



Confraternity of Saint James

# Bulletin

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**December 2012**

**No 120**

## About the *Bulletin*

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Cover  
photograph  
Watercolour  
by Chris Porter

... *The inns are full, no man will yield this little Pilgrim bed,  
But forced He is with silly beasts, in crib to shroud His head.*

R. Southwell

As we approach Christmas and prepare to usher in 2013, the CSJ is preparing to celebrate its thirtieth anniversary, and there is plenty of time and reason for joy and for quiet reflection. Meanwhile I find the Elizabethan poet's reference to baby Jesus as a *pilgrim* especially touching and appropriate for us. For some years now I have been treasuring the Spanish representation of the Virgin Mary and Christ child – as pilgrims to St James. Examples of these Heavenly pilgrims can be appreciated in the magnificent pilgrim churches of La Coruña and Pontevedra to name but a few on the Camino Inglés and Camino Portugués respectively.

As pilgrims – we are concerned with the entire pilgrimage experience, and in a special way with pilgrim resting sites. Indeed, the CSJ puts much effort into ensuring that its two pilgrim *albergues* along the camino are safe and warm resting places for weary pilgrims. But for many a tired pilgrim on the camino, now as down through the ages, a rest for the night is not the longed for warm bed in an hospitable *albergue*; but a broken night's sleep on a hard wooden bench in some forsaken church porch, or a mat on the cold stone floor of a village-hall or even a few hours' sleep caught while dozing off in a haystack under starry skies... I would like to think however, that should the Holy Family (with their faithful donkey in tow) ever turn up at one of our *refugios*, a place – however humble – would be found for them. I certainly have witnessed this autumn – while working as an *Amigo* in Santiago – entire families (with small children perched on top of weary donkeys) stop-by the Pilgrim office to collect their *Compostelas*... Now they must have some wonderful tales to recount. But whether or not we manage to find a warm corner in which to put up for the night such special families – let's continue to strive to provide as much thoughtful and comforting refuge for as many other pilgrims as we possibly can!

With great serendipity this December Bulletin reflects all these themes and issues and then some. Oliver Pohling writes about undertaking the camino with the help of a trusted wheel-chair (and

some fellow pilgrim assistance) while Laurie Dennett and Stephen Mangion write about *albergues* and *hospitaleros* extraordinaire! Such *hospitaleros* and inviting *refugios* helped make the camino experience special for Paul Smith and Mary Clare Faulkner and so it's no surprise that CSJ members generally are keen to collect monies and funds to support the running of our two *albergues* – with meals out, open-houses and other enjoyable events as is written up for us by Helen Willson. Of course pilgrimage is not a solely Christian phenomenon and Sheila McGuirk recounts in this Bulletin her impressions of a recent exhibition at the British Museum about the Hajj. We are also lucky to have a lively correspondence page, several books reviews and the long awaited results of the CSJ crossword puzzle! Just how welcoming the Miraz *albergue* has become, can be judged by the drawing of the *albergue* by a young Polish pilgrim. Meanwhile, Rabanal was busy welcoming its 129,000 pilgrim, while Alex Rankin recalls his stay in Santiago working as an Amigo – welcoming thousands of pilgrims at journey's end.

Finally, it remains for me in the name of our Chairman, Colin Jones, our Secretary Marion Marples, all the Trustees and the entire Bulletin team to wish you a Happy and joyful Christmas. And perhaps like me, you too can reflect with amusement on just what kind of *silly beasts* the Christ-child was forced to share his bed with...

# 1983 CSJ at 30 2013

## Thirty Years Ago

- \* In 1982 Holy Year six people from England individually contacted the Paris Société des Amis de Saint-Jacques
- \* The Paris Secretary, Mlle J Warcollier, suggested they form their own Association
- \* On 13 January 1983, Mary Remnant's birthday, they met at Mary's house in Chelsea and decided to hold a public meeting.
- \* The steering group was formed of Rob Neillands Chairman, Patricia Quaife -Secretary, Ian Dodd - Treasurer, Peter Johnston, Jocelyn Rix, Mary Remnant, steering group



- \* On 6 March a meeting was held 'for anyone interested in the pilgrimage to Santiago' at the Wren Restaurant, St James's Piccadilly. 30 people joined.
- \* The next public meetings were a visit to Reading Abbey in May and a Lecture Recital *Medieval Minstrels on the Road to Santiago* by Mary Remnant at St James's Spanish Place in July
- \* The first CSJ Pilgrim Record was issued to George Grant, who cycled from Rochester and arrived in Santiago on 23 July. David Thomas from Bristol and his son Kevin cycled via St Malo. All used the first draft edition of the Pilgrim Guide to Spain – consisting of just a few typewritten pages.
- \* By September CSJ had 75 members.

# Along the pilgrim way by wheelchair

Oliver Pohling

If you talk about the pilgrim way in Germany, people immediately think of the Camino Francés to Santiago de Compostela. The pilgrim way from Sevilla to Santiago de Compostela, the Vía de la Plata, is relatively unknown in Germany. It was made famous by the entertainer and comedian, Hape Kerkeling who walked it in 2006. In December of that year, I had an accident with my mountain bike in the Alps of Bavaria. I'm paraplegic since this accident, but I retain the hope of walking again because I haven't lost the feeling in my legs. In fact I'm an incomplete paraplegic as, on Christmas Eve, three weeks after my accident, I was able to move my right big toe again. After some time I got back the control of my right leg but not full power. I can use only a few muscle fibers. I worked hard to get back full power but it wasn't possible by volition alone. The regeneration of the nerves is unfortunately not likely in the foreseeable future.

I stayed in hospital for four months. I could stand but not walk. I could move my left leg only a bit. Back at home, I suffered from depression. I read the book written by another paraplegic, Felix Bernhard, who did the pilgrim way from Sevilla to Santiago de Compostela in his wheelchair and wrote the book *Dem eigenen Leben auf der Spur* (A life of their own on The Way). I saw some analogies between his experience in the hospital and mine. His book gave me courage for my life. I still hoped to walk and I decided to attempt the same thing myself in 2010, three years after my accident. If I had been able to walk again, I would have gone along the pilgrim way to express my gratitude for living without a wheelchair. As a matter of fact, I realised I was not able to walk again, so I had to accept my need for a wheelchair. As an incomplete paraplegic, I can walk up and downstairs if I can lean on something even though I cannot walk independently without support. Mostly, I can help myself but I wouldn't have gone without Felix showing me that it is possible. Sometimes it was impossible to believe that he had done it. For me, it was a great experience, rather different from Felix's, less spiritual. I tried to arrange my past life in



my mind as Felix did but it didn't work. The pilgrim way was more a sporting challenge for me.

During my preparation, I constructed a bigger, removable wheel at the front of my wheelchair. I had seen the long downhill ways in the pictures of Felix. His wheelchair had two small wheels for linkage in front. His wheels were so small they found every small hole in the way and "stopped" the ride. He then had to lift the front of the wheelchair. The bigger wheel in front of mine helped. I often used the road instead of the path. This is because by moving both the wheels on the side, the wheelchair goes straight on. I met a few pilgrims during this time most of whom were amazed at the motion of my wheelchair. Of course it is more difficult sometimes, but often it is easier than walking. One push on the wheel and I can move myself forward for a greater or lesser distance, depending on the gradient.

Anyway, the experiences of Felix described in his book were a big help for me. I acted in accordance with his schedule and ordered my flights in advance. I remember my first day out of Sevilla very well ... Because of the experiences of Felix I was fearful of blisters on my hands. After the first day I had no blisters. I had no real problems with blisters at all, only with my bladder!

Some meetings with people from the towns or villages were very helpful, as were other pilgrims. Two Italian pilgrims introduced me to the idea of returning from Finisterre on the bus, thereby saving three days. I can pick out Manuel a Spanish pilgrim, a group of individual German pilgrims one of whom was called Rita, Siegfried an Austrian living in Norway on his second pilgrimage. I met many of these people again in Santiago de Compostela. It was like a small miracle. One of those miracles was the meeting with Penny and David from London.

I needed to get uphill in the morning of one day. Difficult but not impossible! It would be much better with help. Fortunately, Penny and David were starting at the same time and Penny pushed me uphill the whole long way. Thanks to them I was away after this... It was a great pleasure for me to meet them again in front of the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela.

I was lucky enough to get to know Penny and stay at her house during the Paralympics. What a reward for doing the pilgrimage – a wonderful friendship and a chance to improve my knowledge of the English language.

# AMIGOS TEAM 13!

Alex Rankin

That's the very job for you, Les, said my husband, having spotted the ad for volunteer Amigos in the Pilgrim Office in Santiago. Was he afraid that as a retired teacher, after 35 years teaching French and Spanish, I might get under his feet in the kitchen? Definitely not! The more I thought about it though, the more the idea appealed to me. Using my languages in a new context, living in Santiago for a fortnight when the rest of the country was going back to school... Yes, I **would** apply. And how lucky I was to be one of those chosen to don the now famous blue Amigo T-shirt, even if it was to be for Team No. 13!

My previous experience of walking several *caminos* reassured me that the challenges I would face; like sharing an apartment with a man I had never met and being available to talk to people all day for two weeks at a stretch, would somehow work out for the best. And they did! Team 13 got off to a flying start and the time flew. Irish groups started to arrive almost immediately. Within my first two hours as an Amigo, three of last year's Sixth Year students appeared up the stairs. 'Hi Ms. Rankin! You said you might be here to welcome us and YOU ARE!' They had walked over two hundred kilometres and had countless stories to tell.

It was a real pleasure to work with Seán, my fellow Amigo. He was quick to spot Irish pilgrims and establish a rapport with them as they inched their way up the stairs in the queue. Whether they were from Dundalk, Tipperary, Derry or Mullingar, he seemed to know someone they knew. If he didn't, the conversation would turn naturally to camino stories and end up with them seriously considering membership of the Irish Society of St James and returning to do a longer stretch of the route next time!

There were other English-speaking pilgrims of course, from Britain, Malta, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Canada and the U.S.A. They too seemed to appreciate the presence of the Amigo team. Some even thanked us for being there as they left the office with their *compostela*.

My role seemed to develop over time as that of problem solver. Having Spanish gave me the ability to deal with a variety of authorities; the police, the Cathedral sacristan, online travel agents and hostel

wardens. There was miraculously no issue that went unresolved, but then again, that's no surprise! We are talking camino here!

Watching the dramatic swinging of the *botafumeiro* after the Pilgrim Mass and being presented with a beautiful, personalised *compostela* and commemorative medal in appreciation of my time spent as an Amigo are moments that I will always treasure. But by far the most memorable of all would have to be those spent in the company of pilgrims who shared with me their most remarkable camino moments. Some would say they were 'coincidences' – others would prefer to call them 'God-instances'!



# Camino open house in Amersham, Bucks

Helen Willson

A damp September Sunday afternoon when the rain (in Bucks anyway!) didn't stay mainly on the plain but fell in torrents on Amersham on the Hill..... in no way deterred CSJ members and interested local people from converging on the home of Ann and Frank Chesworth, committed followers of St James, who so generously opened their doors to welcome the first gathering of what it is hoped will develop into an active area group.

Whilst we had to content ourselves with gazing out of the rain-spotted windows onto beautiful lawns and flowerbeds, the warmth of welcome and interaction between all present matched the fire in the grate and Spanish wine helped to lubricate conversations.

Neatly labelled with red and green name labels denoting 'seasoned' or 'novice' pilgrim, people mingled, exchanging experiences and ideas. Some of those attending were very new to the Confraternity and knew little about the various pilgrimage routes, whilst others had completed several walks or rides to Santiago and were still going back for more! Because of the adverse weather conditions, numbers had to be restricted to 40 but it was gratifying to know that even more were interested.

