



Confraternity of Saint James

# Bulletin

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**September 2015**

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## About the *Bulletin*

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Cover: Detail  
from the quilt  
made by Gillian  
Clarke

# Editorial

Gosia Brykczyńska

Summer is all but over and by the time you will be reading this, I will be in Miraz working as a hospitalera and my recent pilgrimage to Rome will be but a distant and faint memory. But it really did happen and I certainly enjoyed it immensely. What would we do if we could not record and document such activities – such special experiences and events in our lives? How much poorer we would be if we should never have documented our caminos and with them our pilgrim tales! Whether in journals, diaries, articles or formal historical accounts – as a people (genetically enabled to think) and thus capable of recalling events, we are in constant need of updating and refreshing our memories, but also, even more importantly, of documenting for posterity those recollections.

And it is to that end, among other purposes, that our CSJ Bulletin wishes to recall and document the adventures and activities of its – predominantly UK based – pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela. What a pity it would be if the publication came to a halt and ceased to recount these pilgrim tales. And that is precisely what may happen if no-one comes forward to continue the endeavour and become the next *Bulletin Editor* or is willing to work on solutions with the *Publications Committee*.

I do not usually threaten my fellow pilgrims in such ominous tones – but I do think that after fifteen years it is time to hand over the reins to some new, enthusiastic person, who will work alongside our new secretary Jean. It's time for changes all round – and as I wish to concentrate on other CSJ activities, may a new pen take control of the writing desk! Surely, amongst all our illustrious members, someone has a burning, secret desire, to become a pilgrim scribe. Certainly, there is no lack of writing talent amongst you, as this issue clearly demonstrates.

In this Bulletin, there is the second and concluding part of Rafael Canseco Gómez's article on Spanish art and the camino, translated by Paul Murray; and we apologise profusely for not including it in the June Bulletin. John Rafferty has written a report on the activities of the English language chaplaincy in Santiago itself – a very important service to many pilgrims. This service is augmented, of course, by the

work of the two English speaking religious sisters based in the Pilgrim Office. Meanwhile Philip Constantine notes down some pilgrim reflections from walking the camino.

Most pilgrims to Santiago go as individuals, although once on the camino, small walking groups do form – and long may it be so, but what of the experience of large parish groups, with back-up transport for luggage and staying in comfortable hotels? These pilgrims have also *walked the camino* and know no other pilgrimage experience – and yet they too are enthralled and captivated by the camino. Their tale – told for us by Diane Ralph – is both refreshing and insightful. Finally, Priscilla White reports back to us from the First Global Conference of the Friends of the Way of St James Associations, held in June this year, in Santiago itself.

Much has happened since I last wrote my June editorial, including a most pleasant St James's Day walk around the City of London (see photo) and, most notably, Marion retiring from being secretary of the CSJ and the arrival of Jean Marray. We include in this Bulletin our chairman's thank-you speech given after the celebratory meal at St Mary Moorfields. All sixty places were taken and no-one even dared to drop-out; in spite of the rain and windy weather. We wish Jean much happiness working for us, and this joy should increase significantly once an office helper can be employed to take on some of the routine work – which has grown exponentially now that we have a new exciting website and new on-line book-shop, and have decided to sell our new concertina-style pilgrim passport to non-members. CSJ members continue of course to receive their pilgrim *credencial* at no cost (as this is already covered in your membership fee).

Wishing you all a pleasant autumn and hoping to see some of



CSJ City of London walk on 25.07.15

you at the CSJ activities mentioned on the Events Page and some London-based members at St James's Spanish Place for the celebratory Mass with Archbishop Julián Barrio Barrio on 29 September.

# A Tribute to Marion Marples

Colin Jones

Earlier this year a book was published with the title, “*Hospitaleros, socorristas del camino*” – Hospitaleros, lifeguards of the camino. The idea of *hospitaleros* offering both practical assistance to pilgrims and of preserving the authentic spirit of pilgrimage and hospitality could well be applied to Marion in the way that she has fulfilled the role of Secretary of the Confraternity during the past 30 years. While we must give thanks to Marion for all the work that she has invested in organising and supporting the activities of the CSJ, perhaps her most important role has been as *socorrista* of the pilgrimage to Santiago.

Over the years she has provided advice to countless enquirers. Her advice has been born not only out of an in-depth knowledge of the caminos and their people but also of the spirit of the caminos. She has guided potential pilgrims in their thinking about which route to take, when and how. Also, she has helped all who have been thinking about their pilgrimage to consider the spirit of the camino and what motivates people to walk or cycle to Santiago. In this way, she has opened the eyes of many to the true wonders of the caminos; their ability to enhance our wellbeing and to offer a special hospitality regardless of who we are and where we come from.

Before there was ever a CSJ, Marion as a young student (1972) tried to do the camino (it lasted a few days) but lack of money and the logistics of doing the camino carrying a tent and a heavy backpack were too much. She waited till 1998 another twenty odd years to complete her camino.

Meanwhile, Marion got involved with the CSJ because her husband Leigh saw an ad in the Church Times about it and thought it was just up her street – so to speak. At the time James was two and she was busy teaching. Her CSJ membership number makes her the third member of the CSJ – after the founding members – which is about right... She certainly is one of the very first. Marion has been secretary of the CSJ since 1989 – at that time as an unpaid volunteer. At one point Marion’s own home was the CSJ office – but in 1994 new premises had to be found, if Marion was not to be swamped at home under CSJ papers. It was starting from 1994 that Marion began training office volunteers.

Marion resigned as honorary secretary in 1998 and from then on was paid for her work as secretary of the CSJ.

At the early meetings – e.g. a visit to St James Garlickhythe in the City of London – she brought James with her in his baby-buggie. In the early days not many photographs were taken – so the early years are not very well represented in photos – but Marion must have gone to almost every single event that was ever organised by the CSJ... and devised most of the many, fun-filled trips, e.g. to Kilpeck and the Shobdan Arches. She organised, with help, Le walk in 1996; the Walsingham pilgrimage in 2003; the Conferences at Hengrave Hall (1990) and Canterbury (2001); the exhibition in Guildford Cathedral; and many foreign trips to places associated with St James and the camino, in France, Spain and even Poland. In 1985 she even went to the international conference about pilgrimage to Compostela in Ghent with little James at that time aged four!

An interesting highlight of her time with the CSJ must have been her partaking in the World Youth Day in Cologne (talking to young people about the pilgrimage to Santiago and the camino) at the request of the German associations of St James. She went with her husband Leigh and James on the CSJ Camino Inglés pilgrimage in 1993. Finally, she has been a great motor behind trying to get the Southampton pilgrimage route waymarked and better known. Marion is a long standing member of the CSJ choir and the most memorable singing must have been in 1995 at 11 Downing Street at the invitation of Gillian Clarke, and at the wedding of Paul Graham and Helena.

Marion also organised several return pilgrim days, and various St James's Day activities. Lately she has been liaising with the pilgrim office/Xunta in Spain. Because she has been a visible face of the CSJ for so long, she is well known on the continent by the various associations.

In the CSJ publication about spirituality on the camino, she said: *"I am surprised to hear my name shouted out. A friend has calculated my arrival date [to Santiago] waited for me to appear and now races towards me to give me the most enormous warm hug. No explanation, just a hug."* We should do the same for Marion now...

# English Language Chaplaincy in Santiago Cathedral

John Rafferty

“I’m Sandra from Somerset in England and I walked from St Jean Pied de Port. I’m Tom from Wexford in Ireland and I walked from Pamplona. I’m Ingrid from Denmark and I walked from Sevilla, I’m Kay from South Africa and I started in Ferrol...”

Every morning, at 10.30 am Mass in English in the Cathedral of Santiago begins with everyone introducing themselves. Fr Joe, the Chaplain for the season May to October 2015, starts, “I’m Joe, I’m a priest from the Diocese of Cork in Ireland. Congratulations to those who have finished their Camino and a warm welcome to everyone irrespective of your nationality or religion or whether English is your first language. We want everyone to feel included in this Mass.”

The Mass which follows is a powerful experience. It is often very moving when pilgrims pray aloud for other people, for themselves, and for the intentions they have carried in their hearts on their pilgrimage journey. Everyone prays for the growing mountain of written pilgrims’ petitions which gather in baskets in the chapel. After Mass pilgrims linger to chat or reflect in silence. There is also an invitation to coffee at a local café. A time for sharing and fellowship.

During May, June and July, 3715 people attended Mass or daily Evening Prayer which is held at 6 pm. The Camino Chaplaincy will soon be a formal charitable organisation under the patronage of the Right Rev Ralph Heskett CsSr, the Bishop of the Diocese of Hallam. In the last two years Bishop Ralph has himself served as a chaplain saying Mass and hearing confessions in the Cathedral.

The Chaplaincy started three years ago when I arranged for three priests to come to Santiago to say Mass and hear confessions in English during their annual leave. During these 6 weeks the ministry was a resounding success. The priests loved what they were doing, the pilgrims really appreciated Mass in their own language and there was often a queue at the “English” confessional. The Dean of the Cathedral and the Archbishop of Santiago were also delighted and asked if the service could be extended to cover 6 months. “Where on earth will I get priests?” I wondered. Despite the anxieties I pressed ahead and placed



an advertisement in the Tablet magazine. The gist of it was: “Priests with experience of the Camino are invited to come to Santiago and minister to English speaking pilgrims. No expenses are paid; you have to cover your own travel and food. However we will provide accommodation.”



I was pleasantly astonished when 23 priests applied. The timing worked out for 17 of them and in 2014 we provided morning Mass and evening prayer on 186 continuous days. One of these priests, Fr Joe Cochlan, enjoyed the ministry so much that having recently retired he offered to return in 2015 as the Chaplain for 6 months.

