and Revd Ricky Yates. Cristina Spink, who is stepping down, has, with her husband Paul, been a remarkable double-act on the Rabanal Committee. We are sorry that Ricky's departure for Prague has caused him also to step down, after having given us his special expertise on the Publications Subcommittee. The Committee are grateful to Anne Froud and Wendy Beecher for taking minutes at our meetings.

Thanks to all those who make the office so welcoming to members and enquirers, to Marion Marples, Alison Thorp, Christine Pleasants and all the volunteers, notably Wendy Beecher, Willie Bossert, Robin Dorkings, Schzen Ooi and Richard Jefferies. For the library to Howard Nelson and John Curtin and many new volunteers. Howard and John have devised a scheme to classify the Library's large holdings of accounts of members' pilgrimages. Many have generously volunteered to work on this, and also to read and analyse the journals we receive from overseas. For our website, thanks again to Howard Nelson, for the slide library to John Hatfield, for the digital library to Michael Krier. For all those who work with Gosia to produce the *Bulletin*: James Hatts, John Revell and those enlisted at stuffing-time. Doreen Hansen for sending out our pilgrim records, and Paul Turnbull who keeps the pilgrim register. All those who write our guides and other publications.

You will be hearing more about Rabanal from Paul Graham, whom we welcome back as Chairman of the Subcommittee, and more about Miraz from Colin Jones. Co-ordinator of *hospitaleros* for Rabanal is Graham Scholes, for Miraz Alan Cutbush. John Hatfield continues to be our link with the Vézelay Association for those wishing to be *hospitaliers* in their refuges. To all of you for making us what we are, our thanks.

I said earlier that the 25 facets displayed in the book *Roads to Santiago* should be thought of as shining on behalf of 2000 or even more facets. I would like to suggest that those 25 pilgrims are maintaining the ancient tradition of substitutory pilgrimage. As you know, it was accepted practice in the Middle Ages for pilgrims to set out to perform a pilgrimage on behalf of someone who was unable to perform it. Is

there not a sense in which all of us are substitutory pilgrims? I cast my own mind back to 1990, a year in which I had hoped to set out along the Vía de la Plata, and suffered the great disappointment of being unable to go. Three years later, I was received as a pilgrim at the Hospitalité St Jacques in Estaing, and learned that the founders of that community had made their pilgrimage along the Vézelay route in 1990. I felt strongly that their pilgrimage in 1990 had been made on my behalf, although along a different route, and although neither they nor I knew it at the time. Every one of us setting out does not set out alone but in union with those others who are bound together in this Confraternity, in union with all other pilgrims around the world, in union with all those who desire to be pilgrims, in union with those who do not even know that they desire pilgrimage.

Another year lies ahead of us, in which to make our unique contribution to Pilgrimage for ourselves and countless others. A year for hope, for desire, for giving, for thanksgiving.

St James, be with us in our journeying.



Peter Garlick

William's Walk

John Revell

The BBC Radio programme *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* (much missed since the death of its chairman Humphrey Lyttelton) was always described as the antidote to panel games. In similar vein our Chairman's walk on the day after this year's Annual Meeting could well be called the antidote to AGMs.

The day began with (or after) a Children's Mass at the church of St John the Evangelist in Islington. The church's copy of the Mantegna painting of St James is well documented by our Chairman in the last *Bulletin* and this was an opportunity to come face-to-face with the reality – and our gratitude was expressed to the tune of a spontaneous £47 which will augment the £250 already contributed to the restoration fund by the Confraternity's Committee.

The only unwalkable section of the Regent's Canal between Little Venice and Limehouse Basin (apart from a short stretch near the Edgware Road) is the portion which runs below Islington; but the point at which it emerges into daylight is only a stone's throw from St John's Church, and from there the towpath led us to the canal-side Narrow Boat pub for lunch. The Narrow Boat was the first of many havens during an afternoon of snow flurries which dictated a pattern of active motion combined with wayside sanctuaries for refreshments hot and cold (but mostly hot!).

Afternoon highlights followed one another in quick succession. Outbursts of song alternated with crisp blue skies and the forerunners to the snow which was to plunge the nation into chaos the next day. At the memorial to John Bunyan in Bunhill Fields we sang "To be a Pilgrim" – but *not* the liberated version suggested by Philip Wren in the next article in this *Bulletin*! (A photograph of the Bunyan memorial taken by Angelika Schneider on our walk accompanies Philip's text but is equally shared between our joint contributions to this *Bulletin*.) Within the square mile of the City of London we followed the guidance of Leigh Hatts's book on *London City Churches* and reeled uninterruptedly from one vista to another –

...St Ethelburga's reconstructed to new life as a centre for reconciliation and peace after the IRA bomb which devasted it in

1993

...St Helen's, Bishopsgate, dwarfed by the geometric patterns of "the gherkin" rising sheer behind it in soaring verticality

...All Hallows-by-the-Tower entirely reflected in the plate glass windows of a nearby office block of possibly no architectural pretension by day, but by the time of our arrival at dusk little short of theatrical.

Our Chairman wove his magic wand over mulled wine at the Hung Drawn and Quartered by explaining the significance of the Eve of Candlemas against the antidote to Greek choruses provided by Match of the Day on widescreen above our heads. Can you sense the build-up of a sort of magic as the day wore on? Not dispersed by a spirited rendering of "My Grandfather's Clock" as we climbed up to London Bridge above St Magnus the Martyr. Not at all dispersed by our Chairman's ability at Southwark Cathedral to produce in person Leigh Hatts whose very guide we had been following through our progression of City churches that afternoon. Was this miraculous appearance an ultimate coup de théâtre or does Leigh Hatts just happen to be a regular worshipper at Southwark Cathedral? At that stage of the day it didn't matter any more as we sat down to fish at Fish, the restaurant converted from a former Borough Market building. The panoramic windows gave on to a snowy vista of the south side of Southwark Cathedral, Libby Purves was yet to write fittingly in The Times the following morning of Candlemas and the purification of the nation by snow, it was our Chairman's birthday so we drank his health and gave thanks for his gift to us of an enchanted day - and we all wondered vaguely how we would get home through the wintry elements. As far as I know everyone survived - or at least no missing persons have been reported to date.

To be a Pilgrim

Philip Wren

JOHN BUNYAN, AUTHOR OF THE PILGRIMS PROGRESS OBT 31ST AUGT 1688, ÆT 60.

I twas inevitable that the first congregational hymn at the 25th Anniversary Service of the Confraternity of Saint James, at St Mary's, Clapham, was based on John Bunyan's hymn "Who would true valour see" with its stirring lines about being a pilgrim. As the congregation sang the rousing third verse I did what has been my practice since 1998; I sang the words "her" and "she" in place of the masculine pronouns. This is not a nod to political correctness, though I try to use gender-neutral language whenever I can, but rather the result of meeting an American *peregrina* at Roncesvalles in June of that year.

For reasons that I will not go into here, I was walking from Pamplona to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port; that is in the opposite direction to most pilgrims. At Zubiri I heard a story of how an American *peregrina* had set out from Saint-Jean and on the way had met a French pilgrim. At first he had seemed quite friendly, but somewhere on the journey, and without any warning, he had turned to her and said that every time she saw a yellow arrow, St James was going to curse her. His manner became so threatening that she turned around and fled back to Saint-Jean, whereupon she caught a train to Bayonne and prepared to return home.

At Bayonne station (though another version said Bordeaux) she met another American *peregrina* who persuaded her to come back to the camino and they would walk together.

At Roncesvalles I met the two of them and from their story quickly placed who they were. I had been to Santiago and they wanted information. I was sparse with my advice because it was more important that they discovered what God intended to teach them than being shaped by my experience. I did assure them that as they had safely walked over the Pyrenees, they had an almost certain chance of making Santiago, as long as they walked at their pace and completed the journey in their way.

I have just three regrets. By the morning that we parted I had run out of film and did not get a photo of the two of them. Their story would be the almost perfect way of finishing any talk on the camino. I also failed to write down their names, an almost unforgiveable sin in my book and whenever I tell the tale, I feel the story is a little diminished by their anonymity! Thirdly, I often prayed for them in the following days, but I still wonder, did they reach Santiago?

Is there anyone out there who can answer either question and better still provide a photo of these two *peregrinas* whom God joined together on a station platform so that they might be pilgrims of the Way of St James?

As we sang the third verse in St Mary's, I recalled them clearly, standing in the old dormitory hallway of Roncesvalles, rucksacks on their backs, looking a bit nervous but with a steely glint in their eyes, ready to face together the challenges of the Camino de Santiago.

Who would true valour see

Who would true valour see, let him come hither; one here will constant be, come wind, come weather. There's no discouragement shall make him once relent his first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Whoso beset him round with dismal stories do but themselves confound; his strength the more is. No lion can him fright, he'll with a giant fight, but he will have a right to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend can daunt her spirit, she knows she at the end shall life inherit. Then fancies fly away, she'll fear not what men say, she'll labour night and day to be a pilgrim.

The Pilgrims' Prayer

Holy God,

the companion of our pilgrimage and the goal towards which we move: through the events that shape our journey, through the people who walk at our side, through the places where we sense your presence, grant us moments of grace along the way, as you draw us to yourself, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MICHAEL PERHAM, BISHOP OF GLOUCESTER

A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim

Thomas Inglis

I 'm awoken by the sound of singing... some people might find this a good thing, heavenly perhaps, but not when it's a short Austrian guy doing his rendition of Shirley Bassey's *Goldfinger* in the shower. It's so early that the sun isn't even up but the room of twenty plus is frantic with people getting backpacks packed, getting in the shower and having breakfast. However there are one or two people who are quite happy, such as myself, to lie in bed for another ten minutes. As the amount of people in the room begins to thin out the noise dies down and I am able to get in the shower.

Now I'm dressed, packed and have had something to eat I begin to start walking. My pack seems light on my back, the sun has not long been up and there is the smell of fresh baked bread coming from one of the nearby shops. A local passes me by. I recognise her from the Mass before we greet each other, before I move on. It is not long until I catch up with another group of walkers, all of different nationalities. A Pole, a German and two Italians. I join the group and although we are all from different countries we are all speaking one language about common things like football and weather. From our conversation it is difficult to believe that sixty odd years ago our countries were fighting each other and it is eighteen years since East and West Europe were divided. I leave the group and stride out up the hill.

All around me are vineyards. The grapes are just turning purple and so too are the cheeks of the walker in front of me. He's big; I would guess around twenty stone-ish. He stops to have a swig from his water bottle and continues. All the time I'm getting closer. I pass him as he stops again.

The climb begins to the highest point on the journey. The sun is at its hottest and highest in the sky. Sweat drips off my forehead into the sand before my feet. I reach for my bottle of water. The water is cool and refreshing as it flows down my throat. I put the bottle back and continue on up the mountain. I see the vultures sitting on a mound opposite waiting for their next victim. A cross on the road up ahead is one of the many memorials to the people who have died attempting the journey. Another yellow shell sign points the way off the track and up an even steeper path. The heat is sweltering. I feel like I want to give up but know if I do then I will have nowhere to spend the night. As I begin to reach the summit I look around and see cities in the distance, the glint of the sun reflecting down off windows of buildings. The style of the farms and fields is like green patchwork and the closer I get to the top of the mountain more and more of the cross that marks the highest point is visible. There are two Canadian women holding a mini Mass in front of the cross, others are taking photos, and the rest are just resting for five minutes. The area around is amazing, there is a blue sky and the cool breeze is refreshing. I take my pack off; it feels like a weight has been lifted from my shoulders. I wipe the sweat from my brow and have another drink. As I see more and more people I begin to recognise them from the night before.

I heave the heavy pack onto my back and continue walking. The track ahead is very quiet with shimmering green banks on either side. The path eventually leads away from a gravel track and through a wooded area. The trees provide shade from the heat of the sun, although it isn't as hot now as there is a cooling breeze. The mud is dried and cracked, and dry wood lies everywhere. The vultures are circling, or is that in my mind?

"Buen camino," I hear over my shoulder. As I turn, the bike and the speaker zip past at high speed. This causes me to jump back in surprise but I quickly begin walking again. I watch the man on the bike all the way down the hill as he weaves around people and then goes out of sight.

As I descend the mountain I become aware of smoke. As I descend further I can see the top of a chimney and quite quickly the rest of the factory becomes visible as well. I remember somebody telling me about a tyre factory on the edge of the town I am stopping in tonight. The smell is like no other, fish and burning rubber perhaps? I continue down the mountain and stop when I reach a flat part with no trees. I look out across the town sprawling out for miles. There are church spires and chimney stacks, houses and factories.

As I get into the town the roar of the traffic is deafening compared to the silence of the mountain. It feels like I'm moving more slowly here than I was in the countryside. Ever so slowly I progress through the grey bleak noise of the city passing the garages, cheap hotels and the brewery. I walk for what seems like hours and am directed again by the yellow shells into a large square near the middle of the town.

As I head through the older part of the town I walk amongst

ruins that must have seen thousands of walkers in their history. The columns tower high above me like the fabled giants of their time. I continue through the streets until I reach an oasis of green amidst the dullness. The park is full of trees and wildlife. Joggers run past and birds fly in the air above me; the light is dimming. At the end of the park I can see my stopping point for the night. A group of small wooden huts is where I will be sleeping. I get into the *albergue* tired and dusty. I pay the man at the desk to allow me to sleep the night, and I find a bunk. The bed is comfortable and soft. When I take my boots off my feet feel like they are ten times their normal size. It is a relief to be able to take the weight off of my feet and lie down for a while. Downstairs I can hear *My Heart Will Go On* but not by Céline Dion but the man from this morning. I really hope I'm dreaming!



