



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



March 2012

No 117

About the *Bulletin*

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Cover picture:
Wall painting, Avy-en-
Pons
Michael Krier

Editorial

Gosia Brykczyńska

Our *refugios* are being opened-up and aired-out after their winter shut-down; they are being cleaned and prepared for the arrival of the first 2012 pilgrims. *Hospitaleros* co-ordinators are running workshops for prospective *albergue* wardens and they are busy putting together schedules so that both Miraz and Gaucelmo have adequate *hospitaleros* cover throughout the pilgrim season. Practical pilgrim days are attracting a record number of inquirers; March is surely upon us.

But incredible as it may seem, this does not represent all the work that the CSJ undertakes. Most of our activities are well brought out by our chairman in his annual report – which is included in this *Bulletin* – and as he points out, we need to employ innovative ways of informing our membership about our many and varied activities. In this electronic age of computers, i-pods, smart-phones and Kindles – it surely is time to consider the introduction of an e-newsletter in addition to the traditional *Bulletin*. But whether it is an electronic newsletter or The *Bulletin* which informs you about CSJ activities – no project would ever get off the ground without your sincere help and generous co-operation; and so it is with the new Santiago Welcome Project. Many Irish and UK based members have written to the office expressing their wish to be an *amigos* in Santiago and the response has been so good that for this pilot year the entire roster has been filled from May to October. This is excellent news and we can only hope that following the formal blessing and launching of the project in May – only further good can ensue.

This winter – together with Marion Marples – our secretary – I attended a conference of the German St James association in Aachen (Aix-en-Chappelle), the city of Charlemagne. In 2003 the CSJ organised a study weekend in Ayelsford in Kent, around the topic of Charlemagne (742-814) and ever since then I have been meaning to visit Aachen – the historic centre of Charlemagne's empire. Charlemagne of course was a real historical figure even if for many pilgrims his connection with the camino comes via the heavily mythologised person of Roland – who was ambushed and died not

far from Roncesvalles, at the start of Camino Francés. Every pilgrim knows that “...High were the mountains and high the trees...” and that for Roland “...Beneath a pine was his resting place, To the land of Spain hath he turned his face...” and that finally angels,

“...From heaven they came for that soul of price,

And they bore it with them to Paradise.” *from The Song of Roland*

Such is the power of legend that having recently re-read the ballad, albeit in a very modern version, having not looked at the ode for over thirty years – I caught myself getting lost once more in the melody of the words and the spirit of that powerful ballad. That same magic and pull has been felt by countless others, including war-mongering Germans in the 1930s, who looked back at Charlemagne as their model leader – a point noted by Charles Bidwell in his account of pilgrimaging in Germany. Meanwhile, Eivind Luthen and Maureen Measure contribute a decidedly northern feel to this *Bulletin* which looks at promoting several alternative caminos. Finally, Theresa Shaw encourages us to pay more attention to the fauna and flora which we encounter along the camino.

Several years ago while walking along the Arles route in early summer, I crossed an alpine meadow which was snowing white butterflies. I am sure that lepidopterists would have an explanation for this fantastic phenomenon but for me it will always remain one of those cast-in-myth-and-magic camino moments. Or maybe they were simply angels re-enacting for my delight their last service to Roland as they flittered and fluttered down the mountainside.

Chairman's Report for 2011

Colin Jones

In our favoured image of the camino, an earthen path unfolds through a magisterial panorama of long vistas bathed in the strong and yet strangely temperate, sunlight of summer. In this imagined landscape the way is empty, inviting us forward at a pace and rhythm which our bodies find both conducive and exhilarating. This is the image that we believe captures that spirit of adventure, self-discovery and achievement that is our experience of pilgrimage and the camino.

Of course, reality tends to be somewhat different. With a degree of understatement, one Spanish pilgrim in a recent newspaper interview commented, “*En el Camino de Santiago jamás tienes la sensación de soledad*” (on the *Camino de Santiago* you never feel alone).

For today's pilgrim, especially but not exclusively on the Camino Francés, we rub shoulder to shoulder in a pilgrim world populated by crowds of fellow pilgrims and/or fellow travellers forming a living stream, if not to Santiago then certainly to the next refuge, bar or restaurant, where we jostle and compete for a space to claim as our own. And so, instead of being the rugged individual discovering the joys of the camino for ourselves, we may fear that we shall be absorbed into the general mass called *peregrinos*. As others watch us pass, we become uneasily aware that the spark of inspiration that led us to put aside home and comforts for the camino is now hardly noticed amongst so many other personal stories jostling for attention.

These images stand well not only for the individual pilgrim but also for us, the CSJ. In the mental picture of ourselves as an organisation we are, certainly for those for whom English is their first language, both the pioneer and still the chief promoter of the camino, and therefore the most obvious place to receive support and advice when planning your camino. This was indeed once so, and continued to be for some time after the foundation of the CSJ.

However, times change; we should re-work our imagined view of the camino landscape – because it has changed as it has grown in popularity – so we should look afresh at our place in this landscape. The reality is that the CSJ is one among many associations that serve pilgrims and promote *The Camino* in the anglophone world. The

Canadian Company of Pilgrims, the American Friends, the South African Confraternity, and the newly formed Australian groups, to say nothing of our Irish friends and the work of associations in northern Europe, mean that we are not alone. We have become one amongst many. And this is at a time when the prime source of information is, in truth, the Internet, and not specialist groups and organisations such as ourselves. Information about caminos, accommodation, history and the spirit of pilgrimage is so readily available from an association called Google, let alone on web sites, forums and blogs, that the CSJ, far from being the font of information, has become just one amongst so many. Worse still, as people use the Internet as their camino friend there is no incentive to join groups like ours. Which may in part explain why the numbers of new members of the CSJ are not as great as they once were.

Against this background, the trustees during this past year have been doing significant work looking at how best to explain, and so promote, the CSJ in such a way that the value of being a member shines out through so many competing claims on attention.

Far from being an exercise in introspection, it has been an excellent exercise in understanding what of value we can offer to those considering following a camino, so that they move from being an enquirer to member. Although the fruit of this work has not yet fully matured, some general lines have developed. We would wish to say that the CSJ is a place where up-to-date knowledge, trustworthy information, and wisdom based on our collective experience about pilgrimage is available. That here is a depth and breadth that is not found by, for example, dipping into a web site. We would wish to say to enquirers that the CSJ is a proactive body, able to speak effectively about camino issues from a UK perspective and to champion the needs of pilgrims. We would wish to say that the CSJ is an organisation that can help people realise their desire to “give something back” through working at our refuges, or in the office, or offering insights to others from their own experience. We would wish to say that joining us helps to uphold the traditional values of the camino that are in danger of disappearing through tourism and private enterprise - the traditions of hospitality and openness.

Through asking this simple but profound question, “What is it of value that the CSJ offers its members?”, we are sharpening our ability to promote the CSJ, its work and ethos. This has led the trustees to look again at our web site, to improve our promotional material and

publications.

It is hoped that if we can explain ourselves more crisply, we shall become more attractive as a group to join. This is no mere self-promotion. Without the CSJ and our sister organisations, the camino and pilgrimage to Santiago would only be available through the unfiltered information of the Internet, or be reduced to little more than a tourist opportunity.

I am not demonising the Internet. It is a very useful tool when used properly. So this has led us to another initiative - the CSJ e-news. No, not news about our Yorkshire members, but brief items of news sent via email. The e-news will supplement our invaluable *Bulletin*. However, increasingly our *Bulletin* editors are finding that the camino and the activities of members generate so much news that it is difficult to include everything in its various editions, and with publication every 3 months much news looks like old news by the time our *Bulletin* hits the streets. Our e-mail news will, we believe, bring the CSJ a little closer to the members - or at least those members who own up to having an email address.

2011 saw a very rare event indeed - the screening in this country of a major film production about the pilgrimage to Santiago. "The Way" may or may not have been to your taste. It did, however, bring together the themes of modern pilgrimage: motivation, growth, hospitality, companionship, what it means to be a "true pilgrim" and what we take of the camino back into our normal lives. All credit goes to one of our trustees, Richard Jefferies, who volunteered to keep track of the showing and premières of "The Way", in itself quite an adventure.

Looking beyond these deliberations, 2011 has been far from a quiet year, even if Icelandic volcanoes have remained thankfully untroublesome. Our St James weekend at Reading was a celebration in words, music and footwork. Words were provided by Prof Brian Kemp unfolding the evolution of the cult of St James at Reading Abbey and music with a performance of the *Pilgrim Cantata* by John Read (one of our own members). Footwork was, in CSJ tradition, a walk. But a very significant walk. A group traced the initial steps of the pilgrim route from the Abbey towards the pilgrim departure port of Southampton. Significant because this is now fully described and mapped in our latest guide.

Members of the CSJ have also attended the tri-annual conference of the Spanish Federation of Amigos, held at Valencia in October. Its very location in the mighty Mediterranean seaport reminding us that

such ports were once thriving points of disembarkation for Santiago pilgrims coming from Southern France, Italy and further afield. A little later, in November, members attended an International conference in Utrecht. It is worth reminding ourselves that the Dutch Association is probably the largest, with over 10,000 members.

Being at such conferences is an opportunity to get a feel for the latest studies, and the direction that camino developments will take. But it is more than attending talks and receiving information. It is as much about promoting the values for which the CSJ stands and the good work, in all its facets, that our members do. Certainly in Spain “being there” is a vital way of making contacts and friends.

This is why I am very happy to announce an exciting project which will take place this coming year. There has been an ongoing concern that the Pilgrim Office at Santiago is now so overwhelmed by numbers that it can do little more than record information and issue certificates. The sheer weight of numbers of pilgrims works against a fuller provision of hospitality. After completing what for many will have been a profound physical, spiritual and emotional journey, there is a need to offer a deeper sense of acknowledgment that someone has arrived – and that their arrival is significant both to them and to Santiago. At the suggestion of John Rafferty, the CSJ and our Irish Friends of St James are going to embark on an experiment. Volunteers will be present at the Pilgrim Office to welcome English-speaking or English-understanding pilgrims. This welcome will firstly be preparing pilgrims for that moment when they reach the office counter to register - thus helping the office itself - and secondly offering an opportunity for pilgrims to speak about their experiences at this crucial moment of arrival. I am particularly pleased that this project will be in co-operation with our Irish friends. Surely this is a vivid sign of the spirit of the modern pilgrimage to Santiago. I am also pleased because this project has the potential for growth and development, and to embrace other associations. If this year goes well then other friends may join in this welcome project, and who knows how this could unfold?

