



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



March 2010

No 109

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Editorial

Gosia Brykczyńska

The long awaited 2010 Holy Year has finally arrived and with it much excitement and activity. It is widely believed that the first Jubilee year was granted to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in 1120 by Pope Calixtus II (but that is not entirely proven for it is considerably later that there is any European-wide evidence of larger numbers of pilgrims making their way to Santiago in years when the Feast of St James falls on a Sunday). But by 1395, according to Constance Storrs, English pilgrims were making their way to Santiago in significant numbers.

In more recent times in Jubilee years interest in the camino and numbers of pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage have increased and likewise this year there is noticeably more activity in the CSJ office and lively interest in Practical Pilgrim days. This Holy Year is no exception. Many CSJ members are thinking of doing another pilgrimage this year or after hesitating for some while finally deciding that this is the year to undertake the camino. It is therefore most opportune that the new CSJ Chairman is Colin Jones who has held a special interest in the *refugio* at Miraz over the last few years. Looking after pilgrims is something confraternities ancient and modern undertake for the love of St James, and the CSJ is no different.

In this *Bulletin* we have a personal account from our past chairman William Griffiths about how he came to be a pilgrim of St James, and an interesting historical review by Gene McCullough about John Adams. Sandra Collier recounts to us her adventures crossing the Pyrenees at the Somport Pass. Peter Neall reminds us of the many miracles of St James that occur along the camino while John Rafferty draws a pen-portrait of Susana Rio Vikes from the office of the *Archicofradía Universal del Apostól Santiago* in Santiago. Finally Laurie Clegg has prepared a report from the last day of the CSJ Polish trip and looks at churches dedicated to St James along the Małopolska Camino from Sandomierz to Więclawice Stare outside Kraków.

The motto of this Jubilee Year is *On pilgrimage towards the light* and I trust that our pilgrimages this year will be especially illuminating both inwardly and outwardly. Pope Benedict XVI in his letter to Archbishop Julián Barrio Barrio of Santiago de Compostela on the occasion of declaring 2010 a Jubilee Year, also addressed pilgrims

asking them

"...to treasure the evocative experiences of faith, charity and brotherhood that they meet with on their journey, to experience the Way especially inwardly, letting themselves be challenged by the call that the Lord makes to each one of them. Thus they will be able to say joyfully and firmly at the Pórtico de la Gloria, "I believe". I ask them also not to forget in their prayers those who could not accompany them, their families and friends, the sick and the needy, emigrants..."

I cannot add anything to this blessing for our Jubilee Year pilgrims, but do wish to send them on their way according to the ancient tradition, saying - ¡Buen Camino!

Reflections of an Outgoing Chairman

William Griffiths

It is customary for the Chairman to include in his Address to the Confraternity a list of people to be thanked. But today is the last occasion for me to speak with you as Chairman, and the list of those I would thank would be endless, so this year I have left it to Marion to name these people in her Report. I would like instead to share with you some of my wanderings in Jacobsland. Jacobsland? Where is that? Well, Magdalena Stork Gadea uses the term in one of her books to describe the land of Santiago. We were once shown a film called *Viaje en Jacobsland*, and more recently there has been a Galician CD of that title. The boundaries of Jacobsland are very elastic, and it certainly does not just mean Galicia. Everywhere that a pilgrim wanders, from his own front door, in search of St James, is Jacobsland, and it continues after he has returned to his front door. We all know the poem by Antonio Machado with the lines:

*“Caminante, no hay camino,
se hace camino al andar”*

which might be rendered “Wayfarer, there is no such thing as the way ; the way comes into being by walking it ”. One could imagine Machado also saying of our Confraternity:

*“Cofrade, no hay Cofradía,
se hace Cofradía al fraternizar”*

that is, our Confraternity comes into being through our fraternisation. So I invite you today to share what the camino has meant to me *and* what the Confraternity has meant to me over my last few years in Jacobsland.

How were the seeds planted that were to turn me into a pilgrim? Growing up on the island of Malta I was aware that one seed must have been planted by my grandmother who used to take me on local pilgrimages to shrines such as the cave that contains an icon attributed to St Luke. These pilgrimages would have been like a Spanish *romería*, but I remember little about them except that we went in a fleet of hired coaches. A more significant seed came later, when I was at a Benedictine school in Somerset, and the Film Society showed Buñuel's

film *La Voie Lactée*. Two tramps are making their way through France to Santiago when they meet a mysterious man in a Spanish cloak, the start of many surreal encounters with heretics from ages past. I knew also from my general reading of the importance of the pilgrimage. There was even a reference to Compostela in one of the Flanders and Swann revue sketches, so popular with me and my schoolmates.

So when I first encountered the Confraternity, seeing a poster in 1984, the year after its foundation, I knew of the pilgrimage and had even been to places on the route in France, such as Rocamadour and Toulouse. But I had never yet been to Spain. Santiago, goal of pilgrims for centuries, seemed a good place to start. Furthermore, I had recently moved into a parish of SS Philip and James, so it seemed appropriate – but I didn't realise it was the wrong St James! For these very nebulous reasons I joined the Confraternity. My walking at that time did not amount to much more than an afternoon stroll. And such was the first Confraternity event I remember going on – a walk from Cheltenham to the church of St James at Stoke Orchard, with its remarkable wall paintings of the life of St James. Most of the group, led by Pat Quaife, arrived in Cheltenham by train, but I arrived separately and held up a scallop shell for recognition.

It was not until 1987 that I made my first visit to Santiago, and to Spain, travelling by air in a very congenial group led by Pat on the occasion of the declaration by the Council of Europe that the Ways to Santiago were a European Cultural Itinerary. We stood in Galician rain outside the Puerta del Camino as the first of the Council's stylised shell waymarks was unveiled. We followed the Prince of Liechtenstein as he made the offering to St James, were mesmerised by the *botafumeiro*, joined Mary Remnant in singing *Ad honorem Regis summi* as part of a pilgrim service, and joined with the Amis de St Jacques, led by Jeannine Warcollier, in exploring Galicia. I went again the following year with two friends, travelling the length of the camino by car, to arrive in Santiago for Corpus Christi. A splendid procession but no *botafumeiro*, and we made quite a nuisance of ourselves to a certain Canon by enquiring for one.

By now, I was beginning to think that my next arrival in Santiago should be done in the traditional way, on foot. Being by now a general practitioner, it was clear I could only do it in stages. I bought my first walking boots and began some kind of training, but still had doubts as to whether I could set off unaided. So I signed up for a group which the Amigos del Camino of Navarre had organised, which would be

setting out at Easter 1990 with transport for baggage along the Vía de la Plata. Alas, it was not to be. There were various difficulties in my Practice which combined to make me severely depressed. I had the good fortune to be helped by a good psychiatrist, Dr Klaus Bergmann, who, it turned out, had a home in France not far from the *Chemin*. So when I explained to him what I was intending to do in the next few weeks, I was astonished by his reply: "But the Road to Santiago doesn't begin in Seville, it begins in Le Puy!" With great regret I cancelled that year's pilgrimage. The words I had sung so often:

*"There's no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim"*

sounded very bitterly. But Dr Bergmann left me with some hope, reassuring me that on the day I would arrive at Santiago, the satisfaction experienced would be unimpaired.

There was much hope and healing too to be found in the Confraternity. Pat by this time had succeeded James Maple as Chairman, and Marion Marples had succeeded Pat in 1989 as an incomparable Secretary. I had myself joined the Committee, with special responsibility for pilgrim clothing. There were contacts with the other countries in Jacobsland, such as the very congenial Conference in Brussels in the summer of 1990.

In 1991 I made new plans to start the Le Puy route with a Waymark Tours group, led by Pat Quaife. Alas, another disappointment. The difficulties in my Practice had reached their culmination, making it impossible to go. I took instead to walking the pilgrim routes of England at weekends: the Confraternity's St James's Way from Reading to Southampton, the Pilgrims' Way from Winchester to Canterbury, and then others of varying historical authenticity. Also 1991 was the year that our first *refugio* at Rabanal opened. I was not in the working party but in the idle party, that is the group led by Pat who were based at the Monastery of San Isidoro in León, and who drove up to Rabanal for the unforgettable inaugural celebrations: the Blessing by the Bishop of Astorga, the satisfaction of seeing the transformation achieved in the building by the efforts of so many. Maragato pipers and dancers swept up our bekilted member Ian Tweedie; the *vino español* was enriched by Jesus Jato's *queimada*. I brought back from that visit a notable souvenir. Seeing a man in a León street wearing a Spanish cloak, I made enquiries and bespoke one from a tailor of traditional

costume. It is in the Leonese style, rather longer than the Castilian, and I have sometimes worn it at Confraternity events. Indeed, when I met our member Theresa Kassell once at St Jean-Pied-de-Port, she referred to it as my robe of office. But there is nothing official about that cloak. It derived from my seeing *La Voie Lactée* years ago, and is merely a flight of fancy.

At last in 1992 I was able to set foot on the Le Puy route, in a wonderfully congenial group of eleven people led by Pat Quaife, but that year she was leading us from Conques to Moissac, so I did not start at the beginning. Our luggage was carried for us, and it was noticed that I sent with the luggage the very touristy pilgrim staff I had bought in Conques, and only used it for swanning around at our destinations. One of our companions, with very penetrating insight, accused me of being a poseur. The following year I set out from Le Puy itself, as far as Conques, with Sue Morgan. No carrying of luggage this time; as a graduate of Sue's School of Belting and Bucklecraft I found I could carry a full-sized rucksack and became a fan of *gîtes d'étape*. The wonderful encounters we had included one with a Labrador dog, surely the dog of St Roch, who attached himself to us for some days. Our pilgrim records contain a very rare stamp: that of the Animal Protection Society in Espalion, where we finally left him. That evening, we arrived at the Hospitalité Saint-Jacques in Estaing, that beautiful community founded the previous year by a small group of former pilgrims who had discerned their calling in life to be the welcoming of pilgrims. Their own pilgrimage, I found, had taken place in 1990, the year I had to cancel my intended first pilgrimage. I felt that in some mysterious way, though neither they nor I knew it in 1990, they had made the pilgrimage that year on my behalf. It was clear that Estaing would be the place where I would return, once I had reached Santiago, to serve as an *hospitalier*.

In 1994 I felt ready, as ready as any pilgrim ever is, to set out alone on the next stage, from Moissac. At the end of my first day, I was walking up a hill into the village of Auvillar, and heard a voice address me from a balcony in English (for the voice's owner had judged from my somewhat laden appearance that I was English) giving me instructions to join him in the *gîte*. This was Jacques Camusat, veteran pilgrim and mountaineer, aged 74 that year, who was to be a dear friend until his sudden death in the Alps at the age of 87. An often infuriating friend, to be known to many in the Confraternity as "the dreaded Camusat". Jacques and I walked on together, and the next morning, as on so

many mornings, he made us fall badly behind schedule by the length of time he spent in the Post Office, lightening his load by sending parcels of surplus clothing to Madame Jeanne Debril, the formidable regulator of pilgrims at Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port. He would also accost mayors and urge them to provide fax machines for the use of pilgrims. I made a few attempts to escape from Jacques, but he always caught up with me, and, of course by the time we reached St Jean, where I would end but he would continue, we were firm friends. There, in spite of our insalubrious appearance, we were admitted for a splendid meal at the Hotel des Pyrenees, and he had his famous quarrel with Madame Debril, whom he accused of stealing some of the socks he had been posting to her. (Happily, they were reconciled later.) Jacques continued on into Spain, but he had been stirred by my account of the founding of the CSJ, and was determined to become, as he termed it, an "honourable member". I was to see much of him over the years, at Confraternity events such as the walk through the Baztan valley later that year, and at his home near Paris, where his wife Anne was something of a calming influence.

It took me two years to complete the Spanish section of the camino, with a break at Burgos. Getting off the train at Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in the late morning, I doubted whether I could make it that day to Roncesvalles, but Madame Debril reassured me that I could. I made it to Roncesvalles just as the evening Mass was beginning – as you may read on page 54 of Nancy Frey's *Pilgrim Stories*. I met many fine companions on that two-week stretch, and my last night at San Juan de Ortega, with the late Don José Maria dispensing his famous garlic soup to us, was a veritable last supper. (I commend to you the recipe for garlic soup in the Confraternity's book *¡Que Aproveche!* You too can create a San Juan de Ortega feast). I was supported on this two year stretch by a magnificent bi-node pilgrim staff carved for me by Peter Fitzgerald. In flying me out to Madrid on the second year Iberia managed to lose the staff, but delivered it to me the following day at the Burgos *refugio*. As the Lost Luggage man put it: "*Un baculo de peregrino: Importantísimo!*" At last I arrived at Rabanal as a pilgrim. The *hospitaleros* were our American members, the distinguished scholar Annie Shaver-Crandell and her husband Keith. And - joy! - also there were Joe and Pat May. Joe who had been involved with the Gaucelmo project virtually from the start, co-ordinating *hospitaleros*, member of working parties, spread-eagled on the barn roof replacing tiles; Joe, God rest his soul, who went to his reward just a few weeks

ago; and Pat, *la peregrina*, his support in all these activities, and in the illness of his last years. On to Villafranca del Bierzo, arriving very late and finding the Jato family seated around their supper, an industrial-sized tin of tuna. "You're a bit late for a pilgrim," said Jesus Jato, "Come in and join us." Then the climb up to O Cebreiro, and happily our Chairman, Laurie Dennett, dividing her time as she does between London and Cebreiro, was there to welcome me in the ancient *Hospedería*. On 13 July 1996 I reached Santiago and collected my *compostela*. The postcards I sent my friends quoted TS Eliot's *Journey of the Magi*: "it was (you may say) satisfactory."