A Spanish themed lunch was served and people spread around the house, by the fire, sitting on the stairs, chatting and eating... plentiful and delicious, the food and drink set the pace for the afternoon which continued with more informal exchanges, laptop slideshows of the various routes, a chat and demo by Angelika Schneider on the practical aspects of planning such a demanding walk, an introduction to the Confraternity and the Miraz refugio by Marion Marples, a talk by the reverend Paul Smith – recently returned from Spain – on his pilgrimage with his teenage son, the chance to look at and buy a wide variety of guides, books and items on the St James pilgrimage and a raffle with so many things lined up on the table that (almost) all *did* have prizes!

The weather conditions prevented the planned visit to the Amersham Martyrs' Memorial and sadly, we had to be content with looking through glass at the St James statue and 'Frank's Folly' (a high

CHARITY  
PILGRIM LUNCH  
DONATIVO MINIMO £6  
DONATIVO MAXIMO £10  
PAGA AQUI  

---

VINO £2/COPA  
PAGA AL DENTRO  

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¡VIVA MIRAZ

wooden tower topped by a wind-vane in the shape of the stylised cockle shell familiar to pilgrims as the camino way-marker)

The Chesworth family's invitation, hard work and generosity in opening up their house and feeding us all was rewarded by enthusiasm and the satisfaction that the Miraz fund will benefit from this Open House event by £548. Everyone attending was given the parting gift of a postcard showing the various pilgrim routes to inspire or remind them of their camino.

Plans are afoot for another meeting or gathering in a restaurant in early 2013 and it's hoped that this might lead to the development of a local group and a way to promote the camino to potential members living nearby or in West London. Please come forward with ideas for the next meeting and names of Spanish restaurants that could be considered. For anybody who wishes to get involved please make contact by e-mailing: [fchesworth@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:fchesworth@dsl.pipex.com)

# Dawn Chorus of opening zips

*And creaking bunk beds.*

*No bleary eyes at 6 am*

*In the dortoir at Roncesvalles.*

*It's time for swift action*

*For twenty two pilgrims*

*Vying to pass the test*

*And outdo the rest*

*For this is MASS HYSTERIA*

- *the race to fold*
- *and fit and clip*
  - *to clamp and lace*
  - *and strap*
    - *and be first out!*

Richard Crean



# Hajj - Journey to the heart of Islam

Sheila McGuirk

I had the opportunity to visit twice, once in the context of the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East (ASTENE) and once as the guest, or special envoy, of the Confraternity, which sometimes receives tickets on the Community Preview days because of help given in the past to the BM for earlier exhibitions in what one can think of as the 'great faiths' series, including *Treasures of Heaven*. (Exhibitions in 2011 on Buddhism and the Egyptian Book of the Dead also featured spiritual journeys).

Since non-Muslims cannot go to Mecca, an exhibition such as this is one of the ways for them to experience something of the fervour and particularity of this pilgrimage. But what struck me most was how much more the exhibition actually seemed to be reaching out and touching young British Muslims, judging by the large numbers visiting on both occasions and their overheard conversations. The co-curator of the exhibition, Qaisra Khan, had herself undertaken the Hajj in preparation for the event and spoke on both my visits with undimmed enthusiasm about what her pilgrimage had meant to her personally as well as how it helped in her curatorship.

I have found audio guides very useful at such exhibitions and this one provided information on other traditions, including from Karen Armstrong on biblical and Christian comparisons. Before going on Hajj, pilgrims must settle all debts, provide for any dependents and seek forgiveness from friends and family, make a will and be prepared for the possibility that they might never return. That sounds much like what a mediaeval Christian pilgrim was expected to do. The *Ihram* garments worn by pilgrims in the sacred precincts are simple, modest, anonymous and levelling; a bit like our boots and backpacks perhaps. And doesn't this sound familiar, from the sixteenth century Persian poet Saadi:

A pilgrim on a camel commented about those on foot 'If a pawn travels the length of the chessboard it becomes a queen, and so becomes better: but these travellers to Hajj on foot have crossed the desert and have become worse.' To which the narrator, himself a foot traveller

replied, 'You are no pilgrim! Your camel is the real one, poor creature; he eats thorns and carries loads.'

From a travel point of view, the exhibition followed each of the four main routes to Eastern Arabia: across the Indian Ocean; across Africa to join the Hajj caravan from Cairo; across the Arabian Peninsula from Kufa in Iraq; and from Anatolia and Iran to Damascus to join that caravan. Some of the main routes were well way-marked with milestones, though few of these have survived. An extensive programme of talks, films and study days accompanied the exhibition. One lecture was about two English pilgrims to Mecca, Joseph Pitts of Exeter, who was captured by Barbary pirates in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and forced to convert, and Lady Evelyn Cobbold, a voluntary convert who performed the Hajj in 1933. Their accounts have both been published recently. The IMAX film *In the footsteps of Ibn Battuta* was shown a couple of times and that too is worth seeing if it comes to a cinema near you.

The exhibits, some never seen before outside Saudi Arabia, some very rarely loaned by their home museums, ranged from the splendid to the tawdry (the latter primarily the inevitable souvenirs, among them bottles for Zamzam water reminiscent of bottles for Lourdes water). Hajjis can receive a certificate, like our Compostela. Curiosities and gems which caught my eye were the 1855 Mary Tudor atlas with Mecca and Medina identified by cathedrals. The Latin inscription explained that the 'most celebrated house, empire and city of Mecca is the location of Muhammad's temple and a place of pilgrimage for the Saracens and others, as Rome is for the Christians.'

For anyone who did not see it in the *Evening Standard* of 2 February 2012, the review by Brian Sewell was both sensitive and informative. Here are two significant extracts:

*In essence the Hajj is much the same as the great Christian pilgrimages to Jerusalem, Rome and, particularly, Compostela – an ascetic and cathartic experience purifying, confirming and justifying faith,*

and

*...those who have been on a Christian pilgrimage requiring some physical endurance, will recognise the degree to which the hardship of the journey opens the spirit to exalted states of rapture, even ecstasy.*

Read the whole article if you can.



# O Cebreiro and the spirit of the Camino

Stephen  
Mangion

I felt it had to be the Camino Francés which seemed to me then to be the most popular route and a fairly demanding one. I was debating whether to start in Burgos or León with the amount of time I could spend given my work commitments but I finally decided to take the plunge and to walk the whole of the camino from St Jean-Pied-de-Port to Santiago.

I set off on in early May and while I had prepared myself for a tough first day taking the Route Napoleon across the Pyrenees, the reality proved to be harder than I thought. The weather was brilliant but there was a ferocious wind blowing the wrong way and threatening to push walkers downhill or off the mountain. It was a great relief when I finally reached the top of the Col de Leopeder after a seven hour climb and then started to head downhill towards Roncesvalles. It was a tough but wonderful day and I thought to myself that it could only get easier after that – and generally, so it was, until I got to climb the Cantabrian mountains to O Cebreiro.

The usual starting point for the climb to O Cebreiro is Villafranca del Bierzo and this is where I set off from. I woke early as usual and woke my son Andrew who was accompanying me on that final part of the camino. We left soon after and it was barely light in the deep Valcarce valley as we started to walk. We had decided to take the easier route through Pereje rather than the more demanding one over the Alto de Pradela. The camino follows the Rio Pereje for a long way. The road climbs very slowly alongside the river which at Villafranca was a wide, very full river but which diminished in size as we walked up the valley and ended up as a little brook at La Faba where we finally left it.

We stopped for breakfast at Trabadelo – the usual *tortilla de patatas* – but soon pressed on as we wanted to do as much walking as possible before the noon day heat really set in. Along the way we met some friends who had just taken the alternative and difficult route over the Alto de Pradela and who were enthusiastic about it. When we got to Herrerias, we decided to fortify ourselves for the stiff climb that was about to start. The road started to climb and then became a stony

path which was very steep and which continued to rise implacably. It reminded me a bit of the climb at St Jean on my first day of the camino, although this one was shorter. We passed through La Faba which is a delightful little hamlet. Andrew seemed to be in good form and he was keeping up with me well even though this was only his second day on the camino.

We had climbed to about thirteen hundred metres and the view down the Valcarce valley was stupendous. Green hills plunged into the depths below us with the river running through the valley and a couple of small villages clinging to the steep valley sides. The Montes de León lay far to the East. I found it hard to believe that I had crossed these only two days before as they seemed to be so far away and there, looming above us, was the pass at O Cebreiro. The weather was splendid: brilliant blue skies with a few clouds which accentuated the blueness of the sky and a gentle breeze which provided some relief from the heat. Not at all the sort of weather we had expected to find upon entering Galicia with its reputation for being one of the wettest areas in Europe. There was an amazing wealth and profusion of colour in the vegetation around us: many shades of green, yellow, pink, brown, purple and white.

We finally got to the top and we walked into the little village which was most attractive. O Cebreiro has always been a very important way station on the camino and it tended to the needs of pilgrims after the rigours of the climb up the Valcarce valley and it marked their entry into Galicia and the home run to Santiago. We checked into the *hostal* where we had booked a room and refreshed ourselves after the long day's walk.

After we had settled down, we went for a walk round the village. The church stands at the highest point and from there the one main street runs down through the village. The houses are all built in random stone masonry mostly with pitched timber roofs but a few have marvellous thatched roofs with conical or pyramidal shapes. The main street is paved in the same type of masonry as the walls of the houses giving the village a great feeling of unity and homogeneity. There are a couple of small shops and two bars and restaurants. The village stands at the top of the ridge and there are tremendous views in all directions all along the Cantabrian mountains, down into the Valcarce valley and across the mountains down into Galicia.

The church at the top of the village is a gem and parts of it date back to the tenth century making it one of the very oldest on the entire camino. It is very simple and very beautiful. The arcaded nave has a narrower aisle on either side. The roof is a pitched, dark timber roof

which contrasts with the lighter colours in the walls. At the far end of the nave is the altar and the altar piece includes a crucifix in a naïf style which is very moving. Four slit windows behind the altar let narrow shafts of light into the otherwise dark interior. The side altar had before it a long lectern which had copies of the bible in a very large variety of languages, including Braille. I had picked up the version in English and started to read it. The quiet in the church, the subdued light, together with some soft and very lovely Baroque music which was being played, gave me such a feeling of peace

I had been told that there was to be a Mass celebrated in the church and after a while it was time for Mass to start. I went into the church well before Mass started because I wanted to experience once again the peace I had felt when I had been there earlier in the day. I sat in the side chapel in the aisle and I read whole passages of the Gospel of St John in those very inspirational surroundings. Soon the bell rang to announce the start of the Mass and I picked a place in the nave of the church. The service began with a most beautiful rendering of Schubert's Ave Maria which was sung by an early middle-aged lady. Her technique was perfect and faultless and she sang with great expression. She also had a most beautiful and powerful soprano voice. Later in the Mass, she sang the Ave Maria by Bach/Gounod and the Chanson de Pelèrins composed by Jean Claude Benazet, which has become one of the traditional songs of the pilgrim walking the camino. The Mass itself was simple and uplifting and the singing really made it wonderful. The church was completely full of pilgrims and a few of the locals. At the end, the priest gave the usual special blessing to all the pilgrims.

When the Mass was ended, I went to congratulate the singer. She seemed to be part of a large group as they all congregated around her outside the church after the Mass to congratulate her. Not surprisingly, she turned out to be a professional singer from Brazil who had sung in churches all along the camino and whom I would subsequently meet and have the good fortune to hear again in Samos and in Santiago cathedral itself.

As we all filed out of the church and we headed for dinner I thought that this had been one of the very best days on the camino which had encapsulated many of the great things about the camino – the wonderful scenery, the sense of companionship, the physical effort and the rewards that flow from that, the great sense of the spiritual and so much more.

## On the Way again: returning to the Camino

or retracing steps after six years – with your son.

Paul Smith

Several months ago my 18 year old son Rob slipped into the conversation one day when we were out walking the dog, *When do you think we might do the camino together?* I had shared my first experiences in 2006 of the pilgrimage with the family and had expressed the desire “one day...” to walk it with Rob and possibly my eldest step-son, David. Ideas began to gel and eventually we agreed to go in early September just before Rob was due to go to Leeds University to study History and Spanish. In the event, David wasn't able to join us but maybe another day? Rob is a seasoned walker, having been in the Scouts since the Beavers and last year trekking in the Himalayas with his school 6<sup>th</sup> form trip.