Behind events and organisations there must be people. On behalf of all our members I would like to thank Marion for her organisational skills, not only in the routine work of our office, but also with regard to the success of our St James Weekend at Reading, and this AGM itself. Also, I would like to express my personal thanks and appreciation to Alison Thorp, who is retiring from her post of Systems Manager. Her

skills and abilities have proved invaluable in many areas, but especially as the Miraz project moved from wish to reality, as well as in regard to her work on the admittedly less exciting but equally vital membership database. Our thanks are also due to Anne Froud and Wendy Beecher. They have minuted trustees' and other meetings with patience and diligence, skillfully picking out from the fog of debate the core of our decisions. As Wendy also steps down from these duties we shall miss her.

Our CSJ year and this report close with another note of gratitude. Beth Tate, the widow of Professor Brian Tate, has donated a large number of books from his library to the CSJ. Professor Tate was this country's foremost expert on the history and culture of the pilgrimage to Santiago. It was very gracious of Beth to remember the CSJ. It will also be an honour to add these volumes to our own library.

4 February 2012

Via Scandinavia revitalised

Eivind Luthen



In Norway and many other western countries, most of the pilgrimage 'industry' was swept away with the Reformation, and relics and roads destroyed. By the nineteenth century, many churches in were in poor condition and were substantially renovated, restored or even rebuilt. Ironically, this 'Gothic revival' often obliterated genuine medieval remnants. Nevertheless, a modest amount of remains of the pilgrimage way of life survives, and is still there for those who seek it out - whether for religious or cultural reasons, or out of simple curiosity or a love of walking through the countryside.

In 2002 the historian Eivind Luthen launched a project to recover an important part of Via Scandinavia, the Vestfold route, connecting Norway to the continent. The object of the plan is to recover the pilgrim route from Oslo to Tønsberg (and Larvik) not only in spiritual and religious terms but also in terms of the environment, architecture, culture and history.

The Via Scandinavia was not a single road, rather, it comprised several possible routes that changed over the centuries as trade and pilgrimage developed and waned.

The initiative was promoted by the Norwegian pilgrim organisation Confraternity of Saint James and which presented a plan detailing the low environmental impact infrastructures to be created. The plan will be shared with local organisations and authorities located along the route as an encouragement to carry out similar recovery work. The eight stages in Luthen's itinerary averaged about 20 km a day, covering some 170 km; they have helped to identify the route. The route can also be partly done by bike.

The Via Scandinavia includes the sea route from Larvik (in former days from Tønsberg) to Hirtshals, Denmark. From Hirtshals is it possible to follow "Hærvejen" – an Old Military Road – possibly one of the oldest arterial roads in Europe, to Hamburg which is linked to the Jacobean routes. Today there are few pilgrims walking the Vestfoldroute but their number is increasing. The Via Scandinavia offers inexpensive accommodations along the route, because the Norwegian Confraternity of St James have been working hard in recent years to put it in place. Walkers in Scandinavia can also take advantage of *Every-Man's Law* which grants the right to camp on most uncultivated land. There is one factor however that will affect your physical experience more than perhaps any other and that is the weight that you carry. Too heavy a load is not just tiring but increases the risk of an injury that could force you to abandon your journey.

There are also a number of historical and religious heritage sites along the route, worth stopping at including many holy wells (Husaby, Løvøy, Kjellolla) eleven medieval churches including pilgrim-churches eg Løvøya and Borre and the ruins of St Michael church in Tønsberg.

Most of the pilgrim-routes have a Pre-Christian history – for those who wish to discover it. The Vestfold route is lined with ancient burial mounds and stone circles (see photograph with author) and the pagan history of the Norse is very much in evidence along the way.

Visiting Trondheim and inclement weather

Maureen Measure

The city of Trondheim is a popular pilgrim destination in Norway, as St Olaf, martyr and patron saint of Norway, is supposed to be buried underneath Trondheim's Nidaros Cathedral. On a recent visit to Oslo, I took the daily train to Trondheim. I always go by train around Norway as the scenery is so fantastic. Moreover, both the railway line and the main road follow to some extent the St Olaf pilgrim route which is 400 miles long. We travelled along Norway's largest and longest lake, Lake Mjøsa, for a good half hour, and everything was reflected in it. Then we climbed up over the Dovrefjell mountain range, and went steeply down past several rushing streams and more long and narrow lakes. The journey which took over six-and-a-half hours cost £25 each way.

I stayed for four nights in Trondheim in the Vandrerhjem – a youth hostel – recommended by the Oslo Pilgrim Centre. This provides excellent accommodation. Prices vary from £40 to £73 for an en-suite room. It is clean and spacious with self-catering facilities and hire of bed-linen (sleeping bags are not allowed for reasons of hygiene). Breakfast included that Norwegian speciality – mackerel and tomato sauce – in a tube resembling toothpaste! It is quite a climb up to the Vandrerhjem but there are marvellous views over the Trondheimsfjord. There are also several restaurants nearby. I would thoroughly recommend it if you are fit and able to climb up the hill. Another good place to stay is the Nidaros Pilegrimsgård – the Pilgrims Centre – which is also a conference and retreat house and to which there is no climb!

The Cathedral itself is free to pilgrims. A team of very helpful young people dressed in red robes are there to show people around and to answer questions. There is a café with a shop and an information centre. The first thing to get used to inside Nidaros Cathedral is to adjust to the darkness after the bright sunshine outside. Part of the cathedral was demolished during the Reformation and consequently, whilst the transepts are Romanesque, the West end was subsequently rebuilt in a Late Gothic style. St Olaf's body is said to be buried at

the East end of the cathedral, under the octagon. There is a replica of the original church in the middle of the octagon and a narrow ambulatory behind. The feet of the baptismal font are placed on fish-like grotesques and all the stone scenes are watery – Noah, St John the Baptist and Christ surrounded by a large number of fish.

There is a little chapel with some interesting small, round, stained glass windows, one showing a female contortionist with her feet and hands joined on the floor under her body, her hair flowing back towards the floor. Another window shows a decapitation. Yes, this is St John the Baptist's chapel.

On the magnificent West front are three tiers of figures standing upon pedestals among them St Barbara, St Catherine, St Andrew, Abraham and Isaac, Jonah standing upon a whale which is swallowing a miniature Jonah, Daniel standing upon two lions, St James and of course, St Olaf. St Olaf is made from a lighter stone than the other figures, so that his statue stands out clearly and he is holding an axe (he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Stiklestad 29 July 1030). He is represented as standing on his former self – a Viking – ‘a pagan who did terrible things before he was converted’. During the battle of Stiklestad, Olaf, King, martyr and Norway's patron saint received three severe wounds – in the knee (with an axe), in the neck and a final mortal blow through the heart. His body was carried away and buried secretly on the banks of the Nidelva River near Trondheim. After a year his grave was opened and his body (incorrupt, of course) was moved to a church in Trondheim. Later the Cathedral was built on that spot and Olaf, now Saint Olaf, was enshrined in a silver reliquary behind the high altar. His final resting place in the cathedral became a destination for pilgrims and remains so to this day. The date 29 July 1030 is as important to Norwegian schoolchildren as 1066 is to British children and today each year 29 July marks the feast of St Olaf.

Munkholmen – literally Monks' Island – is a short boat trip from Trondheim's former fish market. There are marvellous views along both arms of the Trondheimsfjord. This “Monks' Island” has been successively used as a Benedictine Monastery, a fortress, a prison and during the Second World War – a German fort. Its most famous resident was the Danish polymath, Count Peder Griffinfeld (1635-1699), who following an infamous trial, spent the final 18 years of his colourful life as a political prisoner there – a kind of latter-day Nelson Mandela. He was however, allowed his own servant and visits from students and acquaintances. All Norwegian schoolchildren are taught

about him.

My visit to Trondheim was during a very hot and humid period resulting in terrific thunderstorms and torrential rains. The preceding winter however, was particularly harsh in Norway and more than the usual amount of snow had fallen. The extreme hot weather of the following spring had quickly melted the snows on the mountains between Oslo and Trondheim and there had also been several heavy storms. The following incident therefore is of interest to anyone who is thinking of making the pilgrimage to Trondheim in the springtime, as I presume that the walking route becomes impassable under these conditions.

When I turned up at the railway station in Trondheim to go back to Oslo, although the daily train had managed to arrive, the railway track and the roads had just flooded and the railway-line and the E6 road leading south to Oslo had been completely washed away. The train was therefore only able to go the first 100Km. There was general chaos at the station but fortunately I managed to understand enough Norwegian to realise that the only way back to Oslo was to fly. I jumped on the airport bus, hoping that I could fly south. I did not want to spend three days at the airport when I had a ticket for *Peter Grimes* at Oslo's beautiful new Opera House!

The journey to the airport was beautiful, along the Trondheimsfjord. However, the Norwegian telephone network was also having problems because of the floods and it took me 15 minutes to get a signal. I kept on pinching myself, hoping that this was a bad dream and that I would wake up in my room in the Trondheim Vandrerhjem with the fabulous view and bump my head on the upper bunk. Forty kilometers later I bought almost the last plane ticket to Oslo, costing me ten times the train fare; but I was lucky to get a flight. It was fortunate there had been no-one on the train when the flood and landslide came. There had been no loss of life. While the devastated area is not highly populated, it is a holiday destination where many Norwegians have their holiday huts and the holiday season was due to start that Whitsun weekend. According to the local press Norway was effectively cut in two and Lake Myøso was recorded as being two meters higher than usual. I got back to Oslo considerably earlier than the scheduled train would have.

But I was also very glad of the glass of wine my relatives put in my hand.

Editor's Note: this article was written before the attacks in Oslo and Utoeya in summer 2011.

Walking Jakobusweg with a difference

Charles Bidwell

We all know that the reasons for going on pilgrimages vary: from Henry II's planned pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela as a penance for the murder of Thomas à Becket to the character in "The Magnificent Seven" who took off all his clothes and jumped into a cactus bush. When asked "Why?", his reply was that it seemed like a good idea at the time.

I had always wanted to go to Nürnberg to see the Nazi Party rallying grounds and Documentation Centre in the hope of being able to understand how an obscure, uneducated provincial (or foreign) former lance-corporal had managed to gain absolute power in one of the largest and most sophisticated countries in Europe in such a short space of time and with such devastating consequences.

I had put it off year after year but was spurred into action by the German St Jakobus-Gesellschaft's call for volunteers to help mark the way from Nürnberg to Konstanz published in *The CSJ Bulletin*. I could not do the whole two weeks so I planned to join the party in Ulm, after I had had my look around Nürnberg.