A few of the priests who were here last year offered to return. Since Fr Joe was covering services in Santiago that gave us the opportunity to think about how we might do something about the perennial problem of the churches on the Camino routes which are closed due to the lack of priests in rural Spain. Many pilgrims, like me, get very frustrated with trying church doors only to find them locked. So, out on the Meseta in Moratinos and Terradillos de los Templarios for a 6 week trial period, Frs Gerard Postelthwaite from England and Alan Neville from Ireland have opened two churches to welcome pilgrims and provide daily Mass. This Camino Chaplaincy Outreach programme was greatly assisted by Rebekah Scott and her husband Paddy who live in Moratinos.  
<http://moratinoslife.blogspot.com.es>

The pilot has been an enormous success and we have much to think

about for next year. You can read daily accounts from Fr Gerard here:  
[www.caminochaplaincy.blogspot.com](http://www.caminochaplaincy.blogspot.com)

In 2015 Fr Joe has been assisted by a small team of experienced Pastoral Assistants who on average spend a month working in the Chaplaincy. They open the Chapel in the Cathedral at 9 am and welcome visiting pilgrims some of whom want to talk and many of whom just want to sit enjoying the silence. They prepare for the Mass and Evening Prayer and are happy to linger afterwards chatting and providing a listening ear.

This pastoral support to pilgrims can also help in more serious situations and in the last year on two separate occasions we have visited pilgrims who were admitted to Intensive Care in the hospital in Santiago. Chaplaincy volunteers met their relatives at the airport and provided translation and support to the families. The Chaplaincy was also on hand very recently to help the family of a pilgrim who sadly died in his hotel after arriving from pilgrimage. We also provide assistance with baptisms and weddings. Recently we had the joy of arranging two baptisms for English speaking pilgrims who wanted their children to be baptised in Santiago. We also help steer couples through the procedures of both church and state if they wish to get married in Spain and on 18 September Fr Joe will preside at his second wedding ceremony in Santiago when bride and groom Jakki and Matthew from California arrive having walked from Leon.

I will end this report as each Chaplaincy Mass ends with everyone reciting the Santiago Pilgrims' Blessing which is said in Spanish at the end of the 12 noon Pilgrims' Mass:

*Father God, we ask your blessing.*

*We are pilgrims who have come to venerate the tomb of your Apostle, Santiago.*

*As you kept us safe on our Camino way*

*may you keep us safe on our journey home,*

*and inspired by our experiences here may we live out the values of the Gospel*

*as our pilgrimage through life continues.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and Our Redeemer.*

*Amen*

John Rafferty lives in Santiago and more information can be found on his website:

[www.johnniewalker-santiago.blogspot.com](http://www.johnniewalker-santiago.blogspot.com) and also:

[www.caminochaplaincy.blogspot.com](http://www.caminochaplaincy.blogspot.com) . The Camino Chaplaincy can be contacted at:  
[caminochaplaincy@gmail.com](mailto:caminochaplaincy@gmail.com).

# Compostela

NN

*I remember how when we came to the city  
we stopped, having no urge to go further,  
as though that which had led us there rested,  
and there was peace there,  
and rest, and time to recall  
who we were, who we had been,  
and why we had come there at all;*

*And, though they told us before we set out,  
and all down the way, that we'd want to walk on  
to the world's end, west,  
west, until the abyss  
stretched endless, roaring, before us,  
and, though we once wondered if after all  
we should go there,  
go on to the end, just to see what was there,  
to quiet our consciences, say  
we had been all the way to the edge,  
we remained; we had found what we came for;*

*And though my soul clamours still  
to walk that same great starlit way once again,  
onwards, westwards, to wonder,  
I don't know that this time  
(whenever it comes)  
I would want to go further.*

# The Pilgrim: Communion with Art

Rafael Canseco Gómez, Vice President of the  
Amigos del Camino de Santiago del Bierzo and  
member of the CSJ de Ponferrada

(Translated from the original Spanish by Paul Murray, member of the  
Gaucelmo Committee and Secretary of the CSJ de Ponferrada)

## PART II

For the pilgrim who is perhaps unwell and who visualizes the camino as his personal journey of inner renewal in search of forgiveness for his sins, arrival at the Santiago Church in Villafranca at the very entrance to the town, may appeal to him as something of a celestial vision. Here is a Romanesque twelfth century church whose walls display perfect blocks of stone assembled with great care. Its single nave has a gabled roof and the apse is semi-circular, framed by a great sloping arch, very common in this type of medieval building. An elegant trumpet-shaped door which hints at Gothic influences opens up on its northern façade, framed by archivolt with no tympanum. The capitals which support the arches tell us stories from passages of the life of Jesus Christ one of which is the Crucifixion with the Virgin and Saint John in attendance. There is also a moving representation of the Three Wise Men at different stages in the evangelical narrative: on horseback heading for Bethlehem, the Adoration of the Infant Jesus and their subsequent “dream”, with the warning from an angel for them to return to their homelands, without paying a second visit to King Herod.

At the front of this church we come face to face with the immortal Puerta del Perdón in the shelter of which the pilgrim, imbued with faith yet facing the physical impossibility of reaching Santiago de Compostela, receives divine grace to halt his journey and is given forgiveness for his sins – in the same way as if he were at the feet of the Apostle Santiago, inside the blessed walls of the cathedral at Compostela. This is a special privilege which was granted by Pope Calixtus the Third. Thanks to him, many sick pilgrims have been able to fulfill their innermost wishes despite being physically unable to reach Santiago.

## El Cebreiro Or The Virgin Mary

The Camino Francés enters Galicia via the legendary threshold, which is the demanding mountain pass of El Cebreiro (1). This place has always been difficult to reach from the lower areas of El Bierzo's central region. At the highest point of these summits there appears a tiny village frequently invaded by a thick mist or carpet of snow which has traditionally been a safe refuge for pilgrims. (2)

El Cebreiro, the "Mons Februari" of the Codex Calixtinus, is a village of charming architecture containing a group of houses known as pallozas. A palloza is a cleverly built dwelling rooted in the traditional Galician or Berciano style of stone houses in the mountains. It has a ground floor and a first floor roofed over with a type of thatch effectively protecting it from extreme drops in temperature as well as the persistent damp weather in these latitudes.

Nowadays some of these pallozas have been preserved and, carefully restored, combining their traditional structures with improvements in modern design which offer comfort and are a living testimony of such characteristic architecture.

In the centre of the village is a small pre-Romanesque church from the ninth century, consisting of three naves, the end section of each being dedicated to the Virgin. This is Santa María la Real del



Figure of BVM in Cebreiro

Cebreiro. It was built somewhat "submerged" into the ground, the better to avoid the fierce blizzards which lash this spot in winter. In the southern nave of the church we find a luminous glass display encased in a red covering which holds the paten and chalice from the Holy Miracle. This refers to an occasion one raw winter's day after heavy snowfall when a priest of little faith was celebrating Mass in front of a congregation which consisted of only one local man from a nearby village. The cleric doubted if the Body and Blood of Christ really were present during the Consecration and the precious liquid overflowed the chalice staining the altar cloth while the Sacred

Host became living flesh. Other traditions connect this chalice with the Holy Grail in imitation of the Arthurian legend but with local overtones.

In the same nave on a side wall above a raised pedestal you can find the statue of Our Lady of El Cebreiro, a beautiful Romanesque sculpture of the Virgin as Queen of Heaven but also as an admirable and affectionate mother. The Infant Jesus on her lap caresses with his divine look the fervent pilgrims who pray in front of her.

The sculpture was fully restored at the beginning of the 1970s due to its calamitous state of disrepair but nevertheless it still conserves all the characteristic features of Romanesque sculpture whilst softening the evident hieratic attitude which accompanies all the images of that era. It must also be said that the Virgin's neck, although slightly swollen since its restoration, still conserves a certain trace of slenderness which carried an implicit message from its sculptor. This was meant to show that the Virgin "was not suffering from goitre", an endemic ailment in times gone by and one that was often to be found in areas like this, far from the sea and with a diet low in iodine. Santa María del Cebreiro offers her motherly welcome to all pilgrims going to Santiago...being to each and every one "light in the darkness, shade from the heat, relief in the midst of fatigue, refuge from surrounding dangers, comfort in the face of discouragement..." This prayer mirrors one of the most moving pieces of the pilgrim blessing which is daily imparted to pilgrims making their way to Compostela. "...come with us, oh Holy Mary, as we walk, come..." The discomforts of the Camino de Santiago grow lighter under the guiding hand of the Virgin.

### **Notes:**

1. The Camino de Santiago enters the area of El Bierzo by crossing the famously wild pass at Foncebadón close to the Cruz de Ferro, and leaves it by this other remote mountain pass which is El Cebreiro on the threshold of Galicia.

2. Its pilgrim hospital dates from the year 836 according to P. Yepes. Subsequently, King Alfonso the Sixth put the French Aurillac monks related to the order of Cluny in charge of running it.

# Did you walk the whole way?

Philip Constantine

What does the word “camino” signify to you? Just a route? A journey, or a pilgrimage? A noun as well as a verb: you walk the walk. John Brierley, if memory serves, is generous enough to describe even the tourists as “pilgrims”. How much of a pilgrimage is it if you only walked 100 km? Or didn’t walk at all and let the tour bus and the taxi cab do the work for you? Is it more or less, or equally worthy if you get on your bike? And where’s it all going to end? Santiago? Finisterre? Back home?

Long journeys such as pilgrimages, undertaken during what we call The Middle Ages, would have involved real hardship and danger, and would have of course taken much longer to complete. I have a picture in my mind of pilgrims in sackcloth making the camino on their knees, falling down time and again, prostrating themselves. Imagine doing that, your heart full of love and penance, short of food and money, as bandits come dashing out of the woods to rob you and beat you. Now that’s a pilgrimage.

You see. Already I am guilty of social competition myself. Didn’t I ask in the opening paragraph about the relative merits of walking just 100 km when others are striving for 700? (Sorry, 800. No, 1000: those guys came from Le Puy.) Is my inclination to judge simply a basic human failing, or am I feeling defensive, confronted by those who walked from deep inside France, or even started from their own front door?