We had a week, and Rob wanted to walk the last part of the *Camino Francés* rather than, say the *Camino Inglés*, which would have made a good week's walk. It was time for me to have some kind of spiritual break and we also thought it would be good for Rob to be able to practise speaking Spanish as he'd not had much opportunity to be immersed in the culture until now. We also looked forward to some father and son time together. We made arrangements to start at *Sarría*, a comfortable 6 or 7 days' walk, and ensuring at 112 km that we would get our *Compostela*.

As the time approached, one of the questions that formed in my mind was whether it would be different a second time round – or perhaps more precisely – in what ways might it be different. There were expected differences in that I would be walking in company, with a competent Spanish speaker, starting closer to Santiago and our travel arrangements to and from the *camino* were not as last time. I had also in mind some differences that I wanted to achieve to try and enhance my previous enjoyment of pilgrimage. One was to stay more often in *refugios* (last time I had succumbed to the comfort of hotel accommodation several times!) Another was not to rush, to enjoy each

day's progress and not think I had to reach a certain place. To a certain extent we achieved those aims. Overnight accommodation in bunk beds and with others close around you may have its drawbacks, but nothing quite provides the camaraderie and the possibility of meeting others, than the humble pilgrim hostel. We certainly met a number of people from different places and this was one of the differences from my first experience. In 2006 I was limited to conversation with English or German speakers. This time, through Rob's ability, we fell into step with native Spanish speakers from Barcelona, Valencia and Andorra; from Uruguay, Mexico, Panama, Argentina, Chile and Venezuela. We also met a number of Germans and Danes, some Canadians, some Irish and a Texan couple who joined the *Camino Francés* after having walked the *Camino Primitivo*.

One of the loveliest differences was a mixture of deliberate and unexpected. We decided to take a diversion to visit the Romanesque church of San Salvador at *Vilar de Donas*. We set off from *Eirexe* where we had spent a quiet night in a village hostel and were approaching our goal through the morning mist well ahead of the advertised opening time. Just as we neared the church an elderly gentleman appeared from a side street, meeting us exactly as we reached the junction. He turned out to be Jesús Garcia, an 84 year old local. He announced he was our guide and would open the church as he could see that's why we pilgrims were walking through his village. It proved to be one of those "camino moments", obviating the need to try and find a door to knock on for a key and experiencing the ready welcome shown by those who live near the Camino. Jesús showed us round explaining features in great detail and stretching Rob's vocabulary with architectural and ecclesiastic terms not part of a conventional Spanish A level! It was interesting that Jesús emphasised the church's Celtic features along with its combination of Christian and Moorish details in some of the decorative features. We were certainly glad we'd made the effort to go out of our way, even though it meant a longer day's walking than we might have intended.

As we neared our destination we both wondered how the arriving would be for us. I had said we should just go with the flow, not specially trying to anticipate any feeling. We rose at 5am on the Sunday, having decided to get to the cathedral in good time for pilgrim mass at midday. By 5.30am we were on our way, walking by torchlight and taking care to find and follow each yellow arrow. It wouldn't get light until after 7am. The words "*early on the first day of the week while it was*

*still dark*” (John 20:1) kept on echoing round in my mind. It was an Easter experience and it felt like a little adventure. We made extremely good time, Rob striding ahead in determined fashion. By 10am we were walking the final turns through the narrow stone streets and plazas. I was more emotional than I had expected. Rob was impressed by the *Plaza de Obradoiro*. We were not expecting a final surprise: that the *Pórtico de la Gloria* would be shrouded in scaffolding behind the closed west doors, and so our arrival wasn't quite as dramatic as I had secretly hoped. However, we had shared a special time together, Rob had improved his spoken Spanish greatly and a vaguely expressed hope had turned into reality. The *Camino* has a way of calling you back, living on in one's spirit, enriching lifelong pilgrimage. It is both the same and different each time.

*Paul Smith is Team Rector of Stantonbury and Willen LEP, Milton Keynes*

# The Multi-faceted and Multi-varied Camino de Santiago

Mary Clare Faulkner

**M**y Camino started off with a feeling of disbelief that I was actually there and walking on that ancient path – the pilgrim route for more than ten centuries through northern Spain to the shrine of St James in Santiago de Compostela. My hope for many years had been to start my walk in Gavarnie and cross the Pyrenees from there, but I didn't have enough time for that distance this year.

Instead I took the train through France – a great adventure in itself. A small compartment was home for a day for four travellers from Germany, Holland, England and Spain. It all felt like an old fashioned film - we managed to converse for hours, then our seats were transformed into beds and sleep filled the remaining miles.

And so my Camino began – an hour's walk from the station – near Burgos's huge and beautiful Gothic cathedral; the famous shells embedded in the pavement leading me on. Even at such an early hour, I soon met another pilgrim – from Mozambique; his name was 'Seel'. He had already been walking for three days and was in pain with sore feet and knees. My medicine stock being full, at least I could share my painkillers and then he sent me on ahead while he stayed back to have a rest. I followed the shells then yellow arrows and soon left the city far behind; the rising sun warming the air, the sky by then a brilliant blue.

And so I really WAS there, walking just as I had hoped I would, doing what I most want to be doing when I'm not doing it – out in the countryside – over mountains, alongside rivers, through woods and fields, forests and farms. There were very few other pilgrims through most of that day, but the route was no problem – yellow arrows all the way. Sometimes long distances between each one, but always at the point where some doubt would creep in, the next arrow to much relief, would appear! Not only directions, but every few hours there were fountains supplying fresh water to refill water containers – often with shaded seats and somewhere to rest and at other intervals along the way there were cafes or bars or places to stay.

Many of the *hospitaleros* who run the albergues are pilgrims themselves, having walked the way many times and come back as volunteers. So they know all the needs of the novice fellow pilgrims and show hospitality and great kindness too.

And the choices of meals – bar, restaurant or pilgrim menu, or where there's a supermarket, you can make up your own meal. Some hostels have kitchens, some prepare communal meals but again the options are there to choose just what suits you.

From Burgos the 'meseta' stretched on for miles – earth tracks through huge fields of wheat, barley and oats. High plateaus with no shade but glorious blue sky and golden crops glistening as they reflected the sunlight. Many churches on the route were closed that day but the open ones were always cool quiet buildings, for some peace and a prayer; places to light candles and contemplate and give thanks for being there.

At that first day's end I found a bed in the third hostel I visited and the routine I'd heard of so many times then began....the welcome shower, the clothes washing and hanging out to dry (the advantage of a summer walk is knowing that they will!); next a drink and then some food – so much choice to be had! Most days I found a nearby church where there was evening Mass and then back to the hostel to sleep ready for the next day's early start.

It's amazing how much a rest and sleep can restore and revive - feet and legs that had hurt the evening before felt recovered and ready for walking again and so with the sun rising the next stage of the journey began. This was still on the meseta, but on white gravel paths and with dark green fields of sunflower plants alongside the wheat. On the flat, were perfectly geometric haystacks and on all the high ground, incongruous (amidst the ancient and rustic farms), graceful wind turbines. Further on, a change of scene altogether took the path through an avenue of poplar trees and alongside a canal – with reeds and bulrushes; and then back to the fields of wheat and sunflowers.

In that weather it is so lovely being outdoors from sunrise to sunset; to watch your shadow grow and get shorter again as your back and then left side feel the heat of the sun. The traditional pilgrim's hat with the wide brim makes perfect sense when you know how hot it can get – when you carry the shade with you the heat can more easily be borne. Some days the route closely follows the main roads on a gravel path or 'senda' which gives some safety and distance from traffic and noise. Sometimes it's on quiet roads where cars rarely pass – but



mostly it's on tracks and paths, all colours and types, some smooth and sandy, others uneven and rocky like dry river beds, where instead of arrows random stones have been painted yellow, along the way.

I was constantly thankful to all those who had marked the route in so many varied ways. As long as you concentrate you shouldn't lose your way – you just have to keep trusting that the next way marker will be there. Twice in my tiredness I strayed and ended up having to retrace my steps, but on both occasions a local resident called out “*Camino?*” and pointed me in the right direction. More reasons to be thankful! In bigger towns or cities the arrows can be harder to spot but then instead of arrows you start to look down to see shells set in the paving stones – some metal, some glazed but always guiding you on.

For the last 100 kilometres the remaining distances are marked – many pilgrims start from this point, as the ‘Compostela’ certificate of completion requires that at least 100 km to the cathedral must be walked (ridden or cycled). So added to the arrows and shells are stone plinths, as the countdown of kilometres to Santiago begins.

There are so many places along the Way that I'd like to re-visit – cities, towns and villages steeped in history; cobbled streets, ancient bridges, monuments and buildings; churches, monasteries, hospitals, hostels and a myriad of dwellings built to serve pilgrims on this route for the last one thousand years. Not least Santiago de Compostela itself – a beautiful medieval city – and at its heart the Cathedral of St James the apostle and patron saint of Spain. Just to turn the corner into the huge square at the end of the Camino and suddenly find myself standing in front of the ornately decorated west facing façade, looking up at the distinctive graceful spires was an overwhelming experience. Having imagined it but not dared to anticipate that it would actually happen, for fear of something going wrong, the disbelief was again a dominant feeling, just as it had been at the start of the walk. I was very, very grateful for the safe arrival and successful achievement of what I had set out to do and on top of that, purely by chance I was just in time for the midday pilgrims' Mass, which marked the end of my walk.

The Camino de Santiago is a multi-faceted experience. There is the physical challenge and sheer enjoyment of long distance walking. There are a multitude of cultural discoveries available all along the route, with 1800 buildings of great historic interest (it was proclaimed the first European Cultural Itinerary in 1987 and inscribed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1993). There are unique social opportunities available with the thousands of pilgrims from around

the world and all walks of life that are drawn to the route for so many different reasons. Overall there is a feeling of union with fellow pilgrims – all walking in the same direction with the same destination in mind. Calling out “*Hola*” and “*Buen Camino*” to fellow walkers or cyclists is the norm. How many pilgrims you actually ‘meet’ and get to know along the route seems to be up to each individual, as language differences and whether or not you are travelling alone, in pairs or a group don’t seem to stop people getting together within the ‘fraternity’ of the Camino. On the other hand it is perfectly possible to find solitude and make the walk a ‘retreat’ if that is your preference. God’s presence is powerfully felt along the walk – in the beauty of the surroundings, in the many churches and chapels and in the spirit of those who have made this pilgrimage over the centuries. Walking for hours on end and sitting in churches along the route gives you precious time to think, meditate and pray.

The camino is also a ‘multi-sensory’ experience – the sounds that dominate are those of so many different languages being spoken, the bird choruses at dawn and dusk, the ever present cockerels who never seem to co-ordinate their alarm clocks, the dogs that annoyingly bark all night, the Pyrenean cow bells and many different church bells and the snoring! Visually the camino contains a kaleidoscope of colours – dark green, gold, yellow and blue are the palette you need to paint the meseta. The further west you go the more the green predominates in a variety of shades of the forests covering the mountainsides and woods filling the valleys. Elsewhere other colours decorate the Way – from the sprinkling of red, purple, pink, white, yellow and blue wild flowers either side of the paths – to the profusion of bright red and deep pink begonias in garden pots and window boxes; the lushness of roses of all colours and the tall stems of pink hollyhocks and purple foxgloves. Where the sunflowers have ripened, their distinctive yellow heads emerge from the dark green plants as they stand to attention every morning waiting expectantly for the sun to appear. Then there are the different colours of all the paths and tracks – reds, whites, greys yellows and browns; and yet more colours of the houses and churches in the ‘islands’ of farms and settlements along the Way; the red of the roof tiles, the cream and pale grey stones of the often beautifully restored churches, monasteries, convents and pilgrim hostels and the variety of colours of the farm houses, homes, bars and café.