Sainr-Ferme, Gironde

Two Weeks as Hospitalier at Saint-Ferme, Gironde

Ken Bottrell

Having followed the Field of Stars in 2007, I thought that in 2008 I should put something back into the system. In the *Bulletin* I read that the ancient *Voie de Vézelay* from Burgundy down to Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port is being revived by Mme Monique Chassain; the modern route closely follows the line of the Roman *Via Lemovicensis* and Mme Chassain has succeeded in having it granted the status *Patrimoine Mondiale* with World Heritage funding.

I quite fancied a motorbike ride down through France in high summer with an objective at the end of it, so I spoke to John Hatfield who told me there were two requirements: a) the ability to put a decent dinner on the table, and b) reasonable French. The first was no problem, but my French is strictly 'O' level. John gave me Madame's address so I wrote to her in schoolboy French. She later said, "Your French is clear and amusing, you need only a little more practice." How kind! The result of all this was that at the end of July I spent two and a half days gently biking south, watching the cattle, apples and barley of the north give way to wheat, while south of the Loire sunflowers appeared and finally vineyards and tomatoes.

Saint- Ferme, near Duras, is a very new refuge, opened only in May last year. It is a most beautiful renovation of a barn, occupying the upper floor, while the ground floor belongs to La Chasse. Early one evening they appeared with a brace of *sanglier* (wild boar), one quite small and the other enormous. Friends, wives and families soon appeared. Eats and glasses of *pastis* were produced and I watching from the balcony was invited down and made welcome. With little ceremony they rigged up a couple of tripods and before dark had strung them up, gutted them, scraped the bristles off with boiling water and jointed them. The following evening, guns and wives had a "short dinner". I couldn't help thinking that in *la France profonde* little changes.

I had only a two hour overlap with the couple I was taking over from, which was less than I expected, but running a small refuge is really quite easy. Pilgrims in France don't seem to get going as early as in Spain, so a solid breakfast at 06.30 hours was early enough. Saint-Ferme has a *boulangerie* so I bought bread each afternoon and breakfast was bread, toasted if they wished, jam, cheese, yogurt and cornflakes. After a big dinner, early morning appetites were not all that great and any bread left they could take with them. Then a big clean and tidy up, and a ride through the vineyards of Entre-Deux-Mers to the Shopi at Montségur. One doesn't know in advance how many pilgrims will turn up, but the Shopi always had bargain bags of chicken legs, pork chops and various sausages to keep in the freezer. The communal area at Saint- Ferme is a large square room with the kitchen along one wall, whilst the south wall has enormous glass doors opening onto the balcony. Happy Hour began at about 17.30 by which time everyone had showered, rested and were walking around barefoot easing their feet. The charge for dinner is 8 euros, which I found would allow for a glass or two of rosé – quite drinkable at 3 euros a bottle at Shopi, while I got on with dinner preparation.

We always began with a salad of lettuce, tomato, olives and artichokes with a dressing of red wine, olive oil, mustard, pepper and sugar. It was always well received. The main course depended on what was on special offer, and might be:

- 1. Pot au feu of pork or chicken, with onion, carrot, potato and plenty of wine all together in the pot
- 2. A risotto of chicken and ham with plenty of *chorizo* sausage for flavour
- 3. Salmon parcels in foil baked in the oven, with root vegetables
- 4. Grilled skewers of pork and chicken with saffron rice

Young carrots, leeks and French beans were always a bargain. Puddings were very easy – apricots or plums stewed with wine and mixed spice or fresh peaches with a wine sauce and crème fraîche, small sweet biscuits and grated chocolate on the side.

What do I remember?

A Belgian – a trencherman, gently rubbing his belly after dinner.

Meeting Madame Chassain – *elle est formidable*, but I believe, appreciative of one's efforts. French time is +2 hours GMT and I remember *pèlerins* in their rain capes trudging off into the gloom on a wet morning. On a blazing afternoon, a girl getting rid of her Bergen jacket and boots and drinking a glass of squash all in one go.

Why did I do it?

Difficult to say. I am a scientist, an agnostic atheist, while some *pèlerins*, I noticed, read their Bibles before turning in. But deep down in our hard-wiring there is a drum whose beat we can all hear.

If you would like to be a *hospitalier* on the Vézelay route John Hatfield or the CSJ office will advise you how to contact Mme Chassain.

Gaucelmo and the Pilgrim Refuge Albergue de Peregrinos de Foncebadón

Rafael Canseco

Some time has passed since the inauguration of the pilgrim refuge Domus Dei at Foncebadón, in the far region of the Maragatería very close to El Bierzo, and now is an opportune moment to consider its origins and history and to gain a better understanding of the present house in relation to the proud inheritance of its glorious past.

Foncebadón is a tiny and beautiful village in the Leonese area of the Maragatería, set on the Camino Francés pilgrim route to Santiago de Compostela in the folds of Monte Irago. It is well known that between the various routes directed towards Compostela it is the "Francés" (from Roncesvalles in the Pyrenees of Navarre or Somport in the Pyrenees of Huesca, and their common route from Puente la Reina in Navarre) that has been considered the most important and most travelled by pilgrims throughout history, perhaps by being the most straightforward entry from the rest of Europe and for its deep historical, cultural and artistic importance.

It is here, having left behind Rabanal del Camino and ascended a good part of the twisting pass that Foncebadón comes into view at almost 1500 metres of altitude, at the highest inhabited point on the way of St James. Situated in the shade of the majestic Mount Teleno (of 2188 metres) this is a beautiful but hard place. Its winters are extremely rigorous, with frequent and heavy snowfalls, a fact that in past years made the passage through these wild landscapes difficult. It was probably this that in the 12th century gave the motive to a man named Gaucelmo of attempting to ease the passage of pilgrims through these harsh mountains.

Gaucelmo

Who was this person who comes to our attention across the ages?

Gaucelmo was the hermit who founded the Albergue of Foncebadón, and who later would donate it to the cathedral of Astorga around 1106.

These facts, recorded by Don Augusto Quintana, are included in the established work *La España Sagrada* (Sacred Spain) whose author, Padre Flóres, wrote in the 18th century.

Originally the name Gaucelmo would have been Gundiselmo (in Latin Gundiselmus); this he himself recorded on a couple of occasions at least and through phonetic evolution this became Gundisalvus and later Gonzalo.

Of his origins it is possible to conjecture that Gaucelmo was a native of El Bierzo and there is a paragraph in his will that indicates this. On bequeathing his effects to the cathedral of Astorga - a bequest that is recorded in a 17 th-century copy of a document in the manuscript section of the National Historical Archive (authenticated by the notary Esteban de Soto) - Gaucelmo distinguishes between effects "acquired" and effects "inherited". Of these latter quos Deus dedit (those that God granted him) there is confirmation of being situated in El Bierzo, through which we suppose that his parents and forefathers had lived there and where he, presumably, had been born. Furthermore, through a study of the text one may deduce that the place from where Gaucelmo came must be quite far from Foncebadón and that reference to those effects "inherited" confirms that these fundamentally comprised vineyards. El Bierzo vineyards exist neither in Foncebadón nor in its surroundings, due to the rigour of the climate, but at the farther end of the El Bierzo region where the climate is gentler - and so it is possible that his home area would have been in the western part of El Bierzo, bordering Galicia. However the exact place of his origin remains uncertain.

The date of Gaucelmo's birth cannot be known with certainty, but we can take as a basis the previously mentioned document, or will, dated in 1106. It would be logical to think that this was drawn up at a date near the end of his life. If he were an old man around 1106, maybe his birth would be around the middle of the previous century, perhaps about 1050?

The Origins of the Albergue

When, probably in his youth, Gaucelmo felt the call of God, he left his place of origin and retreating to live in solitude, began a hermit life, shutting himself away in a "cell" on Monte Irago.

Near this place passed the way of St James, where Gaucelmo observed the difficult ascent that the pilgrims made of the rugged pass, suffering the intense heat of the summer or the cruel ice and snows of winter, some dying in the attempt. It was for this that he wrote *dum essem in cellula mea dies aeternos et antiquos, cogitando cogitavi* (being in my retreat many and long days meditating, it occurred to me...). It occurred to him to help the pilgrims in some way and this is how he built a small refuge for the wayfarers to Santiago.

Given his scarce means, this seemed no easy undertaking, so perhaps he set off for León and the court of King Alfonso VI, to whom he explained his project of the Albergue and requested aid to be able to complete it. It is also possible that the meeting with the monarch took place not in León but during one of the frequent journeys that the king made, taking the opportunity of his passing through Foncebadón on the way to Galicia.

In any case, Alfonso VI showed a lively interest in Gaucelmo's petition and displayed extreme magnanimity by granting a considerable portion of land in the surroundings of Monte Irago. He also conferred the power to repopulate it (only monarchs could concede this power of *Cartas-Pueblas* and to develop it economically for the pasture and herd management that continues in the region to the present day. He also conceded exemption from taxes and authority over the land, so that nobody could dispose of it without his consent.

All this was confirmed in a Royal Privilege charter, drawn up by the King's chancellor. This document has not been preserved, but undoubtedly existed, since Gaucelmo cited it in another later one, to which we have concrete references. In this he affirms *edifiqué allí una Iglesia en honor y memoria de Santo Salvador y Santa María, su Madre, y unas casas que servieran de hospedería para los peregrinos que suplicasen hospedaje* (I built there a church in honour of the Holy Saviour and St Mary his Mother and houses that will serve as refuges for the pilgrims that may seek hospitality). Additionally, to attend to the pilgrims he counted on the help of his canon "brothers" of Astorga and of Bishop Pelayo, who consecrated the church.

It is proved that around 1103 the construction of the church of San Salvador del Monte Irago and the refuge took place together with the repopulation of the territory.

A work of this extent was difficult to sustain economically, but Gaucelmo counted on generous and numerous donations. Additionally King Alfonso VII and his son Fernando II confirmed and augmented the privileges granted by Alfonso VI.

A brief Analysis of some of the Documents

We have previously commented that no vestiges remain of the first document of donation from the Leonese monarch, but there is a reference to it that Gaucelmo makes when he gives the refuge to the chapter of the cathedral of Astorga *mihi concedit en infra omnes advenientes populatores, qualicumque regione, et unde venissent, misericordia Domini et sua, sub mano et meo regimini resident* (It is conceded to me that all those that may come here to reside, from whatever place they may proceed, through the mercy of God, should live under my authority and jurisdiction).

Following the production of this one document, there was a second document – also not preserved – in which the King granted exemption from taxes for all the territory and properties of the Refuge (Albergue). Later Doña Urraca and her son Alfonso VII were to grant new privileges to Foncebadón. Also Doña Sancha, Alfonso VII's sister, gave further donations to Foncebadón as mentioned in Father Flórez's book. (Don Augusto Quintana in his *Monografía historia del Bierzo* calls Doña Sancha "the Queen from El Bierzo", due to her good relations with the region and her residing at Monasterio de Carracedo.) In the same way Fernando II, Fernando IV and in more contemporary times, Carlos IV, of the Bourbon dynasty, confirmed all the privileges previously granted to Foncebadón.

The last known Confirmation of Privileges is on the part of Fernando VII following the Napoleonic Wars. In this last document the King, advised by his court reporters - with emphasis on the extreme cold weather of the Foncebadón Pass and the climatic harshness and insecurity of the zone - decrees that all those privileges granted by his father as well as his forbears (Carlos III, etc) should remain in force for an indefinite time.

The additional donations from individuals, perhaps for favours received from Gaucelmo, or the acquisition of other properties, either by purchase or exchange, contributed to the power and economic importance of the Albergue and its surroundings. The donations are numerous and from such different places as Somoza, Llamas de Cabrera, Pedredo, Salas de los Barrios, Noceda, Santa Marina in the Maragatería, Lomba in the Cabrera, Muza near Benavente, Turienzo, and Destriana.

Some donations refer definitely to the region of El Bierzo, like the case of a man called Pedro Modiniz, who donates a vineyard in the village of Valdecañada as well as some others within the limits of Ozuelo and Castrelo.

Other possessions would be the fruit of purchases by the Hospedería such as a vineyard situated in Vizbayo (now Otero) acquired in 1112 from Pelayo Ibáñez. Also another sale of lands, on the part of someone unknown situated *below Guiana*, *by the river Oza*. These are only small examples, which help to give us an idea of the importance that Foncebadón had for the Camino de Santiago.

Gaucelmo's Purpose

What was Foncebadón exactly? What was Gaucelmo's real purpose? Foncebadón was never a convent or a monastery, at least not in the way that we understand them to be nowadays. Gaucelmo's project was to found a Refuge (Albergue or Hospedaría) that would assist the pilgrims and given the nature of his character build an adjacent church that could serve as spiritual comfort to the distressed pilgrims. There is no known evidence to support the existence of a religious community in Foncebadón. It would have been senseless to have given the Albergue and the rest of the installations to the chapter of the cathedral of Astorga, if there had been a monastic community established there. He probably arranged this donation in order to prevent a probable abandonment of the place after his death.

Also certain is that together with the Albergue and the Church a Hospital was created to cure the injured pilgrims that were passing en route to Compostela. (It is important to remember that the presentday term *hospitaleros* is used to define those who attend, voluntarily - in the *albergues* along the Camino de Santiago - to the pilgrims who travel to Compostela.) The concept of Albergue and Hospital was always indissolubly joined throughout the history of the pilgrimage. Frequently these establishments combined both functions.