Social competition rears its ugly head – ugly for those of us who fancy ourselves on a spiritual journey – before we even set out. First, you have to go to the shop and buy the right gear. Before departure, I remember glancing at a pilgrim forum into which certain ladies were spreading anxiety about appearances. (Friends, we are wearing backpacks and ponchos: fashion goes by on the other side). Competition continues after we return home, even in the pages of this very Bulletin. A man writes about his homeward journey, walking from Spain to England. This decision apparently came about as a result of his being challenged by a friend with the obvious truth that pilgrims of medieval times didn’t have the luxury of flying home. Verily, but as

I observed whilst following the path from St Jean Pied-de-Port this summer, given the option, I bet they would have been only too happy to avail themselves of a contraption capable of getting there and back in a day.

**“It’s not a race, you know.”**

I can remember these words drifting back to me as a troop of Irish, very determined with calves of teak, shot off up the hill on the Napoléon route as I stood pondering which way to commence my journey. Soon they were out of sight and I felt the truth of that statement. It’s not a race, not for me. I’ve already lost. Experienced hill walkers tripping over the mountains, blissfully unencumbered by rucksacks of any dimension. The bags had gone ahead in a taxi. Think about that one; say it in your own mind: the bags have gone in a taxi, while their owners walk all the way. Put that reality of human behaviour beside the man who flies to Santiago (Madrid, actually) and promptly walks home again; the medieval pilgrims would have regarded such behaviour, if it could be satisfactorily explained to them, as completely unbelievable. Then again, they might also have wondered at a quarter of a million backpackers following the Camino Francés when many are not Christians, some have no religious belief at all; in an era when almost nobody expects miracles of old bones.

There are many virtues, many kindnesses and much fellowship to be found on the camino, whichever route you take, but what really unites the travellers is the sudden, irrepressible desire to do something daft. If you are not Catholic, you don’t believe the remains of St James are kept in Santiago, or if they are that they can work miracles as religious relics, but this isn’t just a walking holiday, then what are you hoping for? For my part, I was hoping that the sheer (not mere) act of walking such a long way, every day for a month or more, would enable a change of consciousness, a fresh perspective on my life, maybe new pathways into the future. Did I fail at the first hurdle by flying out to Biarritz, taking the train to St Jean?

Wait, wait. It gets worse.

**“Oh. You’re one of those.”**

So says the strapping young undergraduate, blond and athletic, when he learns of my shameless behaviour. Yes, dear reader, I did walk too boldly on Day 1, my knee began to protest during the steep descent to Roncesvalles and, yes indeed, the following day I and another gentleman (also with a knee) shared a taxi down to Larrasoaña. Actually, he went ahead to a clinic in Pamplona: I got out and started



walking again. (*Is that all?*) No, there's more. I also took a bus, Los Arcos to Logroño, just for the hell of it. (*Brand him! There were others on the bus? Brand them too!*) And I dumped a couple of stages getting the train into León. (*That's enough, lad. Burn your compostela.*)

All told, I only walked seven hundred kilometres. Not one thousand. Not two thousand from Great Britain. Aided and abetted by trekking poles. And with what everyone kept groping to be a lightweight pack – nothing to compare with the silly beard I observed sprinting 100 m in the midday sun, carrying (allegedly) 100 kilos on his back. Makes you think of the wheelchair story, or the pilgrim who crossed the Pyrenees with a stove.

For the record, I don't think the blond student found the time or inclination to walk all the way home to his own country. Whatever conditions any one of us set ourselves, it doesn't really compare with the mendicant travelling on charity alone. I certainly turn my gaze quizzically towards anyone who asks me if I walked 'the whole way'. What whole way? There are many ways to Santiago, all of different lengths. One should be prepared to turn back on Day 2 if one has already been blessed with a moment of clarity.

All that matters is this: did you find what you were looking for on *your* camino? Never mind from where or how fast you went. The camino is a mirror held up to one's life. You are given a path to follow and at the same time you step aside and perceive with greater clarity who you are. I reaffirmed some of my ideas, but also made new discoveries. For all that, I was too competitive. I walked too fast. I made it to Santiago, but in a way, I missed it, rushing hither and thither – first the Compostela, then off to Mass, a bed for the night, the Cotalaya, postcards to post, farewells to be made, etc.

Next time, I intend to savour the journey, give more of my time and tread softly. After all, it's not a race, you know.

# How was Compostela for you?

Diane Ralph

**F**antastic, memorable, unbeatable, extraordinary, wonderful – some of the reactions of the pilgrims who completed the last section of the 116 km walk from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, on the way of St James – El Camino – in May of last year.

Early in 2013 the trip was suggested as a way to celebrate the centenary of our Parish in Pinner and arrangements were started by Father Robert and our parish secretary. The inevitable list at the back of the church proved there was sufficient interest and a meeting was held by interested parties. This was the first of many get-togethers to discuss strategy, training, clothing and other necessary matters in which we were helped by not only a few who had made the trip before, but by a parishioner who regularly walks long distances in aid of St Luke's hospice. Small groups formed to train together and one group regularly met on Saturday mornings to walk 7 or 8 miles. Ruislip Lido figured regularly on these walks, where they stopped for refreshment.

The day of departure arrived and 37 travellers, many wearing their walking boots and carrying rucksacks as cabin baggage, set off by coach to London Airport for the flight to Sarria in northern Spain. A two hour coach journey brought us to one of our many excellent two star hotels. A lovely meal was awaiting us with limitless free wine and we went to bed enthusiastically and with some apprehension about starting our walk the next morning.

Father Robert had produced a Pilgrims' book containing hymns and prayers for use at our daily Masses which we could attend if we were not too exhausted after that day's walk. These were inevitably held before dinner each evening usually in a little area set aside for us in the dining room – although on one evening when the hotel had no such facility we were offered the use of the local nightclub for our Mass. We soon looked forward to these peaceful interludes at the end of the day and together with twins Father Hugh and Father Francis Preston, the three fully robed priests produced a different theme each evening.

On the first morning we had a group photograph before walking a short distance to the church of *Santa Mariña* where we sat outside and had a blessing for our endeavours to come. The group soon split up into small groups or as individuals to walk to Portomarín – our next stop.

Our luggage was collected from each hotel and transported to the next place to await our arrival and we took only our back-packs containing essentials for the day – water, suntan cream, etc. The most important item we carried was our Pilgrim passport for the *sellos*, which enables you to receive a certificate of completion on arrival at Santiago pilgrim office. The route was clearly signposted by yellow arrows or scallop shells on the ground, on walls of buildings, on trees and even on church floors. The route was served by many little refreshment halts serving drinks, food and souvenirs. Some private houses left water and fruit at their gates with the words *Buen Camino*, in return for a small donation.

Invariably people walked at their own pace – from some who were up and gone before most people were even awake and others who always arrived at the destination before everyone else and were kind enough to retrace their steps to offer a little encouragement to the slow ones – or were ready and waiting at the end with a welcome drink.

On our first day, having walked through beautiful Galician scenery and little hamlets and being greeted by locals with “*Buen Camino*”, we were fortunate to see many wild flowers, an unidentified bird (later we were informed by a group of Swedish people that it was a stork) and many *hórreos* – grain storage huts built on stilts to protect against frost, mice etc. and only found in Galicia. We were to see many of these over the next days. At the end of the route – which was down a wooded path, and a steep slope with large boulders, before another uphill mile to go across a river – and before arriving at the hotel, two of us called for a taxi, too exhausted to do the last little bit. On day two we awoke to drizzle but, undaunted, set off on an uphill climb. Of the many available halts we came across, one with a large sign offered FREE HUGS. We took advantage of the offer from a charming gentleman and also took advantage of the use of his superb loos.

On subsequent days, we saw wild orchids, heard frogs and tried eating octopus stew. We met many different people, all walking for their own reasons. There was a tattooed young man making the pilgrimage with his grandfather; a group of Irish girls who always seemed to choose the same coffee stops as us; George – travelling alone on his third attempt to complete this section as ill health had prevented him from doing so before; and two lovely Australians who became honorary members of our party. A very elegant man was also making the pilgrimage on a beautiful horse. By the time we reached Arzúa, gels and ointments were being used to ease muscles, and thank heavens for Compeed!

Dinner that evening culminated in the waiter producing a large bowl

which he proceeded to fill with a local liqueur and then promptly set alight – all the cameras came out.

The last walking day to Santiago was 21 km. Two of the group were picked up after some kilometres and hopped a few more by car to the outskirts of Santiago. Here brass scallop shells directed them through the industrial outskirts of the town until they arrived at the entrance to the old city. They were delighted to come across a group of St Luke's weekenders – parishioners who had flown out to join the walking pilgrims – enjoying the sun in a pavement café.

Gradually the rest of the walking group started to arrive – in dribs and drabs – and once everyone was settled in the hotel and after a little free time, we all met in a little chapel inside the Cathedral



Parishioners on the move to Santiago

of St James for our own group Mass. This was a definite highlight of the trip. We filled the small chapel and were joined by George and the two Australians all feeling proud and satisfied that we had accomplished

what we set out to do. The singing of hymns at that Mass was outstanding and had our choir mistress been there she would have tried to recruit the whole group for the choir.

For Sunday Mass in the Cathedral, we had requested and contributed a donation towards having the *Botafumeiro* swung. It takes six burly men to pull on the ropes that raise and swing the *Botafumeiro*. It spilled incense in a huge arc above the congregation. We arrived early just as the previous Mass was nearing the end and were able to see the *Botafumeiro* swung for that Mass. We then took up seats at the front as they were vacated, so we were in prime position for our "own Mass". Our Australian friends were delighted that the Mass was officiated by their own Cardinal Pell, and they even managed to speak to him afterwards. Fathers Robert, Francis and Hugh concelebrated Mass making it extra special. When

the moment arrived, we were somewhat surprised to have hot burning incense carried on a tray between the rows next to us. No 'Health-and-Safety' here. Soon the incense was spreading through the cathedral as the great burner swung to and fro – a fitting finale.