It is a beautiful and rather surprising city with lengths of the old walls still standing, a massive fortress, medieval buildings, museums and open spaces. It was already an ancient city when the Emperor Frederick II designated it as "an Imperial City" in 1219 and it became the administrative capital of The Holy Roman Empire which, as Voltaire pointed out, was neither holy nor Roman nor an empire. It retained this status until the Empire was dismantled during the Napoleonic Wars.

I rubbed my eyes in disbelief at the sight of gondolas plying their trade along the river and headed for my goal, a short tram-ride from the Central Station. The first thing that struck me was the sheer scale of the Nazi Party rallying grounds and buildings, all built from scratch in less than six years – between 1933 and 1939. They were intended to be "a world view transformed into stone" – demonstrating to the individual participating in a Party Rally that he was privileged to be there, taking part in something far bigger and more important than

himself, and that he owed a personal duty of loyalty to the Führer. To the outside world, it was a demonstration of the might of the Third Reich.

The permanent exhibition in the Documentation Centre charts the rise of the National Socialist Party from its foundation in the upheavals after the First World War, through “the Beer Hall Putsch” (1923) to the first party rallies in Munich (1923), Weimar (1926) and Nürnberg (1927 and 1929), to Hitler’s appointment as Chancellor in January 1933 and the methods used to secure absolute powers in the Enabling Act three months later, despite the party not having a majority in parliament.

Hitler’s first acts as dictator included introducing strict press censorship and the announcement that Nürnberg would from then on be the *City of Party Rallies*.

Nürnberg had been chosen to show that that the Third Reich, the Empire that would last for 1,000 years, was the reincarnation of the Holy Roman Empire. Everything was done to emphasise the Reich’s legitimacy as its successor, down to laying out the main parade ground so that it was lined up with the imperial fortress, the seat of the Imperial Diets and administrative centre of the Empire.

The exhibits in the Documentation Centre show the attention to detail that went into planning the party rallies which were central to demonstrating and consolidating the Party’s grip on power. Everything was planned from who was allowed to attend, where they could stay, where they could eat, where they were allowed to stand for the main events and, above all, how long the crowds would have to wait for the appearances of the Führer. A long wait was essential as it allowed party activists to wind up the crowd to a fever pitch of expectation. The lighting was directed to play on him as he strutted out and gave his performance. Cameras were placed at strategic points, up flagpoles or hidden in the structures to capture the most dramatic pictures. The effect had to be dramatic: the might of the Führer and the Party had to be overwhelming. I stood on the balcony where he used to stand to address 150,000 wildly cheering supporters in the Zeppelin Field. I found looking down at such a vast parade ground rather frightening, but his ability to manipulate a crowd was unequalled and they responded to his every word and gesture. The message was unambiguous and the SS, the Gestapo, the Hitler Youth and many other party organisations were on hand just in case anybody had funny ideas. Dissent was dangerous.

The posters and framed newspapers leave no doubt as to the brutality and utter ruthlessness with which the party set about gaining power and dealing with opposition. First, the Communist Party was banned. Some of the leaders were lucky enough to be able to flee abroad but the rest were either murdered in cold blood or sent to concentration camps. It was then the turn of the Socialists and Trade Unionists followed by the leaders of the individual Länder which, despite the unification of Germany in 1871, still enjoyed substantial levels of autonomy. Secret police forces sprang up and wielded unquestioned powers, backed up by mob violence and political assassination. Ordinary people had to be very brave to stand up to them. But, on the other hand, the Party brought stability and prosperity. The economy, which had been devastated by the First World War, had started to recover slowly in the late 1920s only to be hit again by the Wall Street Crash in 1929. The social fabric of the country was devastated by hyperinflation which robbed the middle classes of their savings whilst enriching speculators. Unemployment rose to 3 million in 1930 and 6 million in 1933. Starvation was widespread and ordinary people were desperate. Then, almost overnight, dictatorial government coupled with the prestigious public works programmes from the autobahns to Templehof and other airports and of course the Nürnberg rallying grounds caused unemployment to come tumbling down and people had money to spend. Food returned to the shops and Big Business had opportunities opened up to them beyond their wildest dreams.

To me, the interesting part of the story is how the powerbase was built and not the appalling and eventually self-destructive manner in which the absolute power was used; but that too is well covered in the exhibits. It shows the wheel turning full circle and ending with the total devastation of Germany, the final defeat and the War Crimes Trials. Lord Acton could have been thinking of Hitler and the Nazi Party when he said that “all power tends to corrupt and absolute power tends to corrupt absolutely”.

My pilgrimage ended with a visit to the famous courthouse on the other side of the City where the War Crimes Trials were held. Can the atmosphere still be felt in the Court or is it just my imagination? The room is now used for ordinary mundane cases, which must be the epitome of the modern concept of “the banality of evil”. The ultimate tragedy is that the *Nürnberg Principles* laid down at the trials are now totally ignored by world leaders, particularly Principles III and IV – and

not just in the illegal invasion of Iraq. Principle III states that “The fact that a person who committed an act which constitutes a crime under International Law acted as Head of State or responsible Government Official does not relieve him from responsibility under International Law” and Principle IV that, “The fact that a person acted pursuant to the order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under International Law provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him”. I think that all aspiring politicians should visit the site to see the results of hubris being taken to its logical conclusions.

There is also excellent food and beer in Nürnberg but I had to hurry on to Ulm to join the other pilgrims who had started walking the previous week. Getting there meant changing trains in Augsburg. My train was late so despite running as fast as any experienced pilgrim carrying a rucksack reasonably can, I was treated to the spectacle so familiar to users of British Rail, of the train I that wanted pulling slowly away from the platform, leaving me with a couple of hours to wait for the next one.

Augsburg is not a bad place to be stuck for a couple of hours. One always thinks of it in the context of the Peace of Augsburg (1555) which established the principle “*Cuius regio, eius religio*” allowing the semi-autonomous princes of regions making up the Holy Roman Empire to choose the religion of their subjects for them. The city still reflects the enormous wealth brought to it by the Fuggers who had financed Charles V’s campaigns. The Fuggerei Museum and the magnificent Romanesque-Gothic Dom (Catholic Cathedral) with the oldest known stained glass window in Germany (c.1130) and a six-metre high mural of St Christopher carrying the infant Jesus, as well as the more austere Lutheran church where Martin Luther himself had preached, are all worth visiting. There is far too much to see between trains.

I finally met up with the rest of the group in Ulm, just in time to join them in an excellent dinner. They had had a rest day and as we know pilgrims do need to keep up their strength.

The following morning, Sunday, we went to the Minster (Evangelical) where a “Golden Confirmation” was taking place. I had never heard of one before but I am told it is quite usual in the Evangelical Church and allows church members to renew their Confirmation promises made fifty years previously. There were several hundred people renewing their commitments that morning and we could not leave before the end of the long service, which left us with little time to visit even the

memorial to Albert Einstein who was born in the city.

It was my first visit to Baden-Württemberg and I was astonished by the rolling hills, the rich green pastures, lakes, cherry and apple orchards, and the general rural tranquillity. We walked through woods and small villages which seemed to be alive with farms and with animals right in the centre – among the houses, small shops, bakeries, schools and most importantly, the *Gasthäuser*. They had not become dormitories for commuters.

Gerhilde, who organises the way-marking, has written detailed booklets about the route, which I feel excuses me from saying much about it. I am therefore indulging myself by mentioning only the things which most impressed me about the Jakobusweg.

The exuberance of the baroque churches equals anything I have seen along the camino, though admittedly on a much smaller scale than in Pamplona, León or Santiago. However, the artistry of the gilding, paintings and frescoes is comparable, particularly in the ceilings. Painted ceilings draw the viewer's gaze upwards – reminding him that above lies Heaven and that this is the nearest glimpse of Heaven you can expect in this life! Village after village is blessed with them and they are all so well kept. Many are dedicated to St James, but pride of place is claimed by the Church of St Peter and St Paul in Steinhausen which modestly claims to be the most beautiful village church in the world!

Along the way there are lovely *Schlösses*, country houses, medieval painted town halls and other ancient buildings. Just south of Ulm is the Schloss Erbach where the Barons von Ulm have lived for generations and where Marie Antoinette spent a night on her way from Vienna to Paris to marry Louis XVI. What a horrendous journey it must have been for a fourteen year old girl. When we arrived there a garden fête was in progress and the sale of bric-a-brac – as well as bread and cake – which might have caused her some astonishment.

We passed a warm, friendly magnolia painted country house which was the family home of the Grafs von Stauffenberg – an old Württemberg Catholic family with a tradition of public service.

I very soon (with a bit of help from my fellow walkers) got into my stride and the 25km per day seemed less and less arduous. It would be invidious to single out my fellow walkers by name, who like all groups of pilgrims came from all walks of life and were all German apart from one Belgian and myself. I used to think that I spoke reasonably good German but it was Standard German, and the local dialects which are

still used by people chatting amongst themselves take some time to get used to! Listening to German language tapes on my iPod whilst walking was not much help; besides, I got told off by a former teacher who said I would learn much more talking to the others even if I made mistakes. Taking her advice, I certainly made plenty of them but I think I was getting better towards the end.

The weather was what you might describe as “typical pilgrimage weather”: scorching sunshine so you take off everything you reasonably can. Then comes driving rain and you carry on until you are drenched, hoping it will blow over. You finally give in, take off your pack and put your rainproof on over your wet clothes and set off. Out comes the sun again and you carry on as long as you can, dripping with sweat until you can bear it no longer. You stop, take it all off, put it back in your pack by which time the rest of the group has disappeared into the trees and you have to run to catch up.

Most evenings we stayed in *Gasthäuser* or halls of residence, which were very good value. Some evenings Gerhilde had arranged for us to stay in B & Bs, which were great fun and normally involved drinking beer with the hosts and enormous breakfasts. Food in Baden Württemberg is serious business.

We ended our journey in Konstanz on a lovely sunny day. You get there by ferry across the Bodensee or Lake Constance in English. It also is an historic city and was chosen for the General Council of the Church (1414-18) because as a major trading centre there were plenty of merchants’ warehouses which could be requisitioned to accommodate the less important delegates. There is so much to see that it would be easy to spend days wandering around the city, but alas for us, time had run out and it was time to disperse and head for home.

I have been asked over and over again: “The camino, in Germany? Surely it is in Spain?” My answer is that the proper place to start your pilgrimage is from your own front door. The routes for pilgrims coming from Northern and Eastern Europe – St Petersburg, Warsaw or Vienna – converge at various points along the German routes and Konstanz is the hub where many of them come together before the long trek across France to Le Puy and then on to St Jean-Pied-de-Port.