What does one do after reaching Santiago? Will one be afflicted by post-camino syndrome? I was. The Confraternity was a solace. "*Se hace la Cofradía al fraternizar.*" And there was more pilgrimage: the pilgrimage along St James's Way from Southampton to Reading and Marlow with our French friends from the Pyrénées Atlantiques led by our dearly missed Stephen Badger. Howard Nelson and I, for a completely different experience, even made the pilgrimage to Mount Athos.

And I made advances along two more of the routes to Santiago, from Calais and from Arles. I had set out from Calais some time before, one Bank Holiday weekend which was just enough time to reach Boulogne. As time allowed over the following years, I continued the route into Paris, and then on through Tours and down into the Saintonge. It was to the north of Paris that, on two occasions, my scallop shell was recognised by angels – as I have described in our booklet *Roads to Santiago*. The Arles route I found less frequented than the Le Puy route, so that the acts of kindness received there seemed even more personal. And what better summing up of the nature of pilgrimage can there be than the words called out to me, in a Gascon accent I shall not attempt to copy, by an old woman working in her field: "*Vous faites le Chemin? Vous faites le bien!*"

So I continued to be a pilgrim. And also, for the first time, to give something back as an *hospitalier* at the Hospitalité Saint-Jacques in Estaing, where the families at the heart of the community continue their pilgrim spirit with a wonderful sense of dependence on Providence. After a while, I could take my turn in the rota to be the person for "*accueil*", greeting the pilgrims as they arrive. At the community meeting each morning, the person for "*accueil*" is asked to report to the others his experiences under two categories: Difficulties and Wonders (rather good categories for considering all

one's experiences in life). And so it came about that I reported the Wonder of having been on *accueil* duty when the bell rang and I found Alison Raju, wearing two rucksacks, as she walked the route to revise her guides to the Le Puy route.

An involvement in another aspect of hospitality was to begin in 2003, when I had been elected to succeed Laurie Dennett as your Chairman. Once a year the Committee have a less formal meeting, in somebody's garden, as an opportunity for "blue sky thinking", and the meeting in 2003 was discussing the problem of overcrowding on the Camino Francés. Could we do something positive by improving the facilities on one of the other routes? A meeting was held on Valentine's Day 2004 to consider the possibilities, and our choice was gradually focused down to the Northern Ruta de la Costa and we were offered the Casa Rectoral in Miraz, which began receiving pilgrims in 2005, and was blessed on behalf of the Bishop of Lugo in 2006. You are all familiar with the work that has been done at Miraz, and you are about to hear about the latest developments from Colin Jones who co-ordinates it all. All this without in any way lessening the Confraternity's commitment to our refuge at Rabanal. "*Se hace la Cofradía al fraternizer.*"

I was granted a new direction for pilgrimage and hospitality in 2004, when John Hatfield drove me to Vézelay to attend a meeting of people giving hospitality on that route. I had long heard of the difficulties of the Vézelay route, aptly likened to a desert. I found at that meeting that the desert had flowered, thanks to the Amis de St Jacques of the Vézelay route and their dynamic founders Monique and the late Jean-Charles Chassain. The encounter with Vézelay itself, its Basilica of St Mary Magdalen, and the sublime liturgies of the twin communities of Brothers and Sisters of Jerusalem was overwhelming too. We were shown a refuge at Corbigny about to open. Estaing by this time was well supplied with *hospitaliers*, so I offered myself as the first *hospitalier* at Corbigny, and also began walking the route. John has made the beauties of that route well known to our members, and several other Confraternity members have been *hospitaliers* in the refuges along the route.

So, why do we go on pilgrimage? At the heart of all our pilgrimages is an experience of a search for the Divine. But which of us can look on the face of God and live? So, pilgrimage for most of us involves a process of disguise and of insulation from that unbearable reality. Like layers of insulation around a live electric wire, we prefer to say that

we make the pilgrimage because of an interest in history, in culture, in music, in the beauties of nature. And, of course, for the sake of fellowship, “*al fraternizar*”. I thank all of you for the fellowship I have known in Jacobsland. The fellowship of pilgrims is more than just insulation. It enables us at times to remove some of those layers. In the conversations along the road and in the *refugios*, pilgrims may dare to remove some of their disguises, their masks, their cloaks. It was the boisterous, the dreaded Jacques Camusat who first took me to Chartres, and also he who introduced me, with tears in his eyes, to Charles Péguy, the poet of the Chartres pilgrimages. “*La présentation de la Beauce à Notre Dame*” describes just such a process of pilgrims laying down their disguises, their masks, and their cloaks:

*Quand nous aurons joués nos derniers personnages,
Quand nous aurons posé la cape et le manteau,
Quand nous aurons jeté le masque et le couteau,
Veuillez vous rappeler nos longs pèlerinages.*

Pilgrimage from Sandomierz to Kraków

Laurie Clegg

On the Confraternity visit to Poland last year we woke on the final day to a misty morning. It was not raining and a fine day was forecast. It was warmer too, so the mist may well have been the drying out of the sodden fields around the town. An early start was necessary as we had a full day ahead of us, but spent some time waiting for Kasia, from the Polish Association of St James the Apostle, whom we had met the previous morning at the church of St James. We were expecting to give her a lift to Klimontów in order to attend an inaugural meeting of the Sandomierz Association of St James which was to start that evening with a pilgrimage from Klimontów to Sandomierz. It turned out that she was not ready to go so early as she still had organisational things to do at the Sandomierz end – so she gave us a basket of apples and fruit and waved us goodbye. Meanwhile I had time to photograph the gateway in the walls of the town which was so aptly named the Eye of the Needle. When we had climbed up the steps to this gate the evening before it had been dark, but now we had a good view of and through it.

We took to the road in the minibus but we were to have many halts along the way. The first of these is Klimontów, a village on the Sandomierz/Kraków pilgrim route. It is about a day's walk from Sandomierz. We stopped to look at two churches. The Baroque collegiate church of St Joseph is now the cathedral. It is fronted with two towers behind which there is an impressive rotunda and a copper sheathed dome, but this church was not the object of our visit to Klimontów. We moved on to the Dominican church dedicated to Our Lady and St James. We had expected to be shown round but the door was locked and the priest who would have given us access had been called away to a parishioner. There is an obelisk outside the monastery church with an appropriate shell sign.

Before the war Klimontów had a large Jewish community. Persecution had been intermittent in the 1930s when anti-Semitism reached a new peak and the Jews who formed the majority of the population were badly treated by both the authorities and their neighbours. The Germans eventually killed all those Jews who had not died from starvation and ill-treatment during the early years of their

occupation of Poland. Sadly a recent photograph of the synagogue shows an attractive building, but with the windows boarded up and the front defaced with graffiti.

Our next stop was at Kotuszów where the church is dedicated to St James and where we were met by the parish priest Fr Jerzy Sobczyk. Like others of the churches we were to see that day this is a white Baroque structure with a black slate roof. It is fronted with a massive square tower and black-tiled onion dome. At the entrance there is a new plaque commemorating the pilgrim route that was dedicated by the local bishop earlier in the year on 25 July. There has been a church on the site since the late fourteenth century at least, but the present building replaced a wooden structure in 1661. Unfortunately it was on the front line for several months in 1944/45 and was badly damaged. Apart from substantial post-war restoration there has been considerable refurbishment recently and everything is spick-and-span. Fr Jerzy is proud of his church and the works he has sponsored. For the pilgrim the best addition is a painting of St James above the high altar. In the past the parish was dedicated to Our Lady and a picture of her was placed over the altar. It would not have been diplomatic to replace this picture; instead, at the touch of a button, the portrait of St James rises up in front of Our Lady to be honoured temporarily. It is an interesting representation of the saint as pilgrim with staff and gourd, but also as writer of the Epistle with a book in his hand. My first thought was that the sword lying at his feet is a reminder that he is also known as Santiago Matamoros, but it is actually a sign that he suffered martyrdom by being beheaded.

At mid-day we arrived at Szydłów, a small town where much of the walls and two towers erected by King Kazimierz III in the mid-fourteenth century remain. It is for this reason known as the "Polish Carcassonne", although those who gave it that name must never have visited France and seen the walls of Carcassonne itself. We visited first the church of St Władysław. Outside there is a large wooden statue, carved in great detail, of St Peter holding a scaly fish in one hand and with his keys at his waist. There is a good triptych at the altar but the statuary over the baptismal font is eccentric; one sees a shrunken Christ, a taller St John the Baptist as though posing for a photograph and the Holy Spirit represented by a rather dead-looking dove. The town also has a noteworthy synagogue, a reminder that before the war Jews made up thirty per cent of the population of Poland. There were originally four gates - Warsaw, Kraków, Opatów and the Watergate.

The latter recalls a medieval water supply system that, among much else in the town, was destroyed by the Swedes. Not for nothing do the Poles refer to the expedition of Gustavus Adolphus as the “Swedish Deluge”. Gustavus is traditionally much admired in England because he fought in the Protestant cause but to the Poles he was a savage barbarian.

After a look at some of the walls, the Warsaw Gate and what is left of the castle, we left by the Kraków gate. From close inspection of the machicolations and other features of the defences it does appear that much has been restored. This is not surprising in view of the Swedish Deluge and the more recent damage suffered when Russians and Germans were fighting in the area, but it does perhaps add strength to the town’s claim of similarity to Carcassonne, itself a town owing much to the restorative hand of Viollet-le-Duc. Just beyond the Kraków gate there is another church, a small building dedicated to All Saints. The building was locked but we were able to admire the large wooden statues of the apostles that surround it. St James is shown looking very Jewish, holding a staff and with scallop shells as epaulettes. The array of statues is most impressive but they are still new and I did wonder how well they will stand up to the elements. Fr Jerzy had accompanied us to Szydłów and we said good-bye to him when we moved on.

We came next to Szczaworyż, another white church fronted by a large square tower, this time with a two storey black turret at the top. I could write a great deal about this church and its surroundings if only I could remember all that the parish priest told us. He was a real “Friar Tuck” in girth and wore his biretta all the time. Unfortunately he could not stop talking and stories flowed from him. Two of his stories were about portraits of St James. The first told of a big clear-out at the church when rubbish was being removed and thrown on a bonfire. Miraculously someone noticed that one item merited inspection before it was lost forever, and lo and behold, it was discovered that a painting of the saint had been hidden behind some panelling. The other story concerned a painting that had hung in the church showing some characters in a scene. It was decided that it needed cleaning and it was discovered that there was another picture underneath - a portrait of St James. We had a guided tour of the church and then went outside to see a well, fed by a spring and flowing into a large pond. Outside also there was a large underground storeroom which the priest had restored; apparently he used it when consulted by or

hearing the confession of someone who did not wish to be seen in his company (for example a member of the Communist party).

Our next stop was at Wiślica, a village looking most unattractive in the failing light of a dull autumn day. It is not one of the stages on the pilgrim route and the church is dedicated to Our Lady rather than to St James. A small church built in the twelfth century was soon replaced by a larger structure with three naves, reflecting the commercial and administrative importance of Wiślica in the thirteenth century. Traces of these buildings can be identified in the crypt of the present many-times-and-much-restored church built by Kazimierz III. We now have an attractive building, mostly in stone, apart from the west front which was restored in brick after destruction in 1915.

Inside there are some lovely murals, mostly high up on the walls of the nave so that they cannot be seen at their best. Rummaging on the internet I came across an article in *The Ukrainian Weekly*, published in New York in 1951. The murals, like those in Kraków's Wawel Cathedral and Sandomierz, have elsewhere been attributed to the Ruthenian School or the Late Byzantine School, but here the emphasis is on the Ukraine and the influence of Ukrainian artists in fourteenth and fifteenth century Poland. The great Polish historian Jan Dugłosz, whom we had come across in Sandomierz, mentioned these murals as well he might since he was rector in Wiślica; the house built for him in 1460 still stands near the church. However, the murals were lost to sight until serious destruction during the First World War revealed them. Those that remain are all high up on the walls but we were able to identify the Nativity, Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper and the Dormition of Our Lady.

Further internet investigation led me to a panorama of the church giving a three hundred and sixty degree view in three dimensions, something to make one giddy if the cursor is not kept under close control. The building has two naves, divided by slender columns, and the choirstalls are also worth viewing. In the crypt are the remains of the earlier buildings on the site and a renowned twelfth century Romanesque pavement which I did not see.