In the meantime, our parish secretary had obtained our certificates which were duly presented to us at our finale dinner on Sunday evening. We took over a recommended local restaurant where it had to be said the size of the drinks rivalled those we had experienced before. Course after course arrived with the now customary free wine. Speeches were made by Father Robert and both he and Fathers Francis and Hugh were presented with the T- shirts bought earlier in the week and, with great good fun, they promptly put them on. Danuta replied on our behalf and thanked Pat for all her hard work. Pat was presented with a gift from us all.

Monday was our day of departure – with just enough free time for shopping in the morning before our flight back to London. So how to sum it all up? Impossible. A fabulous experience. Making new friends and getting to know existing friends better. A terrific feeling of camaraderie. This report could only touch on a few of our experiences and events; but comments from some of the pilgrims sum up the experiences:

“It was a life-changing few days which can never be repeated. Calm, peace, prayerfulness and fun in eight days of perfect weather. The smell and quietness of walking through the eucalyptus forests, the smiles from the elderly people digging their crops in the fields, the fresh orange juice at the many little cafes where we got our passports stamped (I got the most by the way – 49).”

**Ed Note:** This is an adapted account of an organised pilgrimage by the parish of St Luke, Pinner, to Santiago de Compostela.

# From Assisi to Rome: or how to achieve *Perfect Joy*\*

Gosia Brykczyńska with Sheila and Russell McGuirk

Sometimes it's rather risky to follow dreams. The experience may be fulfilling and wonderful, but also accompanied by unexpected adventures and escapades. All I wanted was to walk, not climb or – God forbid – exert myself, from the charming medieval town of Assisi in Umbria to the Vatican in Rome and ultimately the church of San Francesco a Ripa in Trastevere, where Francis stayed when he visited Rome. In my mind this was to be a 250 km spiritual stroll through some of Italy's most fetching landscapes. I had talked about my dream sufficiently that I agreed with CSJ friends Sheila and Russell McGuirk to go on a pilgrimage from the tomb of St Francis to the tomb of St Peter.

Russell sorted out all the logistics, such as maps, guide-books and accommodation. Unlike the caminos in Spain, there are not many *albergues* along the way so it was advisable to organise our lodgings in advance. The three monasteries/convents we stayed in were excellent – just what tired pilgrims needed; and the Franciscan pilgrim refuge Romita di Cesi, nestling in the woods, with limited electricity and minimal connection to the outside world, was a definite high-point. While Russell took care of the practical arrangements, I prepared a hymn-book, our pilgrim-shells painted with the Franciscan Tau, and bought a packet of dried fruit – just in case hunger should overtake us somewhere.

Before we left, we consulted the CSJ oracle, Marigold Fox, who forewarned me emphatically, mentioning the dreaded word “elevations” and the ominous “need for much hiking up-and-down hills”; but I dreamt on, oblivious to all warnings, imagining only the beautiful frescoed chapels and churches, lush valleys resplendent with wild-flowers and butterflies and, of course, the excuse for having good Italian food and wine... and thus we set off.

Our St Francis Way pilgrim passports (acquired by post from the Pilgrim Office in Assisi) were stamped at our local churches before we left. The next stamp was from the pilgrim office in Assisi where we met the writer of our guide-book, a rather poetic and exuberant lady called Angela, who lives in Assisi. Her book turned out to be somewhat vague about lengths of time,

directions and distances. It did not take us long to realise that she might be a dedicated promoter of the Umbrian countryside but not the best guide-book writer, especially in the absence of reliable way-marking. There are detailed guide-books in German and Dutch, but no English versions of these. (The excellent Kompass map of Foligno, Spoleto, Terni and Valnerina was indispensable for the early stages). In the meantime Cicerone Publications have just come out with a new English language guide-book (which will be reviewed in the December Bulletin). But Angela was enthusiastic, delightful and really keen about the *Via di Francesco* so we were happy to have met her.

There is no single path from Assisi to Rome, and even the intermittent way-markings assume more than one route. Our particular route went by way of Spello, through Foligno to Trevi, then ancient Spoleto with its unforgettable Romanesque Basilica of St Gregorio, followed by small hill-top



Leaving Romita di Cesi

towns like Collescipoli and Stroncone (with a church that could rival Brompton Oratory), through to delightful Greccio where St Francis first set up a nativity scene. On the way to Rieti we visited La Foresta.

In Rieti we stayed with Rita Giovannelli at her B&B in the centre of that historic town. Rita speaks excellent English and has

devoted much of her life to promoting *The Way of St Francis to Rome*. She was happy to indicate the route for us from Rieti to Rome. She also gave us each a compact guide-book with integral maps for the second leg of our journey – which were at least better than anything we had found ourselves.

Rieti is a medium sized town which was well known to St Francis. Here he met several times with Popes – as the papal court was based there for a while – the last time with Pope Honorius III. It was also here that Francis (in the spirit of obedience to his superiors) came in 1224 for treatment of a serious eye ailment from the papal physician. This was towards the end of his life, and being very frail, he went from Rieti to close-by La Foresta,

which was then only a humble priest's home, for convalescence. One story recounts how the local people, having found out that Francis was staying there, came in such crowds to visit him that they trampled all over the poor priest's vineyard. Needless to say, after a few prayers and sighs by Francis to the Lord of the Vineyard, the harvest that year was better than ever before... Today the place is run by a community of young people recovering from addictions.

From Rieti we did a detour via Cantalice to Poggio Bustone where there is another Franciscan sanctuary and a conventual chapel dedicated to St James. The guidebook gave the impression that it was a straightforward walk, but adventures had a way of creeping up on us. When we left Cantalice we missed a crucial turning, going instead up a steep mountain path in heavy rain, with thunder and lightning threatening all-around. I was behind the others, and when I got to the turn a woman appeared who yelled at me frantically from the window of her house. I told my companions, but they dismissed the lady's intervention as mere local colour. In short, what should have been a two-hour walk into Poggio Bustone became a four-hour drama up a mountain-side. Nothing but "*Perfect Joy*" there! We were wet, tired and stropy as we climbed to over 1000 metres and still no village in sight, though we met some farmers who reassured that ahead there was a way through to Poggio Bustone. By a joint miracle of St Francis and St James, we were rescued off the mountain when we had already turned back due to the timely appearance of a man who was going up the mountain in his four-wheel drive, to check on some horses... Back at the fateful turning he invited us into his house for English tea and to dry out and recover. And yes, the frantic yelling from the window had come from his house and had been aimed at us after all. The next day Sheila and I sang *Amazing Grace* with much feeling, especially when we came to the lines: *I once was lost but now am found...*

Going through places associated with St Francis proved challenging because he liked to stay on remote high hill-tops or hidden away in caves (generally also on high hill-tops). The first such hermitage we stopped at – Eremo delle Carceri – only a few kilometres past Assisi, was a good indication of what lay ahead for me. Whereas everyone else managed to get into and around the caves and oratory and humble monastery – to marvel at the poverty of it all – I somehow got stuck in a doorway! I know in hindsight that I should have taken my rucksack off and then proceeded to visit – but I didn't and got wedged in one of the narrow, low, doorways and had to be physically unstuck by my fellow pilgrims! But we got a lovely stamp from the Franciscan in the sacristy. (No need to wax lyrical here about the symbolic





View of Rieti Valley

interpretation of that adventure.) Likewise, on the very first day of walking I fell spectacularly three times. Walking up and down hills just does not agree with me. I didn't fall again, but I twisted my

index finger the first time and it's still sore today! On the plus side, our feet were fine: none of us suffered much from blisters.

Wherever we went we got our pilgrim stamps. People were happy to give us their *timbri* (the Italian for *sellos*) as if they, too, were participating in our pilgrimage. One newly opened B&B in Ponticelli had not yet organised its own stamp and so we have the proprietor's signature instead. That particular B&B was located near the pilgrim path and had spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. Other times we had to deviate a bit from the path in order to reach our night's stay, as was the case outside Poggio San Lorenzo. Outside Greccio, we stayed in a farm-house, and Sheila prepared our evening meal. It was most agreeable. Every night was different, from beds in once-palatial apartments and B&Bs or hotels, to a shared room in a convent, to friars' cells in the Franciscan hermitage.

One day Sheila managed to lop off at least five kilometres from what would have been a rather long hike by closely examining the map. We also managed to shorten considerably the entry into Rome, by walking along the wide and tree-lined Via Nomentana direct from Montesacro to the centre of the city (no nasty suburbs or industrial estates) instead of going along the Tiber river-bank, as most guide-books suggest. The crowning moment was receiving our "Testimonium" on arrival in St Peter's Square.

I would certainly recommend the *Via di Francesco* to anyone who, having already walked the camino in Spain, would like to explore pilgrim routes in other countries. It is not a cheap holiday; nor is it a particularly well way-marked route. Overall there was very little street walking or in built-up areas; but once or twice where this was the case we had to be very

Careful. Large trucks simply do not see scurrying pilgrims along the verges; and when it rains this becomes a scary scenario. The over-riding memory is of beautiful countryside, exquisite churches and chapels (most of which were open and almost all had evening services), and quaint medieval towns; and it certainly is not yet crowded. Although we followed Franciscan trails, a surprising number of churches on the way were dedicated to St James – as if to keep the Confraternity flag flying... The food was great and we had some excellent wines. We also discovered (in no small part due to the unseasonably hot weather) the delights of Italian beer. Neither did language pose a particular problem for us – even though I kept on saying *Hola*, to everyone I met. Only on the last day, as we entered Rome, did I finally remember to say – *Buongiorno!* It certainly helped that Russell spoke some Italian.