Finally, smells and different scents add to the sensory impact of the Camino. I wish I could bottle the heady aromas of the herbs

on the high mountain paths – I didn't want those stretches to end. Elsewhere if you were lucky you might catch the occasional sweet hint of honeysuckle, even if you couldn't spot the flowers.

The pungent odours of the many farmyards that lie right on the route are less appealing but nonetheless add to the experience of the walk, especially on the happy occasions when pilgrims mingle with cattle and farm workers as the animals are herded across the Way, moving from their pastures to or from the milking sheds. On the last few days of walking the subtle scent of sweet chestnuts and clean smell of eucalyptus fill the air through dense woods – the former reminiscent of the ancient forests in the “Lord of the Rings” and the latter of walks in the outback of Australia. In Santiago itself the delicious smell of freshly baked bread wafts from the many bakery shops along the narrow streets and finally, in the Cathedral itself, it was the oh so familiar and evocative smell of incense from the swinging *Botafumeiro* at the end of the pilgrim's Mass that broke through my disbelief and left me in no doubt that I had indeed arrived and that my pilgrimage intentions, even though I struggled to put them into words, were on their way to heaven.

# The story of Etienne – a hospitalero extraordinaire

David Wesson

The *hospitaleros* report from Rabanal for 20 July 2012 said that someone called Etienne had called in, he was walking the camino with three grandchildren, and they thought that he had been one of the first *hospitaleros* in Gaucelmo with his wife. Well, yes he was, but he was so much more because it was Etienne who set Gaucelmo on the successful path it has followed ever since and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude for that. Let me take you back to early 1991. The Confraternity was about to realize its long standing dream of having a *refugio* on the camino. The question then arose of what were they going to do with it, how was it going to be run? After all they had never done anything like this before. In the event Walter Ivens chose Etienne to be the very first *hospitalero*, along with his wife Nelly. It was to be an inspired choice.

So in June 1991 Etienne and Nelly arrived at the brand new refuge. A blank sheet of paper as it were. They were highly experienced walkers and to begin with they were going to run the place without any irksome rules. Such idealism lasted about 4 days. A group of pilgrims arrived, Flemish as it happened like E & N. They went over to Antonio's and came rolling noisily back at about 2 a.m. Very drunk, they proceeded to be sick all over the dormitory. Etienne and Nelly being the saints they are cleaned them and the place up but the next morning there were the first house rules.

- 1. Doors locked at 23.00 hrs.**
- 2. Silence after that time.**
- 3 No smoking inside the building.**

The next problem they encountered was that they found they were getting the new day's pilgrims before yesterday's had left. It was summer, people started out early and Gaucelmo was then the only refuge between Astorga and Molinaseca. Of course it was. That was why it was built in Rabanal.

Solution:

**Rule 4. All pilgrims to leave by 0800 hrs.**

**Rule 5. Refuge reopens at 12.00**

The 4 hour interval allowed sufficient time to carry out the immaculate cleaning regime that E & N had instituted and also time to nip down to Astorga for essential supplies and to drop off the plastic rubbish bags in the bins in Santa Catalina – there were no bins in Rabanal in those days. But Etienne’s master stroke was to introduce the custom of providing a free breakfast for all the pilgrims. It was a first on the camino and went a long way to establish Gaucelmo’s reputation as a great place to stay. So when I got to Rabanal in late July to take over as hospitalero for the months of August and September – (Yes. On my own. Yes. For two months. Ah, those were the days. And there was no hot water in the place) – I arrived somewhat apprehensive. I knew nothing about Rabanal; I knew nothing about the refuge or what I would have to do. What I found was a well ordered ship. Smoothly run, with a minimum of rules. It was easy to take over. I did have to add one more rule within a week or so.

**Rule 6. No groups.** That was after what was known as the battle of Gaucelmo but that is a story for another time. This is about Etienne and how he set the place up with those basic rules that have stood the test of more than twenty years virtually unchanged in essence. He was indeed an inspired choice.



A postscript. Etienne had been cycling the camino on a tandem with his wife and son. As they came out of a village their tandem was hit by a car and the son had the horrific experience of seeing his mother killed and his father seriously injured. There is a memorial at the spot and there is a reference to this tragedy in the CSJ guide. So Nelly is his second wife and it is no surprise that they chose walking rather than cycling – but that in the end was our good fortune.

*From Laurie Dennett:* I had the great pleasure of meeting Etienne some days ago in O Cebreiro, recognising him in the street as he showed his three grandchildren around. I second everything David has said about how much the Confraternity and the refuge owe to Etienne and Nelly. Not only were they the first *hospitaleros*, so far-sighted and inspiring in all they did, but they’ve been back to offer their wonderful service to pilgrims countless times and have attended many of the commemorative events staged at Gaucelmo over the years. I think the place where Etienne’s first wife was killed was Navarrete, and there is indeed a plaque in her memory on the wall of that enclosed cemetery with the splendid portal (from the former hospital of the Knights of St. John) on the outskirts of the town.

# News from Rabanal

## Julie Davies and the 2012 hospitaleros

### Gratitude!

**A**s the Working Party puts Gaucelmo into hibernation for the Winter, and the last *hospitaleros* bid the final Pilgrim “Goodbye” there is much to be grateful for.

Firstly, the *hospitaleros* at Gaucelmo who gave their time and energy so freely and generously in supporting pilgrims. Presenting Gaucelmo as a clean and hospitable place to stay required hard work and humour. It’s difficult seeing the amusing side of life when unblocking toilets, washing the clothes of a bed bug victim, or sorting out tired pilgrims with “attitude”. Judging from the positive comments in the visitors’ book, our *hospitaleros* succeeded over and over again.

“I have been more quietly happy here than in any other *albergue* on the camino. It is partly the place - well designed, beautifully kept, but mostly the way the volunteers have cared for us. They have been concerned but not intrusive, given practical and spiritual support. Here I have met the love of God.”

Secondly, the pilgrims, whose numbers fluctuated widely, but were drawn to stay at Gaucelmo by recommendation and word of mouth. The *hospitaleros* received 4,930 pilgrims from the beginning of April until the end of October. We now have two new countries to add to our growing list - Albania and French Polynesia, making a total of 124 countries with inhabitants who have made Gaucelmo their home for one night. Thank you David Wesson for your brilliant statistics.

This season saw the arrival of our 129,000th Pilgrim – a young American who had walked from Hopital del Orbigo and was exhausted. The *hospitalero* writes:

“After being offered our usual greeting of cold water with lemon, we quickly gathered a crowd of other pilgrims and a huge fuss was made. The pilgrim was quite confused for a minute, but recovered and we awarded the pin and had the photo. These events are great fun!”

This season we had our tallest and shortest pilgrim staying on the

same night. A 7ft Dutchman and a 4ft Japanese lady. Their walking boots, side by side in the boot rack, created quite a lot of laughter and comment. The Dutchman was given a room all to himself so he could use the mattresses on the floor. The low doorways were a continuous painful hazard for him - all borne with a wry smile.

*Hospitaleros* have had several "four generation" families staying. They are normally accommodated in the barn. The children have been extremely pleased with the quick access into the garden. Even after a long days walk, the need to play and run around had not diminished their energies!

The end of the season, brought cold and heavy rain, making uncomfortable walking conditions. Drying clothes became a bit of a problem as the spin dryer gave up on us. However, the two *hospitaleros* stoked up the fire and brought in the clothes racks. Most pilgrims left with clean and dry clothing the next day. Tea and biscuits and dry clothes, what more could pilgrims want?

Thirdly, we can be grateful for our excellent neighbours in the monastery. Throughout the course of the season, they have been supportive to our *hospitaleros* and pilgrims. It's a two way relationship, we give Father Pius our grass clippings and he rewards us with some of his excellent preserves. Pilgrims always appear so impressed when we have a monk visiting for tea! Supplying "readers" for Vespers is often one of the most significant spiritual events that pilgrims experience.

Rabanal knows how to celebrate special occasions. The feast of the Assumption in the summer was a joyous occasion in the village while the Festival of El Pilar in the autumn was celebrated with a party at Pilar's - of course - where an English band played. Celebrations went on into the early hours with Pilar's party finishing just before dawn. There were many bleary eyed pilgrims the next day winding their up to the Cruz de Ferro! Fiesta in the village saw the church looking particularly beautiful, decked out with flowers. The drums, pipes and recorders are very evocative and always bring a crowd of curious pilgrims to watch.

Fourthly, we can be grateful for Gaucelmo itself. It provides such a beautiful, serene and special environment.

"What a wonderful place, it's the first time I've written in a book, but this place is really special, so I had to. The church, the signing, the very warm welcome. I could stay a week if you would let me. Thank you, thank you, thank you."

The garden, which is an oasis of calm and delight, is greatly



appreciated by the pilgrims throughout the season. Going through the small door into the *huerta*, there is total disbelief that such a wonderful space exists. We have to be very grateful for Ken and Joan Davies who have helped develop this area. Even a Brittany Ferry strike could not keep them away from the end of season tidying, pruning and weeding. But the garden, just like the *Refuge*, has to be put to bed for the winter.

A visit from the Bishop of Astorga to Gaucelmo – a bit like a mini Ofsted – was an honour. He only had time to view the *huerta*, but appeared to appreciate what the garden was offering to pilgrims – peace and tranquility.

So, as the last pilgrim left Gaucelmo and winter began to settle over Northern Spain, the Working Party moved in. Gaucelmo has stood up magnificently to the mass of humanity which has walked wearily through its doors. When April 1st 2013 arrives, Gaucelmo “*a beautiful corner of the camino*” will emerge as resplendent as ever, thanks to their efforts.



# Albergue de Miraz News

Bruce Hunter

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth,  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.*

God's Garden, *Dorothy Frances Gurney, (1858 – 1932)*

Gardens are important to pilgrims. Every day when we arrive at our lodging place, we need to wash our day's clothes and hang them up to dry. After that, we want to sit and rest, talk to other pilgrims, tend to our blisters, write our journals or just reflect on the experiences of our day's journey. If it is raining (and in Galicia it sometimes is) we sit indoors at the *refugio*. But when it is fine, we want to be in the garden. Think of the lovely monastery at Samos, with its roses and formal cloisters, or the peaceful *huerta* at Rabanal.

Not all *refugios* along the *caminos* towards Santiago have gardens. But many have, and Miraz is fortunate in having a lovely one. When the CSJ took over a disused parochial house at Miraz in 2005, there was an outside space, with a couple of fruit trees and a lawn of sorts. It is bounded on one side by the house and *lavadero* where the pilgrims wash their clothes and on two sides by fields. On the fourth side runs the little sandy track along which a local farmer drives his cattle to their daily grazing and back again each evening. It is rarely used otherwise. This makes our garden a tranquil place, with its washing lines all down the side next to the track and a line of mature oak trees on the other. In





the first year of our use of the building, *hospitaleros* planted herbs for use by themselves and their successors and by pilgrim cooks, and also some vegetables for use later in the year by whoever came along. This tradition continues and is very much appreciated by *hospitaleros* and pilgrims.

However, with the beginning of the building work to extend the *refugio* and make it fit for purpose, the builders colonised the garden, as builders do, and what had been a grassy area, by the time they finished, looked like a moonscape. It took most of last season just to get the remains of their rubbish cleared away.

This year it wasn't looking its best either, and it has inspired Ken and Joan Davies, who visited this year, to draw up an ambitious plan for re-landscaping the whole place. Their plan has been well-received by the Committee and it will be available for inspection and comment by members at the AGM.

In the last *Bulletin*, Richard Jefferies, chairman of the Miraz Committee, promised more news about the garden – in this issue. We have wonderful news: an anonymous donor has promised a substantial sum of money to pay for the whole of the re-landscaping in memory of a loved one who died this year. This donor has been an *hospitalero* at Miraz and we are immensely grateful for this generous grant.