Moving on we came next to Probołowice. Here there is a modest wooden church dedicated to St James. It was getting late and we had yet another call to make so we did not spend long here. My only recollection is of a painting of St James inside the building and a statue of Our Lady outside at the east end.

Our last call of the day was Pałecznica. We reached the village at

four o'clock and were directed straightaway to the village hall where we met the mayor and where a lavish buffet had been prepared for us by his wife and other ladies. The mayor gave us an official welcome and spoke of the community improvements which he had sponsored during his term of office. This was the first time we had met a leading layman and the mayor's remarks prompted me to reflect on all the recent improvements which we had seen on this journey from Kraków to Sandomierz and back. After our meal, over which we would have lingered longer had time allowed, we went to the church of St James. It was too dark for us to see much of the exterior. Inside there was a painting of St James, silver plated, with shell, staff and a large gourd. Inside also there were two modern murals, unassuming and in their way charming; one is a depiction of a dark-skinned Virgin and Child in the style of an icon, and the other shows St Maximilian Kolbe standing in his prison uniform in front of three strands of barbed wire. Of all that we had seen on this day these two images made the deepest impression on me.

John Adams and the Camino de Santiago

Gene McCullough

*"I have always regretted that
We could not find time to make a
Pilgrimage to Saint Iago de Compostella."*

Those of you who have read the excellent biography by David McCullough (no relation to the author of this article) of John Adams [1] were perhaps astonished to read the recounting of Adams's journey to Paris in December 1779/ January 1780, a journey that finds Adams and his party working their way overland eastward along a major length of the Camino Francés. Was Adams aware of the pilgrimage route to Santiago? What were the conditions that he described along the way, the conditions that would have been experienced by any late 18th-century pilgrims?

In October 1779 Adams was appointed by Congress to return to France as minister with the specific charge of negotiating treaties of peace and commerce with Great Britain. Although this was a post that he had neither requested nor particularly desired, he accepted. In addition to an official secretary, Adams decided to take with him his two sons, John Quincy aged 12 and Charles aged 9. Adams had made the trans-Atlantic crossing in mid-winter before and he had no illusions about the difficulties and immense dangers of this voyage. His wife Abigail would again remain at home. And so on 15 November 1779 aboard the frigate *Sensible* he was headed eastward across the ocean.

Two days out of Boston the ship, carrying some 350 people, began to leak seriously. First one pump was put into service and then a second and after more than three weeks of day and night struggling to keep ahead of the water the captain put in at El Ferrol on the northwestern coast of Spain on 8 December 1779. The pumps were stopped on reaching port and in less than an hour there was seven feet of water in the hold. Being told that even if the ship were not condemned, repairs would take at least a month, Adams inquired about making the remainder of the journey overland. He decided to risk the latter

rather than sit in port.

So at dawn 15 December Adams, his two sons, his secretary, servants, and hired Spanish guides and muleteers set off, one of the party noting that it was very much like a scene from *Don Quixote*. Adams mentions in his *Diary and Autobiography* that that in the time since putting ashore he had hardly slept a wink, so terrible was the plague of fleas and bedbugs, Spain's "innumerable Swarms of Enemies of all repose". [2, p 213] This would not be the last mention of these tiny pests. Indeed they "persecuted me through the whole Kingdom of Spain to such a degree that I sometimes apprehended I should never live to see France". [2, p 213]

After spending about twelve days getting to and in A Coruña their route passed through Betanzos, Lugo, O Cebreiro, Astorga, Burgos and then northeasterly up to Bilbao.

Shortly after getting under way Adams offers a description of the accommodation they were afforded. Imagery like this was repeated numerous times along the route. But let Adams tell the story in his own words. From his autobiography he writes:

Monday, December 27, 1779: We travelled from Betanzos to Castellano. ...The House in Castellano where We lodged was of Stone, two Stories in height. We entered into the Kitchen, where was no floor but the Ground and no Carpet but Straw trodden into mire by Men, Hogs, horses and Mules. In the middle of the Kitchen was a Mound raised a little above the Level of the Ground with Stones and Earth, on which was a fire, with Potts, Kettles, Skillets &c of the fashion of the Country, over it, and round about it. There was no Chimney [so smoke] filled the room and if any of it ascended, it found no other passage to the open Air, but through two holes drilled through the Tyles of the roof, not perpendicularly over the fire, but at Angles of about forty five degrees. On one Side was a flew Oven, very large, black, smoaky and sooty. On the opposite Side of the fire was a Cabbin filled with Straw where I suppose the Patron del Casa, that is, the Master of the House, his Wife and four Children, all lodged and slept together. On the same floor or rather on the same level of Ground, with the Kitchen was the Stable. There was indeed a Door which might have parted the Kitchen from the Stable: but this was always open, and indeed it would have been impossible to see or breath with it shut: and the floor or ground of the Stable, was covered with miry Straw like the Kitchen. ...The Smoke filled every part of the Kitchen, Stable, and all other parts of



The 1801 John Cary map of northern Spain showing Adams' route (solid line) and the modern Camino Francés (dotted line).

the House, and was so thick that it was very difficult to see or breath. There was a flight of Steps of Stone covered with Mud and Straw, from the Kitchen floor up into a Chamber. On the left hand as you ascended the Stairs, was a Stage, built up about half Way from the Kitchen floor to the Chamber floor. On this Stage was a bed of Straw and on the Straw lay, a fattening hog. Around the Kitchen fire were arranged the Man and Woman of the House, four Children, all the Travellers, Servants, Mulateers &c. Over the Fire was a very large Kettle, like a Pot Ash Kettle, full of Turnips and Onions, very large and very fine boiling for the Food of all the Family of Men and Beasts inhabiting both the Kitchen and the Stable, and the Stage. [2, p 214]

Adams was apparently well aware of the pilgrimage to Santiago and its significance.

Tuesday, December 28, 1779: I have always regretted that We could not find time to make a Pilgrimage to Saint Iago de Compostella. We were informed, particularly by Mr. Lagoanere, that the Original of this Shrine and Temple of St Iago was this. A certain Shepherd saw a bright Light there in the night. Afterwards it was revealed to an Archbishop that St James was buried there. This laid the Foundation of a Church, and they have built an Altar on the Spot where the Shepherd saw the Light. In the time of the Moors, the People made a Vow, that if the Moors should be driven from this Country, they would give a certain portion of the Income of their Lands to Saint James. The Moors were defeated and expelled and it was reported and believed, that Saint James was in the Battle and fought with a drawn Sword at the head of the Spanis[h] Troops, on Horseback. The People, believing that they owed the Victory to the Saint, very chearfully fulfilled their Vows by

paying the Tribute.... [2, p 217]

Adams was always the caustic, acerbic New Englander and he had little use for clergy generally. He certainly did not spare Catholic clergy and his narrative is laden with excoriating remarks.

Thursday, December 30, 1779: We went from Lugo to Galliego and arrived in good Season, having made six Leagues and an half (one league equals one statute mile) from Lugo. ...I saw nothing but Signs of Poverty and misery among the People: a fertile Country not half cultivated: People ragged and dirty: the Houses universally nothing but mire, Smoke, Soot, fleas and Lice: nothing appeared rich but the Churches, nobody fat but the Clergy. Many of the Villages We passed, were built with Mud filled in between joists, Nine tenths of them uninhabited and mouldering to dust. Yet in every one of these Scenes of desolation, you would see a splendid Church, and here and there a rosy faced Priest in his proud Canonicals rambling among the rubbish of the Village. [2, p 218]

The party passes through O Cebreiro, Villafranca and Rabanal del Camino to Astorga.

Friday, December 31, 1779: We rode from Galliego to Sebrero, seven Leagues. Our journey was more agreeable this day, than usual: the Weather was remarkably fair and dry, and the roads not so bad as We had expected. There was the grandest profusion of wild irregular Mountains I ever saw: yet laboured and cultivated to their Summits.... [2, p 218]

Saturday, January 1, 1780: We arrived, from Sebrero, at Villa Franca, seven Leagues. ...The Houses had been uniformly the same, through the whole Country hitherto. Common habitations for Men and Beasts. The same smoaky, filthy Dens. Not one decent house had I seen, since I left Corunna. [2, p 219]

Monday, January 3, 1780: We rode to Astorga. We passed through the Town and Country of the Marragattoes. The Town is small and stands on a brook in a great Plain. As We went into Astorga, We met Coaches and genteel People. [2, p 220]

The party arrives in Astorga and Adams makes perhaps his first positive remarks about the journey and the towns and villages they were passing through.

Tuesday, January 4, 1780: At Astorga, We found clean Beds and no fleas for the first time since We had been in Spain. Walked twice round the Walls of the City, which are very ancient. We saw the Road to Leon and Bayonne and the road to Madrid. There is a pleasant Prospect of the Country from the Walls. Saw the Market of Vegetables. The Onions and Turnips were the largest and finest I ever saw. The Cabbages, Carrots &c appeared very good. Saw the Markett of Fuel, which consisted of Wood, Coal, Turf and Brush.

We went to see the Cathedral Church which is the most magnificent I had yet seen in Spain. [2, p 220]

Wednesday, January 5, 1780: We rode from Astorga to Leon, Eight Leagues. This was one great Plain, and the road through it was very fine. We saw large Herds of Cattle and immense flocks of Sheep. The Sheep were of an handsome Size, and their fleeces of Wool thick, long and extreamly fine. The Soil appeared to be rather thin and barren. We passed several small Villages, the vast range of Asturias Mountains all covered with Snow on our left hand. ...Leon, which We entered in the night, had the Appearance of a large City. [2, p 221]

Adams attends Mass in León and attracts the attention of the Bishop, not favourably.

Thursday, January 6, 1780: We went to see the Cathedral Church at Leon which though magnificent, is not equal to that at Astorga, if it is to that at Lugo. It was the day of the Feast of the King and We happened to be at the celebration of High Mass. We saw the Procession of the Bishop and of all the Canons, in rich habits of Silk, Velvet, Silver and gold. The Bishop as he turned the Corners of the Church spred out his hand to the People, in token of his Apostolical Benediction; and those, in token of their profound gratitude for the heavenly Blessing prostrated themselves on their Knees as he passed. Our Guide told Us We must do the same. But I contented myself with a Bow. The Eagle Eye of the Bishop did not fail to observe an Upright figure amidst the Crowd of prostrate Adorers: but no doubt perceiving in my Countenance and Air, but especially in my dress something that

was not Spanish, he concluded I was some travelling Heretick and did not think it worth while to exert his Authority to bend my stiff Knees. His Eyes followed me so long that I thought I saw in his Countenance a reproof like this "You are not only a Heretick but you are not a Gentleman, for a Gentleman would have respected the Religion of the Country and its Usages so far as to have conformed externally to a Ceremony that cost so little." [2, p. 221]

Friday, January 7, 1780: From Mansillas We rode to San Juan Segun. [2, p 224]

The party passes over the meseta.

Saturday, January 8, 1780: We rode from San Juan Segun to Paredise de Nava. ...The Villages all appear going to decay and crumbling to dust. Can this be the ancient Kingdom of Leon? Nevertheless every Village has Churches and Convents enough in it, to ruin it, and the whole Country round about it; even if they had nothing to pay to the King, or the Landlords. But all three together Church, State and Nobility exhaust the Labour and Spirits of the People to such a degree, that I had no Idea of the Possibility of deeper Wretchedness. ...There were in this little Village four Parish Churches and two Convents one of Monks and one of Nuns, both of the order of St Francis. [2, p 224] From Astorga to this place Paredise de Nava, the Face of the Country was a great plain, and a striking Contrast to all the rest of the Country We had passed from Ferrol. But there was little Appearance [of] Improvement, Industry or Cultivation. Scarcely any Trees. No Forrest, Timber or fruit Trees. No Fences except a few Mud Walls for Sheep folds. This night We reached Sellada el Camino. [2, p 225]

The party arrives in Burgos and Adams is led to make further biting remarks about the Church and the clergy.