Do I recommend the outing to other CSJ members? Certainly; you can do a couple of days if you have not got the time for the whole 400km but it would pay to spend more time brushing up your German beforehand than I did!

Editor’s Note: see *Bulletin* 116, p8, for the dates of the 2012 pilgrimage.

Secrets

Theresa Jones

*It was the trout soup - their Galician Grandam's legacy
now a house speciality, which brought people back:
attracted pilgrims to their Fonda
A recipe as old, they vowed, as Cervantes bridge
Straddling the Orbigo*

*The gathered family watched us eat - awaiting our response
They brought out the book, showed us: all satisfied customers
effulgent in their praise - of the trout soup
They persisted in their watching
throughout the second and third courses
communicating with smiles - and a kind of love*

*But we, shamelessly, delighting in our own company
Secretly longed to dismiss them*

29/02/11

La Ruta Vadiniense: a new old camino for tough pilgrims

Rebekah Scott

I am a pioneer of sorts, a grizzled veteran pilgrim, but I am not a mountain-goat. I looked at the north-to-south trail through the mountain fastness of the Picos de Europa National Park and assumed the Ruta Vadiniense was too tough for my 40-something, asthma-raddled body to take on.

But curiosity got the best of me. A camino with a medieval mountain monastery, a cable-car, and a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve all in the first day? I was hooked. I girded my loins and walked the Vadiniense in July 2011 with Kathy Gower, my longtime hiking companion – herself an American pioneer in pilgrimage studies and camino promotion.

We survived. Along the way we were challenged, roasted, exhausted, and feted. We explored a busted coal plant, greeted wild foals, kissed the True Cross, and followed chamois-hoofprints past Generalissimo Franco's fishing lodge. We watched trout glitter in the clear water beneath a Roman footbridge, and wandered a stone Cistercian sanctuary where sequestered sisters sang their psalms.

If the route from Roncesvalles to Santiago is "Camino 101," the Ruta Vadiniense, a 130-kilometer connecting trail between the Cantabrian coast and the *meseta*, is a graduate-level crash course – a seven-day intensive study in what makes a walking pilgrimage in Spain so addictive.

Also known as "The Camino of the Peaks" and "The Monasteries Route," the Vadiniense (named for the Vadines, a local pre-Roman tribe) is one of the most demanding and rewarding hikes in the Camino network, full of spectacular views, natural wonders, historic sites, and solitude. And lovely food. Fresh, portable cow's-milk cheese is sold all along the route, and each twee tourist town brews its own version of honey or herbal *orujo*.

The first days have an Alpine appeal, with a stop at the great medieval shrine of Liébana, and steep, steady climbs along vast walls of granite leading into the Picos de Europa national park. Eagles and buzzards circle over-head, and sometimes below! The first two days see a gain of 1,274 meters, peaking at 1,783 meters at La Remoña, a breath-taking mountaintop trail junction. The cable car is at Fuente Dé, the first day's stopping place. It zips another 800 vertical meters to trail-heads

on the opposite mountain. We watched athletic men with helmets and ropes clambering on, but by then we'd climbed enough for one day.

The trail continues along deep valleys, skirting noisy streams that widen into the Rio Esla. A vast reservoir project has flooded several kilometers of the original trail, forcing hikers onto the asphalt and into Riaño, a manufactured tourist town. But a few miles of slogging is rewarded with a spectacular hike along 14km of intact Roman pavements, up another mountain face, through meadows hopping with lambs, kids, donkey foals and roe deer. The camino passes abandoned coal mines and hermit-caves, spooky rail yards, rope bridges and roadside shrines. As the landscape opens out into the high *meseta* the *etapas* become longer and services more scarce.

The Ruta Vadiniense is a new camino for most English-speaking pilgrims. As recently as 2004 a guide to the northern caminos listed it among "routes that have little to offer today." Still, travellers have been using this route for at least 2,000 years to move from the heights of the Picos de Europa down to the high *meseta* of Leon province. The Venerable CSJ guide writer Eric Walker, expert on the northern routes, admits it offers "some of the wildest and most beautiful scenery in northern Spain."

The route can be walked in seven days, and mountain-biked in three or four – we were told (by a biker) this trail is better suited to those on bicycles. Four dedicated pilgrim hostels exist on the Vadiniense: a plush municipal *albergue* in Potes; a bunkhouse at the Liébana monastery; a renovated school in Cistierna; and a sparkling municipal flat in Gradefes. Other towns offer food and rest at more touristic rates. Unless you carry a tent or have caravan backup, this is not a camino for travellers on a tight budget, as the Picos de Europa region is one of Spain's favourite summer tourist areas.

"The Vad" is a seasonal path. Parts of the Picos are snowbound from October through April. Some hardy souls are said to have made this trek on cross-country skis, but park officials warn against high-altitude hiking during winter, when the daylight hours are short, inns are closed, and the sun sets very quickly. Travellers on the Camino del Norte can connect to the Vadiniense using the Ruta Liébana, a waymarked three-day pilgrimage trail from San Vicente de Barquera.

Those with good Spanish can learn more about the Vadiniense route online at the Amigos website: www.rutavadiniense.org. Discussions and question-and-answer FAQs are available at the Camino de Santiago forum at www.caminodesantiago.me/board/camino-vadiniense/.

Editor's note: The new CSJ Vadiniense Guide is available for download from the CSJ website on a *donativo* basis.

Flora and Fauna

Teresa Shaw

Most articles featured in the CSJ *Bulletin* seem to fall into one of two categories; the first is describing the spiritual journey that pilgrims have experienced and the second largely concerned with physical or medical problems that have been overcome such as diabetes, blisters etc. to make the pilgrimage.

Seldom is there a mention of the natural beauty of the camino and the panoramas, wild life and plants seen on the way. Admittedly the route we took omitted walking along the hard shoulders of main roads so this immediately put us at an advantage to better appreciate our environment. Our starting point was León which although sunny, was also cold and windy. From the windows of the train which had brought us from Madrid, we had seen storks perilously perched on their nests on top of telegraph poles or chimneys, a testament to a flourishing frog population which is the mainstay of a stork's diet. What a magnificent bird, its habitat now confined to the peripheries of Europe. We can only deduce that land drainage here has not taken place with intensive farming in mind.

As we walked past the Cruz de Hierro to Foncebadón, we came across an amazing puddle. It was quite shallow and on closer inspection it was teeming with tadpoles. The hot sun would no doubt lead to its evaporation and the loss of the majority of these metamorphosing creatures. Is this overprovision by nature or huge natural wastage? Or both?

At a subsequent stage of the camino as we walked ever upwards to O Cebreiro we encountered a small herd of cows coming in the opposite direction. These ungulates however are used to human contact and did not pose any threat although we did pull into the side to allow them space to pass. They ambled downhill less than a dozen of them followed by their young cowherd.

The hillsides along the way to O Cebreiro were a mass of purple heather and the eventual view and sunset from the top rewarded our efforts. We also heard our cuckoo for the first time. This bird provided us with a source of endless discussion and friendly banter. A visitor's guide to our village in Cornwall warns of a bird call that sounds deceptively like a cuckoo but is in fact a dove! Which one is this? I think actually it was the genuine thing and it kept us company

for many more miles.

And what about the humble dung beetle? We saw these derided phosphorescent eco warriors of nature scurrying and busying themselves on reminders that some pilgrims undertake the camino on horseback. How well nature's cycle is designed!

We were delighted to see large green lizards lazily sunning themselves on stones and rocks, although ever vigilant, they are quick to disappear should a sound or sight frighten them.

Many varieties of wild spring flowers grew under our feet and alongside the camino. And what a selection we saw! Lavender, gentians, wild orchids, yellow poppies and lupins all gladdened our eyes on the way. Yellow iris or flags grew on damper areas.

One day we were walking along a tarmac road by the side a hedge. Behind this hedge was some water from which emanated an amazing cacophony. We assumed this was water fowl. However hard we peered there was none to be seen. It gradually dawned on us that it was those frogs again croaking at the tops of their voices! None of us had ever heard such a recital before. Along the way there were many Galician raised galleries, *horreos*, protecting the harvest presumably from mice and rats. As we approached our destination were greeted by the crowing of many cockerels, the symbol of Galicia. What splendid colours these birds are, garish but harmonious. The same could be said for the ubiquitous octopus the basis of the local dish *pulpo*, laid out on marble slabs in Santiago's market.

Just a week ago we walked from St Jean-Pied-de-Port to Roncesvalles where the views stretch for hundreds of miles over distant ultramarine Pyrenean peaks. Here too were many wonders of nature to behold. The most ubiquitous flower was the purple autumn crocus which lined this demanding and lengthy section of the camino. We saw hawks soaring on thermals in groups of half a dozen or so. There were sheep with black faces and beautiful, long, silky coats and we listened to the background jingle of the bellwether. Wild ponies were grazing, many with foals.

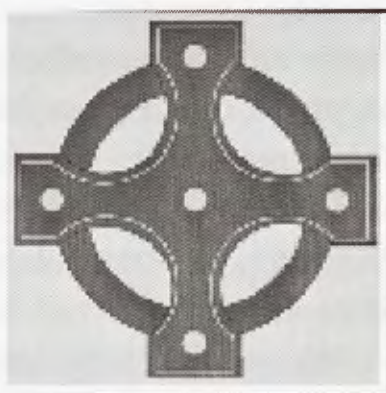
As we make our way along this track as so many have for hundreds of years before us we should take stock of what we see and hear around us and marvel at its beauty its detail and its immutability. Its appreciation can greatly enhance our spiritual experience.

Taith Pererin Gogledd

North Wales Pilgrims Way

Meg Mullock

Does anyone return from making their pilgrimage to Santiago feeling totally unmoved, slotting back into life without another thought? After our pilgrimage from Le Puy to Santiago Roger and I returned to Wales in the late spring of 2006 and, like so many, we experienced feelings of loss and sadness that it was over. Like so many, we also strongly felt the joyous acknowledgement that life had changed and pilgrimage would always be with us.



Yes, we wrote lengthy epistles to our family and friends. Yes, we made a PowerPoint presentation and showed it to small groups. Yes, we became like the proverbial “Ancient Mariner”, talking ‘Pilgrimage’ to all and sundry. What more could we do? Nothing! That is until the Venerable Archdeacon of St. Asaph Chris Potter and his wife, Jenny, returned from their pilgrimage to Santiago in 2009.