The happy ending to this story is that we no longer need money for developing the Miraz garden. However, we are still short of £20,000 to pay for the fitting out of the *refugio*, some of this for work already done in faith that the money would turn up, some for the remaining work still to do. Donations to the *Albergue de Miraz* should be sent to the CSJ office and clearly marked for Miraz. All will be put to good use in welcoming pilgrims along the Camino del Norte.

December 2012

# **Pilgrims' Office Santiago de Compostela**

## **Volunteers wanted**

There are a number of volunteering opportunities available through the Pilgrims' Office in Santiago during the period May – October 2013. Volunteers are expected to have previously made the pilgrimage to Santiago.

### **Consigna/Left Luggage Service**

Volunteers are required to operate a left luggage store for pilgrims in the Pilgrims' Office. The left luggage service will be available from 9am – 8.30pm. Volunteers will normally work in 2 shifts with one working from 9am – 3pm and another from 3pm – 9pm. This role is suitable for people who may not yet be proficient in Spanish but who wish to improve their language skills.

### **Hospitaleros – Albergue Fin del Camino**

Volunteer hospitaleros are sought for the new Albergue Fin del Camino which is located on the Camino Francés as it enters the city through the barrio Fontiñas. The albergue is operated by the Pilgrimage to Santiago Foundation which is an independent charitable organisation established to develop services for pilgrims and support

the work of the Pilgrims' Office. The Foundation and the Albergue Fin del Camino are not for profit charitable organisations committed to using their resources exclusively for the benefit of pilgrims. The Albergue Fin del Camino has 110 beds. It is currently the newest and cheapest albergue in Santiago charging 8€ per per night. The albergue accepts advance bookings and groups. Pilgrims are welcome to stay as many nights as they wish. Hospitaleros are required to staff reception, welcome pilgrims and supervise the albergue. Daily cleaning is carried out by a professional company and no cooking is required. A team of 3 volunteers will work on a rota providing a 24 hour presence in the albergue. Applications are sought from experienced/trained hospitaleros and those for whom this would be a first experience. Induction will be provided. Support from the Pilgrims' Office will be available on-call at all times. The ability to converse in basic Spanish, including on the telephone, is essential.

Accommodation will be provided for volunteers free of charge in apartments in the city of Santiago. Volunteers must meet all other travel and subsistence expenses.

For further information please e-mail Daniel Vargas, Volunteer Co-ordinator on :

*volunteersantiago@gmail.com* —

Dani will acknowledge your request for further information. Application Packs will be sent out from 7 January 2013.

# Members' Pages

## **From Mary Remnant**

In Pamela Bacon's obituary (Bulletin 118) the caption accompanying the photograph should have stated that it represented Pamela in Suso's Bar, with Suso in 1995, when she was in Santiago with Mary Berry's choir – Schola Gregoriana.

## **From Penny Penton**

David and I walked the Via de la Plata in 2010, and we found it a long arduous route and a truly big effort; but then met Oliver Pohling. Oliver was a young man from Rostock, Germany, dependent on a wheelchair and travelling the camino on his own! I prepared for another long day walking, after a poor night which was interrupted with much snoring and coughing – so someone was feeling a bit grumpy. Then we met Oliver outside the hostel at Bandeira, at the bottom of a bumpy hill. Oliver starting the hard push to get his wheelchair to the road and I felt ashamed as he greeted us with a cheery good morning; so I gave him a push up the hill. We were full of admiration for his determination and independence to complete this journey on his own. We have kept in touch and when he decided to attend the Paralympics in London this summer we were pleased to have him to stay with us and suggested he should write about his experiences for the CSJ Bulletin; so look out for his account in this edition.

## **Katherine Lack**

In a short article in the Spring Bulletin (no. 117), p.36, it says, that Paulinus was the first to Christianise Northumbria. This seems very misleading. There is evidence for Christianity in the area back to the time of either Ninian (died 397) or his immediate disciples, to say nothing of a raft of other illustrious folk including Samson, David and Kentigern, all of whom were dead before Paulinus or, probably, Augustine even set foot in Britain!

## Rosalind Billingham



In George Derbyshire's interesting article on St Cuthbert and the modern pilgrimage route known as St Cuthbert's Way, from Melrose to Lindisfarne (Bulletin No 119), he refers to the life size modern carving in Lindisfarne church. He also includes a photograph of the head and shoulders of the saint, a detail of the fine sculpture at Lindisfarne Priory, but he does not make any reference to the sculptor of these works. They are, in fact, both works by Fenwick Lawson, and were originally wood carvings.

The six monks with St Cuthbert's body have now been cast in bronze and are permanently sited in Millenium Square in Durham. The original all wooden St Cuthbert, with an eider duck at his feet, is also in that city in a small garden at the side of the Durham Heritage Centre, formerly a church, in North Bailey. On Holy Island there is a third work by the same sculptor, a Celtic Cross, now in a small garden near the post office.

## From Mervyn Samuel

On 16 October 2012 a ceremony was held at the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, in Madrid, for the presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Rafael Manzano Martos Prize, awarded on this occasion to the architect Leopoldo Gil Cornet, a native of Barcelona who teaches at the Architecture School of the University of Navarra in Pamplona. He and a team of experts, coordinated by the Institución Príncipe de Viana and the Fundación para la Conservación del Patrimonio Histórico

de Navarra (FCPHN), with additional finance from Fundación Caja Madrid and Fundación Iberdrola, undertook a phased restoration of most elements of the Roncesvalles complex over a period of thirty years, and the result is a series of functional, weather-proof buildings respectful of their somewhat accidental heritage, well integrated into the landscape and capable of providing shelter and attention to modern standards for the numerous pilgrims and tourists who cross the Pyrenees by the pass of Ibañeta.

H.R.H. the Infanta Elena de Borbón y Grecia presided at the ceremony, which was attended by a numerous public. This new prize for classical architecture and the restoration of monuments was sponsored by the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Trust in conjunction with the School of Architecture of Notre Dame University (Indiana). Mr. Driehaus spoke in enthusiastic support of the concept of classical architecture and sensitive restoration of historic monuments, in terms calculated to warm the heart of the Prince of Wales. For his part, the architect Rafael Manzano praised Leopoldo Gil and his collaborators for a restoration of Roncesvalles inspired by “love, patience and humility”. Leopoldo Gil said that restorers should “listen to the monument” and respect its historic evolution, not attempting to impose their own concepts on a pre-existing reality.

To coincide with the prize ceremony, a new book has been published by the FCPHN, *Roncesvalles, Hospital y santuario en el Camino de Santiago*, by Javier Martínez de Aguirre, Leopoldo Gil Cornet and Mercedes Orbe Sivatte. It is well illustrated with photographs and plans, and examines the history and legends of Roncesvalles, the different buildings making up the complex, and the various destructions inflicted and restorations undertaken prior to and including the present 30-year marathon.

### **From John Hatfield**

Are you considering giving a talk about your pilgrimage and wish to use the CSJ slide library to help you? Did you know that the CSJ has a growing collection of over 3300 slides, which is available to UK members covering not only the *Camino Francés*, but also all the other main routes in France and Spain? Please give me at least a month's notice so that a catalogue can be sent to you and your choice made. As soon as I hear from you, I can reserve the slides and dispatch them two weeks before your talk. I can be contacted at: 9 Vicary Way, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0EJ; Tel: 01622 757814



*Singing as one walks along the camino seems to be a popular past-time and we have had several more contributions from members - printed below.*

### **From Sheila Devlin**

To the tune of *Guide me o thou great Redeemer*

*When our pilgrimage is over  
Oh how proud we all will be  
When we get our compostela  
We will be so full of glee.  
No more blisters to take care of  
No more treks in heat or rain  
Then we'll give St James a big hug  
And plan to do it all again!!*

### **From David Martinson**

To the tune *What a friend we have in Jesus* or 'When this lousy war is over' from 'Oh what a lovely war!'

*C'est une longue route de Tipperary  
C'est une longue marche a l'ouest  
C'est une longue route de Tipperary  
Et la belle jeune fille Céleste  
Bonsoir Piccadilly  
Adieu Place Leicester  
C'est une vraie longue route de Tipperary  
Mais mon coeur y reste.*



## The Happy Pilgrim

*I love to go on pilgrimage,  
Along the mountain track,  
And as I go, I love to sing,  
My knapsack on my back.*

Chorus:

*Val-deri, Val-dera,  
Val-deri,  
Val-dera-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha  
Val-deri, Val-dera.*

*My knapsack on my back.*

*I love to wander by the stream  
That dances in the sun,  
So joyously it calls to me,  
“Come! Join my happy song!”*

Chorus

*I wave my hat to all I meet,  
And they wave back to me,  
And blackbirds call so loud and sweet  
From ev’ry green wood tree.*

Chorus

*High overhead, the skylarks wing,  
They never rest at home  
But just like me, they love to sing,  
Along the camino.*

Chorus

*Oh, may I go on pilgrimage  
Until the day I die!  
Oh, may I always laugh and sing,  
Beneath God’s clear blue sky!*

# Obituaries

## **Jacques Rouyre RIP**

President of the Association des Amis de Saint-Jacques des Pyrénées-Atlantiques 1992-2004.

Bertrand de Saint-Macary, speaking at Jacques's funeral recalled :

Thus, towards the end of the 1980s, and early in retirement, he quite naturally became interested in the recent renewal of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. He took part in a walk from Garris to Ostabat, and the wonderful encounters during such walks gave him scope for the full realisation of all his talents. In the years that followed, he organised walks from Sorde l'Abbaye to Roncesvalles, and then, in association with the Association des Amis de Saint-Jacques en Aquitaine – of which he had become a very active member – from Dax to Pamplona. In 1991, on his initiative, the Association des Amis de Saint-Jacques des Pyrénées-Atlantiques was founded, and he succeeded Dr. Clément Urrutibéhéty as its president from 1992 until 2004.

He and his beloved wife settled on the Basque coast, where they had the joy of the birth of their son Philippe; but his career took him all over France, and allowed him at the same time to satisfy his passion for history and for old churches. Few Romanesque chapels in the Saintonge, the Dordogne or the Auvergne escaped his curiosity. He was able to deepen his knowledge by organising visits with his friends and collaborators. What he discovered convinced him ever more deeply of the Christian nature of our own roots, and of those of our ancient European continent; these were ideas which lay particularly close to his heart.

A sickle in his hand, a small flask slung over his shoulder, a pocketful of waymarks on the footpaths; pen and pencil, telephone and photocopier, then the computer which his son set up for him in his office; these were the tools which he put to use with such pleasure, for the pilgrims, and for his exhibitions and his publications. For more than a dozen years he edited and typeset *le Bourdon*, the journal of all the Aquitaine associations,

as well as thirty or more issue of the Newsletter, *le Petit Bourdon*.

Besides the dense network of footpaths in our region, he became especially fond of the route through the Baztan valley; his pioneering work was quickly taken up by the inhabitants of the Baztan. He enabled several foreign associations to discover this route [including CSJ]

By way of thanks, the people of Navarra held a fine ceremony in his honour, on Saturday 31 April 2000, in the chapel of the Navarra Museum in Pamplona, an occasion which crowned the links he had created between the two sides of the Pyrenees.

Energy, professionalism, courtesy: these are the three qualities which characterised all that he did. How many pleasant surprises awaited us, at a corner in the footpath, or during a visit to a cultural site? How often were we delighted by the little touches he added?

In Jacques's own words, in *le Bourdon* of 1995:

“The main reason that so many of us take an interest in the Way of Saint James is because it is a place of encounter. Its life lies in those who follow it, who have followed it, and will do so; in those who speak about it, who study it, who are drawn to its history, who love its monuments, who work for it.

“It has lived for more than a thousand years because, as a place of encounter, it provides more than walks, visits, or study; it generates a sense of community and of spiritual depth. These are not simply ‘places of memory’, but places of living memory.”

Translated by Howard Nelson and Patricia Quaife

NOTE: In 1994 25 CSJ members walked with 25 members of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques Association, at their invitation, along the newly revived Baztan Valley route from Bayonne to Pamplona. This walk forged lasting friendships and was reciprocated with Le Walk, from Southampton to Reading, in 1996.