Tuesday, January 11, 1780: We arrived at Burgos, from Sellada el Caminos, four Leagues. We had fog, rain, and Snow all the Way, very chilly and raw. ...We went out to see the Cathedral which was ancient and very large. The whole Building was supported by four grand Pillars the largest I ever had seen. [2, p 225]

For more than twenty Years I had been almost continually engaged in Journeys and Voyages and had often undergone severe Tryals, as

I thought; great hardships, cold, rain, Snow, heat, fatigue, bad rest, indifferent nourishment, want of Sleep &c &c &c. But I had never experienced any Thing like this journey. If it were now left to my Choice to perform my first Voyage to Europe with all its horrors, or this journey through Spain, I should prefer the former. ...In my whole Life my Patience was never so near being totally exhausted. [2, p 225] There were some few Trades and a little Appearance of Business here; but the principal Occupation was Religion. Upon my expressing some Curiosity to [know] the Number of Religious Houses in Burgos, which appeared to me to be enough to devour a whole Country for an hundred miles round, our Guide went out and procured me the following Information. [Adams then lists 33 monasteries, convents and churches.] ...what an Army of Ecclesiasticks is this for so small a Town as Burgos. [2, p 226]

The next day Adams's party left the present-day Camino Francés route heading northeast then north, arriving in Bilbao on Saturday 15 January 1780. They continued on to Paris arriving on 9 February after a journey of two months. In his first letter to Congress upon arriving in Paris he reported that they were all "in tollerable health, after a journey of near four hundred Leagues in the dead of Winter, through bad roads and worse Accommodations of every kind. We lost no time more than was indispensable to restore our health, which was several times much affected and in great danger: yet We were more than twice as long in making the journey by Land, as We had been in crossing the Atlantic Ocean." [2, p 240]

So the camino was in 1790 certainly alive enough that John Adams was aware of its existence. In fact about Santiago he remarks: "... there are great numbers of Pilgrims, who visit it, every Year, from France, Spain, Italy and other parts of Europe, many of them on foot." [2, p 217] Also scattered throughout his account are descriptions of conditions along the route at that time, conditions that can only be described as horrific.

Adams's New England cynicism about clergy, Catholic clergy in particular, is more than evident in his account. Indeed while he places the blame for the conditions that he encounters — poverty, misery, hopelessness — on the collective shoulders of the "Church, State and Nobility" [2, p 224] he singles out the clergy for special condemnation and excoriation. "People ragged and dirty: the Houses universally nothing but mire, Smoke, Soot, fleas and Lice: nothing appeared rich

but the Churches, nobody fat but the Clergy. ... in every one of these Scenes of desolation, you would see a splendid Church, and here and there a rosy faced Priest in his proud Canonicals rambling among the rubbish of the Village.” [2, p 218]

For those of you with an attachment to Rabanal del Camino, you should take note that Adams and his party passed through that village on Monday 3 January 1780. It is amusing to create a mental image of his entourage - a goodly number of mules, a wagon, three calashes (a light, small-wheeled four-passenger carriage with a folding top) - rattling down the cobblestone street of Rabanal past the 12th-century church of Santa María de la Asunción, probably past numerous ruins of buildings and on down the hill to head off eastward on the road toward Astorga.

In the 18th century the Hospital de San Gregorio was the pilgrim refuge in Rabanal as it had been for many centuries. There are records of its existence in the 1720s and again in the early 1800s. Records in 1804 and in 1832 indicate a fair number of pilgrims on the road. [3, p 280] This would imply that Adams would have surely encountered numerous pilgrims during his twelve or thirteen days on the route between O Cebreiro and Burgos.

If this causes you to want to read more of Adams’s account or perhaps even his entire diary and autobiography (fascinating reading) they are available on the website of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Father John also required that 12-year old John Quincy keep a diary which is also available on this site. Please see the section “Further Reading” below.

References

1. McCullough, David (2001) **John Adams** Simon & Schuster ISBN 0-684-81363-7.
2. Adams, John (1961) **Diary and autobiography** Vol 4 Autobiography, 1777-1780, Edited by L.H. Butterfield, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Mass.
3. Gitlitz, David & Linda K. Davidson (2000) **The Pilgrimage Road to Santiago: The Complete Cultural Handbook** St Martin’s Press ISBN: 0-31225416-4.

Further reading

The Massachusetts Historical Society. John Adams’s autobiography:
www.masshist.org/digitaladams/aea/autobio

The Massachusetts Historical Society. John Quincy Adams’s diary:
www.masshist.org/jqadiaries

The Massachusetts Historical Society:
www.masshist.org

A Miracle at Gaucelmo

Peter Neall

Towards the end of August 2009, as the number of pilgrims declined and the work for a *hospitalero* to do each morning diminished I got itchy fingers! My wife knows this feeling and usually either tries to dissuade me or makes herself scarce, but as she wasn't around there was no counterbalance to my cleaning and tidying demon.

So I started on the office, clearing out all the bits and pieces hidden in the nooks and crannies, emptying the cupboards, even the tool cupboard, and all the shelves. As I worked, rubbish, old paper and assorted collections of indeterminate matter headed for the rubbish bin. Other stuff was tidied, sorted and replaced where we could see it, identify and even use it for its proper purpose. And that left a small pile for which there seemed to be no obvious home. Amongst this was a small black lacquered plaque addressed 'to Jim' from his 'friends at MS Ireland'.

I was stumped, thinking it may refer to a pilgrim-ing seaman or similar and for some reason left it on the table next to the registration book. Meanwhile some miles away a pilgrim from the Irish Republic was walking his last day of his current sequence of the camino (which he was completing in stages as time and money allowed). For a reason neither really known nor explained he changed his route to end at Gaucelmo, and he arrived tired and satisfied from Astorga, knowing that the next day he would reach Ponferrada somehow and begin his journey home.

As he sat in front of Tony, our registrar, his eye caught the plaque and he asked, 'What's that?' He picked it up and said, 'That refers to Jim Blewitt; he did loads for Multiple Sclerosis in the Republic'. Bingo! MS is not a Motor Ship and the mystery began to be unravelled. But there is more to come. The pilgrim took a photo from his wallet and showed it to Tony who jumped in delight! The photo was of an unidentified man standing in front of a stained glass picture spelling out Tony Blewitt's name, and dates of birth and death. "That's the man I refer to and this is a commemoration picture to honour him and the work he did on the camino. I am trying to locate it; I believe it is in

Ireland somewhere”.

“Ireland?” said Tony. “It is in my bedroom over there!” And it was!

We all went to see the stained glass picture and agreed the two went together – so the wall has a new plaque. Jim Blewitt is honoured anew, and his friends in Ireland know where to find both of his commemoration plaques.

St James moves in mysterious ways, and his timing is ridiculously precise!

Camino mornings

Tony Brockley

*In the morning, in the half light,
Sounds are drowned out by the silence.
Ritualistic preparations commence,
Dressing, packing and bandaging of feet.
All carried out with a serenity
An almost quiet reverence.
At these moments you are at one with yourself
Detached from the world
Peace, but an uneasy peace.
Every action is of itself deserving of the total concentration it is given
A surgeon's precision.
Laces tied, plasters positioned, straps strained and secured
Every action precise, every action silent.
First tentative steps taken
Painful assessments executed
Knowing nods and grey grimaces in the slate light
To be a pilgrim!*



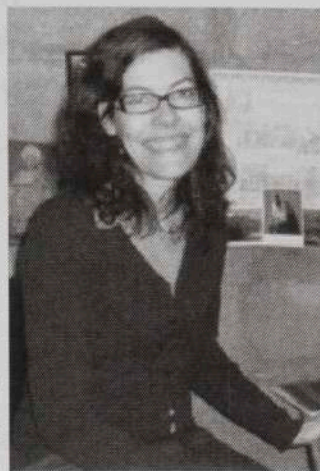
Iglesia Juan Bautista 11/5/08 polkad plane

Peter Garlick

A day in the life of Susana Rio Vickes

John Rafferty

Susana gets up early in the house she shares with her parents and sister near Santiago. She breakfasts quickly on hot milk poured over sweet biscuits. Although her home is only twenty minutes from her office it is in the countryside. The family keeps chickens, rabbits and a pig. She smiles and says, "But they don't have names, they are for the pot". Susana's office is in the Plaza la Quintana which in summer is bursting with visitors. It can be an impromptu theatre during the day and a dance venue in the evening. The Plaza is bounded on one side by the Convent of San Pelayo, home to Benedictine cloistered nuns. On the other side are the walls of the cathedral with the famous Holy Door. This door is closed and bricked up at the conclusion of each Holy Year – the year in which the 25 July feast of St James falls on a Sunday. It is only opened again to herald the start of the next Holy Year. The formula for working out when a Holy Year occurs is to add intervals of 11, 6, 5, 6, 11.... etc starting with the current Holy Year in 2010. So the next will be 2021, then 2027 and so on. All of Spain watches the Puerta Santa (Holy Door) being opened on live television and every day visitors have their pictures taken at the Door. Most visitors fail to notice the other door to the left of the Holy Door. This is the discreet entrance to the offices of the Archicofradía. Susana has been the Administrator for five years. The Archicofradía is a religious organisation which aims to support the cause of St James, the pilgrimage to his shrine in Santiago and pilgrims themselves. Currently it has 2,145 members. The organisation has branches in many parts of Spain but is also beginning to flourish in Mexico, Venezuela and Chile.



The staff of the Pilgrims' Office is employed by the Archicofradía and members also provide guided tours and support for pilgrims in the main churches of Santiago such as the Iglesia de Sal, the Iglesia de Santa Clara and the Iglesia de San Roque. They have also developed this

service along the Camino Francés in Galicia in churches including those at O Cebreiro, Sarria and Portomartín.

The Archicofradía aims to promote the spiritual aspects of the pilgrimage. Susana recognises the benefits of having a well developed network of *albergues* run by local councils but her organisation also has ambitions to open more *albergues* which offer a simple Christian welcome. They have an eye to a number of disused rectories along pilgrim routes for this purpose in future.

Susana stresses that everyone interested in St James can apply to join the Archicofradía. Members receive a copy of the magazine *Compostela* which is published twice per year. The annual subscription is 18 Euros. New members may also have a medal presented to them on one of the three feast days of St James each year: 25th July, the Feast of his death, 23 May, the Commemoration of the legendary appearance of St James in the Battle of Clavijo; and 30 December the feast of the Transportation of St James's body to Padrón. On these days members can sit within the confines of the High Altar almost within reach of the *botafumeiro*.

Susana has been doing this job for five years and she loves it. She is in the office from 9am to 3pm every day including Saturdays. She particularly welcomes pilgrims who come to visit whether members of the Archicofradía or not. She loves meeting pilgrims who put a lot back into the camino, the volunteers who repaint the yellow arrows, the *hospitaleras* and *hospitaleros* and the other volunteers along the routes. Today she has been visited by, among others, the new Abbot of the Oseira Monastery which is situated on the Vía de la Plata beyond Ourense. The monastery is famous for its beauty and the past regular visits of author Graham Greene. The Abbot is looking at how to improve facilities for pilgrims.

Susana leaves the office at 3pm and travels home for lunch with all of the family. They usually have three courses starting with soup. Susana's favourite meal is fried eggs and chips. I asked her if she was sure she wasn't Scottish!

Her spare time is filled with lots of hobbies: walking of course, both popular and classical music and dancing. Susana also reads a lot and is currently reading *Un Hombre Llega y Dice* by Nicole Krauss. She reads before she goes to sleep and she always dreams. Last night she dreamt that she was frantically searching through piles of paper in the office for a letter the Chairman had given her.

And her biggest wish? With the farthest away look imaginable she says rather sheepishly... "Amor."

Crossing the Pyrenees at the Col du Somport

Some recollections

Sandra Collier

My best efforts cannot do justice to the camino experience. It is a case of “You have to see it to believe it – it’s like walking in heaven”. Janice (a regular at our monthly Sydney meetings) arranged to meet me in Pau in southern France on 10 May last year so that we could walk the Arles route from Lescar to Somport at the French-Spanish border and then on to Puente la Reina on the Camino Francés. Lescar is just a short bus ride from Pau. Our camino plan was to walk for twenty days while we immersed ourselves in the journey rather than the destination.

We carried French and Spanish maps and followed the CSJ guide book *Arles to Puente la Reina* by Marigold and Maurice Fox. The guide book was often translated for the benefit of other pilgrims as the words expressed what little dots and lines on maps could not convey.

“...you follow the valley of the Gave d’Aspe, sometimes to the east, sometimes to the west, sometimes along the valley floor, sometimes on the hillside high above.”

“...Continue downhill on a steep, rocky path, then on a forest track in pine-woods, past waterfalls.”

“...the poplar-lined River Aragón which snakes...”

“...Cross by the 3-tier stepping stones at heights to suit the changing river levels”

Take the road if the river is in flood “onto a stony path leading to the beautiful single-arched Medieval bridge, the Puente de los peregrinos, which carries the camino over the River Aragón. The woodland path, now even more rocky with even more scree to cross.”

Scree! What is scree? A word Aussie coastal city dwellers did not know. However as pilgrims we became very familiar – slopes covered with small stones that slide when trodden on. Janice and I were constantly rewarded for our daily scrambling by the varied majestic panoramas. There were even some new Spanish words in our daily

vocabulary, such as *sierra* - “a long jagged mountain chain”.

Lescar to Somport

From Lescar to Lacommande was a tough beginning - we were knee deep in mud and constantly challenged by the isolated steep forest track. Our backpacks were heavy with a day's supply of food. The ravages of a wet winter were still obvious. After this experience we sought and followed local advice and so we walked alongside the road to Oloron-Sainte-Marie where we stayed in a large pilgrim hostel. From here the route to the Pyrenees became easier to follow, with close views of the mountains, meandering tracks, waterfalls, lakes and bountiful spring flowers.