The Council of Foncebadón

It is appropriate to record a few notes referring to the famous Concilio de Foncebadón, also known as the Concilio del Monte Irago. It is remarkable that in such a humble place, this grand event was celebrated in the year 946. The reason for this meeting could well have been to give an impulse to the spirituality of the Camino de Santiago, but also to deal with the day-to-day concerns of the pilgrims, such as the security of the ways, being places of frequent attacks and robberies. Given the importance of this Council King Ramiro II of León attended the meeting. Also present were the then Bishop of Astorga, Salomón, and a good number of abbots, priests, monks and deacons. But the list of illustrious participants does not end there (and that is what marked the significance of the Council); the bishops of the neighbouring dioceses also attended, together with those who had any connection with the Camino de Santiago, including the Bishops of Santiago, Lugo, Oviedo, Tuy, León, Zamora and Bragança (this latter in the north of Portugal).

Foncebadón Today

Foncebadón became practically deserted when the rural exodus of the 60s and 70s took place. The inhabitants of small settlements were looking for new possibilities of advancement that diminutive and isolated villages could never give them. Foncebadón was no exception and its depopulation was almost absolute except for two inhabitants, María and her son, who stayed and became part of the living history of the village. In 1999 - and with the permission of the Bishop of Astorga, the invaluable help of the German Association Christophorus Jugendwerk, the direction of a local builder and the support of the Association of Amigos del Camino de Santiago de El Bierzo - the otherwise very dilapidated parish church was reconstructed. As the church was large for the needs of the congregation, half of the building was established as an Albergue for pilgrims. In November 2000, all the work was finished, resulting in a harmonious conjunction of Church and Albergue. The Albergue has eighteen beds (although often many more pilgrims stay, the space being utilised with the goodwill of everyone). In July 2003 the Albergue received the first pilgrims. Since then, it has received hundreds every year, who find there a warm and welcoming place where they can recover their strength for the following day.

The Albergue always bears in mind its parochial identity as an institution of the church and that is why the spiritual needs of the pilgrims are never neglected. Mass is celebrated whenever a pilgrim priest is at the Albergue, finishing the sacred ceremony with a blessing for the pilgrims. When a priest is not available a pilgrim community prayer is said every day at the church directed by the *hospitalero* or another volunteer.

Notwithstanding the character of the Albergue being Christian and Catholic the doors are always open to every pilgrim, without distinction and regardless of creed and ideology. We could mention many of the *hospitaleros* who have willingly and voluntarily given their services in the Albergue of Foncebadón. The omission of some names could cause us to be involuntarily unjust to those not mention, so we shall confine ourselves to praising the work that they all contribute, omitting any personal references that could unintentionally give a false comparison.

Finally, it is important to mark the fact that Foncebadón has become one of the best examples of how the Camino de Santiago has contributed to giving new energy and life to certain villages, just as happened in the Middles Ages when populations used to join and grow around the churches and *albergues* of the Jacobean Camino.

From the opening of the Albergue for pilgrims, two hotels have started business in the village. In parallel with this, many of the emigrants from previous eras are now reconstructing their dwellings, with respect for the architectural style of the region and now live at intervals in Foncebadón. This has resulted in a functioning water supply in 2005 and the laying of sewers and drains, something that had not existed in the village before. Now in 2008 the development of the village continues slowly but steadily, although there are still many other inexcusable delays in completing projects, as for example, the paving of the Calle Real.

We foresee a splendid future for the village, a place again inhabited and dynamic, in harmony with its surroundings, transformed into a point of reference on the Way of St James and recalling its richly-laden historic past.

TRANSLATED BY PAUL AND CRISTINA SPINK

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The Star over the Field

Colin Hudson

It's like getting ready for any birth, the womb of familiarity that enclosed comfort cocooned vague sleep of the known world,

yet,

sensing a crack of light or maybe a star that beckons inspires draws towards an inevitable new unconceived of life, a misty ancestral memory, the yearning of the seed in the soil nourished by the compost of a life, already inhabited, half-awake.

Whether entering or leaving the road of stars, that splash of milk across the heavens which also lies stretched over the land, is probably not even considered as it is trod by feeling souls on their journey to unknown rebirth.

A Visit to Galicia & the Holy Land but not in Spain or Palestine

Marion Clegg

n October 2008 I visited the camino in Galicia. However I was not in Spain but in Poland. I went with Gosia, the respected editor of this *Bulletin*. It was just as well to have her as a guide because she not only speaks Polish but seems to be related to, or at least be a friend of, everyone worth knowing in Poland!

In 2007 a group of us from the CSJ had been in search of St James in Poland. We then followed the line of the Camino Polaco from Olsztyn in the north-east via Toruń, and Gniezno to Wrocław in the southwest. It had been a most enjoyable and informative visit. (See *Bulletin* 100) We met many people who were working hard to re-establish the routes which pilgrims would have taken to join the other tracks across Europe towards Santiago de Compostela. Plans to mark the way from Lithuania were spoken of. We were taken on a walk along the recently way-marked camino near Jakubów. We were warmly welcomed and entertained by many people. I was impressed by what I saw as a strong desire to renew cultural links with the western Christian tradition of pilgrimage which had been denied to them during the years of Communism.

Those we met often asked how the CSJ had become so successful. The Confraternity had grown from a few dedicated enthusiasts to be the acknowledged authority in Britain with a large international (mostly English-speaking) membership. In Poland we met groups which seemed to be separate from each other. From its beginning the CSJ has been concerned with the many overall aspects of the pilgrimage not just establishing old routes in Britain. The groups in Poland seem at this point in their progress to be mostly concerned with developing their local routes. There are of course many Poles who have already travelled on caminos to Santiago though few have started out from their own country. They need, as I do, to associate with others who have followed the ways of St James and to share their knowledge and interest. Then there is the understanding of what it means to go on pilgrimage. I am well aware that my (Catholic) reasons are not those of other pilgrims. Our Confraternity is inclusive of all who wish to be part of it whatever their beliefs and understanding of pilgrimage. This, I think, is part of the reason for its success. The very word "confraternity" will convey a religious meaning in Poland where there is still a tradition of visiting many pilgrim sites such as Częstochowa.

The different groups of those concerned with the pilgrimage in Poland came together last year. A conference was organised by the Institute of Geography of the Jagiellonian University, together with the Podhale Higher Vocational State School in Nowy Targ and the Fraternity of St James the Great. This academic conference produced a book, *The Way of St James in Poland: Research and Organisation;* however it is available only in Polish.

There are of course many routes to be marked if pilgrims are to follow them from home. The Camino Polaco is to run from the border with Lithuania to Słubice. The section from Olsztyn to Gietrzwald was opened in July 2006 and on to Toruń in April 2007. The Piast Droga (Piast Camino) from Mogilno to Gniezno was opened in April 2007. Many other parts of routes have been marked, including sections of the Via Regia which could begin in Kiev and go via Lviv, Kraków, Wrocław, Leipzig, Cologne, Aachen and Paris. On this particular visit our special interest was the Małopolska Droga (Małopolska Camino) which will run from Lublin via Sandomierz to Kraków and along which the CSJ is planning to take a group of members in November 2009 (See Editorial).

We flew from Gatwick to Kraków airport which is not far from the city centre. The city's large number of historic buildings and monuments fortunately were not destroyed in the two World Wars. The problem for me was that there were so many places of interest that I could not hope to see enough in a few days. Fortunately most of the historic sites are within walking distance of each other.

In the 9th century the Vistulanian tribe established its capital here on the Wawel Hill and looking down at the Vistula it is obvious that it was an important strategic site. Although Zygmunt III moved the capital to Warsaw in 1596 Kraków continued to be the spiritual capital of Poland and kings were crowned in the cathedral. They were buried there too. In the Zygmunt Chapel is the magnificent marble tomb of the last two Jagiellonian kings and King Kazimierz the Jagiellonian lies under a splendid monument in the Chapel of the Holy Cross. There is so much to see on Wawel Hill that I thought I could have spent all the time we had up there. The Royal Castle built in the 16th century and



The editor at work

one of the most magnificent in Central Europe had to wait for another time but a climb up to the Zygmunt Bell in the tower was rewarded by a marvellous panorama of Kraków.

At the foot of the hill the town grew, especially after 1257 when Bolesław the Chaste granted a new municipal charter. There in the huge market square we could sit for a drink in the warm sunshine while, on the hour, the trumpeter sounded his, unfinished, warning that the Mongols were coming. There were far too many churches worth visiting and I was soon suffering Church Fatigue. However especially memorable to me was the beautiful altar of the Virgin carved by Veit Stoss in the 15th century in the Church of St Mary and the very different Art Nouveau windows in the Franciscan church designed by Stanislaw Wyspiański. The sunshine outside made these windows into jewels, especially the one called "Let there be Light". There was indeed just too much to see. Museums and galleries take time. I was sad to forego a pilgrimage to the Jewish Quarter to pray in the Remuh Cemetery and visit the Old Synagogue; that must wait till next time.

Our friend Henryk Karaś, President of the Confraternity of Saint James the Apostle and who is also a member of the CSJ and whom we had already met on the CSJ trip to Poland in 2007 came to meet us in Krakow. He took us to meet other people involved in the Polish Confraternity. We went together with Fr Richard (Ryszard) Honkisz to the office of Kraktours. There we met several people who have been involved in establishing the Małopolska Droga. One of the group had already been a pilgrim on the camino in Spain. Fr Richard explained that from Sandomierz to Krakow the villages along the way all have churches dedicated to St James. Each village is about one day's walk from the last which indicates that pilgrims stopped there. He is parish priest of Więcławice which is the last village before Kraków. They got funding to mark this route using the stone "obelisks" with shells indicating the way as used in Spain. Accommodation is available for pilgrims in the parishes.

Fr Richard is a remarkable man. He took us to his beautiful old wooden church of St James the Apostle which was still being restored. Outside there are several information boards about the camino including scenes in Spain. The parish covers four villages. The priest's house is next door and there is an impressive new open-air theatre where people can come together for celebrations such as concerts and barbeques. Previously there was no community meeting place. He has managed to get funds to ensure the safety of local children and parishioners on the roads to the church where there had been no footpaths. The more I heard of his work the more confident I felt about the success of the Małopolska Droga.

Fr Richard's forester friend had marked the camino through the woods nearby leading to Więcławice and he took us along it in his four-wheeled drive. This was not very *pilgrim-mode*, I know, but it was dark by the time we got there so walking was not an option. This stretch of the way looks beautiful and I could see how well it had been marked with indications at every place where a walker might seek a sign. They have avoided the winding road by taking this forest track. There is even a picnic site in the middle of the forest on the way to the church!

Not only did I visit Galicia but managed to get to the Holy Land as well. I was still in Poland however. This time we were driven by Fr Vladimir Skoczny, Rector of the Sosnowiec diocesan seminary in Kraków and of course, a friend of Gosia. This charming man found time to do this in a busy schedule. He had spent time in Arizona so he spoke English which was a bonus for me and for Gosia who was always having to translate. The village of Kalwaria Zebrzydowska is 33kms from Kraków. Here, in 1600, the local landowner, Count Mikołaj Zebrzydowski, having made his pilgrimage to Jerusalem decided to build his own "Holy Land" for the local people who could not visit the Holy Land, which was then under Moslem Turkish rule. His *Kalwaria* or Calvary has 42 chapels including Herod's Palace, the House of Pontius Pilate and it even has a Kedron Valley. In Holy Week there is a Passion Play following the sites. Architecturally the chapels are of interest, the work of Paul Baudarth and Giovanni Bernadoni, some in unusual shapes. The House of the Virgin Mary is in the form of the mystic rose. We saw this on a day of warm sunshine when we could fully appreciate this spectacular site in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. The pilgrim centre with accommodation at different levels also looked most inviting.

We made our way back to Kraków via Tyniec Abbey built in 1044 on a cliff beside the Vistula. This was a known stop for pilgrims on the Małopolska Droga. After many misfortunes over the centuries it is again in Benedictine hands. But Benedictine hospitality there comes at a price since its hospitality suite is now run by a hotel.

Our more modest pilgrim accommodation during our time in Krakow had been in the convent of the community of the sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. This was a hub of activity providing a kindergarten and teachers for local schools, with comfortable rooms, a beautiful chapel and charming nuns who offered true hospitality. They do not run a hotel but (you can easily guess) the Mother Provincial is a friend of Gosia!

Last time I visited Poland I felt the great interest in re-establishing cultural links with Western Europe. I have always been pro-European though not just a supporter of a trading club seeking the material benefit of its members. Whatever one's beliefs, the network of pilgrim routes (or routes used by pilgrims) is an example of cultural and spiritual unity. It seems right that we as a Confraternity of Saint James should support our fellow pilgrims in Poland so that they can feel more integrated into the network of European pilgrim routes and pilgrim associations.

Meanwhile I have added many more places to my list of those fine things to be seen, ... Before (I) go to Paradise, by way of Kensal Green.

Recollections of a Visit to Gdańsk, Poland in 1999

Tony Roberts

White the interest in the Way of St James expanding ever wider, with the inauguration of pilgrim routes commencing in Eastern Europe and with the current proposals for a Confraternity visit to Poland in the offing, I felt it appropriate to recall my visit to Poland in 1999 and reprise part of the article I wrote for *Bulletin* 71.

As a 'practical' pilgrim I had at that time tended to close my mind to the appeal of St James outside of the western half of Europe, notwithstanding the number of pilgrims from other parts of the world that I had met on the Camino Francés, the *Via Podiensis* and the Tunnel Route from 1994 onwards.