# Book Reviews

*Sinning across Spain: A walkers' journey from Granada to Galicia*, Ailsa Piper. Victory Books, Australia, 2012, ISBN 9780522861396

When I was asked to review a new book called *Sinning across Spain*, I was intrigued and rather apprehensive...what might this title mean; what was I letting myself in for?

*Sinning across Spain* turned out to be one of the best books I have read about a pilgrimage to Santiago. Feisty Australian Ailsa Piper ('lady kangaroo' as she is greeted on the journey) - a professional writer and actor/director - has written a cracker of an account....

The prologue explains her novel (or is it?) concept for funding a second pilgrimage, swiftly following on from her very positive Camino Francés experience:

'I will walk off your sins. Pilgrim seeks sinners for mutually beneficial arrangement. Proven track record. Tireless, Result-orientated. Reliable. Seven Deadlies a Speciality.' This is her invitation for sponsorship in exchange for carrying the invisible burden of the sponsors' 'sins' on her long Via Mozarabe walk from Granada to Galicia. She in fact finds it 'easier to walk for others than for yourself', although at times the burden becomes metaphorically heavy and prompts her to examine her own shortcomings.

Her lively and vivid tone colours the whole book, which whistles us 1300 kilometres from the olives of south east Spain to the eucalyptuses of the northwest, in Aussie seven league boots...this lady doesn't hang around, clocking up an average of 30km a day for the 43 days she is on the road, greeted with 'Hola Rubia' as she travels.

She has the ability to conjure up small lived moments for the reader through her use of dialogue and vivid images : ' a moving calligraphy' of caterpillars crossing her path;.....in Galicia the 'moss thickened, slugs slid, heat rose...'

Her walk can hardly be called 'pedestrian', as she steps out with the sense of 'sky surfing' at the end of a kite-string, free-flying in the sky and looking down at her other slower self striding along below...a wonderful image which sustains her through troubles, floods, heat and cold. She finds layers and links in everything, the personal 'palimpsests' which sustain her belief in finding universal depth and meaning in whatever she experiences.

She bears the metaphorical weight of her sponsors' sins and then

adds to her burden with some of her own, through her ego and different encounters on the camino. She shares some of the walking with Herr T from Germany and feels shame because she finds him intrusive and irritating ; greed assails her as she hurts others by insisting on her wish for 'solitude, walking and words' ; she has to negotiate a moral way through shared intimacies with an attractive male soul-mate/ 'amigo'; she fails to be grateful for kindnesses freely given to her on the road. She tries and is often unable to balance her need for solitariness with the seduction of caring walking companions like Il Soldato and Il Capitano.

Guided by 'stars, road and elements' and sustained by her own strength and the caring contact of loved ones, she develops her own beliefs and spirituality, through the intensity of living the road for week after week, concluding that 'Life is now, Heaven is now'. She learns how to accept difference, to listen and to value the love and generosity of others above her own desires and lists what she has learned from the pilgrimage as a sort of 'creed'.

As with the best Camino accounts, this is not merely a record, a guide or an interior journey – it is a dialogue with the world, which the reader can share and which prompts reflection on the big questions of life, the universe...and everything! This lady with 'duende' (as she is told by a workman by the road), avoids making this book yet another 'my' camino tale. . . . it becomes inclusive and draws the reader into the path which becomes 'our' walk as well. Try it!

HELEN WILLSON

Carrying Grace to Santiago: a Daughter's Journey, Maureen Laran,  
Create Space, Australia, 2011, 221pp, ISBN 9781466451391

Maureen Laran, a middle-aged American and first-time pilgrim, walks the Camino Francés with her late mother's ashes in her rucksack. Another "*The Way*"? No. This camino isn't airbrushed; its miles are measured in blisters sweat and tears, desire for solitude and the need of company, debilitation and recovery, shared meals, noisy nights, pilgrims' stories, alfresco toileting, and sexual harassment. Those who have walked a camino will recognise the experience; those who haven't will learn what to expect. Then there's the other story. Why are the ashes being carried west across Spain? For answer we turn to interspersed flashbacks describing the author's relationship with Grace, her mother . But Maureen herself is unsure of her motive. She sets off intent on the "heroic gesture" of leaving the ashes in a place which is in some way "exceptional" and then walking on. "Being done with it." Getting her

mother off her back you might say. It turns out to be more complex than that.

The author has a keen ear and a sharp eye for detail. In the flashbacks those senses are constrained by an economical writing style as though something is being repressed.- perhaps the psychological carnage of a childhood partly spent out of the care of her “neglectful, abusive” mother or the emotional dissonance of the child, now adult, caring for the parent. In the camino passages the style is expansive, anecdotal - and like many anecdotes would benefit from pruning. There is too much detail. Some is repetitive (e.g. every meal/snack menu), some irrelevant (extended conversations). Attempts to reproduce in print the sound of individual speakers have resulted in caricature. Was the intention to authenticate the narrative? The effect is to obstruct it. .

There are also many inaccuracies. Aside from place name slips - Burquete, Belgrado, Azofar, Los Argos - there are more substantial errors. Pilgrims coming from Le Puy don't follow the Camino Aragonés and its junction with the Camino Francés lies not to the west but to the east of Puente La Reina here described inaccurately as “a one street village”. Its Calle Mayor is wrongly named as both “Rua de Romereos” and “Rua de los Romeus”, names I found untraceable there or anywhere else. The Monastery of Santa Maria in Najera isn't “situated right at the river's edge” and Monte de Gozo isn't the place “where pilgrims traditionally washed themselves in the river”. The Cruz de Ferro is described as a “milladoiro” which is in fact the name of a Galician folk band. Was *miliario* (Roman milestone) intended? The Cruz is not that either.

Maureen completes her task and at last achieves closure. Some may find the manner of it unconvincing. She's a little shell shocked herself “... you start out with an idea (or a prayer) and end with a miracle.” Not everyone believes in miracles but few who have followed a camino would disagree with her final confirmation of the statement “... the magic of the Camino is that it always teaches you something you didn't know you had to learn.”

FELIX DAVIES

*The Moorish Whore*, Rebekah Scott, 2012, Peaceable Publishing 227 pp, ISBN 9780985503215

This novel is set in the eleventh century in what is described on its paperback cover as “a place and time almost lost to history”. Its geographic canvas ranges from Andalucía in southern Spain to the northern reaches of Castile and León, an area where the author

now lives and which brings its ambience to her writing. Individual Moorish kingdoms proliferated through the Iberian peninsula at the time of her story and the central character, a Moorish princess from Seville, finds herself bartered away to the Christian King Alfonso of his day as a trophy wife and questionable queen. Much of the action of the narrative is set in San Facund or San Facundo (Rebekah Scott is inconsistent at times with her place names) which modern pilgrims will recognise as Sahagún. But it is a Sahagún well set in its historic period as the defining towers of San Tirso and San Lorenzo have yet to be built; and in Compostela, the goal of pilgrims passing through to distant Galicia, the cathedral bells have been carted off on the backs of slaves to Granada where they wait until history can restore them to their rightful origin. As princess Zaida (or Isabel as she is to be known following her Christian conversion) settles in her northern location while her king is away warring she is practical and emphatic about Moorish superiority in matters of plumbing and hygiene – and it is easily conjectured that the Iberian natives could also have been lagging behind their invaders in the fields of art and science. There is an unexpected twist at the conclusion of the tale which will have its effect on the ongoing royal line in Castile/León/Galicia; all credit to the novelist's imaginative art, based on historic figures of that long-ago age as handed down by legend and scraps of documentation for current day embellishment.

The Moorish occupation in Spain came to an end in 1492 when the Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella finally saw off the incomers in Granada. Those same monarchs gave birth to a daughter who was later “traded” to a foreign kingdom and who in her turn was rejected in much the same way as Zaida. History repeats itself and Rebekah Scott provides a thematic prequel to Tudor England from her Castillian perspective. Catherine of Aragon and her successors at England's Tudor court are the subject of contemporary fiction by double-Booker prize winner Hilary Mantel, but closer to home in the Confraternity's sphere of interest Rebekah Scott deals creatively with an earlier example of a woman used royally and strategically for dynastic purposes.

JOHN REVELL

An Accidental Jubilee, Alice Warrender 2012, Stone Trough Books, 202pp, ISBN 9780954454265,

This is a descriptive account by a young person (under 30) who, after recovering from serious injuries in a road accident, walked the *Via Francigena*, a 10<sup>th</sup> century pilgrimage route from Canterbury to Rome.

The author, Alice, writes directly and vividly about her pilgrim experience: the route; landscapes and significant places along the way; the people she encounters; the physical challenges; but, disappointingly, only occasionally touches on her spiritual state. Towards the end of the book, Alice mentions “the depth I had found” but regrettably does not further elaborate on this.

Pilgrims are often inspired by a significant life event, and hope to find some resolution of the personal issues which have arisen. This book is no exception, in that the author hoped to find a direction for her life after her trauma. It is clear from the beginning that she is a driven person, and the reviewers felt her desperation strongly, to the extent that she seems ill-prepared for the journey and almost foolhardy in the risks which she takes.

Alice writes in the first person, introspectively and chronologically. At times the account can tend towards tedium and repetition of the same set of subjects – where is the next stop, can I reach it, where will I find food and shelter. However, this is the essential nature of pilgrimage: the individual changes lifestyle at the most basic level, from a settled member of a community to a nomad whose only fixed point of reference is the final destination and his/her inner core of belief and self-awareness. For Alice this narrow focus was magnified by her choice to travel alone, and she is rewarded with the rare chance to look into herself and find some answers to her needs.

Alice’s experience is typical of many pilgrims, with insurmountable obstacles and moments of joy arising from unexpected good fortune. Every pilgrim becomes accustomed to those s/he meets asking “Where have you come from, going where, and why”. Each has their own answer, and Alice’s answers regularly found amazement, anxiety and admiration from the questioner.

For returned pilgrims, this book will arouse that old yearning for the open road; for intending pilgrims the book will give some insight into what it will be like. However, each person will make their pilgrimage, rather than re-running that of someone else. The book is a real page-turner, as the reader follows Alice’s adventures. Alice followed a hard and lonely route, but found fulfilment and joy, which she shares generously with us.

On a practical note, the book has no index or detailed contents list; it includes some black and white photographs, but sadly none of the sketches which Alice made along the way. We admired the cover design showing the enormity of the route, and the end papers with examples of the stamps in her pilgrim passport.

WENDY AND JOHN BEECHER



# From the Secretary's Notebook

## Membership

Thank you very much to all members who have renewed their subscriptions for 2013 and beyond. It really does help the CSJ to plan the 2013 year of events to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Confraternity life together.

## E Newsletter

We have now had three editions of the well-received CSJ eNewsletter. Unfortunately some people have not been receiving it because their email address has not been correct or it has bounced for some reason (check your Spam folder). If you have not received it and would like us to try and ensure you do receive the Newsletter please email the office.

## Hospitalero Course feedback

Some 16 CSJ members took part in the Spanish for Hospitaleros course in October at Santiago University. They all had a very enjoyable time and increased their confidence in every day spoken Spanish and culture. We hope we shall reap the fruits of this when they complete their hospitalero stints this year and next.

## New Guides

*Camino de Santiago: Guia del Camino de Invierno: De Ponferrada a Santiago por Valdeorras y la Ribeira Sacra*, José D Rúa Pérez Editorial a Pena d'Agua , 2011, ISBN 978 84 93510947. Available from the website <http://caminodeinvierno.es> or the San Pablo bookshops in Spain, [Santiago@sanpablo.es](mailto:Santiago@sanpablo.es)

For those inspired by Rebekah Scott's recent article there is a Guide in Spanish to the Camino de Invierno, a route once taken to avoid the heights of O Cebreiro in the winter months. The stages range from 17-34km in a 12 day schedule. The route follows the valley of the river Sil and then crosses the Miño in the winegrowing area before reaching Santiago. See also Rebekah's downloadable Guide under Guides and Updates on the CSJ website.