We now enjoyed the company of other pilgrims and the kindness of hotel owners. At Lurbe-Saint-Christau we were offered accommodation at the Hotel Des Vallées even though the hotel was closed in the pre-season. Formerly the hotel had been a carriage inn and we were most impressed to hear that Napoleon had chosen to stay there. The chef prepared the most wonderful meal; we dined with the family and practised our French with his two pre-school children.

En route to Bedous we took refuge from the rain in a warm café and immediately made friends with Kirsten and Gerd as they were reading their CSJ guide book and immediately translating it into Norwegian. This was the beginning of a wonderful pilgrim friendship as we followed the good advice of our mutual guide book.

Another highlight of our stay in France was at Etsaut, the *gîte* La Garbure gives pilgrims hospitality and also doubles as donkey stables and riding school. We spent the afternoon in the warm stables admiring a day-old donkey. We shared our evening meal at the refectory table with twenty young riders who enthusiastically recalled the day's horse ride. Next day we left at dawn. We enjoyed Madame's picnic breakfast/lunch as we meandered through the National Park and ever upwards to the Col de Somport.

Somport to Puente la Reina

At last we reached the top of the Pyrenees. While it was not downhill all the way from there at least the days were sunny and the trails dry. We were now on the Camino Aragonés. We followed dual waymarks - the Spanish yellow arrows and the red and white of the GR653 - beside the River Aragón which could just as easily have been our guide. We continued our pattern of walking and travelled approximately 10 to



15kms a day and thus enjoyed the journey, the village stops as well as the established towns.

Our first stop in Spain was at Villanúa, where we were welcomed into a home to stay and were soon joined by two young German pilgrims on the first day of their camino. They had just graduated from university. We often met them on the route. They readily accepted advice as to what might be next discarded from their 17+kg backpacks. Doris managed to reduce her pack to 6kg.

We continued our journey to Jaca and Santa Cilia with the two Germans who spoke English quite well. Santa Cilia de Jaca is by the Aragón River. The *albergue* is new with colourful frescos and a large reading/recreation room. After discarding our backpacks we shared a taxi with our Norwegian friends to the Monasterio de San Juan de la Peña. The abandoned monastery is tucked under a spectacular overhang of rock. Tours are conducted in Spanish and information leaflets are in many languages for self-guided tours. Every half hour a park bus drives up to the “new” monastery with a wonderful café and fantastic views of the valley and mountains. Unfortunately there is no accommodation.

Just before Puente la Reina de Jaca the camino passes through woods. Pilgrims have built a gnome city from the round river stones. With every turn of the path a gnome gathering appeared in all shapes and sizes. We added two more with slouched hats.

The little village of Arrés appears suddenly after a curve in the

ridge. The *albergue* is served by volunteers who offer dinner, breakfast and a village tour that ends at the valley lookout. The next stage was 15km on to Artieda and the CSJ guide book correctly describes this part of the journey as a “lunar landscape”.

Our next stage was 9km to Ruesta, an abandoned medieval village. The Albergue de Ruesta has been built among ruins, very much in the style of a Mediterranean resort with terraced bars, outdoor eating and red geraniums everywhere. Two new buildings provide pilgrim accommodation with many rooms having private verandahs. As there are no other facilities lunch, dinner, and breakfast are provided.

Our stop at Undués de Lerda brought back happy memories of my first pilgrimage. It was here by the village fountain that I met Marguerite, a German pilgrim. We had travelled together from León to Astorga in May 2004.

Sangüesa, just 10km along the camino, is an important stop with many historic buildings. Our camino was enriched by an excursion by taxi to San Salvador de Leyre monastery. The present monastery dates from the 17th and 18th centuries and the monks still follow the traditional daily rituals. There is no pilgrim accommodation, but the two star hotel was a most welcome substitute.

This alternative route led to a wonderful adventure. The camino followed an abandoned railway line with two dark tunnels, one so long that you could not see the light at the other end. Soon after we were in the Foz de Lumbier, a 1.5km gorge with a steep drop to the river. The Foz is a nature reserve with several display charts to assist bird identification. Even so we had a hard time identifying the different eagles by their talons. The CSJ guide describes this area as “especially interesting to ornithologists - vultures and other raptors can be seen floating in the thermals”.

After our hotel stay at Lumbier our plan was to join the main camino. However due to motorway construction we were forced to walk the N-240. We followed our Australian instincts and chose the side of the road that faced the on-coming traffic. After an hour we found temporary blue signs that connected us to the main route from Sangüesa. We followed this hilly track through sheep country, climbed stiles and listened to the windmills whirl. Next was Izco, a farming village with no facilities other than the municipal *albergue* which sold food and drinks.

We walked in pine woods along the valley to Monreal, crossed a medieval bridge and climbed cobblestone streets to a modern *albergue*

connected to the church. On our penultimate day we broke our journey at Tiebas and stayed in a very forgettable *albergue* which was compensated for by the local modern bar that turned the television channel to the French Open so that we could watch two Aussie tennis players go down to Spanish opponents.

Our last day, 30 May, our was at Eunate. On our approach the view to the church was obscured by a high hedgerow in full flower. We arrived mid-morning to find the village celebrating its feast day. We were welcome to join in the celebrations and the barbecue lunch. The *albergue* is small and close to the church. During the afternoon we sat in the extremely well-equipped kitchen and helped Jean, the French *hospitalero*, prepare a three-course meal as he entertained us with camino stories. My responsibility was a fresh banana flan. After our first-rate dinner Jean opened the octagonal church which was built in 1170. The interior was lit by our candles and the setting sun. Jean led us in song and prayer and pilgrim reflection.

My camino had drawn to a close. While I do not miss imitating a mountain goat, I do miss the ever-present snowcapped mountains, the rivers, the waterfalls and the spring flowers. I miss my connection with pilgrims, those who have gone before, those who joined me and those who will follow in my steps. For the five other pilgrims their goal was Santiago.

For me, the next few days would bring a different challenge. I would join the Camino Francés at Puente la Reina and walk to Estella on my own at my own pace and in my own camino footsteps just reflecting and wondering.....

Sandra Collier is an Australian CSJ member and co-ordinates Australian meetings.

Gaucelmo prepares for Holy Year

Roger Davies

2010 Hospitaleros

April	Michael Krier, Janice Pearson Kiyomi Doi and vacancy
May	Martha Crites, Jim Lambardi Istvan Igloi-Nagy, Alison Raju, Louis Barrau
June	Rowena and Bob Macdonald, Richard Baldwin, Chard Woodruff Leo and Marina Bolsius, Pat Chambers and vacancy

Preparation for this Holy Year has started during the winter. Work on improving the kitchen (i.e. the removal of the old stove, re-tiling the floor and plasterwork) is nearly complete. Work has also started on replacing the wooden staircase to the first floor with a concrete staircase. Both of these works will improve the fire risk and so we are able to re-locate both *hospitalero* bedrooms either side of the bathroom in their former positions. Other improvements being carried out include:-

- repairing the *huerta* double gates;
- new kitchen chairs (thanks to a generous donation by Gene and Rosann McCullough *hospitaleros*);
- replacing or repairing the defective fan in the upstairs *servicios*;
- replacing the gutters to the main building; and
- remedial works to the large boiler that heats the pilgrim showers.

The weather in Spain has been very cold and the working party will be lighting the fire in the salon during March to warm up the building to welcome pilgrims on 1 April. Other refuges in Rabanal will be open during March to accommodate any early pilgrims.

Because the next Holy Years are not until 2021 and 2027 many think that there could be a pilgrim surge this year. With so many other refuges in Rabanal and in nearby villages we have yet to assess how busy Gaucelmo is likely to be. We will not know until later in the

season but we are preparing the refuge in the expectation to be busy.

Albergues generally and even Gaucelmo had problems last year with bed bugs. This required our volunteer hospitaleros to undertake an enormous amount of washing blankets, sheets and pilgrim clothing. To lessen the workload in a Holy Year, Alison Raju is attempting to source paper sheets and pillowcases. We are eagerly awaiting news from our supplier that these disposable items will be available.

During November volunteers form a Working Party to carry out activities such as routine maintenance, gardening, re-setting and re-staining windows, replenishing the woodstore, furniture moving, general painting, varnishing, washing and cleaning. The size and number of the Working Party depends upon exactly what needs to be done, skills etc. If you would like to volunteer to be part of the working party please contact Graham (e-mail r-premise@csj.org.uk).

To those walking in this Holy Year we wish them a *¡Buen Camino!* and to volunteers at Gaucelmo we send them our thanks for what could be a busy year.

Hospitaleros required

Unexpectedly and owing to some volunteers having to drop out, we still have a few vacancies for volunteer wardens during 2010. At the time of printing the vacancies are:

1 experienced *hospitalero*

last 2 weeks in April

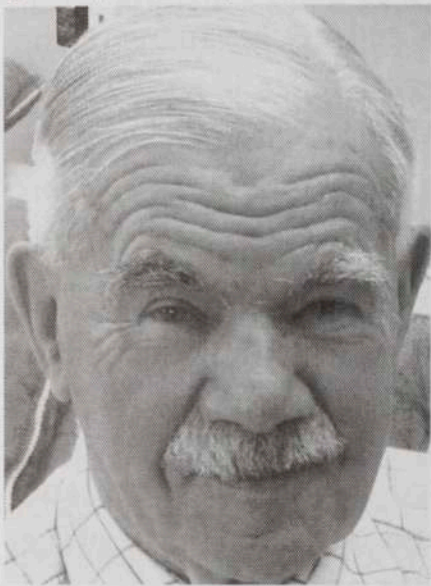
2/3 *hospitaleros*

first 2 weeks in September

Contact r-wardens@csj.org.uk if you can help.

Obituaries

Joseph May 1924-2010



Joe May was an early and enthusiastic CSJ member, particularly contributing logistical and practical skills to the development of the Refugio Gaucelmo in Rabanal del Camino.

During World War II, he was commissioned in the Royal Marines of which he was proud, but like so many, he never spoke of his experiences. After the war, he had a distinguished career in the newspaper industry, in which he played a major part in the development of the

technology. Subsequent management and consultancy roles took him to France, Africa, The West Indies, Pakistan, Belfast and Glasgow. He joined the CSJ in 1989, when he cycled the Camino Francés on his rugged steed "Copenhagen" (named after Wellington's horse). The account of his adventures in Pamplona, when the bike was stolen and then recovered by the police shortly afterwards, appeared in pp73-76 of the CSJ's 'A Pilgrim Anthology' published in 1994. In 1990 and 1991, he and his wife, Pat, walked the route in two stages. He subsequently followed the Vía de La Plata and again the Camino Francés. He was involved in the development and running of the Refugio Gaucelmo as a member of the Rabanal Committee for many years. The photos of him crawling on the barn roof and also assisting the Spaniard, Jesús, in the installation of the St James statue by Beaufort Linley are remembered by many. He also assisted in the publication of the CSJ Slide Library Catalogue and of the 1992 Vézelay guide.



His kindness, wide experience and good counsel were much appreciated. Our condolences go out to Pat. Ten members of CSJ attended his funeral in Welwyn Garden City. He is buried at Stoneyhurst with which he had long connections: we gave a scallop shell to be interred with him.

JOHN HATFIELD & MARION MARPLES

Joe's great service to the Confraternity is well known, but his role in getting D. Elías Valiña Sampedro's splendid cartography of the Camino Francés into the public domain is not.

The story is a tale worth telling. D. Elías redrew his maps of the Camino to scale in 1988, and so they represent it "as it was", before all the roadworks, deviations and "improvements" that have taken place since. When – following his death in 1989 - his new *Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino de Santiago* was published by Galaxia, the funds available were insufficient to reproduce the maps as he had intended. Other Spanish publishers were canvassed, but to no avail: five-colour printing was simply too expensive. As a last resort the maps were brought to London. Joe, with his experience of the newspaper and printing industries, immediately pronounced them a treasure and agreed to help. After a few false starts we found ourselves in the office of Roger Lascelles, an engaging New Zealander producing maps and guides for, among others, the *Daily Telegraph*. He was captivated by Joe's description of the Camino and the pilgrimage (neither of which he had heard of), but what carried the day was the explanation of the printing processes by which the maps could be produced to the highest standard at the lowest unit cost. Roger knew he was hearing this from a pro and so was prepared to take a gamble on the Spanish market

There followed a year of trips back and forth to Brentford, long telephone conversations, and for Joe, a stint as diplomatic intermediary with the printers. The reward was our first sight of the maps, published handsomely as two editions, with Introductions in English and Spanish, in 1992. The English edition was reprinted twice and is now out of print, but D. Elias's family in O Cebreiro still has plenty of copies of the Spanish one. The Confraternity too has some copies, available through the On-line Shop or the Office.

Ten years on, we met for lunch. Roger had just about broken even, but said he was "proud to have done it, and wouldn't have missed it". Joe – as was his habit – smiled quietly and said "it was worth every minute, and would have pleased D. Elias". For me, the cartography remains a most beautiful portrait of the Camino of more than 20 years ago, and an example of generous and disinterested collaboration that in the aftermath of Joe's death I have been moved to share.