The *Via di Francesco* is a typical pilgrimage route, over undulating terrain. Towards the end I groaned at the very thought of having to go up yet another hill/mountain to see yet another hermitage of St Francis. We came away, however, inspired to find out more about St Francis, who was obviously so much more complex and fascinating a personality than the saccharine, animal-loving, itinerant friar portrayed for us in simplistic hagiographies. Francis was a gritty, strong-willed, but ultimately shy person, who was prepared to endure much for his principles; who practised severe penance, who had a deep appreciation of the Blessed Sacrament and who promoted a new understanding of the gospel. He spent much time in prayerful contemplation; and he loved the Church in spite of all its failings. He was a very reluctant founder of the Franciscan order. He was very much a troubadour at heart and loved to sing in French, ballads and poetry. He was also extremely sensitive, so no wonder he wrote such beautiful prayers about nature and was so sympathetic to all creation.

In conclusion, I will give the last word to the Poverello himself:

*“...Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.*

*Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of You; through those who endure sickness and trial. Happy those who endure in peace, for by You, Most High, they will be crowned...”*

\* St Francis had the habit, when he was in trouble, of saying to his brothers: “This is of no consequence. For when you bear all hardships with patience, that is Perfect Joy!” The feast of St Francis is celebrated on 4 October.

# **Report on First Global Conference in Galicia of Friends of The Way of St James Associations Held in Santiago from 4-6 June 2015**

Priscilla White

The first conference to be held by the St James's Way Associations was attended by 29 countries from around the world, with 150 associations and 350 delegates. It provided an excellent opportunity for the delegates to exchange views about the challenges and opportunities facing the Associations along the caminos to Santiago.

There were three or four excellent speeches interspersed with lengthy talks by representatives of various Associations who used the platform solely to advertise their own particular routes with little input for solutions to challenges. However, the get together at meals provided ample time for discussions with the other delegates and an opportunity to glean valuable information.

We were made very welcome and the conference was held in a comfortable and spacious auditorium. Some interesting trips were organised – a guided tour of the new City of Culture building showing an exhibition on St James, as well as a visit to the exhibition of “St Frances and his Time”.

The hotel San Martín Pinario provided us with first class food and comfortable rooms. It was very pleasant to sit out in the courtyard of the cloister and enjoy the sunshine.

On Saturday morning we watched a showing of the documentary “Walking the Camino” by Lydia Smith. This is a very moving film which was extremely well received, many of the delegates comparing it favourably to “The Way”. Lydia was pleased that many of her DVDs were sold after the film.

Later, on a hot and sunny afternoon, the delegates walked from Monte de Gozo to Santiago, followed by a moving ceremony at the old pilgrim cemetery where we remembered pilgrims who were buried there, and names of the pilgrims who have died in 2015 were read out.

Flowers were placed by the side of the church in memory of those who did not make it back home, whilst a cellist played and a bass singer from Madrid sang a pilgrim chant.

At the Pilgrim Mass on Saturday evening, officiated by the Dean of Santiago Cathedral, we witnessed the *Botafumeiro* being swung and the delegates were placed so that we could watch the incense burner swinging over our heads. After the Mass, the delegates sang “*Chant des pèlerins de Compostelle*”, words and music by J.C Benazet.

The Conference ended with drinks and canapés at the Parador (Hostal dos Reis Católicos) with medieval music provided by the Parador, much enjoyed by all the delegates.

## CONFERENCE

The President of the Xunta of Galicia, *Alberto Núñez Feijóo*, opened the conference and expressed his thanks for the volunteer work of the thousands of pilgrims who joined Associations in order to give something back to the Way of St James. He described the Camino as offering a spiritual and historical legacy like no other in the world and he wished to emphasise the on-going lesson in tolerance and harmony brought to life by the pilgrimage to Santiago.

The Director of the Galicia Tourist Board, *María Nava Castro Domínguez*, said that the conference would offer opportunities to establish a forum to exchange information about the pilgrimage to Santiago and reinforce the tolerance and openness of the people along the Camino.

The Director of the Xestión do Plan Xacobeo, *Rafael Sánchez Bargiela*, thanked all the volunteers for their work in putting up signage along the pilgrims routes, researching their history and in welcoming and assisting pilgrims in the hostels. He acknowledged their efforts to benefit the camino and its pilgrims and hoped that the International Pilgrims’ Welcome Centre in collaboration with the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela would contribute to this essential partnership.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

*Jeannine Warcollier*, Secretary General of the Société Française des Amis de Saint Jacques de Compostelle, the first worldwide association founded in France in July 1950.

*Javier Caamaño Eraso*, President of the Friends of the Way of St James Association in Estella, whose first association was founded in Spain in March 1962. Both spoke eloquently about the history of their associations with much reference to Elias Valiña, and their talks were received with great applause.

*Adeline Rucquoi*, President of the Société Française des Amis de Saint Jacques de Compostelle, spoke eloquently about the history of the Amis and the work carried out in the early days to re-establish the caminos through France. She told her audience that the initial close ties between the Church and the major national associations have grown weaker over time. This has led to ecclesiastical initiatives that have created a sort of parallel camino with their "Christian welcome" pilgrimages organised by dioceses and magazines or websites. However, the pioneering associations in France, Italy, England and Germany focus on offering a human welcome to all pilgrims, Christian or not, along the routes and on their arrival in Santiago.

She continued by discussing how the public authorities wished to promote routes to Compostela, with the aim of developing the regions crossed by these routes. Thus tourism is beginning to prevail over pilgrimage and the camino is becoming a walker's goal, creating complaints from hoteliers about "competition" from hostels and private *albergues*.

Adeline ended her talk by saying that the pioneers of the '50s and '60s should be proud of the work they created and built and can congratulate themselves on the vitality of the world of the camino 65 years later.

## GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

Thirty delegates were invited to speak over the three-day conference. Most of them described their Associations, where they are situated, when they were established, number of members, how they communicate and what activities they hold, as well as the challenges they face. The conference was well represented by overseas' Associations – North and South America; South Africa; Australia; South Korea and most of the countries of Europe.

The common theme was the temporary nature of the membership and how to encourage pilgrims to remain members once they had completed their pilgrimage, thus ensuring a steady number and income; and the competition with internet information, especially

with younger people who have often decided to go on pilgrimage at the last moment with no knowledge or understanding of what is required, thereby missing the face-to-face information they could gain. Another topic brought up time and again was the disappointment and frustration felt by the pilgrims who were unable to visit churches on the camino as nearly all of them were shut.

Safety was another issue discussed by the delegates, particularly by *Diego Yoon*, President of the South Korean Association. He said that he has opened an office in Madrid to welcome pilgrims from South Korea. For this reason, many of them walk from Madrid to Santiago but they have encountered some threatening behaviour and hostility along the way. He suggested an “app” to be uploaded onto a smart phone which will identify the position of the nearest waymark should a pilgrim get into trouble. Reference was also made to an American pilgrim who disappeared without trace somewhere near Astorga some two months earlier.

Several of the delegates raised the topic of increasing the 100 km to 200 km or more in order to receive a Compostela. It is likely that this will be met with resistance by the Xunta of Galicia and at the moment the Church does not appear to see the need for change.

*Priscilla White*, Trustee of the CSJ representing the President *Colin Jones*, spoke about the importance of maintaining the spiritual and religious side of the Camino and voiced concerns about the route being lost to tourism, when it would become just another long-distance walk. (Irritatingly, the slides that I passed to the technicians for uploading to use during my talk somehow didn't appear and they came up on the screen for the subsequent speakers).

*Jorge Martínez Cava*, Vice-President of Jacobean Association of Madrid gave a history of the magazine “Peregrino” with many references to Elias Valiña, and copies of the 2012/2013 publication were inserted in our welcome packs, containing a great deal of data and analysis about pilgrim numbers and modes of journey. All past publications are available on the “Peregrino” website – <http://www.caminosantiago.org>

*Ana Barreda*, Hospitality Programme of the Spanish Federation of Friends of the Way of St James, spoke comprehensively about the training of hospitaleros carried out by her Programme and the difficulty of maintaining a large pool of volunteers who are willing to work in the albergues. She is hoping to persuade volunteers to open churches for some part of the day for pilgrims to visit and receive

a stamp and a figure of 50 churches was mentioned.

*Juan Carlos Pérez*, President of the Association of the Association of Friends of the Way of St James of Astorga and its Region, gave an important speech that was extremely well received by the delegates. He mentioned the invaluable work of Elias Valiña with his yellow arrow signage and the publication "Peregrino" as a medium of unity and information, going on to describe the Jaca Conference that set out the aims of the Associations with regards to signage, hostels, training and research.

*Juan Carlos* went on to make 6 important points about the camino:

1. The necessity of unifying the signposts of yellow arrows in the countryside and of having one direction for the scallop shells in the towns. Some town councils have added their own coloured signage and have even diverted paths to go through their villages.
2. Publicly owned pilgrim hostels must be simple and clean and some historic buildings could be converted into hostels.
3. Bridges or wooden walkways are needed to cross streams, to include bridges over new roads and railway lines.
4. Safe passable areas that coincide with roads in order to avoid the continued occurrence of tragic accidents.
5. Information about environmental protection to help promote respect for their surroundings among pilgrims.
6. Broadening the final 100 kilometres for those pilgrims who wish to obtain the Compostela will not eliminate overcrowding in the final section of the route but will improve relations amongst pilgrims and their environment.

His speech covered many relevant topics and was received with an enthusiastic ovation.

# Obituaries

## **Irene Lawson 1926-2013 RIP**

Irene Lawson joined CSJ in 1983, the first year of CSJ life. She was interested in medieval history and took part in some of the first study visits to Santiago. Her luggage even included a jar of English marmalade to present to Señor J-M Ballesteros who ran the Tourist office in Santiago and guided the early pilgrims expertly around the old city. Irene's enthusiasm for St James and her infectious laugh enlivened all the many events she took part in in those early years.

## **Bernard Rudden 1933-2015 RIP**

We send our condolences to Nancy Rudden on the death of her husband Bernard in March. The Times Obituary headline summed Bernard up as a "legal polymath who published extensively on Soviet law". This is not exactly how we remember him. He and Nancy travelled extensively, including at least once a year to give university courses in the US. They shared a love of poetry and music. Nancy came on many CSJ visits to Spain and shared her knowledge of Cornwall as a daughter of Penzance.