## **Refuge for sale!**

Several years ago CSJ surveyed the various routes to Santiago and identified the gaps in accommodation along those routes. Eventually we found the parish house at Miraz and threw our energies in to developing it as a Pilgrim Refuge. One of the buildings we considered for a while was the hotel at Cañaverl on the Via de la Plata. It is stunningly situated on a reservoir and has been a pilgrim albergue as well as a hotel. However, the construction of the motorway meant that passing trade dwindled. It is now for sale again at 189,000 euros. Contact the English agent Martyn Swan on [info@extremacasa.com](mailto:info@extremacasa.com), 0034 927 320 953 if you are thinking you would like to get into the pilgrim hospitality business.

## **News from Other Associations**

### **VIBORG, DENMARK**

Thanks to Eugene and Inge Carroll who live in Holbaeck, the CSJ was represented at the opening of a new office for the Viborg Pilgrim Centrum. Their organiser, Ulla Kobberup has been to the AGM on a number of occasions. The organisation promotes pilgrimage in general and researches the pilgrim routes in Denmark. See [www.viborgpilgrimcentrum.dk](http://www.viborgpilgrimcentrum.dk).

### **Frontier Holidays and CSJ**

Frontier Holidays are offering a 10% discount on any booking made by CSJ members with them for walking the Camino de Santiago in 2013.

This offer applies to any itinerary for Independent Walking on the Camino Francés, as well as guided and independent walks along the pilgrim route of the Via de la Plata.

Frontier's Camino journeys are designed around the specific requirements of each pilgrim's walk, to ensure that walking the Camino de Santiago is an unforgettable and unique experience.

Contact Frontier Holidays on 0141 956 1569 or [secretary@frontierholidays.net](mailto:secretary@frontierholidays.net) and mention the Confraternity of Saint James to qualify for your 10% discount. [www.frontierholidays.net](http://www.frontierholidays.net).

## **CSJ Members use Library resources**

We are very happy to have received a weighty copy of the PhD thesis recently written by Cecilia Gossen. It is entitled *Place-making and meaning-making in the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela*, University of Calgary, 2012.

She has kindly sent us a copy of the Abstract.

This study is an investigation of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain that is framed by place studies. The thesis proposes that pilgrims en route to Santiago encounter, and also cultivate, meaning-making that is socially and materially constructed and influenced by pilgrimage traditions, landscapes, a vast array of architectures, en route pilgrimage-support communities, as well as artistic and religious material cultures. The overall consequence is the formation of a unique pilgrimage identity that I name the Camino identity.

The concept of a Camino identity draws on self-categorization theory—that proposes there is a cognitive process in social settings where comparisons are typically invited, encouraged and cultivated, especially between an ‘in-group’ (such as Camino pilgrims) and an ‘out-group’ (non-pilgrims). The process involves a shift of self-perception whereby individuals seek to be exemplars of their group and its ideals. The thesis argues that daily engagement with fellow Camino pilgrims, the physicality of participating in the pilgrimage, the influences of Camino traditions and the ever-changing placeness of pilgrims invite a high level of behaviour and commitment to a Camino idealism. The Camino identity is of major significance for place-making and meaning-making during the pilgrimage to Santiago. The Camino becomes a vehicle for personal transformation of the pilgrims as they discover a new hope and purpose in life through friendship and a sense of common humanity that is place-based and place-influenced.

## **Great British Bake Off**

It was a lovely surprise to see Aberffraw biscuits from Anglesey feature among the traditional biscuits baked in Great Britain. Perhaps the Celtic connections with Galicia and the large number of local scallops gave rise to the shell shaped shortbread biscuits.

### **RECIPE:**

#### **Preheat oven 190C/gas 5**

*175g flour (maybe mix wholemeal and white)*

*110g butter*

*55g caster sugar*

*a little milk if needed to mix.*

Grease a baking sheet. Put flour and sugar in a bowl and rub in the butter. Bind together with a little milk to make a soft dough.

Roll out and cut out circles - eg a 7cm cutter to make 12 biscuits. Press a circle of mixture into a scallop shell and shape the biscuit. Use a scallop shell to press the scallop pattern onto the top, or cut the pattern with the back of a knife.

Bake until golden brown c 15 minutes.

# CSJ Events

Please check CSJ website for latest information

**Thurs 27 December**

**Office Closed**

**Thurs 3 January**

**Office reopens**

**Saturday 2 February AGM**

**see AGM Papers**

**Saturday 23 February**

**London Practical Pilgrim**

**Saturday 16 March**

**Scottish Practical Pilgrim**

**HOSPITALERO PREPARATION**

**Saturday 16 February**

**Gaucelmo**

**Sat 2 March, Sat 16 March**

**Miraz**

**Monday 30 September- Friday 11 October**

**Road to Santiago Course**

Organised by the University of Santiago. Members are encouraged to join this course with 40 hours tuition in Spanish and Culture and a week walking the Camino from O Cebreiro (luggage transported). If at least 16 people apply there can be an English version of the course. Colin Jones our Chairman plans to walk and invites others to join him. Cost is 1600 euros with a 10% for CSJ members.

The programme includes: 40 classroom hours, Walking seminars and practical workshops, Cultural activities, Walking a section of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route, Board and lodging\* in Santiago de Compostela and the Camino, Medical and accident insurance, Teaching materials, Access to USC facilities, Completion Diploma, Programme and board and lodging organisation, Opening and closing ceremonies.

Contact Marion on [office@csj.org.uk](mailto:office@csj.org.uk) or see <http://internationalcourses.usc.es> for more information.

## Other Events

**Fri 22 –Sun 30 March**

**Northern Cross  
Pilgrimage**

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The 105 mile pilgrimage starts at Carlisle and follows Hadrian's Wall, up the Pennine Way, over the Otterburn ranges and skirting the Cheviots. Sleep on church or village hall floors, and share food and worship in tiny villages before meeting up with other "legs" to cross the old Pilgrim causeway to Lindisfarne on the sands at low tide, and share worship and liturgy over the Easter weekend. For more information contact Maggie Mason [maggiem.mason@gmail.com](mailto:maggiem.mason@gmail.com), 7 Grizedale Avenue, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 6BQ or see [northerncross.co.uk](http://northerncross.co.uk)

**Saturday 23 March**

**Pilgrimage Talk, Glos**

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CSJ member Paul Murray will be giving an illustrated talk entitled "Half a Pilgrimage" about his experiences this autumn walking the Via de la Plata from Seville to Salamanca in the main hall of Saint Peter's High School, Stroud Road, Gloucester at 7.30pm. Admission is free but refreshments will be provided and all donations received will go towards the school's HCPT group to enable them to take a group of disabled youngsters to Lourdes on pilgrimage. Contact Paul on [mutil1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mutil1@hotmail.co.uk)

**10 Apr-19 Jun**

**Pilgrimage Course, London**

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11 week course, on pilgrimage in medieval Europe, through focussing on different pilgrimage centres. Includes Jerusalem, Rome, Mecca, Compostela, Canterbury, Bury St Edmunds. Weds 3-5pm, City Lit., Keely Street, WC2B 4BA, for more information tel 020 7492 2652, to book 020 7831 7831, [humanities@citylit.ac.uk](mailto:humanities@citylit.ac.uk). Fee £88, senior fee £50, conc £28.

**Saturday 18 May**

**Day Course, London**

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Rough Guide to Pilgrimage, lecturer Vanessa King. Mary Ward Centre, 42 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AQ, [www.marywardcentre.ac.uk](http://www.marywardcentre.ac.uk) Course explores what is meant to be a 15<sup>th</sup> c

pilgrim in Europe, Why go on pilgrimage?, 10 Must-see sites in Europe and travel tips for the would be pilgrim. Cost £31, course ref 461CS, 020 7269 6000

**19-22 July Medieval Pilgrims in Glos and Worcs**

3 day weekend course on pilgrimage places in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire with visits. Lecturer Tim Porter. Farncombe Estate, Broadway Worcs WR12 7LJ. Fee D/T £370, single room £400. Bookings 0333 456 8580, [enquiries@farncombecourses.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@farncombecourses.co.uk)

PILGRIM CROSSWORD										
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# New Members

Information is provided for members' use only

## LONDON

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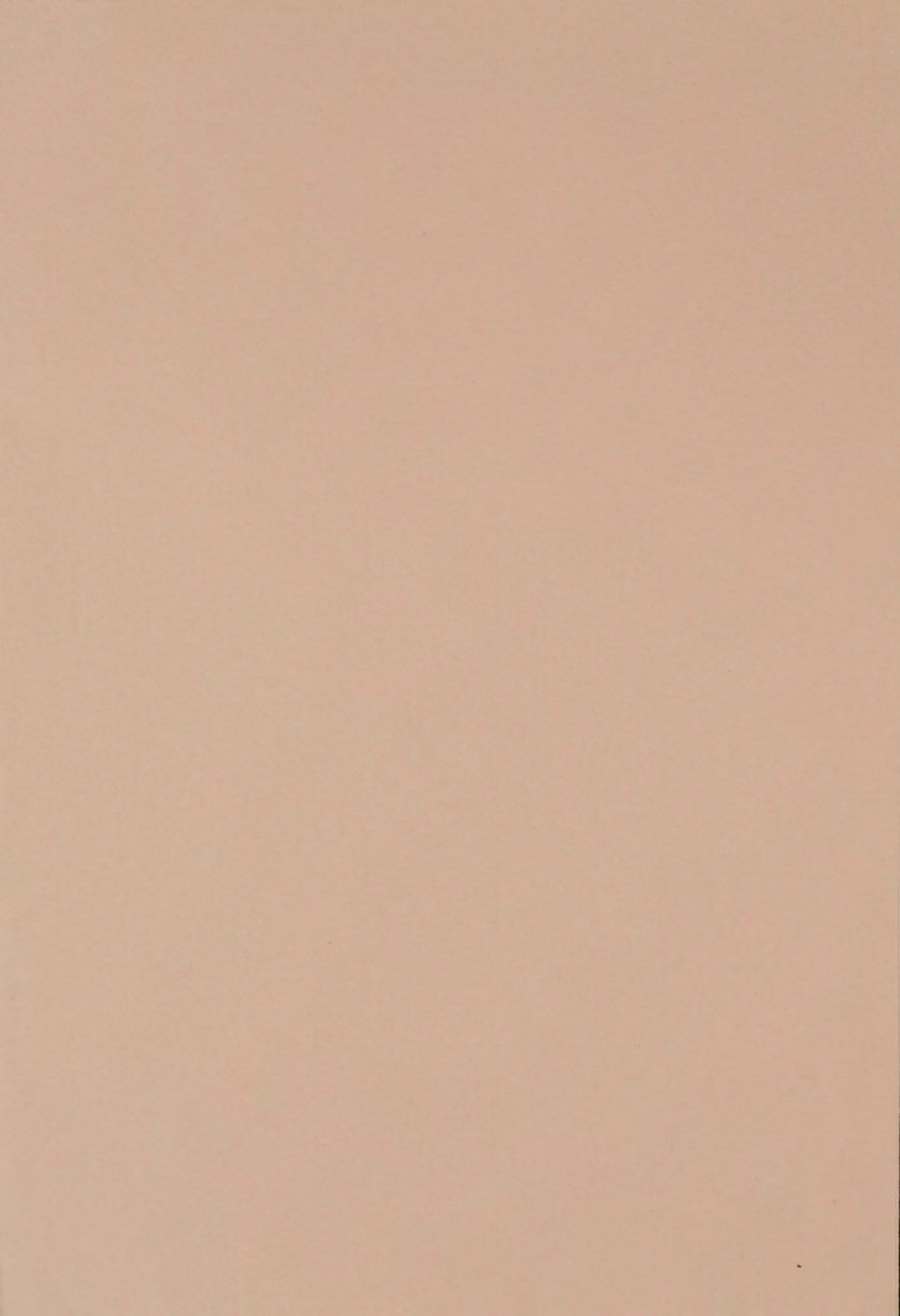
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Mr. & Mrs. B. L. Morris 001 562 810 9113  
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**NEW ZEALAND**