LAURIE DENNETT

Don Jaime García Rodríguez 1929-2009

The former Canon in charge of pilgrims and pilgrimages died in November after a long illness. He developed the work and welcome of the Pilgrim Office as the pilgrimage was revitalised from the 1980s and renewed the spirit of the Archicofradia del Apostol Santiago, an organisation for individuals and societies to promote the Jacobean pilgrimage.

When I received my *compostela* in Santiago in October 1998 I made my arrival known to D. Jaime. Immediately I was invited to come the next day to take part in a round table discussion for a Spanish religious radio station. There was a short interview with me; my answers in English were translated into Spanish. During the later discussion D. Jaime kept leaving the table to attend to other business – his chair legs scraping across the floor must have made for a very uncomfortable listening experience for anyone trying to follow the programme.

He suffered a brain tumour, and after an operation, for a while could only speak in Latin. The last time I saw him was at the October 2009 conference when he appeared briefly during the Pilgrim Mass.

MM

Alan Bennett 1929-2009

Alan made the pilgrimage on foot from le Puy in 1992, describing it as one of the highlights of his life. He enjoyed in particular exploring the historical aspects of pilgrimage. We send our condolences to his fellow pilgrim Judith.

Julian Peterson 1952-2009

Julian had been ill for some three years but, as a Hispanophile, knew he wanted to make the pilgrimage to Santiago. He joined CSJ in August 2009 and walked from Sarria. He said it was a good experience but he was annoyed that many of the churches were closed. We send our condolences to his wife Gillian.

Lilian Williams d 2009

Another long term member, who visited Santiago de Compostela many times, was fascinated by the pilgrim's route and enjoyed very much her membership of the Confraternity.

We have also learnt of the deaths of Dr Brian Gee d 2009 and Paul Tyler 1952-2010.

Members' pages

From Ruth and Tony Gibbs

We are planning to walk from our home in Derbyshire to Portsmouth on the first leg of a pilgrimage to Santiago. Our intended route takes in Chesterfield, Derby, Ashby-de-la-Zouche, Hinckley, Banbury, Oxford, Newbury and the Wayfarers' Walk into Portsmouth. We intend to set off in June and would be grateful if CSJ members could offer us pilgrim accommodation along the projected route. We can be contacted at: ruth@tonygibbs.plus.com

From June Dunsworth in Australia

I am a 68 year old semi-retired psychiatrist. In September 2008, I walked 950km of the camino, starting in Le Puy-en-Velay, walking by myself, for 39 days without staying more than one night in any one place, and finishing in Nájera in Spain. There were many highlights. A few would have to be - the incredible hospitality of Marie and Jean-Marc at Accueil des Pelerins in St Privat d'Allier; walking on the Aubrac Plateau; being served *l'aligot* at Ferme des Gentianes; the monastery Angele Merici at St Côme-d'Olt; staying in the Accueil Sainte-Foy at Conques and the Cathedral at Conques; the cloisters at Moissac; the wonderful hospitality and helpfulness of Patrick at Le Pelerin d'Occident at Lectoure; a home-based private *gîte* in Eauze where we had dinner literally with the family (Pauline and Marcel)and several people who this very Christian family invite to their home every night, and attending a delightful prayer service later with them in their lounge room; the amazing Bertrand at the Boulangerie in Arthez-de-Béarn, and the breakfast next morning in his *boulangerie*(the best I had in the whole trip); a great night in Navarrenx staying at Relais du Jaquet with the extremely energetic Regis who had renovated this house in the main street which had been in his family for generations and did all the cooking and serving by himself, and had painted all the terrific paintings on the walls as well; the exhilaration of seeing the Pyrenees clearly for the first time before arriving at Ferme Bohoteguya: the thrill of being in St Jean-Pied-de-Port and knowing that we were going to tackle the mountains the next day; then in Spain at last and appreciating how different and just as beautiful the Spanish countryside is, especially in La Rioja, loving the different stone buildings, and in both Spain and France the really divine Romanesque churches.

And last but not least, the huge range of interesting, amusing, friendly people, other pilgrims, whom I met on the way.

It was a great challenge, and I have to say I was greatly encouraged to do it by meeting the group of CSJ habitués at the meetings at the Spanish Club in Sydney. I guess I have become one of them now too, as I am planning to return to take up the camino where I left off and walk the last 600km to Santiago de Compostela!

From Maureen Measure

I have been suffering from a pre-cancerous skin condition, caused by too much exposure to the sun. Patches of scaly skin on my leg failed to clear up. Last July I saw a dermatologist, had skin tests and was diagnosed as having *Solar Keratoses*. It is a disease of peasants and outdoor workers aged sixty and over.

The treatment is simple, effective, and painful – the offending skin is blasted with liquid nitrogen. This produces blisters much larger than any Compeed could cover. Having dealt with those I had to change dressings twice a day, for more than a fortnight. It was very sore and was not helped by a soaking on the pilgrimage to Canterbury.

I have photographs of myself wearing shorts at various places in France and Spain. I did not know what problems were building up. So, if you are an older pilgrim – cover up!

From a CSJ member

The power of the camino is reflected in the text of the following Email received recently by a CSJ member: I met you while travelling on a train to León... You were heading to Astorga. I am Scottish, and I was with my husband, who is American, but half Spanish, half Irish. We got chatting in the buffet carriage and you told me about your travels on the camino. That was the summer of 2008, and the following Christmas my husband received some terrible family news, plunged into a deep depression and our relationship was awful to the point of almost splitting up. You so inspired me with your tales, and as I had promised you that I would one day walk the camino, I decided to do so in the summer of 2009.

I started from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port and made it to Santiago in 28 days with one tiny blister and many new companions. What an incredible journey and what amazing people I met along the way. I met up with my husband in Finisterre and, although it was not plain sailing, the journey gave me the strength to work at my marriage. I am now two months pregnant and so looking forward to the next

chapter of life. I feel that my meeting with you quite possibly changed the path of my life, and had I not met you I would never have been so determined to find my solutions on the way, and perhaps would never have found any.

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 Richard Dealler (former member)

I am interested in establishing a waymarked pilgrimage route across England, stretching from Cornwall to Norfolk with the basic infrastructure required to support this. The route in question follows the Michael and Mary ley lines, which connect numerous places of spiritual power, both from pre-Christian earth based spirituality as well as places associated with pilgrimage in a Christian context such as St Michael's Mount, Glastonbury Abbey, Bury St Edmunds Abbey and numerous churches along the way. It also takes in some of the wilder landscapes of England: West Cornwall; Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor and follows ancient thoroughfares in England including the Ridgeway and Icknield Way.

My interest in pilgrimage goes back many years and in 1996 I was able to walk the Camino Francés to Santiago de Compostela, at a time when it was perhaps less busy than now. It was one of the most liberating, joyful and creative experiences of my life and has remained a source of inspiration since.

I feel motivated to help in the process of restoring the ethos of pilgrimage in this country, both for the personal and societal benefits it could yield and as a piece in the jigsaw of restoring right relationship between humanity and the Earth.

If anyone feels moved to respond, can offer advice or support, please contact me. Richard Dealler, 16 Orchard Meadow, Chagford, Devon TQ13 8BP e-mail richarddealler@yahoo.co.uk

From John Morgan

I'm helping organise the first Crab & Lobster Festival here this May, and have become friends with the Raw Materials Buyer at the Cromer Crab Company. He tells me there's a container in China with no fewer than 30 million – cleaned scallop shells...and no-one knows what to do with them. There is, I think, a price attached (tbc) and I'm aware this huge number would supply 100,000 pilgrims a year with a shell for, er, 300 years (perhaps less time once The Way comes out this summer!) It tickled my fancy to hear about this, and who else would I have thought of but CSJ? Perhaps it might be interesting to ask what use CSJ members might see for 30,000,000 scallop shells?

From Richard Reece

I should like to offer my complete set of Bulletins (which start with the first duplicated issue of No. 1 June 1983 up to, say, the end of last year) in aid of the Miraz Appeal. I could hand them over or deliver within say 50 miles of Cirencester or meet half way. But not driving into London. Offers to rrr100@btinternet.com

From Catherine Dell

The island of St Helena, South Atlantic, boasts the oldest Anglican church in the southern hemisphere. Originally built following the 1659 arrival of the East India Company, the present structure dates from 1774 and is dedicated to St James.

The principal reminder of that dedication is, however, relatively modern: a painted glass window at the east end, installed during the 1950s and restored in 2004. Appropriately for an island community, the window depicts James the fisherman; perhaps the net trailing over his left arm is the one he was mending when called by Jesus (Mark 1.19) But the pilgrim saint is not forgotten: in addition to fish, decorative elements around the figure include scallop shells.

Getting to St Helena is something of a challenge – and a marathon – as the island is accessible only by the mail ship RMS Saint Helena (RMS for short) which sails from Cape Town, 1,700 miles away. The RMS also serves Ascension, so a slightly shorter option is to fly with the RAF to Ascension and then join the ship – which is what I did for the outward journey. The main flaw in my itinerary was to spend just six days on the island. It deserves longer.

Book Reviews and News

Being a Pilgrim: Art and Ritual on the Medieval Routes to Santiago.

Kathleen Ashley and Marilyn Deegan. Lund Humphries, 2009, ISBN: 978-0-85331-989-4, 264pp, £30.00

Being a Pilgrim is a visual delight. The book's 250 colour photos – almost all by Professor Marilyn Deegan of King's College, London – present an absorbing panorama of art and architecture along the main pilgrim routes from France to Santiago. With starting points at Paris, Vézelay, Le Puy and Arles, the generously-sized images record churches, chapels, landscapes, legends, symbols, saints.....often highlighting detail to great effect. Marvel, for example, at the stained glass scene of St James' martyrdom in Bourges cathedral, at God's hand reaching out to St Foy on the tympanum at Conques, at King David playing the fiddle in Jaca cathedral, at the carved Moor's head in Irache monastery, and at Moses on the Pórtico de la Gloria; amazingly, the carving retains some of its original colour.

The illustrations accompany a seriously informative text, divided into nine chapters. Written by another professor, Kathleen Ashley from the University of Southern Maine, these chapters cover the culture of pilgrimage; its geography; preparation; social and architectural infrastructure; shrines, towns; legends; folklore and miracles; music; and, finally, 'The City of Santiago and the Ritual Endings of Pilgrimage' – all within the timeframe of the twelfth to eighteenth centuries.

These various themes are brought to life by the inclusion of first-hand accounts: contemporary reports and extracts from the narratives of early pilgrims. Helpfully, some of the 'voices' contribute to several chapters and, by journey's end, have become quite familiar.

In this way, we first meet Guillaume Manier – a 22-year-old escaping debt – as he crosses Les Landes which he damns as 'the most boring country in the world'. Then, after several encounters along the way, we leave him at Santiago enjoying five meals in as many hours. Some 50 years earlier, around 1670, Domenico Laffi – a priest from Bologna – admits to scratching his name with a knife onto Roland's tomb at Roncesvalles; but he subsequently redeems himself, on Monte de Gozo, when tears of emotion interrupt his singing of the Te Deum. Another such figure is the Bohemian nobleman Baron Leo von Rozmital who leaves Prague in November 1465 and arrives at Santiago

17 months later. There one of his entourage notices that the city ramparts contain 'great quantities of yellow violets'. He neglects to say if his companions were too weary to appreciate this gladsome sight.

The text is amply supported by notes plus five pages of 'further reading' suggestions – as befits a scholarly work. But here a question arises. Whom is this book aimed at? Did Ashley and Deegan have an audience in mind? Today's pilgrims, seeking a 'bit of background' could well find *Being a Pilgrim* too concentrated. Likewise armchair-travellers. On the other hand, readers with some specialist knowledge of, for instance, Romanesque architecture or medieval music, may consider the coverage too succinct. Even so, the book must appeal to many. Thanks to the photos, it lends itself to browsing; studied in its entirety it provides an authoritative introduction to the Camino's cultural heritage.

There is one aspect that any and every reader will notice: the book's focus lies north of the Pyrenees. Excluding images taken in Santiago de Compostela itself, photos of French subjects outnumber Spanish ones by four to one. Of course, France played a major role in developing the Santiago [pilgrimage and in supplying many of the early pilgrims, but is it really necessary to shortchange Spain so blatantly? The chapter 'Visiting the Saints', for instance, lists various significant shrines along the routes in France – but nothing in Spain. No mention of San Millán, whose relicts at Suso attracted pilgrims over a century before the Moorish invasion. No mention, either, of saints associated with the pilgrimage itself – saints such as San Juan de Ortega and San Lesmes. The chapter on towns ignores Pamplona and, in Burgos, features only the cathedral. What happened to the Hospital del Rey and Las Huelgas? And one last example: although there is a paragraph on measures taken to protect pilgrims, there is no reference to the Templars or Ponferrada.

But, Spain's afterthought status aside, there is much in this book to inform and inspire – and the evocative last page image, Finisterre, creates a very fitting finale.