This narrowness of view suffered a very large jolt, however, when I was in the city of Gdańsk, part of the old town of which was beautifully restored to its pre-1939 appearance with the aid of those plans, pictures, photos, films etc which survived the Second World War. It all happened during a visit to the similarly restored St Mary's Church which in 1987 was upgraded to cathedral status.

It was while strolling around the cathedral taking in the atmosphere and admiring the many items of interest, but without having any specific thoughts towards St James, that I saw the wall painting. I first noticed the staff. Then I saw the hat and scallop shell. They marked the location of the chapel dedicated to St Jacob, as the Polish authorities had translated his name.

I now paraphrase and quote from the English language Guide to St Mary's Church in Gdańsk, written by Stanisław Bogdanowicz and published in 1995 by Mariola Malerek.

"The chapel altar was carved in a Gdańsk atelier between 1430 and 1435. It is an altar-shrine and canopy with a central carved wooden figure depicting St James dressed as a pilgrim. On his right are the Virgin Mary and Christ-child and on his left is Mary Magdalene. The figure at the feet of Mary Magdalene in red clothing is the Duke of Marseilles whose wife and child she rescued on their pilgrimage to Rome. The base of the altar shows Christ with Peter and Paul on either side."

Since I was not able to enter the chapel to be able to photograph all the paintings I quote from the Guide:-

"In a niche on the east wall above the altar, is a series of paintings of the Passion. One of them is an interesting portrayal of the Trinity as three men sitting together on a throne holding hands. Their heads are surrounded by a single aura. They possess no individuality and are distinguished only by the colour of their garments."

After some minutes of reflection at St James's chapel, I moved to the adjoining chapel dedicated to the legend of the Eleven Thousand Virgins and St Ursula. There I saw the altar of St Barbara. This is a carved winged altar dating back to 1480/1500. In the centre is St Barbara holding an open book in her right hand and the Sword of Justice in her left. Either side of her are two carved images, placed one above the other. In the upper section of the right-hand wing panel (to the left of St Barbara) is St Hedwig of Silesia, and beneath her is our own Thomas of Canterbury. On the left panel are John the Baptist, above, and James, in pilgrim attire, below. When the wings are closed, painted scenes from the life of St Barbara are revealed, including her incarceration, her torture, her beheading and her burial.

It is said that, once one has trodden the Way to Santiago, every journey becomes a pilgrimage. My travels that year were no exception. Not only did I encounter St James in the foregoing manner, but I was able to renew and strengthen friendships forged on the camino in 1994 and 1995, by visiting, on my way home, some fellow pilgrims living in Berlin and Düsseldorf.

Members of the Confraternity who are interested in the above are advised that slides of the photographs are available on loan from the Confraternity's Slide Library (see Members' Pages).

Refugio Gaucelmo News

2008 Hospitaleros

August	Claire & Keith Taylor, Joanne Brandenburg
	and Daphne Hnatiuk
	Stewart Bliss, Gilbert Cabergs,
	Diane Maxon and Pat Watterson
September	Peter Neall and Sandra Collier
	Alan Brown and Pat Chambers
October	John & Maggie Gardner
	David McMahon and Minda Berbeco

2008 saw sales of CSJ publications to pilgrims at Gaucelmo fall slightly on last year. The total number of CSJ Guides sold was 34, 141 credentials, 90 woven badges and 1029 postcards. It was an impressive effort on behalf of the hospitaleros on duty during the year and also in raising funds for improvements at Gaucelmo.

From the feedback received from hospitaleros, the Rabanal committee have put forward a number of initiatives in an endeavour to improve the environment at Gaucelmo, for both pilgrims and hospitaleros alike. They are:

- Main dormitory bathroom: Replace the hand basins; fit nonslip tiles in shower area; install a floor drain and improve the ventilation system to combat mould/damp.
- Install an additional outside sink in the patio area for pilgrims to wash their clothes.
- Extend the wood store to add additional space for cycle storage and an enclosed building for storage of the lawnmower and paint/hazardous materials etc.
- The large warden's bedroom has been relocated into the library as a temporary measure to mitigate the health and safety issues of having a bedroom with only a single means of escape in case of fire. An estimate for a fire escape is being sought.
- As the old wood shutters are badly warped and do not close easily, a quote for the replacement of wooden shutters, with a hardwood alternative, is being sought.
- We have received an estimate for the installation of solar panels to provide supplementary heating of the hot water for the refugio.

As with any major expenditure at Gaucelmo, approval from our El Bierzo partners has to be given before any work can be undertaken. We hope that some of the above improvements will be completed prior to opening the refugio in April 2009.

The Working Party at Gaucelmo again concentrated their efforts in maintaining the structure of the building and general clearance of the huerta during the first week of November last year. The working party consisted of seven CSJ members: Alison Raju, Sue Hemmings, Roger Davies, David Garcia, Brendan Nolan, Trevor Curnow and Graham Scholes. It was noticed that during the removal of ivy from the wall surrounding the huerta, the dry stone wall construction was showing signs of disintegration. It was felt that a 20-metre section of the wall should be dismantled to mitigate the possibility of it collapsing into the lane. If there is any member of the CSJ who has experience of dry stone walling, we would appreciate some advice. Please contact the CSJ at *r-wardens@csj.org.uk*.

As reported in the last CSJ *Bulletin*, on a sad note, José, Isabel's brother at the Refugio Pilar, died at the end of October. He was only 44 years old. A few members of the November Working Party, who had just arrived in the village, represented the CSJ at the funeral.

On a happier note, Pilar (one of Antonio's daughters) is getting married to Fidel, who works behind the bar at Antonio's. The wedding is scheduled for the 15th of March 2009. We wish them well in their future happiness together.

Thanks to Di-Anne Gibson who again this year knitted a box full of woollen hats for pilgrims to use. Feedback from pilgrims suggested that this kindness is very well appreciated, especially in the cooler months.

Special mention must be made to a number of volunteer hospitaleros this quarter. Peter Neall and Sandra Collier who were at Gaucelmo for the first two weeks of September were to be joined by a third hospitaleros, who unfortunately couldn't make it to Rabanal this year. They coped admirably in a period where there were large numbers of pilgrims, even keeping open the barn which meant that the cleaning routine was doubly difficult.

Minda Berbeco, who lives in the USA, stepped in at the last minute to cover for Roy Pennington a volunteer hospitalero who unfortunately couldn't make it to Rabanal this year due to ill health. Best wishes to Roy for a speedy recovery. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy in supporting the pilgrims at Rabanal this year.

The hospitalero rota for 2009 is now complete and the rota for 2010 is already half full. If you would like to know more about the role, or wish to volunteer for 2010, please contact the Refugio Gaucelmo Hospitalero Coordinator via e-mail at *r-wardens@csj.org.uk*.

Members' Pages

From Gordon Bradford

Are you aware of any markets for items from the peregrination to Santiago de Compostela? I purchased many years ago in the town of Tordesillas, an *Emblema de Peregrinaciones a Santiago de Compostela*. It consists of a box with a likeness of an ancient pilgrim and the above words on the cover. It flips open to reveal the words *Emblema de Peregrino (Autentica Concha), Autorizado y Recomendado por la Junta Organizadora del Ano Santo Jacobeo 1954, Mod. Patdo. No. 38786, BENDECIBLE.*

The contents are the conch shell with the cross of St James and the red and gold ribbon resting atop a folded parchment-like paper explaining the pilgrimage all wrapped in original packing cellophane. All are in perfect condition for being 54 years old. I would like to sell it to a collector.
From Alison Raju

A new guide book has been published by the Seville "Amigos" for the route from Cádiz to Sevilla, for those who want to start there. It costs 3 euros plus p&p and is available from them – More information can be got from their website: *viaplata@viaplata.org*

From John Hatfield

Are you planning to give a talk about your pilgrimage? Why not use the CSJ slide library to help you? Did you know that the CSJ's growing collection of over 3300 slides, available to UK members, covers not only the Camino Francés, but also the other main routes in France and Spain?

Please give at least a month's notice so that a catalogue can be sent to you and your choice made. As soon as I hear from you, I can reserve the slides and dispatch them two weeks before your talk. I can be contacted at: 9 Vicary Way, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0EJ; Tel: 01622 757814

From David Martinson

David Martinson has contacted us about a three day walk he has devised in South Shropshire. Meet at the Craven Arms Hotel at 12noon on Thursday 23 April and walk to Church Stretton – a total of 32.5 miles of undulating walking (NB Day 2 is 16.5 miles). You would need to book your own accommodation on 23/4 at Clun Mill Youth Hostel (0870 7705868) and Bridges YH (01588 650656) on 25/4. If one or two enthusiastic members of CSJ are interested in joining him and his friends for this then please contact him for more details. Tel.0121 745 5857.

Book Reviews

The Roads to Santiago

Derry Brabbs; Frances Lincoln; ISBN 978-0-7112-2706-4; £30 Available from www.csj.org.uk

As you would expect from a photographer of the calibre of Derry Brabbs, this is a vivid celebration of ancient pilgrim routes as well as a stunning collection of the architecture along the way. The narrative in its 250 pages provides authentic background to the reasons for such a range of pilgrim routes across France to Santiago. Composed lovingly over a number of years it provides a compendium of detail along all the *Chemins de Saint Jacques* leading to the Camino Francés itself. For one who has the time to study, it provides a source of many exquisite places to find and admire in this impressive collection. The final chapter on Santiago, the pilgrim's goal, is particularly rewarding.

From the perspective of those who have been awarded a *compostela*, one should not expect it to revive the full magic and mystery of a pilgrimage. It is a book that gives glimpses of inspiration and is intended as an *aide-memoire* to complement the detail of a guidebook. However whether in advance of a journey or as a reflection this book has great value to the pilgrim. Superb photography captures the essence of the journey whilst avoiding the luxury of twentieth century tourism. I particularly liked the views of Le Puy and Chartres that illustrate their significance to the medieval mind. The demanding routes of the Languedoc and the glorious countryside of the Limousin are most evocative.

This book should be considered as an authentic and relevant reference book for all pilgrims committed to the way of Saint James. It shows with impeccable style and taste the delights of the architecture and countryside awaiting the patient *Jacquet* wayfarer. Panoramas of the *meseta* seem to glisten in the sun's light. All of the great cathedrals are illustrated to good effect. For those with less time or endeavour the book shows what the stay at home enthusiast can enjoy in the wide range of perspectives taken along the route. It could even supply the requirements of a coffee table or a well earned gift to a friend.

All in all a memorable and beautiful book that captures the spirit of the Camino, and well worth the investment in its price.

RICHARD JEFFERIES

A Journey of Days Relearning Life's Lessons on the Camino de Santiago Guy Thatcher, General Store Publishing House, Ontario, Canada, 2008

ISBN 978-1-897113-99-8, 204pp

Guy Thatcher's pilgrimage nearly does not happen. His thoughtfully chosen and bought equipment, packed in its camino-ready rucksack, never makes it across the Atlantic as he flies into Madrid via Munich. Undaunted, he works hard at trying to get it back but when it seems unlikely he will see it again and with the help of family and hotel staff in Pamplona he re-equips himself and sets out with a small delay on foot from Pamplona. He writes with a traveller's eye for historical interest and reminiscence. His *albergue* experience leads him to stay mostly in small *hostals*. He describes his fellow pilgrims affectionately. There are several minor errors eg the Italian refuge at Punte de Itero is San Nicolás not San Miguel, but worse is relocating the Puerta del Perdón from Villafranca del Bierzo to Villafranca Montes de Oca. However, it is a good read in the company of an interesting man who is excited by his camino experiences.

The book can be downloaded in instalments free from *www.* guythatcher.com until 18 May.

MARION MARPLES

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

Gerry Greene RIP

Gerry was a CSJ Trustee from 2003 to 2005, serving as the first Scottish representative and organiser of the Scottish Practical Pilgrim Days. He had worked as a Clinical Psychologist in Glasgow. He stepped down to concentrate his energies on the development of a 'seed' group for a Glasgow house for the L'Arche Community, where he hoped his own learning disabled son would eventually be able to find a home.

Dr Mary Berry

The name of the photographer of the picture of Dr Mary Berry in *Bulletin* 104 was accidentally omitted. It was taken by Jeremy McCabe.

Visiting the Office

Please note that Blackfriars underground station is now closed until late 2011. The mainline station (the former Thameslink station) is still open. The nearest tube station in Southwark on the Jubilee line and Waterloo and London Bridge are within walking distance or take the 381 or RV1 bus. The office is well served by buses from Kings Cross (45, 63) and Liverpool Street (100). From Euston the 68 and 188 go to Waterloo.

Lost property

Did you leave any of these items at the AGM? 1 grey fleece jacket, 1 gent's flat cap, 1 lady's acqua-coloured scarf with crochet end panels and a CSJ Seville-Santiago Guide.

Not-AGM-related: Dr Mary Remnant has found a slide which is not hers - a map of Europe with pilgrimage routes shown?

If you claim any of these please contact the Office.

News from Spain

Refuges in Galicia

The Xunta de Galicia now operate a standard $3 \in$ charge in all their refuges, a proportion of which goes to cover public liability insurance. As a result they no longer allow more pilgrims to sleep there than the official number of beds (and this is very strictly enforced) so no more putting people on the floor, on mattresses, etc.

HOLY YEAR 2010

During the Holy Year there will be four pilgrims' masses per day all with music. The Botafumeiro will fly at every 12 noon mass every day.