## **Gillian Clarke 1941-2015 RIP**

Gillian Clarke was a medieval historian and could have had an important academic career, had she not married Kenneth Clarke, a lawyer who later became a Tory MP. They shared a passion for visiting 12th century churches in England and France and flowers and bird watching among other things. She joined the CSJ in 1985. A skilled needlewoman and embroiderer, Gillian showed her 1994 work, *Ruta Jacobea*, at an exhibition at the Garden Museum just on the doorstep of Lambeth Palace. The work depicted St James and pilgrim figures taken from French manuscripts on a winding road through decorative countryside – see article from Bulletin 52 reproduced below. She kindly lent it to CSJ on several occasions, including our Art Exhibition in Guildford Cathedral held in 2006. We also have sets of 6 postcards depicting scenes from the quilt available from the CSJ shop: the whole scene and then details of pilgrims and St James.

In 1995, while we were fundraising for Rabanal, Gillian hoped she would be able to "do something" for the Confraternity. While Ken was still Chancellor she invited Mary Remnant to give a fund





Gillian Clarke with Mary Remnant

raising Lecture Recital on the Musical Road to Santiago in the State Room at 11 Downing Street. The choir were delighted to attend earlier in the afternoon for a rehearsal and enjoyed tea and coffee in a modest kitchen. The guests included the Spanish Ambassador Don Alberto Arias and his wife Lally who played the *organistrum* together. Mary's drums even had a brief sojourn in the Clarkes' airing cupboard. The evening

raised over £1300 towards the Rabanal Appeal.

Gillian had other important roles, encouraging more women to become involved in politics and she became president of the European Union of Women.

## A Pilgrim Quilt

Gillian Clarke

This hanging was made for the Quilts UK Exhibition, held in Malvern in May 1994. The special theme class was "Stars" and it spurred me on to make the Compostella pilgrim piece I had been considering for some time. It shows pilgrims making their way through a mountainous landscape until they reach the point where they first see the city and cathedral in the distance. The figure of St James, benevolently overseeing the pilgrims, is based on a picture of St James with a donor in the Forster Hours<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The book of Hours is in the Victoria & Albert Museum; the illustration published in *A Medieval Book of Seasons* by Marie Collins and Virginia Davis (Sidgwick and Jackson, 1991)

The pilgrims are from various manuscripts – and not all were originally pilgrims to St James. The first couple (reading from the left) were pilgrims to Rome, and appear in a pontifical now in Utrecht University Library<sup>2</sup>. The next two pairs of pilgrims, and the lone figure toiling up the mountain, are all from the Book of Hours of Marguerite of Orléans<sup>3</sup>. Dr Mary Remnant kindly gave me a copy of the page where they appear, after I had admired them at her lecture-recital. Finally, the two couples near the top of the mountain are from the Book of Hours of Peter II, Duke of Brittany<sup>4</sup> and are taken from a scene of pilgrims arriving at Mont St Michel. Perhaps they later travelled to Compostella?

All the pilgrim illuminations are of much the same date – indeed, the women from the two Books of Hours are wearing similar hoods. It was obviously very practical headgear for a pilgrimage, like the straw hat of the woman pilgrim to Rome and the men's wide-brimmed hats. All, of course, have staffs and pouches, and the small cask carried by one of the men must have been both useful and welcome.

The hanging is not quite finished. I intend to add some more quilting and give all the pilgrims, and St James himself, their cockleshell badges. As often happens, the deadline for the exhibition came a little too soon, and I have been doing other work since. The kind interest shown in the hanging by the Confraternity will make me eager to complete the work as soon as possible.

*Bulletin No 52 pp 14 – 17 February 1995*

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2 Utrecht Universiteitsbibliotheek MS 4001, published in **The Golden Age of Dutch Manuscript Painting**, the catalogue of a New York exhibition, published by George Braziller in 1990

3 Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale MS Latin 1165B

4 Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale MS Latin 1159; the illustration published in **Books of Hours and Their Owners** by John Hartham (Thames and Hudson, 1977)

# Rabanal Report

Julie Davies

Hospitaleros over the summer: Hope Nicholson (UK), Finola McGrath (UK), Noel Braun (AUS); Barbara Woolner (CAN), Donna Michael (CAN); Elaine Hopkins (UK), Elizabeth and Tom Brandt (USA); Gilbert Cabergs (BEL), Antonio Sánchez Tejero (ESP), Paul Murray (UK).

**H**ospitaleros this season have coped with spectacular weather. Temperatures have ranged from freezing to tropical. Thunder storms with accompanying hail were so intense as to put out of action the office telephone, for several days. Later in the season, brutal temperatures soared to 40 degrees. Hospitaleros brought forward the time for breakfast so pilgrims could leave early to get valuable kilometres completed before the heat of the day took its toll.

The *hospitaleros* have creatively and with much goodwill, patience and humour mowed cockle shells and heart shapes on the grass in the huerta; baked biscuits and cakes; made Gaucelmo look cared for and beautiful with flowers from the garden; created iced tea recipes to hydrate overheated and tired pilgrims; extricated bed bugs from nooks and crannies whilst balancing precariously on top of bunk beds and generally looked after strangers with as much love and concern as if they were close friends. Many thanks to them all.

This year many pilgrims have returned to stay at Gaucelmo. In May this year I met five that had stayed at Gaucelmo when I was a *hospitalera* in 2014. One, on returning to the USA did some *hospitalero* training, and returned to Spain to be a *hospitalera*. But she was not anxious to repeat the experience ever, ever again! At the beginning of August, *hospitalera* Betty met Robert from the USA, a pilgrim she had registered in 2013! Pilgrims Thomas and Maria stayed at Gaucelmo shortly after it opened in 1991 – back then they were just dating. This year, during July, they returned as a pilgrim family bringing their children Pablo (14) and Maria (11). A new generation of pilgrims was being introduced to the camino and Gaucelmo.

Saint James's Day is very significant to pilgrims. For Imelda and Enrique July 25th will always have a place in their hearts. They met at Gaucelmo on July 25th, 2014 and were married a year later on St James's Day, 2015. They arrived to have their photographs taken at Gaucelmo just after tea time several days later (shame they missed the tuna

empanada the *hospitaleros* shared with pilgrims on St James's Day). Everyone loved the occasion – joy, happiness and many smiles.

Joy and happiness seems to feature at tea-time also. John, an ex-hospitalero from Ireland, but staying now as a pilgrim, travels with a tin whistle. Tea time was a good opportunity to serenade pilgrims with an Old Irish air. Pilgrims in turn contributed their National Anthems. Brother Marinus sang the Bavarian, there were offerings from Brazil, Ireland and an attempt at the Uganda anthem, plus many more.

Pilgrims often remark how clean and well-appointed Gaucelmo is. They appreciate the detail to make pilgrims lives easier, e.g. hooks in the showers, pegs on the clothes line, soap in the outside washing areas. To keep Gaucelmo “ship shape” we are so fortunate to have Dave Arthur who is Gaucelmo's Property Co-ordinator. After a letter from *Correos* informing us we needed a letter box, he put a smart red one on the front door. During several visits this season he has brought 10 new chairs, 4 new gas heaters, co-ordinated with the plumber to install new toilets and organised revamping of the chimney breast and fire in the salon. Thanks to his efforts, a comment in the Visitors' Book read: “This is a 5 star Albergue.”



Family and children, Rabanal

It took a pilgrim (a CSJ member even!) to point out that Refugio Gaucelmo is fortunate in having the Monasterio San Salvador de Monte Irago and the church of Santa María as neighbours in such a calm and quiet square. He reminded me that for some pilgrims getting to Cruz de Ferro and placing their stones, for whatever reason, has an important emotional and spiritual significance on many of their journeys. The monastery, the church, the involvement of the pilgrims has all helped create an environment which enables pilgrims to reflect before the next stage of their camino. He described it as being a “preparation”. It's very easy being a *hospitalero* to get caught up in the day to day running of the *Refugio* and to overlook the significance we play in pilgrims' lives – albeit transitory. We are fortunate to work in such a beautiful place where pilgrims have the opportunity, time and peace to “prepare” for the final part of their caminos.

## Gaucelmo Celebration

**G**aucelmo opened its doors for the first time in June 1991 and next year will mark 25 years of service to pilgrims on the Camino Francés. During these years, many CSJ members, and others, have been involved in supporting this bold venture and we are planning a celebration weekend on the **8th, 9th and 10th of July next year, 2016**. This will include a celebratory mass in the *huerta* on the Saturday, followed by a rather special buffet lunch. There will be Maragato dancers and musicians and the showing of a recently rediscovered film from the early years in Rabanal.

We are also planning a concert in the auditorium of the Benedictine monastery, as well as a talk on the early history of Gaucelmo and guided walks in and around the village. Needless to say there will also be plenty of opportunities to visit the various hostelries which have sprung up in the village during the intervening years.

There is a variety of accommodation in the village and a list and contact details can be obtained from Jean at the London office. It is worth mentioning that the refuge will be functioning normally throughout the weekend with pilgrims coming and going each day. However the monastery has kindly reserved their own well-appointed retreat centre for the CSJ to use over the celebration weekend. You will need to make your own travel and accommodation arrangements.

If you are planning to attend, please let our new secretary, Jean, know as she will be keeping a record of names and numbers.

More details to follow in the December bulletin.