At that time Chris was the Dean of St. Asaph Cathedral and he and Jenny set about creating a very moving PowerPoint presentation. A huge number of people gathered at the Cathedral to see this presentation and to enjoy wine with a great spread of tapas. Finally, Chris and Jenny announced that they were so inspired by the Camino that they had decided to seriously look at the possibilities of creating a modern version of the ancient pilgrimage route across North Wales to Ynys Enlli (The Holy island of Bardsey, legendary burial place of 20,000 saints). They wanted to set up a steering committee and invited interested people to join them – Roger and I were not last in the queue!

We arrived for the first meeting and found an awesome gathering of skills, knowledge and expertise; what could we offer? Enthusiasm for pilgrimage, our love of the wilder places of North Wales and its many ancient sacred places? By the second meeting we were gelling into an enthusiastic team and set about looking at possible routes from Basingwerk Abbey (close to Holywell) to the Lleyn Peninsula where

there is already a well defined route to Aberdaron and the 'weather reliant' ferry to Bardsey.

Over the next few months two senior members of the Ramblers' Association prospected and mapped the many stages of the route, reporting their findings for us all to discuss. A constitution was thrashed out and many individuals and organisations were contacted for their advice, co-operation and support, namely

Landowners, parishes and their priests, Community Councils, County Councils, The Welsh Assembly, *Cadw, the Hospitality Trade and many others. Who could give us the ongoing financial support ensuring waymarking, maintenance of footpaths/stiles etc? Some persistent and very able members stated their case and the organisations approached responded, quick to recognise that this Pilgrimage Route could give financial boosts to the small communities en route.

We were greatly encouraged by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, consenting to be our Patron. Everything seemed to move so fast, even though we waited with bated breath for confirmation of the financial grants promised by Local Authorities. Our website was born and the dates and details of the inaugural walk were set.

On 7 August 2011, a crowd gathered at Basingwerk Abbey for Bishop Gregory's blessing and the ensuing media photo-calls. Many local people had come to support this inaugural pilgrimage, about 65 of whom walked the first day's stage, via Holywell, to the Franciscan Friary at Pantasaph, where light refreshments were available. Daily, from then on, the core walkers were joined by interested day walkers, all wanting to support and walk the route passing through their own communities and parishes.

As the group progressed toward their goal a deep camaraderie evolved through shared fun and spiritual moments. They arrived at Aberdaron on 17 August and next morning the ferry took them over to Ynys Enlli. This crossing is very weather dependent; the straights are amongst the most fickle and dangerous around the British coastline.

To quote from Chris's initial report: "This first pilgrimage was designed to check the route and 'way-mark' it with stickers of a Celtic Cross to allow other people to do the same route for years to come. It turns out the walk is far longer than was initially thought with the pilgrims walking around 150 miles rather than the 127 that were first estimated. There may now be some fine tuning to the route but

overall this first pilgrimage was a complete success. It's not so much an achievement but a sense of fulfilment. We've walked through the worst of weather and the sweetest weather, through towns and cities, hamlets and villages, along pavements and grass and there's been an incredible welcome from parishes along the way. Overall it's been delightful and the little services we've had along the way have been so moving and powerful, while the relationships and conversations along the route have blossomed."

Regretfully I was not able to participate in this inaugural pilgrimage; arthritic joints have brought an end to my walking days. Sadly I stayed at home but received daily excited phone calls from Roger with messages from the rest of the group. On a personal note, Roger and I have walked together for many years but never as part of an organised group. As I rather expected, Roger returned home with the same sense of loss that we experienced after the camino. Before his return he spent a day walking alone in the isolated and incredibly beautiful Cwm Pennant and it was several days before he 'came down to earth'.

What is the next step? Well, our committee is busy making minor 'tweaks' to the walking route; we have been assured that, when it is finalised, it will be included on Ordnance Survey maps. Hopefully, we will be able to recommend possibilities for cyclists. Most importantly, we are working hard to encourage local residents along the route to open their homes to pilgrims; also, we are seeking farmers who could offer barns and create bunk houses. All this will take time but, for those who seek greater comfort, there are already known hotels and guest houses. The route offers magnificent scenery, ancient Celtic churches/sacred places and a warm Welsh welcome.

Here, in the Diocese of St Asaph, pilgrimage and sacred sites will be especially celebrated because Bishop Gregory has declared May 2013 – May 2014 to be our Diocesan "Year of Pilgrimage". This event is in the very early stages of planning but every parish across the eastern reaches of North and Mid-Wales will be participating; who knows what ancient pilgrim routes will be revived and what sacred sites will be made accessible?

* Cadw (a Welsh word meaning 'to keep' or 'to protect') is the Welsh Government's historic environment service, working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment for Wales.

Websites

www.pilgrims-way-north-wales.org

www.churchinwales.org.uk/asaph/news/pilgrimstart.php

Via de la Plata

A Camino Less Travelled

An Australian Member

In April of this year, with some trepidation, I set out from Seville in the south of Spain to walk north to Santiago de Compostela a distance of some 1000 kilometres. This camino, following the ancient Roman road northward, is being promoted as an alternative to the increasingly crowded and commercialised Camino Francés that runs across Spain from the Pyrenees.

In contrast to the Camino Francés there is little detailed information in English on the route, hence my trepidation. However I needn't have worried for it seems well known to both the French and Spanish and they have excellent guidebooks from which I was able to 'crib' using my basic French and even more basic Spanish. Most of my fellow walkers were indeed French and Spanish (almost no one spoke English along the way) and whilst I walked alone for some of the time, there was always good company at the pilgrims' *albergues* at night.

From Seville the camino takes you due north through farmland, olive groves, white wild flowers and of course the whitewashed villages and towns typical of Andalusia. The route was well way-marked with not only the famous yellow arrows but also recently introduced stone markers - so I only got a bit lost! The *albergues* or pilgrims' inns were in general excellent, many run by the local authority in old monasteries or convent buildings that had been converted to provide bunk room style accommodation. There was always a local restaurant that would serve a 'menu of the day' for lunch or dinner, albeit at the Spanish mealtimes of 2.00pm and 9.00pm respectively! Breakfasts were however a bit more problematical as nothing much opens in rural Spain before 10.00am.

After Andalusia the route enters the province of Extremadura, one of the poorest regions of Spain, through flat land scattered with small oak trees and small black pigs that feed on the acorns, this being the *jamon ibérico* capital of Spain with hams hanging in just about every shop and bar. It was sad to see however, so many of the old villages now almost derelict with only a very few older people still living there.

The highlights were the ancient towns and cities through which

the camino passes - Mérida with its Roman theatre, circus and aqueduct, the medieval walled city of Cáceres, the great Roman arch at Caparra and of course the magnificent cathedrals and architecture of Salamanca.

From Extremadura, the equally flat (and boring) wheat fields of Castille include some pleasant small towns including one, A Guidina, where I spent an hour speaking English to a class of lively Spanish school children. Finally, the path turned westward through the decidedly un-flat country of Galicia with great views of gorse covered hills (but some murderous climbs) through the city of Ourense and then to Santiago itself to join the crowds of pilgrims from the Camino Francés in the midday Mass at its cathedral. It was a moving experience to hear in the roll of arrivals read from the altar “*from Seville, one Australian*”.

A wonderful six weeks, remembered not only for the walking but the great companions from all over Europe and the kindness and courtesy of the Spanish people whom I encountered along the way.

Editor's Note: CSJ publishes Pilgrim's Guide to Spain 2A: Seville to Santiago, £5, A useful app with maps, guides and accommodation has been developed by a US pilgrim Melanie Radzicki McManus: Via de la Plata, and published by Sutro Media.

Gaucelmo News

Julie Davies

2012 Hospitaleros

| | |
|-------|--|
| April | Alison Raju (UK) and Robert Mullen (UK) Rowena and Bob Macdonald (UK) |
| May | Antonio Tejero Sanchez (ESP) and Peter Garlick (UK) Catherine and Julie Davies (UK) |
| June | Roisin and Vincent Cowley (IRL) |



Few people arriving at Gaucelmo, whether *hospitaleros* or pilgrims, will be aware of the hard work required at the end of the season to maintain the refuge to its high standard.

This year's working party certainly put in considerable elbow grease! A big thank you to David Arthur, Alan Bibby, Brendan Nolan, Paul Murray, Trevor Curnow, Dick and Liz Crean - they can vouch for the fact that closing the refuge is more than washing a few sheets and blankets! Here is a small sample from the long list of jobs they completed -

Fit gutters to the barn dormitory and wood shed.

Paint the main dormitory.

Varnish/oil garden furniture.

Plaster and paint walls in hospitaleros office.

Stack a load of firewood

Wash all blankets and mattress covers.

Clean fridges, cooker and bathrooms etc.

Move the St James icon to more suitable visible space.

Scrub every conceivable surface you can find!! etc...

The new barn gutters will prevent damp in the lower interior wall of the barn, and the gutters on the wood shed will mean *hospitaleros* won't get a dose of cold water down their necks when collecting logs for the fire. The overflow in the butts will water the trees in the *heurta*.

Brendan and Ann Nolan, the last *hospitaleros* at Gaucelmo in 2011, plus Alan Bibby (an early arrival for the working party) had an “interesting” time when the solar panels were installed onto the main roof of the refuge dormitory. With no water or electrics and the entrance looking like a cross between a building site and a plumbers merchants' yard the refuge had to close to pilgrims three days early. One of the challenges faced by all – engineers, *hospitaleros* and plumbers – was lifting a 2m tall tank, weighing around 250kg up to a height of 1.5m and manoeuvring it across the boundary wall and into a recess without lifting gear or ropes!

Everything is now installed. We hope the panels will use the power of the sun to heat the water for the pilgrim showers, thus reducing our energy bills and our carbon footprint. David Arthur and Dick Crean will hopefully find out how to use it efficiently and effectively during their visit in March.

Gaucelmo works its Premises Co-ordinators very hard! Brendan is stepping down and David Arthur is taking over the responsibilities. We have a lot to thank Brendan for – he was a “doer”, problems never lasted long and he tackled them with humour and resolve. It always amazes me that Gaucelmo runs so smoothly when geographically the CSJ, and the *hospitalero* and premises co-ordinators are all so far apart – Spain, Newcastle, London, and Dorset! However, it's the support and co-operation that one receives from all members of the CSJ which enables Gaucelmo to function as well as it does.

We look forward to welcoming our first pilgrims of 2012 at the end of March. Hospitaleros are still needed at the end of July and in August –please contact Julie Davies.

Miraz News

Richard Jefferies

After a successful 2011, the Committee has planned and resourced the coming season. Hospitaleros are still sought for July and August to provide a full complement of wardens. Good Spanish is highly desirable yet not essential. Please contact Alan Cutbush.