MEANWHILE IN 2008

Last year the busiest day was 15 August when 1500 compostelas and certificates were issued between 9am and 9pm

CAMINO TRAVEL CENTER

Ivar Rekve, founder of *www.pilgrimage-to-santiago.com*, one of the collborators on our newly strengthened group of websites (CSJ, *www.santiago-compostela.net*) is offering a new service to pilgrims in Santiago. He will have an office in rua San Pedro 33 where he will be able to store luggage and also assist pilgrims in various ways, by helping people to get to Sarria, booking hotels in Galicia, booking homeward travel etc. See *www.caminotravelcenter.com*

SPRING-CLEANING THE CAMINO

South African Margi Biggs has developed a campaign to clear the camino of litter. She has had printed plastic bags which are sent to members of the Confraternity of St James of South Africa when they apply for credencials. At the end of May she will be driving with fellow South African Gordon Bell (Casa de las Banderas) along the camino distributing bags to refuges etc and then from 1-12 June she will be walking from Ponferrada to Santiago litter picking and spreading the anti litter message. She is looking for sponsors for posters – contact *margi@eqweb.co.za* if you would like to support this valuable campaign.

CSJ Events

Tuesday 24-Monday 30 March Miraz Working Party

Getting the refugio ready for the pilgrim season.

Saturday 28 March

Office Open Day

10.30am -3.30pm Office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 18 April

Chichester Local Meeting

All CSJ members are invited to Chichester. Morning free to visit the cathedral.

Meet at 11.30am at the main entrance of the cathedral.

If the weather is fine have a picnic lunch in the Bishop's Gardens or go to a pub.

2.30pm: Pilgrimage: Refugios and Hospitality: talks and slides about the hospitalero experience. Meet at the Parish Rooms at the rear of St Richard's Catholic Church, Cawley Road, PO19 1XB – not far from the railway station. Being Saturday, car parking could be difficult, but there are public car parks in the area. Please bring with you your photographs, slides and most importantly stories.

After the meeting you may like to go to the Saturday evening Mass at 6pm at St Richard's or attend Evensong in the cathedral, followed by an evening meal before heading back home. There are several excellent eating places in the area.

Contact Peter FitzGerald 01243 785681 or email peter_of_ chichester@tiscali.co.uk

Saturday 25 April

Office Open Day

10.30am -3.30pm Office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 25 April Lichfield/West Midlands Meeting

Meet for a Buffet lunch at Holy Cross Lichfield, then a talk and short walk 3/4 mile through the town to the Cathedral for Evensong (for those who wish to attend).Contact Dave Jones *d-jones56@sky.com* for more information.

Tuesday 12-Tuesday 19 May Northern Routes

Colin Jones is leading a pilgrimage along the Camino del Norte from Oviedo to Santiago, following the north coast to Ribadeo , visiting Mondoñedo and Miraz to stay for 3 nights at the monastery of Sobrado. The price at present is £739pp in a shared room. To reserve a place please send a deposit of £90 per person (plus insurance premium of £27 pp if required) to Pax Travel Ltd, 152-156 Kentish Town Road, London NW1 9QB, tel 020 7485 3003.

Thursday 23-Sunday 26 July St James's Day in Kent

Walk the last sections of the North Downs Way/Pilgrims' Way from Charing- Boughton Aluph (23km) (Thursday) and Boughton Aluph to Canterbury (Friday).

Saturday visit Pilgrimage Exhibition at Eastbridge Hospital (12th century pilgrim hospital), 3.30 Evensong for St James's Day. Other visits etc to be organised.

Accommodation will depend on numbers and individual requirements on Thursday and Friday, Canterbury Youth Hostel for Friday and Saturday. Please let Marion know as soon as possible if you would like to join in so arrangements can be made.

The exhibition will feature some of the panels from Santiago Trek, made by the Horniman Museum (and now in the care of CSJ) as well as new art works and photographs by more recent pilgrims.

Saturday 26 September

Office Open Day

Office Open Day

10.30am -3.30pm Office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Saturday 31 October

10.30am -3.30pm Office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Sat 31 October-Sat 7 Nov Southern Poland Visit

In search of St James from the Romanesque church of St James in Sandomierz following the line of St James's churches along the Vistula valley - the Małopolska St James route - to Więcławice (Kraków), and their church of St James. The trip will include a visit to the medieval (but still functioning) Salt Mine of Wieliczka. Price still to be confirmed, but between £500 and £600 pp. Please send £50 deposit, payable to Confraternity of St James, to the Office if you are interested in joining this trip, max 20 people.

Fri 20-Sun 22 November Post-pilgrimage Retreat

Ampleforth Abbey, led by Fr Ben Griffiths (CSJ member, pilgrim and parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes church, Ilkley). A restful weekend in comfortable surroundings on the North York Moors to talk with other pilgrims about the insights gained and life lessons learnt from the camino. Single and double rooms available, £110 pp, please send deposit of £50 to the Office to reserve your place.

Saturday 28 November

Office Open Day

10.30am -3.30pm Office, Bookshop and Library open for enquiries, browsing and purchasing. 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Other Events

Pilgrim meetings in Sydney Australia

A number of CSJ members in NSW Australia have formed an informal support group for pilgrims in Sydney. We meet and provide a vehicle for support and planning of pilgrimages. Returned pilgrims have walked in French, and the Caminos Francés, Portugués, Finisterre and Inglés in Spain. Meeting take place at the Spanish Club 88 Liverpool St Sydney (One block from Town Hall Station)

Odd months First Wednesday	Even months First Saturday
7pm for dinner	12 noon for lunch and coffee
7 January	7 February
4 March	4 April
6 May	6 June
1 July	1 August
2 September	3 October
4 November	5 December

For more information contact Sandra Collier at 9362 1912 or email: sandra_collier@hotmail.com

Polish Gathering of Pilgrims to St James in Rome 22 to 25 June 2009

A meeting of Polish pilgrims and parishioners from Polish churches dedicated to St James will take place in Rome to celebrate the ending of the Year of St Paul. Members of the CSJ are invited to participate – especially if they have Polish connections. For further information please contact the CSJ office. Next year the Polish pilgrims plan to make a pilgrimage to Santiago. Watch this space!

Eleanor Crosses Way

Walkers are needed for a new path from Lincoln to London for the last 2 weeks in August. The CSJ has been invited to help inaugurate a new 225 mile path The Queen Eleanor Crosses Way by the Connection at St Martin's in the Fields, London. Some of our members joined the May pilgrimage from London-Canterbury last year. Special services are planned at Harby, Lincoln Cathedral and Westminster Abbey and there are visits to the Abbey of De la Pre; Dunstable Priory; Waltham Abbey; and the church of St Mary-le-Bow. Six walkers maximum are needed to inaugurate the length of the path (in camino-style, carrying your own luggage and with basic accommodation) with others joining in on an occasional basis. Please contact Keith Lane on keithlane@ hotmail.co.uk if you are interested. The Oueen Eleanor crosses (the most famous being the one at Charing Cross) were erected by Edward I in the places in the 1290s where the coffin of his wife Queen Eleanor of Castile rested on the way to London for her funeral in Westminster Abbey.

New members

Information is for members' use only.

LONDON	
Mr Tom Barton	020 8671 9030
293 Norwood Road Herne Hill London SE24 9AQ	
Mr Santiago Genochio	07881 5888457
20 Halesworth Road London SE13 7TN	
Mr Stefan King	07963 762667
52 Daubeney Road Hackney London E5 0EF	
Mrs Linda Laubscher	07919 371873
6 Bonchurch Road Ealing London W13 9JE	
Mr Jerry O'Gorman	07845 966968
40 Watcombe Road South Norwood London SE25 4UZ	
Mr Mathieu & Mrs Valerie Rossano	020 89939733
19 Carbery Ave London W3 9AD	Constant Proto
Mr Steven Smith	07985 159873
386 Brixton Road London SW9 7AW	
Mrs Barbara & Miss Kate Wilson	020 7274 2728
62 Trinity Gardens London SW9 8DR	
HOME COUNTIES NORTH	
Mr Philippe Seurre	01344 453669
43 Woodmancott Grove Bracknell GR12 0XU	
Mr James & Miss Tanna Windle	01707 269036
13 Roe Green Lane Hatfield Herts AL10 0SH	
HOME COUNTIES COUTU	
HOME COUNTIES SOUTH	01402 475169
Mr Robert Alexander	01483 475168
70 Gorsewood Road Woking Surrey GU21 8XG	01483 211913
Mrs Kit & Miss Alaina Bentley	
Pound Cottage, The Street West Clandon Guildford Su Mrs Janet Collins	01483 828401
15 Manor Road Guildford Surrey GU2 9NE	01405 020401
Mr Alan MacFadyen	020 8948 2341
1 Hatherley Road Kew Richmond Surrey TW9 3LH	020 0340 2341
Mr Martin Moorhead	01634 247773
4A Turks Hall Place The Street Upper Halling ME2 1HU	
Mrs Sylvie Plested	01303 241124
201 Canterbury Road Folkestone CT19 5PD	
Mr Nick Smale	01252 314445
St Michaels, 46 The Crescent Heath End Farnham Surre	
Mr John & Mrs Kate Williams	01483 898234
Mellstock, Barnett Lane Wonersh Guildford Surrey GU	5 0SA

SOUTH

Mr Maurice Blogg01308 86707414 Markshead Drimpton Beaminster Dorset DT8 3RZMrs Jane House7 Church Lane Charminster Dorchester Dorset DT2 9QRMr Simon Pizzey01929 5507192 The Meerings, Arne Road Ridge Wareham Dorset BH20 5EAMrs Debra Reed01258 45113259 Salisbury Road Blandford Dorset DT11 7LW

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4 Woodland Terrace Ridley Hill Kingswear Devon TQ6	OBZ	
Mr Barry Griffin	01803 840084	
5 Furze Road Totnes Devonshire TQ9 5LY		
Mrs Catherine Nile	0117 9245503	
24 Russel Grove Westbury Park Bristol BS6 7UE		
Cdr Ben Peilow, OBE	07803 937503	
Graywacke Bineham Lane Yeovilton Somerset BA22 8EZ		
Mrs Pauline Porter	0117 9692806	
15 Britannia Crescent Stoke Clifford Bristol BS34 8BH		

WALES

Mr David Owen	01766 781135
Fila Medi Meol Y Bryn Harlech Gwynedd LL	
Dr Keith Pilling	01873 811585
Ty Llangenny Llangenny Crickhowell NP8 1TB	

EAST MIDLANDS

Revd Peter Day	0116 278 2830
The Vicarage 1 St Thomas Road Wigston LE18 4TA	
Mr Will Garton	07817 490779
9 Falcon Close Lenton Nottingham Notts. NG7 2DL	
Mrs Sarah Hassnip	01522 789649
8 Eastgate Bassingham Lincoln Lincs LN5 9JS	

WEST MIDLANDS

Mr Nick Gibb	01743 860224	
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Ms Frances Hogwood	01386 831390	
Cobblers Cottage, Farm Lane South Littleton Nr Evesham WR11 8TL		
Revd Brian Howden & Mr Albert Timson	01908 310527	
24 Ashfield Stantonbury Milton Keynes Bucks MK14 6AU		
Mr Paul Kew	01453 750848	
26 Spillmans Road Rodborough Stroud Glos GL5 3N	1B	

Mrs P Mobsby 0121 622 2605 429 Southside Birmingham B5 4TP **EAST ANGLIA** Revd Jeremy & Mrs Lesley Sykes 01263 860280 Vicarage, Grange Close Briston Melton Constable Norfolk NR24 2LY NORTH EAST Mrs Josephine Baker 01904 645374 40 Mary Gate York Yorkshire YO30 7BH Mr Robert Errington 01434 605377 2 Ethel Terrace Hexham Northumberland NE46 3DA Mr Bob & Mrs Rowena Macdonald 01484 645451 Ridgemoor 64 Beaumont Park Road Huddersfield HD4 5JH NORTH WEST Mr Michael Bickerstaffe 01768 772197 19 Otley Road Keswick Cumbria CA12 5LE Mr Bob & Mrs Jenny Cuthbertson 0151 6324741 52 Barn Hey Crescent Meols Wirral CH47 9RP Mr John Gibney 01564 775878 394 Station Road Dorridge Solihull West Midlands B93 8ES Miss Kathleen Hamilton 01514 270238 7 Appletree Close Allerton Liverpool Merseyside L18 9XN Mr Thain Hatherly 01547 740306 Roman Rise, High Street Leintwardine Craven Arms SY7 OLB Fr Peter Kravos 0113 243 8263 Catholic Chaplaincy, 5 St Mark's Avenue Leeds LS2 9BN Mr William Moore 07970 175882 12 East Bank Barrowford Nelson Lancs, BB9 6HD Mr James Teasdale 01625 420765 114 Prestbury Road Macclesfield Cheshire SK10 3BN

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Mr David Dignam & Ms Marilyn Holbot	0061 2 5869 2030
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Mr Kenneth & Mrs Chris Dowling	0061 3 97284675
11 Swansea Road Montrose 3765 Australia	
Mrs Kerry Fleay	0061 08 4724 1835
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Ms Elizabeth Pooley	0061 413 269176
22 Agnes Street Strathfield NSW 2135 Australia	
Ms Idoya Torres & Ms Angie La Motta	0061 4 1177 6011
PO Box 2029 Keperra QLD 4054 Australia	
Mrs Michele Turner	0061 07 55907312
22 Terranora Pd Bilambil Mts NSW 2486 Australia	
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24 Edinburgh Street Flemington Victoria 3031 Aus	tralia
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available from Registered Office: 27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY telephone (020) 7928 9988 fax (020) 7928 2844 or through our secure online bookshop at www.csj.org.uk/bookshop

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

Pilgrim Guides to Spain

1	Camino Francés	William Bisset editorcf@csj.org.uk
2	Camino Mozárabe	Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB alisonraju@btopenworld.com
3	Finisterre	Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB alisonraju@btopenworld.com
4	Los Caminos del Norte	Eric Walker, 4 Gawthorpe Avenue, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire BD16 4DG (01274) 562559
5	Camino Portugués	John Walker johnniewalker-santiago@hotmail.com
6	Madrid to Sahagún	Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH (01763) 244525
7	Camino Inglés	John Walker johnniewalker-santiago@hotmail.com
		Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through France
1	Paris to the Pyrenees	Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH (01763) 244525
3	Le Puy to the Pyrenees	Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB alisonraju@btopenworld.com
4	Arles to Puente La Rein	a Marigold Fox, 19 Maple Way, ROYSTON, Hertfordshire SG8 7DH (01763) 244525
		Pilgrim Guides to the Roads through Europe
2	Nürmberg to Konstanz	Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB alisonraju@btopenworld.com

4 Via Gebennensis Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB alisonraju@btopenworld.com

Practical Pilgrim Notes	for Walkers
	for Cyclists
	for Riders
	Winter Pilgrim
	Which Camino?