CATHERINE DELL

A copy is held in the CSJ library.

New Books for the Library in brief

EAT, SLEEP, WALK, EAT, SLEEP, WALK: A COMPANION TO ONE OF THE MOST MAGICAL JOURNEYS-PILGRIMAGE

Janet Hall, 2009, 157pp, www.pilgrimpatterns.com

A bringing together of experience of pilgrimage, which mostly reads like rather long lists of thoughts, realizations, and insights. See the website for more information and how to obtain the book.

THE ROMANESQUE CATHEDRAL OF SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA: A REASSESSMENT

Christabel Watson, 2009, 129pp, with maps, drawings, plans, photographs. £32. BAR International series 1979, for special offer price please contact the CSJ Office.

Christabel Watson focusses on Archbishop Diego Gelmírez and Master Mateo as the two people most involved with the construction of the cathedral as we know it. There is current debate about how and when the west end of the cathedral was built. Using evidence from the *Historia Compostelana* and the *Codex Calixtinus* book 5 she shows that the west end was in fact begun as part of Gelmírez' work on the towers and then completed by Mateo with the Pórtico de la Gloria.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PILGRIMAGE ON THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA: A LANDSCAPE PERSPECTIVE,

Julie Candy, 2009, BAR International Series 1948.

We hope to have an article by Julie Candy in a future edition of the *Bulletin*.

GOOD NIGHT & GOD BLESS: A GUIDE TO CONVENT & MONASTERY ACCOMMODATION IN EUROPE

Trish Clark, Hidden Spring, Australia 2008. www.goodnightandgodbless.com

Useful for planning pilgrimages in Austria, the Czech Republic and Italy, this guide includes accommodation information and brief notes about the cities for pilgrims as well as those seeking places for retreats and relaxation.

Advance notice: The Itineraries of William Wey

Edited and translated by Francis Davey, 2010, 272pp, Bodleian Library Publishing

See enclosed flyer. In 2000 the CSJ published Francis Davey's William Wey: an English Pilgrim to Compostella in 1456 which was the forerunner to this book, covering all of this 15th c Devon priest's journeys to Compostela, Rome and the Holy Land.

Film Review

Philip Wren

Al final del camino

Spanish film directed by Roberto Santiago. 2009.

This is a film to delight, intrigue and scandalise you all at the same time. It is very funny, the language is sometimes very strong and the morality underlying it is highly questionable. Whether you like it or not will depend on whether you are comfortable or not with the camino being used as the vehicle for a sex comedy that takes in people's personal problems. I have known of the film's existence for a number of months but have only just been able to watch it with English subtitles.

Olmo is a guru and relationship therapist who charges couples 20,000 euros to help them work their way through their problems. He does so by walking them to Sarria and from there to Santiago via Portomarín and Monte de Gozo. On the way there are various exercises that bond the couples together. It would be a shame to give away the various outcomes, except to say that some of them would be highly questionable to many of those who walk the camino for spiritual purposes, and who regard sex as a sacred act that should only be undertaken within the sanctity of marriage. However, if you think that true love should flourish and win out, then you will not be disappointed.

At one point in the film I was deeply uncomfortable when two male cousins join the camino in order to meet girls who are in a crisis in order to have casual sex with them. Fortunately the aptly-named director, Roberto Santiago, avoids showing that to be the case. Several single *peregrinas* have told me of isolated, unpleasant experiences that they have had on the camino, and to encourage those who watch the film that this is an easy place for single men to pick up girls would be sending out both an unwelcome and an untrue message. Of course men and women do meet and sex does take place, but it would be sad if this were promoted as part of the norm on the camino. Over eight pilgrimages I have found such things are very rare and while I have enjoyed female companionship on the camino I would hope that platonic friendship would be the norm. None of those travelling with

Olmo are older teenagers whose experience and expectations of being on the camino might be different from mine! Despite the nature of the film, the only real nudity is that of the men and even that is not too revealing.

The tooth-brushing scene will either strike you as a hoot or you will be uncomfortable with it. I'm not sure I should admit this, but I thought it was hilarious. Depending on your point of view the film has a happy ending or a questionable resolution of the issues.

The film is shot in Madrid and Galicia. I recognised many parts of the camino, though some were unfamiliar. There were perhaps too many pilgrim extras in the outdoor scenes and the numbers of those travelling from Santiago seemed to me to be too high. The indoor scenes were clearly shot in genuine *albergues* and had an authentic look and feel to them. There are no indoor shots of the cathedral, though clearly the municipal authorities have helped the film maker with his outdoor scenes in the Plaza del Obradoiro. There is a wonderful running gag that exploits the tensions between those who walk and those who cycle the camino which raises the interesting question, "who has the right of way?"

The two lead characters, Fernando Tejero and Malena Alterio, were terrific and played the parts with absolute brilliance. Parts of it are genuinely very funny and will make you laugh.

Overall, I enjoyed this deeply flawed film very much but as an insight to the spiritual purpose of walking the camino, it is well wide of the mark.

Philip Wren is a retired Methodist minister who can sometimes be old fashioned, especially on the camino.

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was as well attended as ever. William Griffiths gave his final Chairman's Report (see p4) and was presented with a box of camino wines to thank him for the many gifts of fraternity, song, humour and spiritual wisdom he has shared with the CSJ over the last 7 years. After a Speed Practical Pilgrim session when members could share information on various routes, we enjoyed a lively presentation of photographs of The Roads to Santiago: the medieval pilgrim routes through France and Spain to Santiago de Compostela by photographer Derry Brabbs. The culmination of the day was a splendid party with wonderful contributions of food. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the day in any way.

New officers of the CSJ

On AGM day Colin Jones was elected as the new Chairman of the Confraternity, and Alison Raju re-elected Vice Chairman. At the first meeting of Trustees in March, new trustees Richard Jefferies and David Garcia were welcomed. Gosia Brykczyńska was elected as joint Vice Chairman. In keeping with tradition William Griffiths is made Honorary Vice President, along with former Chairmen James Maple, Patricia Quaife and Laurie Dennett. HE The Spanish Ambassador is of course the Hon President.

Holy Year

The year began with the ceremonial opening of the Holy Door by the Archbishop of Santiago on 31 December. On this day too the Holy Door in the church of Santiago in Villafranca del Bierzo was also opened, by the Bishop of Astorga. Infirm pilgrims, unable to continue to Santiago, may pass through the door. On 1 January a record 99 compostelas were issued. In the cathedral there will be up to four Pilgrim Masses with the Botafumeiro each day to cater for the expected increase in numbers. Pilgrims are encouraged to return to the cathedral at 9pm for a special service of recollection and thanks for a safe arrival followed by Night Prayer and a visit to the crypt chapel.

January has been busy with pilgrimage groups from various places, with and without their bishops and delegations from local authorities on various caminos. There have been conferences preparing the city for the expected visitors and training courses for medics and those responsible for public health aspects of refuges. It has been announced that the Pope will after all visit Santiago on 7 November.

Holy Year 2010 on Twitter

To mark the beginning of Holy Year I have set up a *twitter.com/csjnews* account to post snippets of news about the many events that will take place this year. The first few postings cover film of the opening of the Holy Door in Santiago Cathedral and the Hogmanay pilgrimage in the snow by John Rafferty which was shown at the AGM. If you tweet, please follow us.

A reminder of the 1993 Holy Year

We were very moved just before Christmas to receive a package from Ohio, America. Jack Isaacson, a member since 1992, recalled his 1993 cycling pilgrimage and arrival in time for the 25 July ceremonies attended by the King of Spain. He wrote: "I knew at the time, but not how, that the Pilgrimage had left its long term mark. In February 1997 the surgeon came out of the OR and said to my beloved spouse, the good news is it is not pancreatic cancer it is only Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Surgery and a year on chemo and steroids and I am still here 12 years later. There was not a day that went by that no matter how weary I was that I did not remember my journey and think 'I CAN do this'". Jacques has commissioned the making of two flags, one for CSJ and one for himself, of the 1993 pilgrim logo.

New 2010 Publications in the Bookshop

- The 2010 Pilgrim Guide to the Camino Francés (£7), a 2010 edition of the Camino Inglés (£4) and a new Guide altogether to the *Voie Littorale* from Soulac to Hendaye along the west coast of France by Judy Smith (£5) – see *Bulletin* 108 for Judy's article on this route. As downloadable Guides we have an addition to the *Camino Portugués* from Lisbon to Porto by Laurie Reynolds and also an addition to the Northern Routes the *Camino del Salvador* from León to Oviedo by Rebekah Scott, Laurie Reynolds and Piers Nicholson.
- *The Way of Saint James from Valencia* GR 239, Camino de Levante

Amigos del Camino de Santiago de la Comunidad Valenciana, 2010, 324pp translated into English by Laurie Dennett., £20 plus postage. The Guide covers the c1200km route from Valencia via Albacete, Toledo and Zamora to Santiago. Accommodation is listed and there are excellent maps scale 1:50,000 and illustrations. The maps are also supplied in separate wallet.

- *Pilgrims of faith and witnesses to the risen Christ* Archbishopric of Santiago, 2010, 120pp, £4 plus postage. The Archbishop of Santiago's pastoral letter for the 2010 Holy Year

European Relay

The CSJ is taking part in this Pilgrim Relay organised by Compostelle 2000 by walking an English stage from 26 June-3 July – see CSJ events. Parts of the Relay in Poland have already started. There are some inspiring photographs of a snowy pilgrimage on the following websites:

- www.camino.net.pl/europacompostela
- picasaweb.google.co.uk/wloczykij1984
- www.malopolanin.pl/7718_malopolska_sztafeta_sw_jakuba.html

Pilgrim's Pie

If you are visiting Gloucester Cathedral after May try the new Pilgrim's Pie.

Help needed: Pilgrim Anthology

Are there poets and artists and pilgrims with poetic diaries out there? We are collecting material for a new edition of the *Pilgrim Anthology*. Please send all submissions of original art work or favourite pilgrim poems, prayers short stories etc to the CSJ Office marking the envelope Pilgrim Anthology. If you are sending material in electronically please signify that this is material specifically for the Anthology. As this is a CSJ Jubilee Year project the Publications Committee would like to start work on the scripts in the autumn. Please send your material in for selection in the book by 1 September 2010.

Thank you to the people who responded to the request for help in the last *Bulletin*.

CSJ Events

2010 events and Miraz fundraising

Please see the enclosed Holy Year 2010 Diary of Events for an at a glance Guide to CSJ activities. This year there are 6 Saturday Office Open Days as well as our regular Thursday opening for advice, book sales, advice and encouragement for potential pilgrims. We also welcome returned pilgrims to let us know how Holy Year is working out in terms of numbers and additional accommodation and facilities.

As well as these events there will be shorter notice gatherings, mainly to raise funds for the Miraz Holy Year Appeal. All Trustees have been asked to arrange an event in their areas and we encourage all members, especially those who have joined in the last 5 years to consider how they can best contribute to the variety and fun of Holy Year with a local fund raising event. See the Miraz Newsletter for more details.

Saturday 27 March

Office Open Day

10.30am-3.30pm Office open for enquiries, sales, use of Library

Saturday 24 April

Office Open Day

10.30am-3.30pm Office open for enquiries, sales, use of Library

Sat 26 June – Mon 12 July

European Pilgrim Relay

Walk with friends from the Association Normande des Amis de Saint-Jacques from South London/Croydon along the Vanguard Way to Newhaven and (from Sat 3 July) Dieppe to Chartres to meet up with a pilgrim group from Paris. Others will be walking from Vézelay, Le Puy and Arles to continue along the Camino Francés to Santiago, arriving on Saturday 18 September. Stages will be c 20-25km per day. Each group will have a special pilgrim staff which acts as a relay baton. Cultural events are planned along the ways. Arranged by the French Federation of the associations of the ways of Saint-Jacques de Compostelle www.compostelle.fr

Basic accommodation (floors, hostels, some hotels). Please contact the Office if you would like to participate or help with the organisation in any way. Any last minute expressions of interest please as soon as possible. Cost c. £200.

Friday 23 – Sunday 25 July St James's Day Weekend

On the Trail of the Worcester Pilgrim.

Dr Katherine Lack makes a persuasive case for the Worcester Pilgrim, whose body was discovered accidentally during works on the cathedral, to have been Robert Sutton, a wealthy dyer, who lived in Worcester in the 15th century and certainly made a pilgrimage to Compostela. The weekend's Programme includes an exhibition about the Santiago Pilgrimage as well as talks and walks tracing Sutton's life, a commemorative service in the Worcester Cathedral Crypt chapel, a paella supper and Choral Eucharist for St James's Day in the Cathedral. Accommodation in student residences or a hotel. Please book a place as soon as possible through the Office.

Sunday 25 July

St James's Day Lincolnshire

From Chris Gudgin: I am Churchwarden at St James's Aslackby. We have followed the pattern established about 50 years ago by CSJ members the Reverend Kenneth Street and his wife Anne. Kenneth Street wrote a wonderful St James hymn which has been sung in Aslackby every year since. Mrs Anne Street still lives in the nearby town of Bourne. Our village is very small with about 100 homes so what we do is probably quite 'low-key' compared with city churches. The church is, of course, decorated for the occasion.