The new refuge has settled into the local environment. In view of the increasing demand on the Camino Francés the Northern Route is expected to become more popular. Miraz is in a monopoly situation at present and we have experienced overflow at busy times in the summer. We intend to encourage links with local developments in Seixon and Santa Leocada to share the load for accommodating and supporting pilgrims.

We are grateful to Bob Mullen and Judith Burroughs for their effective liaison over the winter months. There is a range of snags to be rectified with the builder. A chlorification unit costing 3,000€ has been installed to meet Xacobeo requirements. Ted Jones is leading a Working Party in late March to spring clean and attend to a list of small yet important works.

The garden is a priority for 2012. The ravages of the building works have reduced the previous ambiance of rest and recreation. We thank Priscilla White for her efforts in planting roses and encourage members to support us in this development. The apple trees planted by Keith and Maureen Young have survived changes in the garden, yet will require attention in the Spring.

In summary the Committee is working to set the refuge on a firm technical and financial footing. Our facilities are splendid and highly valued. We must commit to maintaining the new building and grounds to a high standard.

Camino Documentary

Help Needed

Dear Confraternity of Saint James,

Greetings from Portland, Oregon, the newest chapter of American Pilgrims on the Camino (APOC). Portland is also delighted to be the home of Lydia B. Smith who has recently filmed an outstanding documentary on the Camino, which is in the final stages of production. Please view the website, trailer, and recently released Director's Message at www.caminodocumentary.org or visit us on Facebook.

The Camino Documentary is not only stunningly beautiful, as we all know the Camino itself is exquisite, but it has been filmed with a sensitivity to the individual pilgrims (one of whom is British) which it follows on their journey on the Camino Frances, as well as the fuller meaning of the Camino. Through interviews and conversation the film captures the historical, cultural and the religious dimension of walking, with depth and breadth, and then gracefully uncovers the deep spiritual movement that seems to catch both the religious pilgrim and the adventurer by surprise. By its completion, the film has artfully drawn the viewer ever closer to the true spirit of the Camino, a Spirit whose presence animates the lives of these pilgrims and promises to infuse each of us with a heightened mindfulness of beauty, courage, and hope, as well as a renewal of meaningfulness in our lives.

The final costs of production, for a 2012 film release to finish the film, are being raised in a number of ways. The friends of The Camino Documentary, in Portland, would be grateful if you could forward this email to your association members and friends with encouragement to support this project. We are especially looking for pilgrims that are walking this year. See Walk for the Doc for more information. Attached you can find an article about The Camino Documentary that we would be grateful if you could publish in your newsletter. Additionally, if your organization has grant funds or discretionary funds to support Camino projects we would appreciate any financial assistance possible.

The Camino Documentary website has all the information you will need to make a contribution. Please feel free to contact us either via my email (auerbach.cm@gmail.com) or to info@caminodocumentary.org and we will be happy to share with you more about this powerful documentary film project.

Likewise, we would be very grateful if you could let us know what kind of outreach to your members you will be able to provide. Thank you for joining me in spreading the word about this very important film.

Thank you and Buen Camino!

Christine Auerbach

Members' pages

From Ricky Hearn

FELLOW CYCLIST NEEDED

Is anyone interested in doing the cycle ride from Pau to Santiago de Compostela, c500 miles? I am hoping to do the ride in May 2012. I am a 72-year old male and would like people, male and female, between ages of 65-75 to join me. Fitness and health are very important, and experience in long distance cycling is essential. Please phone 0113 281 8176 if you are interested.

From Evan Rutherford

Further to my article in *Bulletin* 114, June 2011, a visit to the monument in late August showed several changes, made in the previous year. The original inscription is now on the side from which pilgrims approach. On the opposite side is a tablet which may be translated:

MONTE DE LA PEDRAJA 1936

In this place some three hundred persons were shot by those who supported the rebellion of General Francisco Franco against the legitimately established Republic, which led to the Spanish civil war in the years from 1936 to 1939.

This humble monument, established by their families, will serve to ensure that we shall never forget their memory.

May they rest in peace.

Other lines from Miguel Hernandez and Virgilio Soria appear on the remaining sides.

By a fortunate chance the local representative of the Association for Historic Memory was present, taking delivery of a mechanical excavator. A mass grave with 104 bodies has already been uncovered and a further one was about to be excavated. His account included the information that a memorial service is held every 1st of November.

The "75 years ago" entry in the local journal, mentioned in July, turns out to mean a renewed entry every day. This produces a stream of re-created Franco propaganda which will continue until April 2014.

The prospects for national reconciliation resulting from this are not encouraging.

From Duncan McKenzie

I visited the old Portuguese fort in Diu. A giant stone bastion overlooking the sea, crawling with local tourists demanding photos by your side. I entered an old chapel along one thick outer wall, missing its roof, open to the sky. Its deep-silled windows framed the Arabian Sea and I felt the urge to climb up onto the wide stone window sill, to lie there, my head in shade, my body warmed by the morning sun.

There was remarkably a sudden lack of noisy tourists and I could hear only the sea breaking on the rocks below. A stork picked through rock pools for seafood. I felt a sudden wave of ease and calm, a deep relaxation that was so strong it was noticeable. I stayed there for more than half an hour, letting my travel companions walk on to the lighthouse. No one bothered me, as if I was protected or made invisible by some kind of bubble. After a brief but deeply nourishing half-sleep, I sat up and slowly moved off to join the others.

On leaving the small chapel precinct, I noticed a sign, 'St Tiago Bastion and Chapel'. Staring back at the external facade, now I saw what had earlier escaped my notice: our friend Jim, riding his horse, sword raised, in best Iberian peninsula 'Moor Slayer' propaganda pose. And I smiled. That explained everything.

From Alison Raju

A NEW PILGRIM ROUTE IN BRITAIN – PAULINUS PILGRIM AND HERITAGE WAY

A new pilgrimage route has been created in northern England, starting in Todmorden, on the Yorkshire-Lancashire border and ending at York Minster, where St. Paulinus was its first bishop.

Paulinus (563-644) was the first Christian missionary to Northumbria, sent to Britain in 601 by Pope Gregory the Great to assist St. Augustine in his conversion of the country. The route is designed to trace what was probably Paulinus' missionary journey through old Northumbria and passes through Hebden Bridge, Halifax, Dewsbury, Wakefield, Leeds and Tadcaster on its way to York. It takes five to six days to walk but it is not yet clear whether or not it has been waymarked.

For more information see www.paulinusway.org.uk

From Vincent Kelly

Those of you who have ever enjoyed the peace and quiet of the Benedictine Abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos, as I have over the last few years, may be interested in the news that the Abbey environs are now even quieter. Since I was last there in 2009 they have had delivery of a Comarth electric cart. It is the prototype of a new electric cart being produced in Murcia and has been presented to the Abbey by the manufacturers.

The Abbot, Dom Clemente Serna, laughingly describes it as a “very nice toy”, but it is something more than that as it will replace a conventionally noisy and environmentally unfriendly tractor and it will be ideal for transporting both monks and goods in their normal occupations.

Not unlike the buggies to be seen on our golf courses it is a two-seater, with the rear seats converted into a box for the carriage of goods and the front seats covered. It is open to the elements on all sides. With its larger wheels it is a truly an all-terrain vehicle and I understand that it can even climb flights of steps. With a 12-volt battery-operated electric motor it has two operating pedals with both a forward and a reverse gear. With a maximum speed of about 50-60kph it has a range of about 70km. The recharge-time for the batteries is about 4 hours. Of course its CO2 emissions are zero and it is completely silent in operation; so silent that the driver must be mindful to signal his approach.

In the Abbey it is used for the normal daily tasks of transporting items about the farm and orchard and, with Fr. Josué in charge, it is fully legal to be driven on the highway and can be used for short journeys outside the Abbey precincts.

From Christina Whiting

During March I am holding an exhibition of images and photographs of my pilgrimage along the Camino Francés. This will be at the Fireweed Gallery, Homer, Alaska. I am donating a percentage of sales to the CSJ.

From Johnny Walker

The *Route of Routes* in Santiago de Compostela – a new route and a new guide-book.

Would you like to walk on five caminos, go through three parks, meander up and down two forest trails, visit important churches and buildings along the way, and, most of all, enjoy the best view there is of Santiago high above the city!?

You have arrived in Santiago and you only have a couple of days to see the city. The friends you have met on the camino have dispersed and you'd love to keep walking, for example to Finisterre, but you just don't have time. You may have been met in Santiago by a friend or loved one and you'd like them to get a taste of the camino as well as seeing Santiago. Or you just want some time to yourself, to walk, sit, relax, reflect, remember and be thankful for the wonderful experience you have had on camino.

These are only a few of the reasons you might wish to walk this beautiful and historic route. No matter what route you have walked your feet will once again travel a part of that route.

Like many medieval towns Santiago once had a number of city gates and the route by which the pilgrim travelled determined which gate they would use to enter the city. These gates are described in the *Codex Calixtinus*. No matter where the pilgrim started, the route they took eventually joined one of five which entered the city. This is still the same today. The Camino Francés being the busiest is joined by the northern routes along the north coast of Spain and some of the southern routes. The Via de la Plata from the South is joined by other routes from different parts of Southern Spain. Whilst all but one of the old city gates has disappeared the routes entering the city still largely follow the roads nearby to where they stood.

The route is approximately 14kms in length. The route takes between 3 and 3.5 hours, depending on your pace, or much longer depending on where you stop, linger or visit.

This divides almost equally between walking on the camino routes through Santiago and the ascent and descent of Monte Pedroso. However set aside plenty of time to walk the route because you will want to stop, linger, visit galleries and churches and just enjoy the many views you will encounter.

The guide contains walking directions, history and other information including the opening hours of museums and churches along the route. It will shortly be available to download from the CSJ

website and will be published in Santiago by Xacobeo.

If you would like a copy before it is available from these sources please e-mail me: *JohnnieWalker-santiago@hotmail.com*

From Nancy Rudden

I recently found some St James paintings (which may have come from the church of Santiago in Zaragoza) in the Thyssen Bornemisza Gallery in Madrid, including

1. Jaume Huguet, 1414-1505, 'A Pilgrim Mass' c 1450, a pilgrim with hat, shell and staff receives alms from a saint.

2. Martin Bernat 1450-1505

A) 'Loading the body at Jaffa' –St James has a bloody neck and his head rests on his feet. Herod and his court watch the cart. The executioner puts away his sword.