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

Confraternity of Saint James

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usual opening hours Thursday 11am to 3pm (other times by appointment) telephone (020) 7928 9988 fax (020) 7928 2844 email office@csj.org.uk website www.csj.org.uk

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Slide Librarian	John Hatfield, 9 Vicary Way, MAIDSTONE, Kent ME16 0EJ (01622) 757814 Members wishing to borrow slides should make their selections	
	from the catalogue four weeks in advance.	
Digital Library Manager	Michael Krier, Hyde, Temple Guiting, CHELTENHAM, Glos GL54 5RT krier@btinternet.com	



Confraternity of Saint James Annual General Meeting Papers Saturday 23 January 1999

Please bring this booklet with you

News Update

Closed and Open

Please note that the Office will not be open on Tuesday 29 December. It will reopen on Tuesday 5 January 1999 from 11am to 2pm.

Practical Pilgrim 1999

Saturday 6 March London (Christ Church, Blackfriars Road, London SEI) Saturday 13 March Ripley, Yorks (Town Hall) Saturday 20 March Paisley Abbey, Glasgow

All events start with coffee at 10.30am and as usual meetings will consist of a general question and answer session, with experienced pilgrims available to give advice to those planning to set out for the first time and n serarate sessions for walkers and cyclists. This is an excellent way to meet others who may be going on pilgrimage at the same time as you, buy the latest editions of our Guides, look at maps etc, learn about different routes, ask questions, buy sweatshirts etc... There will be a walk or less formal opportunity for people to talk with a communal meal in the evening. There will be walks organised for the Sunday for those who would like to stay for the whole wekend.

You are asked to make your own arrangements for accommodation in London (although some accommodation may be available with members) and in Paisley (list of B&Bs available). At Ripley there will be B&Bs, accommodation in homes of members of the local parish or floor accommodation at the Town Hall. Please see form at end of this booklet.

Notice of AGM

Notice of the 16th Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity of Saint James to be held on

Saturday 23 January 1999

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

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Apologies for Absence
- 3. Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting
- 4. Chairman's Report for 1998
- 5. Annual Accounts & Report
- 6. Report on the Refugio Gaucelmo
- 7. Report on the Slide Library
- 8. Programme for 1999
- 9. Election of Committee
- 10. Any Other Business

Programme for the day

11.30	Doors open	coffee available
12.30	Ten Best Slides	in Lower Hall
12.30	Galician Reunion	West Seminar room
1.30	Pilgrim Sea Voyage 1999	Meeting on Mezzanine floor with Hilary Shaw
2.30	Annual General Meeting	in Lower Hall
3.30	Tea	served in Lower Hall
4.30	Lecture	Lower Hall
College, Oxford, v		ord, Centre for Galician Studies Queen's who has made the pilgrimage several ars and has just translated Cervantes' English

5.30	Draw	for the Raffle
6.00	Party	food downstairs

Membership Renewal

A Membership Renewal Form is enclosed with this mailing. Please renew promptly and consider whether you could covenant your subscription. It does not matter whether you pay by cheque or Bankers' Order, only that you will continue your membership for the next four years. UK members please pay by cheque or cash and not by credit card as this considerably increases the work load. Credit Cards transactions from abroad are, however, still acceptable. Vincent Cowley will be present to process renewals on the spot.

Activities and Attractions

The Annual General Meeting is the main event of the Confraternity's year. The time before and after the business meeting allows old acquaintances to be renewed and new friendships to be made. If you would like to meet up specifically with someone please use the noticeboard which will be in the Welcome Area near the front door to leave a message on a post-it note to arrange a rendez-vous. Please also remember to check if anyone wants to meet you and wear your badge to assist identification!

New Committee Members

The committee usually consists of 10 members and up to 2 coopted members. Under the Constitution half the Committee stands down each year. This year Laurie Dennett, William Griffiths, Nick Summerbell and Mark Hassall stand down.They need to to be renominated to stand again for the 1999 committee.The 2 coopted members, Francis Davey and Francis Garcia, are also standing for election. Timothy Wotherspoon, Mary Remnant, Hilary Hugh Jones and Howard Nelson continue.We always welcome new members to ensure the continuing vitality of the committee; it may be helpful to be coopted for a year, without formal commitment, to learn about the wide range of matters covered by Confraternity business. Meetings are held at the office approximately every 6 weeks. Please nominate someone, with their permission, whom you know to have the energy and dedication to make a good committee member, or offer yourself.

New Year Party

The charge this year will be £3 per head As usual we ask people to contribute food rather than pay if possible as we get a much better variety of food. If you would like to help with the food shopping, preparation or serving please contact Irmgard Churchill on 01494 672118. If you bring food to the value of £3 you do not have to pay for the party.

Embroidery : Pedal Pilgrimage

A wall hanging 55" square celebrating the spiritual, emotional and physical experiences along the camino will be on display at the AGM. It was made by member Andrea Higginson of Tarporley, Cheshire to mark her cycle pilgrimage from Le Puy with her husband John. She draws on images and motifs on the GR65 and Camino, 'Solomon's knots' from Quintanilla, the maze of Chartres cathedral and the scallop shell for her designs.. At last year's AGM we had the opportunity to see the sampler worked by Andrea while on the road. It has 25 images on a strip 1.45m long by 6cm wide. She presented the sampler to John as a 30th Wedding Anniversary present.

Galicia Visit Reunion

Relive the Visit to Galicia this autumn at 12.30 in the West Seminar room

Exhibitions

The spaces upstairs are for the display of recent new information for pilgrims and for Feedback, as well as information about other pilgrim routes through Europe. John Hatfield will hold his usual exhibition on the Vézelay route, Feedback and a new display of pilgrim routes stretching back into Eastern Europe in the East Seminar Room and Eric Walker will have information on the North Coast Route.

Sponsor-a Week

This is a great way to keep in touch with events at Rabanal. You can sponsor-aweek for £50 (or share with a friend), receive a letter from the wardens telling you of Gaucelmo news and know that you are continuing the CSJ support for this valuable work. See Walter Ivens for more details of weeks available.

Ten Best Slides

The slide show will be in the main hall. This is the occasion to share a particular aspect of the pilgrimage you have enjoyed or to pass on useful information to others. A maximum of 10 slides is stressed to allow as many as possible to participate. If you would like to take on responsibility for organising this part of the day or to participate yourself, please let Marion Marples know on 0171 403 4500. We should be grateful for help with moving chairs to the main part of the Hall afterwards.

Grand Holy Year Raffle

First Prize: 2 return tickets to Santiago (low season). There will a number of other good prizes, including 2 pilgrim sticks made by Charles Francis. If you have a very particular item you would like to offer for the raffle, or if you would like to help sell tickets (a good way of getting to know people), please speak to Hilary Hugh Jones on 0171 274 3040.

Publications

A chance to see the latest publications and stock up your library. We hope to have some 1999 editions of the Guides ready and updating sheets where necessary. Some secondhand books will be on sale in aid of the Rabanal Holy Year Appeal.

Sweatshirts

William Griffiths will be available to take orders for and advise on colours of sweatshirts and T shirts. He now has a stock of a variety of colours and sizes.

Return of Library Books

There will be a box near the door for you to return any outstanding Library books. Howard Nelson will be doing the stock check immediately after the AGM.

Jiffy Bags

If you have any surplus jiffy bags to recycle please bring them to the AGM

Minutes of the 15th AGM

held on Saturday 17 January 1998 at the St Alban's Centre, EC1 Present: about 190 members Chairman: Laurie Dennett

1.Welcome: Members including those from Norway and Ireland were welcomed 2.Apologies: 13 members had sent apologies

3.Minutes of 14th AGM: acceptance was proposed by Heather Coleman and seconded by John Durant; carried

4. Chairman's Report on 1997: due to an oversight this was not printed in full in the Bulletin in 1998. A summary will be available at the AGM 5. Annual Report and Accounts:

Timothy Wotherspoon presented the Annual Report and Accounts to the meeting. It was suggested that there should be a budget forecast included-Timothy agreed. He also explained the rationale for valuing the Library at £3000this is its insurance rather than capital value. The Treasurer proposed acceptance, seconded by David Wesson; carried nem con. The Treasurer then proposed the change in the Constitution to appoint and employ a Secretary and the necessary increase in Subscription rates. The wording for the Constitutional change had been suggested by the Charity Commission. The change would mean that the Secretary would no longer be a trustee. In answer to questions it was said that the Secretary would have a job description and that she would report to the Committee regularly. The longer term aim was to pay the Secretary for more hours, at a rate related to her current teaching salary, reflecting the work done. The Constitutional amendment was proposed by Peter Tompkins and seconded by Vincent Kelly. Carried. The proposed increase in subscriptions would not quite fund the expected expenditure, so the committee was also suggesting raising the Joining Fee to £10. A lively discussion took place on the morality of raising the Joining Fee and the possibly deterrent effect for some members. The possibility of paying a lower rate should appear in the CSJ's introductory material. The possibilities of using more helpers and developing a regional structure were also suggested. Robert Llewelyn proposed taking one vote on the increases; against 2, everyone else, for. Vote on proposed increase to subscription and Joining Fee: proposed : Vincent Kelly, seconded John Hatfield. against -4, abstentions, 4; carried.

6.Report on Refugio Gaucelmo: Walter Ivens reported that 5192 pilgrims had stayed at Gaucelmo in 1997, bringing the total to 30106. The work on the barn roof had been completed and paid for. He spoke of the shock to the Gaucelmo committee in particular of the recent sudden deaths of Chonina's son Miguel Angel in Rabanal and of Stephen Badger, the Treasurer who oversaw the Appeal for the rebuilding of Gaucelmo. The 1998 wardens rota had been fixed thanks to Joseph May and arrangements for 1999 would be discussed with the El Bierzo Association and the other refuge in Rabanal.

7.Report on the Slide Library: John Hatfield said that 20 talks had been given by members and that 4 members had donated 88 slides during the year 8. Programme for 1998: outlined by Marion Marples

9.Election of Committee:Timothy Wotherspoon, Mary Remnant, Hilary Hugh Jones, Howard Nelson and John Revell were all elected to the Committee.Laurie Dennett, William Griffiths,Marion Marples, Nick Summerbell and Mark Hassall remain on the committee.

10. Any Other Business:

1)John Hatfield said he would supply regional lists of members to anyone who asked, subject to the requirements of the Data Protection Act

2)Gosia Brycszynska anonounced a "Monastic Walk in the City of London' 3)Vincent Kelly said he was continuing to lobby the new Reading Unitary authority on the matter of the gates at Forbury Gardens

4)Anthea Hopkins asked if the CSJ could consider a Life Membership scheme.

How'to find Saint Alban's Centre



You are strongly advised to travel to the AGM by public transport. Underground Chancery Lane (Central line) or Farringdon (Circle, Metropolitan) Buses serving Holborn Circus or Grays Inn Road

Annual Report 1998

Objects, Organisation and Activities

The principal objects of the Confraternity are to advance the education of the public in the pilgrimage to Saint James of Compostela and the related history, art, architecture and music. Activities include promoting research, presenting educational programmes, identifying and preserving monuments, providing information on routes, establishing paths, maintaining hostels, and working in close co-operation with other bodies in furthering similar aims and objectives. The charity was established by constitution, inaugurated on 13 January 1983, and registered on 19 August 1986 as number 294461. The office and library are situated in premises on the first floor of 1 Talbot Yard, Borough High Street, LONDON SE1 1YP tel 0171-403 4500 fax 0171-407 1468 e-mail csjlondon@aol.com

Trustees

Members of the committee are elected for two years, half the committee being elected at each Annual General Meeting. The officers are appointed by the committee at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. For 1998:

Laurie Dennett (Chairman) William Griffiths (Vice-Chairman) Howard Nelson (Vice-Chairman) Timothy Wotherspoon (Treasurer) Mark Hassall Hilary Hugh-Jones Mary Remnant John Revell Nick Summerbell

John Revell subsequently resigned, and half way through the year Francis Davey and Francis Garcia were co-opted.

The Rabanal sub-committee is appointed annually by the main committee:

James Maple (Chairman) Mary Ivens (Secretary) Laurie Dennett Paul Graham Walter Ivens Joe May Timothy Wotherspoon

For the second meeting of 1998 Alison Pinkerton and Alison Raju were coopted.