# Miraz Report

Richard Jefferies

**I**t is a privilege to join the camino again to enable and empower pilgrims along their journey. As the monument in the Miraz garden says: *Our steps come to an end yet the Camino carries on!*

This year I was called as a relief warden when an accident at a late date prevented our Irish colleagues from service. It was two years since I had last acted as a *hospitalero* and I'd missed this year's training session. So it is that I can report that Miraz works well. There are some technical challenges (as ever) yet we managed to accommodate over two hundred pilgrims in late July. We were heartened by three *ferias* in Miraz and one in Parga (serving tripe and sculpture). In addition, two Polish priests led worship in the church. The Church sparkles with candles and our earlier 2000€ donation was put to good effect. Bed availability has increased in the vicinity and now Helena takes reservations and *mochilas* via *Correos*. So the pressure has reduced to a level that may be coped with by *hospitaleros* yet the pilgrim numbers still increase. There is food in the new tavern, *O'Abrigo* and Pilar has responded with *tortillas* and *tapas*.

We have received over 500 compliments to date in the guest book with three brickbats:

- the reluctance of a single pilgrim to make any donation whatsoever (we did admit he was a clear *indignado y parado*)
- and the absence of a cold shower. (He should have asked and we would have hosed him down in the *lavadero*?)
- the failure of your chairman to speak fluent Italian

The garden area shows promise, albeit the Galician drought has wasted the grass and impacted upon the large apple tree and three other saplings. A single damson was picked from the *prunus* Galicia.

Some gentle reminders to those still to come and feedback to those who served this year.

- The handover sheet is key to continuity and an opportunity to pass on any lessons and feedback. Otherwise Chinese whispers may create confusion.
- The chlorine monitoring is important so try and keep the records up to date.
- Please communicate with the Miraz Committee. The telephone shortcode prefix (1051 for landlines and 10787 for mobiles) means

that it costs little to phone the UK. It can be isolating in Miraz and we are there to help you or for a chat.

- The Froiz supermarket system works well and means that you can stock up with jam and toilet rolls for your successors.

I look forward to seeing you and getting feedback from **your** time in Miraz on **21 November** when your presence is invited for the Returned Hospitaleros Day in London. By the way, Alan Cutbush is already taking bids for 2016 and will welcome any future hospitaleros on that day.

The Committee values your service to pilgrims and welcomes contributions to make our refuge even better.

# Members' Pages

## From Wessex CSJ

In April and early July, some of our members walked from St. James's Church, Avebury, to St. James's Church in Cherhill, and then from there to St. James's Church, Devizes. We were lucky with the weather on both occasions, and more importantly, were greeted by the churchwardens at Cherhill and Devizes. Astonishingly, St. James's Church in Devizes had undergone a make-over and is now a thriving, and growing, part of the community, whilst still holding all the normal church services. Some years ago, CSJ members attended a lecture there, to which a number of people from Salisbury attended. We were absolutely stunned by the transformation from our last visit! Our thanks to churchwarden Noel Woolrych for his enthusiasm and hospitality.

We next plan to visit St. James's Church in Poole, Dorset, on Monday 21st September. Details of how we get there and at what time, are yet to be finalised, and it would be lovely to meet up with any local CSJ members too. The Wessex CSJ are next meeting on **Monday 14th September** and then **Monday 23rd November 2015**. Both meetings start at 11:00 and are held in the Cathedral Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury. The **Park and Ride** bus from Petersfinger (Southampton Road area) stops right outside the hotel! Contact Carole Vose for more information: [carolevose@btinternet.com](mailto:carolevose@btinternet.com)

## From Margaret Merchant – Pilgrim Walk in Fife

On Saturday 20 June, twelve of us gathered in the drizzle to walk from North Queensferry to Dunfermline. First of all, we explored the chapel of St James in North Queensferry, a reminder of the gift from Queen Margaret of a free ferry passage to all pilgrims crossing the River Forth. A guide opened the gate for us and gave us information about it. Built in the 11th century, the parts of the structure that remained had been incorporated into the walls of a small cemetery, so it was not immediately recognisable as a chapel. However, the inscription on the gateway read, "This is done by the sailers of North Ferrie 1752".

Some of us might have been feeling a little depressed because of the weather, but the mood soon lifted as the rain stopped and we began to



get to know each other and enjoy the peace of the beautiful countryside as we walked. Occasional open views across the River Forth, with the railway bridge, the road bridge and the new road bridge under construction, gave way to an industrial area, then the small town of Inverkeithing. Walking on to the outskirts of Rosyth, we sat down on the grass outside Stephen's bakery (a very popular place!) and chatted about Spain. It started to feel like a real camino day. We were halfway to our destination and a little behind time, so we stepped out with renewed vigour, crossing fields and woods, wondering if we were on the right path or if we had missed a sign... Does this all sound familiar? Soon, it seemed, Dunfermline was in sight, the Abbey in



Dunfermline

full view at the top of a hill, our eight mile walk almost over. We made our way towards the Abbey, then lost sight of it as we entered Pittencrieff Park. It was more of a wooded hill than a park, really, with 117 species of trees; we counted the scurrying squirrels and met some dogs, including a husky! Suddenly we were coming out of the park gates, right into the centre of historic Dunfermline, to find our guide waiting for us to tell us all about the shrine dedicated to Saint Margaret, wife of Malcolm III, King of Scotland. The guide explained that the Queen had regularly disappeared from the royal palace to spend time alone with God in a nearby cave.

After a reviving refreshment stop at Abbot House, the guide took us to visit the cave and we had time to reflect on the saintly life of the queen who had a personal devotional life and engaged in deeds of kindness for the poor and needy.

We took a bus back to North Queensferry and our cars, hoping to meet again in July and have another walk in Fife. We also waved off one of our number who was flying to Spain on Tuesday to walk the camino.

The visit was organised by Ken Spittal, to whom thanks are due for a most interesting and enjoyable day. A group photo concluded the visit.

# Book Reviews

*The Pilgrim Road to Trondheim: Oslo to Nidaros Cathedral*, Alison Raju, 279pp, Museums Forlaget, Trondheim, 2015, ISBN 9788283050042, price £22.95; Copy in CSJ Library, available for sale in CSJ Bookshop.

Alison Raju has produced a fine Guide to the St Olav pilgrim routes in Norway, primarily for pilgrims and walkers wanting to follow the route in one go. As in her Guides for Cicerone, she provides comprehensive information on the culture, customs and history, as well as practical advice for those not necessarily familiar with long distance pilgrimage or the Caminos de Santiago.

The routes were declared as European Cultural Itineraries in 2010. The main route is c 650 km from Oslo north to Trondheim. At first the way divides west via Gjørvik or east of the lake via Hamar, converging at Lillehammer. Raju considers the route unsuitable for cyclists. There are excellent Ordnance Survey equivalent maps, at a scale of 1:100000, to make the route easy to follow.

The medieval routes to the burial place of St Olav at Trondheim, formerly known as Nidaros, developed in a similar way to the roads to Santiago, with the establishment of hospitals and chapels as well as “Olav fields”, holy wells and springs and of course churches dedicated to the saint. Outside Trondheim there is the “Feginsbrekka”, the “Mount Joy”, from where pilgrims could look down over the city and see their goal for the first time.

The routes have been revived since 1997 and the 1000th anniversary of Trondheim cathedral. In 2010 165 “Olav letters” were issued in the same way as *compostelas*. By 2014 this had risen to 674. Alison identifies the difficulty with viewing the route in the same way as many do the camino, as possible to complete in stages as short as 1 or 2 weeks. Most Norwegians tend to walk the route as day walks and in organised groups, so the individual pilgrim’s need for water, access to food and water and accommodation over a longer period is not always readily available.

The first third of the Guide addresses these difficulties, with explanation of the cultural landscape, language, preparation, equipment, transport, accommodation, camping. She usefully mentions that water is available in cemeteries (as in France). Norway is expensive, notably in the case of alcohol. There are Pilgrim centres in Oslo, Hamar, Hundorp and Nidaros which issue the *Pilegrimspass* or Pilgrim Record for stamping in churches etc along the way.

And what of the goal, the cathedral church at Trondheim and burial

place of St Olav, whose shrine was lost at the Norwegian Reformation in 1537? The heavily restored but impressive 12th c west front was a wonder of the medieval world. Olav Haraldsson, 995-1030, first brought together several smaller kingdoms eventually to create the country of Norway. He helped Ethelred save London from the Danish Vikings and was baptised a Christian, in Rouen in 1014. He died in the Battle of Stiklestad in 1030 and was canonised in 1031. Miracles occurred from the beginning and pilgrims started to arrive. Today, the annual Olav Festival in Trondheim around 29 July grows in popularity and range each year.

This long awaited Guide will surely bring a great increase in the number of English speaking pilgrims. Although I have not been able to assess the accuracy or completeness of the route instructions, Alison has ensured that these pilgrims will be well prepared and enjoy the traditions of the pilgrimage and culture of Norway to the full.

**MARION MARPLES**

*Doctor Hieronymus Münzer's Itinerary (1494 and 1495) and Discovery of Guinea, [2014], James Firth editor and translator, ISBN 0992755808, 9780992755805 pp 57*

To the names of 15th-century pilgrims to Santiago who have left an account of their journey such as Margery Kempe (1422) and William Wey (1456) we must now add that of Hieronymus Münzer, a doctor from Nuremberg, born in 1437, whose *Itinerary* from August 1494 to April 1495 took him round much of Spain, Portugal, France, Germany and the Low Countries. Like William Wey, Münzer's account, a detailed and coherent one, was written in Latin and originally published in three learned foreign journals in the 1920s and '30s. Thanks to the scholarly efforts of James Firth, it has at last seen the light of day in English, a well-produced edition of over 500 pages, complete with introduction, maps, notes, a glossary, and wide-ranging indexes.