B) 'Brought to Iria by boat' –St James's complete body –head restored, with hat. Lies in a cart pulled by two bulls. Athanasius and Theodore walk behind, dressed as pilgrims. Queen Lupa watches from above 'astonished to see the wild bulls she sent, have become tame'.

Book Reviews

Via Francigena Pilgrim Trail Canterbury to Rome: Part I Canterbury to the Great St Bernard Pass

Alison Raju, 2011 (A Cicerone Guide) Cicerone Publ., £14.95, 235pp, ISBN 978-1-85284-487-5. CSJ Price £13.95.

This long-awaited guide by Alison Raju does not disappoint. The author, an intrepid pilgrim, walker, writer of several Cicerone and other pilgrim guides, provides the first one in English specifically for walkers along the 1900km Via Francigena (VF) from Canterbury to Rome. This is the first volume of a two-volume guide.

Essentially following the route documented by Sigeric, Archbishop of Canterbury in the 10th century AD, the book is divided into a substantial introduction together with a detailed route description. Appendices include further reading, useful contacts, and summary of route and distances.

Topics such as preparing for the journey, equipment, types of accommodation, as well as a range of do's and don'ts, are well covered and thoughtful, presented with practicality and commonsense in mind. Who but an experienced pilgrim would include a list of 'what **not** to take' when packing; omit prescriptive day stages; include the Lord's Prayer in French for use in churches en route; give an explanation of the contrasting nature of the VF and so on?

The main body of the book describes the route in six sections with detailed directions, colour sketch maps, walking distances, notes on each place and facilities provided. Excellent colour photographs of landscape or points of interest relieve the text. A minor point is the difficulty in distinguishing the small blue triangles denoting a footnote, also in blue, which actually follow later on the page. In the same neat compact format as other Cicerone Guides, the paperback is sized at approximately 6" x 4" x 0.5" (11.5 x 17.2 x 1.4 cm), which fits neatly into a pocket or map case. The paper is of a good weight and quality, robust enough to withstand the likely wetting it will get along the way from rain, drinks, mud or tears! The author suggests maps for each country on the route. An alternative choice for France is the IGN Serie Bleue maps (1:25,000) which give a fine level of detail but

require more sheets.

The author is to be congratulated on undertaking this demanding task, having herself walked the route as a pilgrim at least twice, while at the same time researching and recording her experiences and knowledge to share with us, the readers.

REVIEWED BY JOHN & WENDY BEECHER

A Very Long Walk

Rachel Escott, 2011, Rachel Escott Publ, £8.00, 168pp ISBN 978-1-4709-6818-2

And a long walk it certainly was.....nine months to complete 2289 miles to Santiago from home in London. However, to quote the author, a professional writer, this 'is not a diary, nor, quite, a travel book ...' Rachel's feet were wandering so her mind wandered too and these impressions and reflections were posted in the form of blogs on <http://verylongwalks.blogspot.com/>.

This book is the published version and an excellent page-turner it is too. It is in the form of a series of short stand-alone essays, each dated and with titles. However, date and place do not necessarily match as the journey was a convoluted one, involving returns home, prolonged stays at various points and returns to sections of pathways previously missed. The reader adjusts to this and if you feel the need to check their exact 'progress', there is a detailed itinerary at the back of the book which lists each day's walk, distance, speeds and ascents. A 'statistics' section includes facts such as how many blisters (none!), how many notebooks filled (thirteen) and how many bed bug bites (a lot!) etc. A comprehensive list of what they carried to cope with the changing seasons is both intimate snapshot and useful information.

The prose is complemented by photographs taken throughout the journey by her husband David Steel. I felt it was a pity that the poor quality reproduction of the photos did not do justice to the text nor reflect the excellence of the originals (look on the website). There were also some irritating typos – a few in the text itself and others in misspellings of place names of the itinerary.

Rachel's words however, spin the magic. Few camino books have left me with such a wonderful sense of place and of seasons. The longest part is about their journey from the Channel coast to the Pyrenees. Rachel's fluent writing about both the French countryside and the less immediately appealing aspects of urban France is intelligent and illuminating. Whilst full of observed detail and striking images it is not

merely descriptive and attempts to analyse and at times criticise what Rachel observed. Once on the Camino Francés for example, she does not romanticise or spiritualise the 'Way'. After France, it seems for her 'weary and relentless' – a rather busy and prosaic means to get to her goal. The popularisation of this route has in her eyes been at some cost: the commercialisation of the route and the lack of respect for the countryside and its inhabitants by the relentless stream of pilgrims on their one-way journey.

Rachel and David's impressions throw a refreshingly pragmatic light on some of what others effuse about: Rabanal for example was rather a non-event – it was not the anticipated 'highlight'. They found it had rather too many people, the terrain not as wild as expected and the Confraternity's *refugio* was firmly shut!

Despite her candid accounts of the physical and psychological problems and crises faced during the walk, this camino is not an introspective search for fulfilment or self-development. One feels an empathy with the long and at times difficult challenge she had set herself. Once arrived at Santiago, there was time for reflection and looking to a future which might contain some of the enrichment gained over the long months. This is a very 'grounded' camino account; a very readable and accessible record of a considerable achievement. Recommended.

REVIEWED BY JOHN AND HELEN WILLSON

Every Place is Holy Ground: making a pilgrimage through everyday places

Sally Welch, 2011, Canterbury Press, £9.99, 144pp, ISBN: 978-1-848-25075-8

Pilgrimage, as this journal testifies, is very much in vogue and a growing phenomenon. Sally Welch gives us a book that encourages everyone to be able to make a pilgrimage, whatever their health, financial circumstances, or the time they can make available.

After an excellent Foreword by John Pritchard and a good introduction (both, in my opinion, well worth reading by all pilgrims), Welch gives us nine chapters and exercises, inviting us to see our home, our Church and the community or district in which we live through "pilgrim eyes". These journeys attempt to follow some of the stages we might recognise from, say, a few weeks on the camino, such as 'beginning', 'prioritizing', 'struggling' and 'resting'. By using some of the exercises on our own or with others, ... "*we can nurture the gift*

of living in the present, acutely and sensitively aware of our immediate environment, spending time simply being in God's presence, enjoying his company, being surrounded by his love."

This can give a very helpful mindfulness to our interaction with the places in which we live, and finding in our journeys around them echoes of the journey of Christ on earth.

I would particularly recommend this book to anyone who has made the camino and who is now seeking to integrate that experience into their everyday life. It might be helpful to those of us at home in a similar way to the new *Route of Routes* in Santiago de Compostela is to those who have newly arrived there. If there is anyone who is seeking to dip their toes into pilgrimage or who cannot make one at this time, the exercises in this book can open things up for you.

REVIEWED BY ANDY DELMEGE

Obituaries

Rosemary Rendel 1924-2011

Rosemary Rendel joined CSJ in its very early days. She was a distinguished historian of Catholic Recusancy (ie the role played by Catholics in the 16th-18th centuries in English life). Her services to the Catholic church were recognised when she was made a Dame of St Gregory.

Anthony Smith d 2011

Jim Unsworth writes: Anthony and I first met on the Camino Inglés (1999, the Pilgrimage organised by Pat Quaipe and Francis Davey) he and I became very firm friends, walking the French Route in 2002.

He was one of the most spiritual people I have ever met, and my life has been enriched for knowing him.

Ray Honeyford 1934-2012

We send our condolences to Angela Honeyford on the death of her husband Ray. In the 1980s Bradford headmaster Ray was a centre of controversy as he was critical of the multiculturalism current in schools. He was forced to take early retirement. In their home he had framed *Daily Telegraph* cartoons about that period on the wall.

Manuel Fraga Iribane 1922-2012

Spanish or Galician politicians are not often remembered in the *Bulletin*. However, the passing of Manuel Fraga, the last surviving minister from the Franco era and stalwart of Galician political world since then should be noted. He was born in Vilalba on the Camino del Norte and was buried at Perbes, near the Camino Inglés. From a poor background, he was an exemplary student of political law at university in Santiago de Compostela and Madrid. Under Franco he was developed tourism to Spain, coining the slogan 'Spain is different'; for 2 years until the death of Franco he was Ambassador to London. Post Franco he was instrumental in the founding of the conservative *Partido Popular*, in government under José Maria Aznar in the 1990s. From 1990 his powerbase grew in Galicia; he was President for 10 years. The modern day rebirth of the Camino took place from the 1980s onwards, in many ways parallel with the development of Galicia. Fraga was undoubtedly a contributory force.

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

AGM

Thank you to all the many members who braved the snow and cold to come to the AGM. The presentations of 'Growing Forward' and the performance of the Pilgrimage Cantata, with quite a few members able to join the augmented CSJ Choir were very well received. As usual we have some lost property – a blue and white spotted cake tin with festive reindeer and a big (Tesco) plastic box with lid. John Read asks the Choir that if anyone has a Fairford copy of the Cantata –number 20 or 28, please return it to him (address from the office).

CSJ Help Needed

Membership Secretary Wanted – Urgently!

Are you methodical? Careful with attention to detail? Do you have few hours to spare each week?

Would you like to help the CSJ by becoming our new Membership Secretary?

Full training will be given on using the Maximizer database, but you will already have a basic knowledge of Word and Excel. You can work mostly from home but will need to travel to the office sometime. We can supply a dedicated laptop if needed

The work includes producing quarterly name & address labels, handling subscription renewals, extracting data for various reports, updating the database for subscriptions and changes to everyday contact details. From February to mid-August, the hours would be 1-2 hours a week on average; from late August to January there is more to do producing reminder letters and processing subscriptions etc. An hourly rate can be paid. Apply to the office.

Office Volunteers/Saturday Open Day Volunteers

This is the best chance to share your enthusiasm and knowledge of the camino with others, and also learn about the inside ways of the CSJ office. It helps if you know your way around the CSJ Website and other sources of information eg Spanish and French railways and buses to answer a surprising range of questions. We need a few more volunteers for Thursdays and also for Saturday Open Days.

New Pilgrim Office Website

The English version of website for the Pilgrim Office in Santiago has been updated by John Rafferty. It is a good source of statistics over the years. See www.peregrinossantiago.es

Google maps development

New techniques mean that on Google earth you can now see various cities from a 45 degree angle. Interestingly, the cities include San Sebastian, Pamplona and Ponferrada.

Paris Route update

Marigold Fox has agreed to re-walk the Paris route and update the Guide she and her husband Maurice first wrote in 1998. Until publication of the new Guide later this year pilgrims wanting information on the Paris route should look at the section 'Guides and Updates' on the www.csj.org.uk to find much material, especially links to helpful French websites, which update the original Guide. This includes information about the approach to Paris for pilgrims from Dieppe etc as well as a route across the French capital.