The Secretary

There has been a change in the status of our Secretary. Following an amendment to the constitution at the Annual General Meeting, the exceptional contribution made to the functioning of the Confraternity by Marion Marples led to her becoming a part-time employee. As a consequence she has stepped down as a trustee, although she continues to attend meetings of both committees.

Review of Progress and Achievements

The major development of 1998 has been the employment of the Secretary on a part time basis. The work load continues to increase and membership has grown to 1808. During the Secretary's absence on pilgrimage the office was managed by the volunteers, to whom we are very grateful. Since September, a Galician student, Arturo Lezcano has been assisting voluntarily 1 or 2 days per week. A member has been delegated by the committee to liaise with student and youth groups. The meetings and visits this year have been well attended and we have twice had the opportunity to welcome friends from the Vlaamsgenootschap of Belgium. For 1999 Holy Year plans are being made for the handover of the Bulletin to a new editor and a full programme of events is being organised.

The Gaucelmo committee reports a good year with 5995 pilgrims staying at the refugio.25 trees were planted and cared for by wardens and pilgrims, helped by an electric water pump in the meadow. An appeal has been prepared to help the Diocese of Astorga repair the bell tower of Rabanal church.

Accounts for the year from 1 October 1997 to 30 September 1998

Basis

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Statement Of Recommended Practice on Accounting by Charities. On the accruals basis they attempt to show the relevant income earned and expenditure incurred in the period shown, irrespective of the timing of the actual cash movements. Readers ought to bear in mind the distinction between a fund, which is a certain amount of wealth in the form of money, investments and property managed for a particular purpose, and the bank accounts employed for its accumulation and distribution. Four accounts are held with Lloyds Bank plc, East Dulwich Branch, and deposits are also held with the Charities Official Investment Fund.

Functional Analysis of Income and Expenditure

The primary purpose of a charity is the provision of benefit to its beneficiaries rather than the corporate pursuit of gain for the profit of shareholders. Our duty as a charity is to care for the public at large rather than confine our attention to those who provide the funds. At a meeting on Thursday 5 December 1996 the committee recognised income arising out of charitable activity from the following:

- offering compostellan books and publications for sale;
- organising visits and providing other occasions for exchanging knowledge and sharing interests and experiences.

At the same time the committee allocated the costs of the following activities to directly charitable expenditure:

- issuing the quarterly bulletin;
- promoting the camino de Santiago, lobbying for protection of the path and against adverse developments, fostering European networking, making foreign-language jacobean scholarship available in English, being a source of practical advice and specialised information;

[These are charged under the general heading "communications", comprising postage and telephone, printing and stationery. Strictly, a small part of these bills is generated by administrative activity, but it is materially insignificant to be worth the trouble of separating. Conversely, some proportion of the rent ought to be included, but to keep things simple all the rent has been divided between the library and other expenditure.]

- maintaining text and slide libraries as educational resources;
- holding meetings and presenting lectures, mostly free to the public;
- sponsoring research and offering bursaries;
- supporting pilgrims.
- running Refugio Gaucelmo;

Apart from fundraising there is an irreducible minimum of administrative costs that cannot be assigned to any directly charitable purpose. Basically, the costs of processing subscriptions, balancing the books, and just keeping the organisation ticking over, in other words providing association in general and the Annual General Meeting in particular, are counted as "other expenditure".

CONFRATERNITY OF ST JAMES

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 30 September 1998

						(Note 1)	
		Unrestricted	Restric	ted Funds	s (Note 2)	Total	1997
		Funds	Rabanal		Dickinson		
	Notes		(Note 3)	(Note 4)	(Note 5)		
Income		£	£	£	£	£	£
Premio Elias Valiña							4,000
Donations	6		3,405	704	20	4,129	5,000
Subscriptions	7,8	23,905				23,905	16,654
Interest Income		788	619	721	177	2,305	1,482
Sales of books and publications	9	2,852	-			2,852	2,520
Sales of other items	10	294			Sec. Sec. 6	294	509
Visits	11	(89)		•		(89)	934
Total Income		27,750	4,024	1,425	197	33,396	31,099
rotarincome		27,750	4,024	1,423	197		
Direct Charitable Expenditure							
Bulletin	12	9,993	-			9,993	8,442
Communications		4,383	-	-	-	4,383	6,071
Libraries	13	2,719	-			2,719	2,763
Meetings	14	1,607	-			1,607	(537)
Grants	15		-	1,024	1,034	2,058	1,567
Refugio Gaucelmo	16		913	-		913	9,897
		18,702	913	1,024	1,034	21,673	28,203
Fundraising Expenditure	17	<u> </u>					345
Other Expenditure							
Office Rent and Insurance	13,18	2,230				2,230	2,228
Wages and Expenses	19	3,611		_		3,611	482
Depreciation	20	578				578	578
Bank Charges	21	166	-	-		166	258
		6,585		- 1		6,585	3,546
Total Expenditure		25,287	913	1,024	1,034	28,258	32,094
Net Incoming Resources	22	2,463	3,111	401	(837)	5,138	(995)
Fund Balances Brought Forward		14,135	7,314	9,763	2,914	34,126	35,121
Fund Balances Carried Forward		16,598	10,425	10,164	2,077	39,264	34,126

CONFRATERNITY OF ST JAMES

Balance Sheet as at 30th September 1998

		Unrestricted	Re	stricted F	unds	Total	1997
		Funds	Rabanal	Bursary	Dickinson		
	Notes						
Fixed Assets		£	£	£	£	£	£
						and a second	
Office Computer			-	-	-		578
Library	23	3,000				3,000	3,000
Books and Publications for Sale	24	7,664				7,664	7,735
Other Items for Sale		1,287	1,528			2,815	1,181
Postage Paid Envelopes		1,942	-	•		1,942	4,535
		13,893	1,528		•	15,421	17,029
Current Assets							
Cash		207				207	52
Balances at Bank:							
COIF Deposits		9,814	8,317	10,314	2,077	30,522	23,819
Deposit Accounts		22	274		-	296	47
Current Accounts		(769)	307	•		(462)	689
		9,274	8,897	10,314	2,077	30,563	24,607
Current Liabilities							
Subscriptions in Advance		3,570				3,570	4,510
Printing of Storrs Book		-	-		-		3,000
Reserve for Visit		3,000		-		3,000	12 .
Sundry Debtors		•	-	150	-	150	•
		6,570	-	150	•	6,720	7,510
Net Current Assets		2,704	8,897	10,164	2,077	23,843	17,097
		16,598					34,120

Adopted by the Committee on 27 November 1998

Laurie Dennett, Chairman

Timothy Wotherspoon, Treasurer

Notes

- 1. Total turnover for the year amounted to £63,000.
- 2. Each of the three restricted funds consists of expendable endowment, though it is intended that the Bursary Fund be maintained around the £10,000 figure and awards be paid out of interest.
- 3. The Rabanal Fund is for capital projects and upkeep of the fabric at Refugio Gaucelmo in Rabanal del Camino in the Montes de Leon between Astorga and Ponferrada. Day-to-day running costs are the responsibility of the El Bierzo Asociacion de Amigos del Camino de Santiago and are largely covered by donations from the pilgrims who stay there.
- 4. The Bursary Fund is for educational scholarships for young people. It was established by the committee in 1995-1996 and allocated an endowment of £10,000.
- 5. The Ted Dickinson Fund, raised by special subscription in memory of a member who died in 1994, is for helping pilgrims in financial hardship and associated purposes.
- 6. Income from donations includes £75 income tax refund from the Inland Revenue on covenants.
- 7. The continuing growth of interest in the pilgrimage and the number of enquiries for information led the committee at its meeting on Thursday 18 September 1997, after exhaustive consideration of alternatives, to propose the first increase in subscription rates for five years in order to finance the cost of part-time administrative support. This recommendation was accepted by the 1998 Annual General Meeting at the end of an extensive debate.

The increases in subscriptions provided an opportunity to conduct a membership audit, that is to say an examination of precisely how much each person purporting to be a member had paid during the year. This process is approaching completion. It is hoped that by the end of the next accounting period all subscriptions will have been made at the correct current rates.

- Income from subscriptions includes £808 income tax refund from the Inland Revenue on covenants. The committee is endeavouring to increase the amount covenanted significantly in 1999.
- 9. Sales of books and publications totalled £11,834 and their costs amounted to £8,982.
- 10. Sales of other items (principally badges and sweatshirts) totalled £1,901 and their costs amounted to £1,607.
- 11. Income from visits totalled £11,355 and their expenditure amounted to £11,443, including a reserve of £3,000 for the trip to Galicia in October 1998.
- 12. There were three bulletins and a newsletter during both this year and last year.
- 13. Since the Stephen Badger Library of Pilgrimage fully occupies one of the two rooms that make up our office premises, the rent and insurance costs are split half and half between libraries and other expenditure. These amount to £2230. The additional £489 in the expenditure on libraries represents investment in acquisitions of slides, books and publications. [The slide library is kept in a member's home.]
- 14. Income from meetings totalled £3,642 and their expenditure amounted to £5,249.
- 15. The second grant was made this year, to William Purkis of Lancaster, who was awarded £750 to compare the experience of the modern pilgrim with his 12th century counterpart. Grants from the

Ted Dickinson Fund were made, one for the planting of trees in the meadow at Refugio Gaucelmo, the other to enable a member to undertake her pilgrimage.

- 16. Expenditure at Refugio Gaucelmo in 1997-1998 of only £913 covered routine maintenance only. The 1996-1997 figure included:
 £1,254 for treatment of insect infestation and fungal infection of the timbers in the barn;
 £4,272 for renewal of the roof;
 £1,016 for plumbing and cupboards in the kitchen;
 £2,138 for levelling and drainage of the meadow.
- Fundraising costs in 1996-1997 related to the sponsor-a-tile appeal for replacement of the roof over the barn at Rabanal, specifically printing postcards and renewing the freepost facility. No one was paid as such to raise funds.
- Insurance covers contents of our premises, employer's and public liabilities, at a cost of £260. We have no trustee indemnity insurance.
- Apart from partial remuneration of the Secretary, the Confraternity has been wholly dependent on the goodwill of its volunteers. No trustee or any connected person receives remuneration of any kind for any service. Travelling expenses reimbursed to trustees amounted to £79 in 1997-1998, compared with £170 in 1996-1997.
- 20. Computer equipment has been depreciated on a straight-line basis over four years.
- 21. Almost all bank charges relate to processing costs of card transactions. Except for special services, such as foreign payments and clearing cheques with recourse, no fees are raised for money transmission facilities. The Confraternity acknowledges with gratitude the contribution that Lloyds Bank plc makes to its charitable operations by waiving most of its standard charges.
- 22. Paying rent for our premises had the effect of clearing the annual surpluses generated between 1992 and 1995. For 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 the Confraternity's general fund demonstrated the admirable quality of achieving a close balance between income and expenditure.

Following the rise in subscriptions, income to unrestricted funds has increased by 44%. The major increases in expenditure have been on office expenses (specifically remuneration of the Secretary) and the cost of meetings. The modest surplus of £2,538 on turnover of £63,000 has gone towards rebuilding our reserves (which had fallen as low as £1,000 in cash). The target is to establish reserves amounting to six months' income to unrestricted funds. An annual surplus at this level enables the Confraternity to postpone future increases in subscriptions and allows the committee flexibility to extend the remunerated hours of administrative support.

- 23. The value of the Stephen Badger Library of Pilgrimage was fixed at £3000 at the end of 1996. Its replacement is insured for a higher value.
- 24. The reserve of £3,000 has been spent on reprinting the book by Constance Storrs, the value of these copies being included in our stock of books

CONFRATERNITY OF ST JAMES

Expenditure		Income	c
Direct Charitable Expenditure			
Bulletin	10,000	Donations (including Rabanal Bell Towler Appeal)	14,000
Library	2,800	Subscriptions	25,000
Communications	4,500	Interest income	2,000
Grants (including Rabanal Bell Tow er Appeal)	13,000	Sales of books and publications	2,500
Refugio Gaucelmo	1,000	Sales of other items	250
	31,300	Meetings	(1,500)
Other Expenditure		Visids	
Office Rent	2,100		
Insurance and Expenses	5,400	Total Income	42,250
Depreciation	800		
Bank Charges	150	Net Incoming Resources	
1.	8,450		
Total Expenditure	39,750		

Budget for the Year to 30 September 1999 forecast by the Committee on 27 November 1998

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Confraternity of Saint James

I report on the accounts of the trust for the year ended 30 September 1998, which are set out on pages 2 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- · to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

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

David Taylor, Chartered Accountant, 60 Winchester Street, London SW1V 4NH 15th December 1998

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Practical Pilgrim Form

Saturday 6 March • London Saturday 13 March • Ripley, Yorks Saturday 20 March • Paisley Abbey, Glasgow

I / we am interes London Ripley Paisley Abbey and would like m		ilgrim at			
l am a prospectiv	ve pilgrim in 1999	o other	r 🗖 specify		
I am a returned p	pilgrim with advic	e to give	on walking 🗖 c	ycling 🗖	
Information Walking Cycling . Planning Routes	Required	Offere	d specify		
afternoon/evenir walking 🗖		d on Sund	lay. Please indica	e arranged for the ate if you are inter ation 🗖	
Name					
Address					

Postcode ______

Please return this form with an SAE to: Practical Pilgrim, Confraternity of Saint James, First Floor, I Talbot Yard, Borough High Street, London SEI IYP