The *Itinerary* is perhaps of greatest interest to 21st-century pilgrims when Münzer, aged 57, and his three companions reach Galicia (from Portugal), spend a week in Santiago de Compostela and then make their way east along what is now known as the Camino Francés before turning south at Astorga. Writing on 13 December 1494 about the position of Santiago, Münzer approves of the countryside and the city's gardens full of fruit but is less than appreciative of its Galician residents: "The people are so swinish... and idle, that they live off what they can make from pilgrims." With an abrupt change of tone he then

devotes two and a half pages to a description of St James's Church (i.e. Santiago Cathedral), the archbishop and his clergy, the choir chapels of the cathedral and some mid-December feast days of Saint Fructuosus and of the Blessed Virgin, the latter enjoying the title of 'the Feast of the Expectation of the Incarnation of the Lord'. Another disapproving note soon creeps in: "There is always an incredible popular clamour in the church. Devotion there is not excessive. It would be fitting for the Holy Apostle to be venerated more reverently." One can almost see Münzer pursing his lips at this point. Nor is he impressed with the local belief that St James is buried beneath the high altar: "The body has been seen by nobody... We believe only through faith which is our salvation" – a distinctly Protestant sentiment.

The group left Santiago on 21 December, riding to Ferreiro[s], Melide, Ligundo [Ligonde], Portomarín and Sarria where, he notes disapprovingly, "the people live mostly on pork and are truly unclean and piggish in everything they do". More familiar pilgrim place names follow: Cebreiro, the walled towns of Villafranca and Ponferrada – but with no mention of Rabanal del Camino, although he does mention the high mountains after Ponferrada and the peak of Mount "Rasanellus".

Münzer's pan-European *Itinerary* will be of great interest to both historical geographers and well-travelled readers, and James Firth is to be congratulated for bringing it "out of the attic" and making it available to us in an accessible form. There is a copy of the book in the CSJ Library and members wishing to purchase their own copy should send an e-mail to: [itinerary@john-firth-editor.co.uk](mailto:itinerary@john-firth-editor.co.uk)

PAT QUAIFFE

## STOP PRESS

**CSJ is looking to employ someone to work in the CSJ office two to three days a week helping the CSJ secretary with general administration. Normal office skills required. Would suit a recently retired person. If you live in London or within commuting distance and think you would like to work for the CSJ please contact the CSJ office at: [office@csj.org.uk](mailto:office@csj.org.uk) or call: 020 7928 9988**

# From the Secretary's Notebook

First of all I'd like to introduce myself to the many members of CSJ – long-term and new – with whose support I hope to continue the great work of my predecessor as Secretary, Marion Marples.

I began the Camino Francés at St Jean Pied-de-Port in the autumn of 1989, completing it on St James's Day 1990: 25 years ago this past summer! Little did I know back then that it would eventually lead me to all of you. I do hope we will meet at CSJ events in the future and that you won't be shy in picking up the phone and bringing me up to date on latest camino developments.

In the meantime, below is a brief round-up of news since your last Bulletin.

Jean Marray

## St James's Spanish Place

This year marks the 125th anniversary of the church of St James's Spanish Place. To celebrate this historic date, the parish will be joined by the Most Reverend Julián Barrio Barrio, Archbishop of Santiago de Compostela, and His Excellency Mr Federico Trillo-Figueroa, the Ambassador of Spain, who has kindly agreed to host a reception at The Spanish Embassy, in the Archbishop's honour on 30 September.

In 1791 a chapel was built on the corner of Spanish Place and Charles Street (now George Street) to serve the Spanish embassy in Hertford House in Manchester Square. This connection ended in 1827 when the chapel was handed over to the London Vicariate. When the lease of the chapel was running out, £30,000 was raised to acquire land opposite, where the present church was built and opened on Michaelmas Day 1890. The church contains much to remind one of its Spanish heritage. Two crowns high on the Gospel side of the sanctuary are above the places occupied by King Alfonso XIII and Queen Ena of Spain – when they attended the church and the King's personal standard hangs over the sacristy door. The Rose window portrays St James in the centre surrounded by the arms of Spain's Royal Family and the principal dioceses of Spain. The Archbishop of Santiago de Compostela and the Ambassador of Spain will

be present at the festive Mass at 7 pm on the 29th September and all CSJ members are welcome to participate. (See Other Events in the Bulletin.)

## **CSJ Celebrations for St James's Day 2015**

The day after Marion's farewell dinner, members of the CSJ gathered in the City of London to walk around the old town and search out places with St James and/or pilgrim connections. The walk started at the Church of All Hallows by the Tower and members considered its Roman and ancient significance, ending up by St James Garlickhythe on the embankment close to the Millennium Bridge, where new tiles along the quay depict boats laden with garlic (hence Garlickhythe). An evening meal at the Ev Middle Eastern restaurant close to Southwark Station made a fitting conclusion to the day. Meanwhile, in the middle of the day (and the walk), many CSJ members attended the festive Mass of St James in Marylebone, where prayers for deceased CSJ members were said, including for the speedy recovery of the disappeared American pilgrim – Denise Thiem.

## **New Compostelas and Pilgrim Passports**

The Pilgrim Office at Santiago Cathedral is now offering a new more detailed version of the old familiar Compostela. The new version has more information on it about the pilgrim, the pilgrimage route and reasons for undertaking the pilgrimage. The CSJ is also offering now a new credencial (Pilgrim Passport) and – given the number of recent sales – we can only conclude that it is very popular. It can be purchased for £5.00 (free for members of course), directly via the CSJ website or by going in person to the office on Blackfriars Road on a Thursday or an Open Saturday.

## **Thank you from Marion Marples**

Thank you to all those members who generously contributed to the magnificent leaving gifts presented to me by our Chair, Colin Jones and the Miraz and Gaucelmo committees. I was also very touched by many kind messages recalling shared experiences and also good wishes for my future life. I am already missing those contacts with so many of you and will hope to see some of you at the AGM and other meetings.

Marion

# CSJ Events

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## **Saturday 26 September**

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Open Office Day. For enquiries, bookshop and use of library. 10.30 – 3.30 pm, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

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## **Saturday 10 October**

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Exeter Pilgrim's Day, cost £5 payable on the day. Details in Bulletin No 130; Pre-registration please as there is a limit on numbers in the hall. For more information contact Valerie at: [camigos@countrysidematters.org.uk](mailto:camigos@countrysidematters.org.uk)

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## **Saturday 31 October**

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Open Office Day. For enquiries, bookshop and use of library. 10.30 – 3.30 pm, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

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## **Saturday 21 November**

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Hospitaleros Gathering Day

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## **Saturday 28 November**

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Open Office Day. For enquiries, bookshop and use of library. 10.30 – 3.30 pm, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

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## **Saturday 28 November**

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Constance Storrs Lecture – to be delivered this year by historian John Ashdown-Hill. His subject will be the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in 1469: the time of the documented pilgrimage of Edward IV and Richard, Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III). Venue: Bankside Community Space, 18 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 (near Tate Modern). Time: 4–6 pm.

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## **Saturday 23 January 2016**

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CSJ AGM at St Alban's Centre, Leigh Place, Baldwins Gardens, London EC1N 7AB

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**7 - 14 June 2016**

**The Portuguese Route to  
Santiago – A CSJ Coach Trip**

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Our pilgrimage joins the traditional pilgrim route at Tomar, and passing through Fatima continues to Oporto. From there we will travel along the beautiful Coastal Route into Galicia. The pilgrimage is by coach but there will be some walking involved when visiting places of interest. At Santiago there will be a local guide for a tour of the cathedral and surroundings. This pilgrimage is being led by Colin Jones, the CSJ Chairman, and is organised through Pax Travel. The current price is £795.

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**LOCAL GROUPS**

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**Devon / Cornwall:**

Contact Valerie Brighton [camigos@countysidematters.org.uk](mailto:camigos@countysidematters.org.uk)

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**Saturday 10 October**

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Pilgrim's Day Exeter 10.00 – 3.45 pm. Cost £5.00

In conjunction with the Camigos from the Camino de Santiago Pilgrim Forum. For more information contact Valerie Brighton at: [camigos@countysidematters.org.uk](mailto:camigos@countysidematters.org.uk) or write to the CSJ Office with a SAE clearly marked EXETER OCT10.

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**North West:**

Contact [nedspencer@point-systems.co.uk](mailto:nedspencer@point-systems.co.uk) for more information.

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**Saturday 17 October**

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Meet in Whalley – 9 miles to see St James in Altham then back to Whalley to visit Abbey and St Mary's.

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**Wessex:**

Contact [carolevose@btinternet.com](mailto:carolevose@btinternet.com) for more information.

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**Monday 23 November**

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CSJ Wessex group meeting to start at 11:00. Event held in the Cathedral Hotel, Milford Street, Salisbury. The Park and Ride bus from Petersfinger (Southampton Road area) stops right outside the hotel!

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## Other Events

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### **Tuesday 29 September**

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125th anniversary of the Church of St James, Spanish Place. The Archbishop of Santiago, the Most Reverend Julián Barrio Barrio, will be the celebrant for a Mass of Thanksgiving at 7 pm. Followed by a reception.

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### **Wednesday 30 September**

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The Archbishop of Santiago, the Most Reverend Julián Barrio Barrio, will celebrate a sung, festive Mass at Westminster Cathedral at 5.30 pm.

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### **September and October**

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UK screenings of the award-winning documentary “Walking the Camino (Six Ways to Santiago)”:

- London – Stratford East Picturehouse on Saturday 26th September 2015 at 13:00.
  - Liverpool – Picturehouse at FACT (Liverpool) on Sunday 4th October 2015 at 12:00.
  - London – Clapham Picturehouse on Monday 5th October 2015 at 18:00.
  - York – City Screen (York) on Monday 5th October 2015 at 20:00.
  - Norwich – Wednesday 7th October 2015 at 18:00.
  - Portsmouth – No. 6 Cinema, Portsmouth on Sunday 11th October 2015 at 14:00.
  - London – Stratford East Picturehouse on Wednesday 14th October 2015 at 18:00.
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### **Monday 4 – Wednesday 6 April 2016**

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Romanesque Art: Saints, Shrines and Pilgrimage – a three-day international conference in Oxford by the British Archaeological Association. It will examine the material culture of sanctity over the period c.1000–c.1250. For more information, contact the CSJ office.

# New Members

Information is provided for members' personal use only

## London

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# Confraternity of Saint James

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