2.45 pm people begin to gather on the vicarage (now Old Vicarage) lawn for a glass of wine or juice. Just before 3pm the angelus is rung and a procession forms up. After the words "let us process in peace" we begin the 'pilgrimage' to the church singing "Daily, daily sing the praises of the city God has made...". Three scallop shells (from Compostella) are carried which are later placed upon a stand on the altar below the east window bearing the 3 scallop shells in stained glass. When everyone has found their place and the festal evensong service continues. There is usually a guest preacher. After the service there is a lavish tea and lots of chat. To get here from London by car is very easy - Aslackby is just off the A15

between Bourne and Sleaford. Basically drive north up the A1 to Grantham and then take the A52 east to the A15 or if possible to turn off the A1 at Stamford and take the road to Bourne and then the A15 north to Aslackby. Railway stations at Peterborough or Grantham are reasonably close. Peterborough has the best bus connections or arrangements can be made to collect someone from the station.

Tue 14 –Tue 28 September

Camino Portugués

WALKING PILGRIMAGE ON CAMINO PORTUGUÉS

The pilgrimage is planned to follow the quieter more scenic route which starts off along the Portuguese coast from Porto/Porto airport and on towards Santiago. We are trying to make this pilgrimage suitable for the fast walkers to the slowest. On the intended route there is the possibility of some public transport for those who are not able to complete a full day's walk. There is also the possibility of bags being transported from place to place. The walk will be led by, the very experienced, Colin Jones (CSJ) who speaks fluent Spanish and some Portuguese. Regarding sponsorship, which is optional, we suggest two charities: The Miraz Appeal and one of your own choice. Contact Dave Jones (Midlands group) for more details or to register your interest d-jones56@sky.com, tel 01527 837018 or Colin Jones on tel 01384-400709 / pacharan@btinternet.com

This walk will conclude with a few days in Santiago in the company of other CSJ members visiting the city in Holy Year.

Saturday 25 September

Office Open Day

10.30am-3.30pm Office open for enquiries, sales, use of Library

Mon 27 Sep-Sun 3 Oct

Santiago Visit

Fly from London Stansted (dep 8am) to Santiago. 6 nights in a central hotel, meet walking group from Camino Portugués (see above) guided tours of the cathedral including the triforium and organ, cathedral roof, Portico de la Gloria, museums, a day trip out of the city, etc Price tbc Please book as soon as possible so we can arrange the flights.

Saturday 16 October**Returned Pilgrim Service**

Location to be confirmed

Saturday 30 October**Office Open Day**

10.30am-3.30pm Office open for enquiries, sales, use of Library

Sunday 21 November**Holy Year Service**

3pm Holy Year Celebration Service, St Mary's Clapham Park Road, SW4 7AP (Clapham Common tube)

4.30pm Celebration Spanish Lunch for Holy Year & Miraz, La Terraza, Bedford Terrace, SW4

Saturday 27 November**Office Open Day**

10.30am-3.30pm Office open for enquiries, sales, use of Library

4pm Storrs Lecture, to be confirmed

Other events

Saturday 27 March

Practical Information Day

St James's Church Centre, James's Street, Dublin 8, 1-5pm

All you need to know about making the pilgrimage. Organised by the Irish Society of the Friends of St James, www.stjamesirl.com, stjamesirl@gmail.com, 085 781 9088

Tue 16 Mar - Sun 16 May

Paris Exhibition

COMPOSTELLE ET L'EUROPE -L'HISTOIRE DE DIEGO GELMIREZ

Museum Trocadero, Palace de Chaillot, 75116 Paris, daily 11am-7pm, closed Tuesdays. An Exhibition promoted by the Xacobeo on the life and work of Archbishop Gelmirez (1070-1140), memorably described as 'St James's Catapult'. He was responsible for much of the surge in growth in devotion to St James in the 12th century and lobbied the Pope for Santiago to be raised from a Bishopric to an Archbishopric. The exhibition includes sculpture, silverwork and rarely seen manuscripts. Study days (in French) 1 and 2 April includes lectures by Prof Adeline Rucquoi, Humbert Jacomet and others, guided tour of exhibition and visit to 'Paris Jacquaire'.

The exhibition will also be at the Vatican 3 June-1 August and San Martin Pinario in Santiago 15 August-15 October.

Saturday 31 July

St Olave's Viking walk

To commemorate St Olav Haraldsson (d 1030), patron saint of Norway, walk 20km (13ml) from St Mary & St Helen's church, Neston, Wirral to St Olave's church Chester. Meet at Neston at 9am. More details from www.nottingham.ac.uk/~sczsteve/Olsok2010.htm

Sat 28 Aug-Sat 11 Sep Walk Le Compostelle Québécois

From the Beauvoir Shrine to the Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Shrine. Walk 350 kilometers through quaint and historic villages along the St. Lawrence River, in Quebec, Canada. Join the small group of pilgrims (15) on this 15 day pilgrimage, with a minivan as a back-up vehicle, and two guides who, having walked the St-James Way (Pilgrimage to Santiago) created this beautiful and easy walking route in 2008. For more information write to: jeanmarc_donahue@hotmail.com

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Information is for members' use only.

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

Pilgrim Guides to Spain

- 1 *Camino Francés* William Bisset
editorcf@csj.org.uk
- 2 *Camino Mozárabe* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
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- 3 *Finisterre* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
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- 4 *Los Caminos del Norte* Eric Walker, 4 Gawthorpe Avenue, BINGLEY, West Yorkshire BD16 4DG
(01274) 562559
- 5 *Camino Portugués* John Walker
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- 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

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- 3 *Le Puy to the Pyrenees* Alison Raju, 21 Hall Street, Sherwood, NOTTINGHAM NG5 4BB
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Practical Pilgrim Notes *for Walkers*
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Miraz (Holy Year) Appeal Newsletter – March 2010



At the Confraternity's AGM on 31 January 2010 we launched a fresh Appeal for

£20,000

for new building works at the Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz.

A new building has been designed to add accommodation and facilities for the expected increase in pilgrim numbers during the 2010 Holy Year.

A special flyer will be sent out to all members in April asking you to consider making a special Holy Year contribution to the work.

Colin Jones writes:

Work on the new extension to the refuge began in mid-January. The foundations, floor and roof have already been put in place. Unlike the UK, the walls are the last part to be built. The building work is going according to schedule and so the first phase of the extension will be completed in June. The existing building will be opened in time to receive pilgrims for the start of Holy Week. Construction work does not affect the facilities at the refuge. However, we are going to put portaloos and showers in the garden to cope with the increase in pilgrim numbers during the summer months. Our working party went to Miraz for the week starting the 15th March to make ready the building for this year's pilgrims and hospitaleros.

Confraternity of Saint James

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Fundraising - Donation Form

Name

Address

[illegible][illegible]

(1) Membership

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

(2) Payment

I wish to support the *refugio* at Miraz and I therefore

- ☐ enclose a cheque for £.....,
made payable to *Confraternity of Saint James*
- ☐ authorise the CSJ to charge £ to my credit/debit card as follows

Card Number - - - - / - - - - / - - - - / - - - -

Issue Number - - / - - Start Date - - / - - Expiry Date - - / - -
Security Code - - -

Signed Date.....

(3) Gift Aid *(UK only)*

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

Please return form to: **Miraz (Holy Year) Appeal**
Confraternity of Saint James
27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY, UK

Fundraising events

Maureen Young ran a very successful walk and lunch on 7 March, raising £475.

The pre-AGM Galician **Burns Night supper** raised around £500 and was immediately matched by a personal donation of £500.

Roger Davies, a trustee of the Confraternity, has a share in a racehorse named **Exceedingly Bold**. He has matched this name by offering his share of the prize money from his best race of 2010. Last year the horse prospered as a two year old so let's hope there is continued success this year! Watch this space for news of the thoroughbred!

Richard and Sheila Jefferies are making their **house in the Pyrenees** available to CSJ members in June, July and August 2010. It is located (64560) between Somport and Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port and is ideal for walks in the foothills. It sleeps up to 6. Travel via Pau or Biarritz airports or the house can be accessed by public transport. *Donativo* of £250 minimum per week to the Appeal. Contact rjefferies@hotmail.co.uk

Frank and Anne Chesworth have offered to host a lunch and walk in the **Amersham** area on Saturday 4 September. Please note the date in your diary and watch for further details in the June Newsletter.

Catherine Kimmel is happy to lead a **summer walk** in the Forest of Dean or along the Thames path this summer. Contact her for details on cqkimmel@googlemail.com.

The Confraternity is considering running a stall at the medieval **Abinger Fair**, near Dorking, Surrey on Saturday 12 June. www.abingerfair.com. Authentic pilgrim volunteers are required. Sadly several likely characters are not available that day but could help supply information, publications from the Office etc in advance.

Plans are in train to celebrate the full commissioning of the new refuge at the end of the Holy Year. In London, there will be a Church Service of **celebration** of Holy Year and **thanks** for the work done at Miraz, on Sunday 21 November at St Mary's Clapham, London SW4. The CSJ Choir will sing the *Botafumeiro song* and other pilgrim items. This will be followed by a celebratory meal at the nearby Galician restaurant of La Terazza, Bedford Terrace, SW4. Please note the date in your diary and see the June Newsletter for more details.

Albert Garcia www.gocruise.co.uk/agarcia will offer impartial advice to help you find your ideal **cruise** holiday. He will donate part of his commission to the Appeal.

STOP PRESS

Thanks to St Peter's church Partick, Glasgow for donating the money from Practical Pilgrim to Miraz –also a generous individual donation –making over £200.

Thanks to the Gaitero and his friends

The *gaitero* made it to Santiago in late 2009. His bagpipes joyfully led his band of pilgrim friends along the *Camino del Norte* to his goal of Santiago.

The Confraternity would like to thank all those who supported this successful appeal over the last five years. Here are some of the events and ideas that have helped raise the funds and enabled us to refurbish and develop the *Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz*.

Tour of Saint Neots
Galician Lunch
Walks around London
Cottages in France
Calendar
Miraz Mugs
Spanish Embassy reception
Eco House visit
Miraz raffle
A Taste of Spain
Miraz Caps
Recipe Book
CD Pilgrimage Diary
Ely Cathedral & Walk
Brunch & Vineyard Walk
Sussex Coastal Walk
Himalayan Trek
Edinburgh Marathon
Merienda & Summer Garden Party
South Downs Just Walk
My Camino Book
Camino Wines
Miraz & Rome – Lunch & Walk

The total monies raised by the end of 2009 exceeded £100,000. The amount left after the initial setting up and refurbishing of the basic *refugio*, £65,000, has been allocated to the new extension to allow work to start. In addition the CSJ has pledged to raise a further £20,000 towards the costs of the new building. In Santiago, the Xestión do Plan Xacobeo, responsible for services to pilgrims in Holy Year, has indicated its willingness to pay the balance of the cost of the new building.

This is now the final push -

£20,000 is achievable: it represents £10 per member.

Please support the Miraz Holy Year Appeal in whatever way you are able, whether by donation, running a fundraising event, sponsorship or passing this leaflet on to trusts or charities that could give a substantial donation. May Saint James bless all our efforts!

Confraternity of Saint James

2010 DIARY

See also Bulletins & Miraz Newsletter for other meetings

Saturday 30 January	AGM, Talk and Party: Baldwin's Gardens, EC1, Speaker 4.30pm Derry Brabbs, photographer, <i>The Roads to Santiago</i>
Saturday 20 February	Practical Pilgrim: London SE1.
Saturday 27 February	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 20 March	Practical Pilgrim: St Peter's Church, Partick, Glasgow
Saturday 27 March	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 24 April	Office Open Day 10.30-3.30pm
Sat 25 June-3 July 3 -12 July	Walking Pilgrimage London -Newhaven on Vanguard Way. Continues Dieppe-Chartres with Amis Normandes de St-Jacques
Fri 23 -Sun 25 July	St James's Day: Pilgrimage Exhibition and events in Worcester on theme of The Worcester Pilgrim: Robert Sutton
Tues 14- 28 September	Walking Pilgrimage on Camino Portugués Coastal route contact Colin Jones pacharan@btinternet.com
Sat 25 Sept- Sun 3 Oct	Visit to Santiago for Holy Year
Saturday 25 September	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
Saturday 16 October	Returned Pilgrims Service, venue and time tbc
Saturday 30 October	Office Open Day, 10.30-3.30pm
Sunday 21 November	Holy Year & Miraz Celebration, Service; 3pm St Mary's Clapham SW4, Galician Lunch: 4.30pm La Terazza, SW4
Saturday 27 November	Office Open Day and Storrs Lecture, 10.30-3.30pm 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NY, 4pm, £5 (Lecture venue tbc)

For further information on any of these and additional events please contact:

Confraternity of Saint James,
27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

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