Confraternity of Saint James 2009 DIARY

See also Bulletins & Miraz Newsletter for other meetings

Saturday 31January	AGM, Talk and Party: Baldwin's Gardens, EC1, Performance: One day I'll go to Compostelle, Marie-Céline Lachaud (Paris)
Saturday 21 February Saturday 21 March	Practical Pilgrim: London SE1. The Way-DVD by Mark Shea Practical Pilgrim: St Michael's Church, Moodiesburn G69 0DL
Saturday 28 March	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 18 April	Chichester meeting, contact Peter FitzGerald, 01243 785681
Saturday 25 April	Office Open Day 10.30-3.30pm Lichfield local meeting: buffet lunch, talk, walk
Tues12- Tues 19 May	Coach Pilgrimage along N route, visit to Miraz, contact Pax Travel 020 7485 3003
23-24 July Saturday 25 July	Walking Pilgrimage Charing to Canterbury St James's Day: Pilgrimage Exhibition and events in Canterbury
Saturday 26 September	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 25 October	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
Sat 31 Oct-7 November	Visit to St James' churches in southern Poland, Krakow, Sandomierz, salt mine.
Saturday 14 November	Rabanal Hospitaleros workshop, John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY, 10.30-5pm
Fri 20-Sun 22 November	• Post-Pilgrimage Retreat Ampleforth Abbey, N Yorks Led by Fr Ben Griffiths
Saturday 28 November	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
	on any of these and additional events please contact: Confraternity of Saint James , 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NV
	 Packfriars Road, London SE1 8NY Fax 020 7928 2844 • Email <i>events@csj.org.uk</i> • Web
	www.csj.org.uk

MIRAZ NEWS - Spring 2009



Appeal Total £85,205 - THANK YOU

- Miraz Development News
- Life as a Winter Caretaker
- Please Support Angelika
- A Day in Chichester
- Conchi
- Sponsor-a-Week

*** Miraz Development News ***

Planning Applications

Plans for extending the accommodation at Miraz were drawn up in 2008. Since the building is owned by the Lugo Diocese, we had to wait for the agreement of the new Bishop and this was given in the summer. In October the plans were submitted to the *Patrimonio* who need to approve all applications for buildings close to a Camino.

Our architect, Campelo, recently told Colin that he had received verbal assurance from the *Patrimonio* that they will pass the outline planning permission. We are now awaiting written confirmation, which may or may not impose conditions.

It seems that in Spain there are 2 further stages which together are equivalent to the UK's detailed planning application:-

- Stage 1, is the "*Basico*" which addresses such subjects as water supply, sanitation and equality of facilities eg. male, female, disabled
- Stage 2 is the "*Proyecto*" contains specific project details eg. timetable etc.

These stages may be submitted at the same time but Campelo recommends that we do it as 2 separate processes, as the *Patrimonio* are involved, and we shall ask him to prepare these on our behalf.

Since we are not in Spain, we need to make decisions about :- :

- Who will manage the paper work for licenses etc?
- Who will seek and apply for grants?
- Who will seek and access quotations?

The CSJ is applying to the Xunta directly because the period for submitting a grant application is very near and we have to prepare papers about CSJ activities etc.

*** Life as a Winter Caretaker ***

Bob Mullen has recently been in Miraz as one of our Winter caretakers and has sent the following notes about his time there:-

Although the refuge has been closed for the month of December, I find it to be in perfect order, which is hardly surprising considering that the previous wardens were Keith and Maureen. There is, on the kitchen ceiling, a large damp patch - somewhat like a great grey cloud overhead - but this is soon dissipated by the heat of the *cocina económica*.

In place of the heap of stumps which have defied all previous attempts to split them by hand, I find a stack of dry and well-seasoned *leña* to which these have been reduced by Toñito, a local farmer, with the splitting attachment on his tractor. What can't be slid into the stove through the door can be sawn up and dropped in through the top.

A new load of wood, intended for use next winter, has been deposited in the driveway. Splitting it up outdoors and stacking is a pleasant occupation, and each evening in the bar I receive comments on how it's going. This is hardly surprising, as there are few other sources of amusement here, but never, while working, have I noticed anyone observing me, nor have I spotted anyone coming by afterwards to check if, indeed, I'm stacking the wood properly. I ne tirst visitor is a guidebook writer, a professor Latini from Milan who is working on a guide for the Camino del Norte to be published by the "amigos" group in Italy. He makes notes, takes photos, visits the church, chats with Pilar, and then heads for Sobrado, thanking us profusely for the thorough orientation. A tour of the church, a duty which in the absence of Jesús (the sacristan) falls to the hospitalero, includes pointing out the figures of Santiago Matamoros and San Roque. The Virgin, I have discovered, is *La Virgen del Carmen*, patronness of mariners. The sea, I can only suppose, must have receded significantly since she was installed.

It gets seriously cold during the night in the dormitory. Two Spanish pilgrims from Asturias who assure me during dinner around the stove, that the cold in Asturias is colder than the cold in Galicia, reappear in the kitchen in the morning shivering, and with scarves wrapped round their necks because they have both developed sore throats during the night. (*Ed: we've now had quotes for installing heating !*). The refrigerator requires a special procedure before the freezing compartment will function, when the ambient temperature dips too low. Also, I discover, one morning, that the telephone, which has now been moved into the office, is frozen. Or rather, the battery is, and will not recharge. It takes a whole day back in the *comedor*, in front of the gas heater, before things return to normal.

Snow! The walk to Parga via the hamlet of Portoscarros, the forest, the river, and the Roman bridge, when yours are the first footprints, is a real pleasure.

Two small *tornados* have struck near La Coruña and in the Basque Country, *jun ciclón!* There are *alertas* for high winds, high waves, rain, snow, and avalanches. Not surprisingly, a week has now passed without any pilgrims. Hurricane-force winds have struck Galicia with devastating effect. All of the area is without power, which means there is no water coming from the well and meals are eaten by the feeble light of a camping gas lantern.

Four days have passed, and still no power. In Bar Miraz, the card players need to use their cigarette lighters to illuminate their hands. A small generator is finally located and taken from house to house, being used a few hours in each to run the refrigerators and so prevent the meat from last November's *matanza* from being spoiled. Gradually, at first for only a few short periods a day, we find normal service being resumed. Still there are few pilgrims, as the rain is incessant and many of the fields roundabout are, at present, bogs. In the bar, Pilar, as she goes about her endless array of tasks, repeats like a mantra, "*A mal tiempo buena cara*." (Let a smile be your umbrella.)

On Valentine's Day, we receive some sad news. Conchi, the *hospitalera* in Baamonde, (the refuge before Miraz) has died suddenly. I get a ride the next day to the *tanatoria* to sign the book of condolences and say a final farewell. In her coffin, surrounded by flowers, Conchi appears just as she did in life, ready, for all the world, to sit up and start complaining about the calibre of the pilgrims that she's getting these days. On the day of the "*incineración*," which is a private ceremony for the family, the sun is shining and the sky for once is blue. Going for a walk down by the river behind the refuge, I find that the banks are now generously sprinkled with dwarf daffodils.

Pilgrims are appearing again: from Canada, from Denmark, from France, from Switzerland. A Spaniard and an Italian turn up expecting the refuge to be still a "squat" and believing that they can sleep there until noon. No chance !.

For me, another stint at Miraz has come to an end. Alison Raju has arrived, ready to take over.

*** Future Fundraising ***

Members have been extremely generous up to now with their time and money, and have raised £85,205 to date. This is an amazing achievement and very much appreciated by all concerend with the operation of refuge.

Currently, there is £57,000 available for future development, part of which has been allocated by the trustees from general CSJ funds.

The focus in the future will be on obtaining grants from organisations and we are currently preparing an application to the local Xunta. Other posible sources of funds may be the EEC and corporate bodies; also other pilgrim associations - with special thanks to those in Germany and Canada who have already offered to help.

If you know of any companies, trusts and other organisations who may be able to help, please do let us know by contacting the office.

> We still also need YOUR help please until the project is complete.

Up to now the most popular events have been those which have included food, either staying in for a meal or a coffee morning or eating out at a local pub or restaurant.

Other members have raised funds by

- Selling CD and book accounts of their camino
- Leading local walks
- Being sponsored for events (see opposite page)
- Offering their holiday cottages at special rates to members
- Giving talks about the camino
- Holding concerts
- Leading visits to local places of interest

If you have ideas for future fundraising. please let us know via the office.

*** Please Support Angelika ***



In 2007 Angelika walked in the first Just Walk sponsored event over the South Downs. The route started from Goodwood Racecourse, continued through the historic town of Arundel, on to Amberley, Bignor Hill and along the South Downs Way.

She was the first woman to complete the 60km course; it took her 10.5 hours and she raised more than £800 for Miraz !

She will be repeating the event on 9th May and has offered again to be sponsored in aid of the Miraz Appeal.

Please do sponsor her and so encourage her to beat her earlier completion time and to raise even more for Miraz.

Donations can be made at the following website <u>http://www.justgiving.com/miraz-appeal</u> or by using the form on page 8 of this newsletter.

Angelika on the Camino del Norte

*** A Day in Chichester *** Saturday 18 April

For local members but all CSJ members are invited. Chichester is a delightful cathedral city funded by the Romans. It is suggested that members who arrive in the morning might like to look around the cathedral first, meeting at 11.30a.m. at the main entrance of the cathedral. If the weather is fine, members can have a picnic lunch in the Bishop's Gardens or go to a pub.

The meeting in the afternoon is at 2.30pm in the Parish Rooms at the rear of St Richard's Catholic Church, Cawley Road, PO19 1XB - not far from the railway station. Being Saturday, car parking could be difficult, but there are car parks in the area. The theme of our meeting will be Pilgrimage, Refugios (including Miraz) and Hospitality. Please bring with you your photographs, slides and, most importantly, your stories.

After the meeting, you may like to go to the Saturday evening Mas at 6pm at St Richard's or attend Evensong in the cathedral, followed by an evening meal before heading back home. There are several excellent eating places in the area.

Please let Peter FitzGerald know if you will be coming so he can look out for you and ensure there is space at the meeting. Tel : 01243 785681, email: peter_of_chichester@tiscali.co.uk

*** Senora Concepcion Prado (Conchi) *** RIP 1937-2009



We were shocked to receive the news that Conchi, the redoubtable hospitalera at Baamonde, the refuge just before Miraz, had died suddenly on 14 February. Since we took over Miraz in 2005, she and the CSJ wardens had been in constant contact exchanging information on all aspects of the pilgrimage on the Camino del Norte.

Judith Burrows writes:

"I remember meeting her at the Blessing of the Miraz refuge in October 2005. She was very clear about the way we should order the refuge. Some of the CSJ group went to visit her at her large refuge at Baamonde. It was an old coach-house, which had belonged to her family, but which had been made into a large refuge, suitable for groups, by the Xunta de Galicia. As she guided us round, we learnt that she stood no nonsense from schools groups and others who used the facilities there. We then persuaded her that Miraz could not accept these groups and that please would she send them on to Gutierrez or other larger, better equipped refuges."

Marion Marples

*** The Miraz Appeal ***

History - In May 2005, the Bishop of Lugo gave us use of the Casa Rectoral (priest's house) in the village of Miraz in Galicia, to provide a pilgrim refugio. Whilst structurally sound, the building needed to be renovated, equipped and perhaps extended, if pilgrim numbers justified it (which, it turns out, they definitely do !) We originally aimed to raise £100,000 to cover both these and future running and maintenance costs.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so much to the appeal, in terms of not only their donations and their time, but also their interest and support. We are grateful for all contributions and have been very lucky to have several larger donations. However, it is the smaller amounts which make up about 90% of the total raised so far and do make a big difference.

* Sponsor-a-Week *

This scheme was introduced in the early days of Refugio Gaucelmo to allow pilgrims to support and keep in touch with events in Rabanal by sponsoring-a-week for £50 (or £25 if you share with a friend), You can also sponsor-a-week at Miraz and you will receive a letter from the hospitaleros telling you the pilgrim news for your week, and will know that you are helping pilgrims too. For the first time, Miraz will be also be open to pilgrims through most of this winter into 2009 so there are plenty of weeks to choose from. . Please use the form on page 8, or contact Alison Thorp

email: alison.thorp@virgin.net or Tel: +44 - (0)1372-274398 for more details

*"My Camíno : a personal pílgrímage" *



Michael Moon's book following in the footsteps of his ancestor who walked from St Jean-de-Pied-de-Port to Santiago in 1280AD. Many colour photos. £6.50 per copy to Miraz. Cost: £12.99 + p&p Please order using the form on page 8, or via the CSJ website Bookshop.

*** Miraz Contacts ***

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

Co-ordinator Operations/ Hospitaleros - Alan Cutbush Property

- Colin Jones
- Peter FitzGerald
- pacharan@btinternet.com
- alan@cutbush35.fsnet.co.uk
- peter of chichester@tiscali.co.uk

Order & / or Donations Form

CSJ Member no. (if known)
Name
Address
Tel or email address :
I wish to :- Sponsor Angelika on her walk <i>(see page 5)</i>
Order copy/ies of "My Camino" - cost £12.99 each + P&P: UK £1.00, EU £2.20, ROW £3.95 per copy
 Help pilgrims at Miraz by sponsoring the week shown below for £50 (or part week for £25)
(Date)
Make a donation to the Miraz Appeal
Total £
Payment
I enclose a cheque made payable to "Confraternity of St James"
 I authorise the CSJ to charge my credit card as follows (NB: Credit cards will be charged actual postage)
Visa / Mastercard Number / / /
Expiry Date / Security Code
Signed Date:

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

Confraternity of Saint James

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