Editions of Paris to the Pyrenees or the original Arles route Guides wanted

If anyone has an unused or lightly used copy of the CSJ's 1998 Paris to the Pyrenees, original 2003 Arles Guides or 2000 Madrid to Sahagún, Marigold Fox would be glad to receive a copy via the office.

Aachen celebrations

CSJ was represented at the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Deutsche Sankt-Jacobus Gesellschaft in Aachen in February. It was great to meet old friends from the Gesellschaft such as Prof Robert Plotz and Klaus Herbers, Gerhilde Fleischer, Manfred Zentgraf and Gabriele Latzel, as well as our new Dutch friends Adrie Dik and Joost Bol from the Utrecht conference in the autumn, Eivind Luthen from Oslo. Rotraub Rebmann, who had been at the CSJ AGNM a week earlier was also there. It was a great opportunity to visit Charlemagne's capital and learn more of its history. A unexpected extra visit to Liège on the way home began the process of considering another CSJ visit to Germany and Belgium.

Bristol Local Meeting

About 60 people came to an excellent day organised by Liz and Dick Crean and their team of local interested members at the newly restored St James's Priory in the city centre. There were talks on the place in Bristol in relation to the history of the pilgrimage to Santiago and also the history of St James's Priory. There was also time for Practical Pilgrim discussions.

British Library

A small group of members was able to visit the British Library recently to meet Dr Nicholas Bell and Dr Geoff West, mainly to see the BL's facsimile copy of the *Codex Calixtinus*, particularly in light of the disappearance of one of the originals from Santiago Cathedral. We were privileged to see the original of a charter of confirmation by Alfonso the Wise of royal grants to the Hospital of Las Huelgas in Burgos. From the number and status of the witnesses (including 77 prelates and noblemen), this grant would have been made on the occasion of the marriage of Eleanor of Castile to Prince Edward, eldest son of Henry III. Other treasures included a very delicate copy of *The Book of Margery Kempe* from 1437; a collection of Pilgrim songs

Sponsor a Week

This scheme allows people who cannot be on the camino in any one year a chance to support either or both of our two refuges. A donation of £50 supports the welcome given to pilgrims in your chosen week. To say 'Thank You' our hospitaleros will write you a letter giving some of the highlights for the week. To find out the weeks still available at both Gaucelmo and Miraz please contact the office.

CSJ Events

Saturday 28 April

Office Open Day

10.30am-4pm Office at 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY open for advice and information.

Wednesday 16 May

Blessing of Amigos Project

The Bishop of Gibraltar is going to bless the work of the new joint UK-Irish Amigos project in Santiago. He will preside at the 12noon Pilgrim Mass and bless the Amigos and office afterwards. All welcome.

Fri 22-Mon 26 June

Pilgrim Visit to Scotland

A visit to Edinburgh and Dunfermline to see the places connected with Scotland's only Royal saint, Queen Margaret (1045-1093). Itinerary and cost to be confirmed. See separate notice.

Sat 21-Sun 22 July St James in Portsmouth Weekend

Provisional arrangements: To look at sites connected with the new CSJ St James Way route from Reading, with its alternative ending at Portsmouth for ferries to France. Day in Portsmouth to visit Cathedral(s), Historic Dockyard, Garrison church and site of Pilgrim Hospital; Portchester to visit castle and St Mary's church; possible visit to nearby Southwick and site of St James's Priory. Tony Morwood-Leyland will lead a walk from Winchester on Friday 20 and Sat 21 -contact him on amleyland@live.co.uk

Wednesday 25 July

St James's Day

On the eve of the Olympics it may be hard to travel far, so celebrate St James where you are. Let me know of any celebrations in St James's churches round the country for a list in the June *Bulletin*.

Sun 26 Aug- Fri 28 Sept

Camino Portugués

Colin Jones will be walking from Lisbon from 26 August. He hopes to arrive in Porto on 13/14 September where Dave Jones will join him. They arrive in Santiago c 26/27/28 September. Members are invited to accompany them for any section but this is not a led or guided pilgrimage. Each person is responsible for their own travel arrangements and accommodation. For more information contact Colin on pacharan@btinternet.com

Sat 29 September

Office Open Day

10.30am-4pm Office at 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY open for advice and information.

Sat 20 or 27 October

Returned Pilgrims Event

Mark the significance of your pilgrimage in a special time of reflection, and service of thanksgiving.

Friday 23 November

Miraz Meal

A Galician meal at a restaurant in London to celebrate the 2012 season at Miraz.

Saturday 1 December

Storrs Lecture

Scottish Pilgrimage

In the steps of pilgrims to The shrine of St Margaret of Scotland

THE ONLY SCOTTISH ROYAL SAINT

Friday 22-Monday 25 June 2012 (note change of date)

Residential: Edinburgh 3 nights (Fri, Sat, Sun)

Day visits possible

Saturday

Visit to St Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh Castle

St Margaret's Well & Holyrood Palace ruins

Canongate Kirk, Greyfriars Church, St Patrick's church and shrine of the Ven Margaret Sinclair (Sr Mary Francis)

Vigil Mass

Night in Edinburgh

Sunday

Follow Queensferry Road to Queensferry, church visits

Take bus to North Queensferry across the Forth Estuary-explore the peninsula where pilgrims landed

Continue by bus to Dunfermline

Visit Abbey church, shrine of St Margaret and explore medieval town (Abbot's House)

Return to Edinburgh by train

Monday

Visit to St Margaret's Chapel and 15th c St Triduana's Well, Restalrig
Depart

St Margaret

c1045-1093, English princess, family fled to Scotland after Norman conquest. Married Malcolm III of Scotland. Very pious, founding churches, monasteries, pilgrim hospitals etc. Established ferry across the Forth for pilgrims to visit Dunfermline and St Andrews. Three sons were Kings of Scotland. She died at Edinburgh Castle. Feast day 16th November.

Other Events

25-30 Mar, 7-12 Oct

Spanish for Hospitaleros

The course for non-Spanish speakers, run by the University of Santiago consists of 20 hours tuition to enable you to be work as a hospitalero. You will also learn to do simple written tasks related to camino refuges. Accommodation is in a private refuge near Santiago. Tours of the cathedral and the historic old town are included. Cost 368 euros, incl accommodation, breakfast and lunch. To increase the supply of CSJ hospitaleros at our refuges, CSJ will refund half of the fee when you complete one stint of 2 weeks at Gaucelmo or Miraz. A further 50% refund would come if you complete a further stint in a second year. Contact carmen.ollero@usc.es and see www.cursosinternacionales.usc.es to book.

Fri 13-Sat 14 April

Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Contextualising the Fifth Crusade to be held at The University of Kent at Canterbury, bringing together scholars from UK, France, Cyprus, Russia, Poland, Norway, Spain, Croatia, Australia.

More details from 5thcrusade.conference@gmail.com

Friday 15 June

Study Afternoon

The V&A Museum has a cast copy of the Portico de la Gloria at Santiago Cathedral. Explore the history, and learn about the current restoration by the Barrie Foundation of the Portico. Takes place in the Lydia & Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, V&A, South Kensington, 1315.-1700. Tickets, free, include a Reception and concert of music on instruments copied from the Portico at 1900-2130. Book in advance, 020 7942 2211 Mon-Fri, 0900-1730, or online. I also have 10 tickets for CSJ members. Apply to the office.

Saturday 23 June

Open House

Local Get Together – for CSJ members in Bucks, Beds, Berks, Herts, Northants and NW London area to include Spanish food and wine and a walk to Old Amersham. All proceeds for the Miraz Appeal.

For further details contact Ann and Frank Chesworth Tel 01494 724812

Fri 24-Mon 27 August

Sponsored bike ride

ELEANOR



St Martin-in-the-Fields

In aid of the Connection at St Martin's in the Fields this is the cyclists' equivalent of the annual May Bank Holiday fundraising walking pilgrimage from London to Canterbury in aid of the Connection Social care work at St Martin-in-the-Fields church. The 210 mile route links all the places where the body of Edward I's Queen Eleanor rested on the way from Lincoln to Westminster Abbey where she was buried. Each overnight stop was later

marked by Edward with an elaborate stone cross, originally built at Lincoln, Grantham, Stamford, Geddington, Hardingstone, Stony Stratford (Old Stratford), Woburn, Dunstable, St Albans, Waltham Cross and Charing (now Trafalgar Square). Registration is £80 (pre 1 July £65), refundable if you raise more than £1000 sponsorship for The Connection. Max 40 participants. For more information see www.queeneleanorcycleride.org.uk

A map pack is available for an independent ride, price £10, from QEBR Treasurer, The Connection at St Martin's, 12 Adelaide St, London WC2N 4HW. Enquiries to queeneleanorcycle@gmail.com

Fri 14-Mon 17 September

Parthenay

In 2012 Parthenay, 50mls west of Poitiers and on a secondary route from Mont-Saint-Michel, is celebrating its foundation. Although it has been the site of many battles, especially in the Hundred Years War, it is a text book medieval town and has been called the Carcassonne of western France.

A programme of events including a lecture 'L'influence du Chemin de Compostelle', the annual meeting of the Societe des Amis de Saint-Jacques, blessing of Rosary chapel (15th c historic monument), walk to pilgrimage sites around the town and inauguration of a new pilgrim sculpture made by French sculptor Etienne Sclupteur. The CSJ has been invited to send representatives. There may be accommodation available with local families. If you are interested please contact Marion as soon as possible.

New members

Information is provided for members' use only.

LONDON

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Mr Andrew Baguley 38 Springbank Road London SE13 6SN | 07770 914957 |
| Mrs Dora Copeland Flat 1, Block V Peabody Avenue London SW1V 4AX | 07516 261155 |
| Mr Paul Francis 11 Stone Hall Stone Hall Gardens London W8 5UU | 07764 189278 |
| Miss Sarah Kerr 19 Melbourne Court Randolph Avenue London W9 1BJ | 07968 839825 |
| Mr Raul Marrero & Raul Marrero (Jr) 102 Berkeley Tower 48 Westferry Circus London E1Y 8RP | 07921 771620 |
| Mrs Christine Rodgers Flat 21 Viewpoint 30-32 Highbury Grove London N5 2DL | |
| Mr Danny Staples 103 South Croxted Road London SE21 8BA | 020 8670 0256 |
| Dr Rose Walker 96A Savernake Road London NW3 2JR | 07932 181150 |

HOME COUNTIES NORTH

| | |
|--|--------------|
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