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18 Northview Road, Whangaparada, Auckland 930



# Confraternity of Saint James

Registered Charity number 1091140  
Company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales, number 4096721

Information and Publications available from Registered Office:

**27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY**

*usual opening hours Thursday 11am to 3pm (other times by appointment)*  
telephone (020) 7928 9988 email [office@csj.org.uk](mailto:office@csj.org.uk) website [www.csj.org.uk](http://www.csj.org.uk)

*Honorary President* H E The Spanish Ambassador  
*Secretary* Marion Marples  
45 Dolben Street, LONDON SE1 0UQ  
*Pilgrim Record Secretary* Please apply with SAE (quoting membership number) to:  
Tony Morwood-Leyland, 24 Soper Grove, BASINGSTOKE RG21 5PU

## Committee 2012 Charity Trustees and Company Directors

*Chairman* Colin Jones, 13 Dunsley Drive, Wordsley, STOURBRIDGE, West Midlands DY8 5RA [pacharan@btinternet.com](mailto:pacharan@btinternet.com)  
*Vice-Chairman* Gosia Brykczynska, 148 Carlyle Road, LONDON W5 4BJ  
[gosia.brykczynska@talktalk.net](mailto:gosia.brykczynska@talktalk.net)  
*Other Members* Liz Crean, Paul Graham, Richard Jefferies,  
Mary Moseley, Angelika Schneider, Clare Taylor

## Rabanal Committee

*Chairman* Dick Crean, Balcony Flat, 38 Cornwallis Crescent, BRISTOL BS8 4PH  
[thecreans@btinternet.com](mailto:thecreans@btinternet.com)  
*Wardens' Coordinator, Refugio Gaucelmo* Julie Davies, West Wing, Down Hall, Bedford Place, BRIDPORT,  
Dorset DT6 3ND (01308) 427295 [julie@rogerdavies.go-plus.net](mailto:julie@rogerdavies.go-plus.net)  
*Other Members* David Arthur, Liz Crean, Laurie Dennett, David Garcia, Michael Krier,  
Marion Marples, Paul Murray, Brendan Nolan, Alison Raju

## Miraz Committee

*Coordinator* Richard Jefferies, Magnolia Cottage, Westwood Lane, Normandy,  
GUILDFORD, GU3 2LG [rjefferies@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rjefferies@hotmail.co.uk)  
*Other Members* Peter Buchan, Alan Cutbush (*hospitaleros*), Bruce Hunter, Colin  
Jones, Ted Jones, Bob Mullen, Tony Ward, Maureen Young

## Other Officers

*Finance Manager* Vacant  
*Treasurer and Company Secretary* Tony Ward, Syracuse, ST NEOT, Cornwall PL14 6NJ  
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(01622) 757814  
*Members wishing to borrow slides should make their selections from the catalogue four weeks in advance.*  
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**The Confraternity of Saint James**  
(A company limited by guarantee)

**Report of the Trustees  
and  
Financial Statements**

Year ended 30th September 2012

Company no. 4096721  
Charity no. 1091140

[www.csj.org.uk](http://www.csj.org.uk)

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## Legal and Administrative Information

### Status

The Confraternity of Saint James (CSJ) is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 25 October 2000, registered in England & Wales (Company no.4096721), and registered as a charity (no.1091140) on 15 March 2002. The governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association, both as amended on 26 January 2002, 31 January 2004, 29 January 2005 and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The company grew out of an unincorporated association founded on 13 January 1983 and registered as a charity (No. 294461) on 19 August 1986.

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### Honorary President

HE The Spanish Ambassador

### Directors and Trustees

Dr M M Brykczynska	Vice-Chairman
Mrs E Crean	
Mr R Crean	
Mr P Graham	
Mr D P Garcia	Resigned 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
Mr R J S Jefferies	
Revd C Jones	Chairman
Ms C Kimmel	Resigned 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
Mrs M C T Moseley	
Ms A Schneider	
Mrs C Taylor	
Mr G Taylor	Resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
Mr A Ward	Appointed 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2012

### Secretary

Ms M Marples

### Company Secretary & Treasurer

Mr A Ward

### Registered Office

27 Blackfriars Road, LONDON SE1 8NY  
Telephone 020 7928 9988  
Fax 020 7928 2844  
Website <http://www.csj.org.uk>  
E-mail [office@csj.org.uk](mailto:office@csj.org.uk)

### Bankers

CAF Bank 25, Kings Hill Avenue, WEST MALLING. Kent ME19 4JQ

### Reporting Accountant

Mr I S McLaughlin FCA 23, West Farm Avenue, ASHTEAD Surrey KT21 2LD

## **Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 September 2012**

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2012. The Board of Trustees confirms that the annual report and financial statements comply with current statutory requirements including the revised SORP2005 Accounting & Reporting by Charities and the Charities (Accounts and reports) Regulations 2008.

### **Structure and Objects of the charity**

The object of the CSJ is to advance the education of the public in and to promote the pilgrimage to Saint James of Compostela in the northwestern Spanish region of Galicia and the related history, art, architecture and music. Activities include promoting research, presenting educational programmes, identifying and preserving monuments, providing information on routes, establishing paths, maintaining hostels, and working in close co-operation with other bodies in furthering similar aims and objectives. The trustees continue to pursue all these objectives with rigour although it is not possible to fully quantify how the organisation meets these other than the positive feed-back received in the comments book at each refuge and from returning pilgrims and from those with a personal interest in pilgrimage.

Under the Articles of the company, the members of the Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting to serve for a period of two years, half of their number being subject to re-election each year. The directors of the company are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. The Chairman and other honorary officers are appointed by the Committee at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting. An invitation is included with each annual report asking for members to act as trustees. Existing trustees also make recommendations to the committee regarding suitable candidates. As part of their induction process, new trustees are provided with copies of minutes for the previous 12 months and accounts for 2 years. They also spend time in the office to familiarise themselves with current procedures. The Corporate Governance Sub-Committee continues its work on a procedures manual which when complete will provide new trustees with detailed information as to the duties and responsibilities of the constituent parts of the company and its committees.

### **Financial Review & Future Developments**

As the CSJ approaches its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, it continues to prosper in the delivery of its aims and objectives. In view of the financial situation in autumn 2010 a decision was made to increase membership subscriptions. However, the general global recession and the ongoing electronic technology revolution continue to impact on the finances of the organisation. A plethora of information is now available on the internet and the need by impending pilgrims to become members before setting out on their Caminos is much reduced. However, surprisingly, our membership increased but the amounts claimed under gift aid was less. The major expenditure items in the year were the finalisation of the building work at the refuge at Miraz (new chlorination plant and architects fees) and a payment from our funds to cover the solar panels at Rabanal. Overall, there was a deficit, much due to these expenses although the general fund deficit was eliminated and that account showed a small surplus.

Books and publications continue to sell via our on-line web shop with the annual publication of the Guide to the Camino Francés remaining the best selling item. However, sales of 3<sup>rd</sup> party books in the year held up well and the expected challenge from on-line retailers such as Amazon offering keener prices and reduced postage costs did not fully happen.

Both the Refugio Gaucelmo in Rabanal and the Refugio at Miraz, refuges for pilgrims in Northern Spain continue to be supported. The Miraz project no longer is our major concern and the situation with more pilgrims arriving on a daily basis in the busy summer period than the available number of beds is being addressed by the trustees. The CSJ continues to provide a personal information service to, and answer queries from, the public whether in person, by telephone, email, through the website or by arranging speakers and visits. Interest in our website has continued.



During the financial period, the trustees continue to reinforce the principles of good practice recommended within the charity sector, having carried out a Risk Assessment Review, established a Financial Policy, and a Reserves Policy. A review of the administrative and internal control systems is ongoing; the Trustees have considered the contents of the Charities Act which received the Royal Assent on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006, in particular the possibility of changing legal status to a "Charitable Incorporated Organisation" which may mean that accounts and reports only need to be filed with the Charity Commission. This change will be available as from January next year. The salaries paid to the Secretary, Finance Manager and Office Administrator were again reviewed during the year to reflect market salary rates, responsibilities and time spent on CSJ business.

The considerable amount of time being spent on Miraz and Rabanal business by the Secretary and Finance Manager continues to be recognised by an allocation of part of their salaries to these specific funds.

It should be recognised that there will always be a number of members not renewing their subscription as they complete their pilgrimage or lose interest in the aim and objectives of the Confraternity. The 3-year discount scheme continues to be popular as can be seen by the volume of membership moneys held against future subscription years. Our membership has expanded in the accounting year, the first increase for several years. The trustees are conscious that there are a number of English pilgrims on the Camino who are unaware of the existence of the CSJ. The new web-site should go some way to remedy this situation.

The membership software system (known as Maximizer) originally introduced in June 2003 continues to be a great success, especially with membership renewals procedures. The system enables the membership work to be shared between several members thereby reducing the general risk exposure. It also helps to identify members in a particular geographic area or with a particular expertise.

Both members and trustees recognise that the primary purpose and duty of the charity is to provide benefit for its beneficiaries and to care for the public at large. In order to maximize this benefit, the members of the CSJ provide a valuable source of expertise and ideas as well as income.

## **Risk Management**

In the year, the Corporate Governance sub-committee met on a regular to assist the trustees with ensuring that the CSJ organisation acts responsibly and in accordance with Company and Charity law.

The trustees now consider the most significant risks to this charity are the financial risks related to, or arising from a reduction in membership and demand for our publications being replaced by web-based information and on-line booksellers. A significant but less important risk continues to be the loss of key personnel and the unavailability of un-paid volunteers to undertake some of the essential day to day tasks. Lesser risks are the loss of or damage to property and/or hospitaleros and financial irregularity and incompetence of trustees. The hospitaleros training days include detailed health and safety briefings.

In particular, a Strategy Working Group has been formed to address the issue of recruitment and retention of members and other related outward facing matters.

In general terms, the trustees also continue to monitor all risks and take appropriate steps. These have included cover/deputies for key personnel and increased insurance cover. The whole of this activity continues to be treated as part of an overall Financial Policy which is conceived as the core element in the development of a business continuity plan.

## **Public Benefit Statement**

The organisation, in summary, provides a "one stop shop" for English speaking pilgrims and as such, provides the public with information and support and so complies with its duty as set out in section 17(5) of the 2011 Charities Act

## **Reserves Policy**

The trustees review the level of reserves annually, based on financial results for the current year, the forecast for the following year and the results of the annual review of risks. In particular, they wish to ensure that the charity can continue to fulfil its current objects and activities in the event of a significant fall in membership. The issue of retention and motivation of members of the Confraternity is being actively considered by the Strategy Working Group. The charity intends to maintain a level of unrestricted funds which consists of a) a period of 3 months of operating costs (12 months for Rabanal and Miraz due to their seasonal nature) and b) sufficient funds to cover known risks, contingencies and capital expenditure.

### **General – Unrestricted funds**

The free unrestricted reserves at the year-end were £19,717. At present all of these are needed to cover the deficit on the Miraz Fund. The support is shown on the balance sheet. However, the trustees have decided to keep the Miraz Fund separate. The trustees consider the most appropriate level of free reserves at 30 September 2012 would be about 15,000 to pay 3 months of operating costs plus £1,000 for known contingencies. The trustees are budgeting for a small profit in the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 to increase the general fund reserve and the deficit on the Miraz fund should be repaid within approximately 5 years from operational surpluses.

### **Rabanal – Restricted Income Fund**

The level of reserves required to cover 12 months operating costs is £3,000 which leaves a very small surplus as at 30 September 2012. This is retained for use on future repairs and improvements to the property and to the facilities for pilgrims.

## **Investment Powers**

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power to make any investment which the trustees see fit. The tangible investments currently held are interest-bearing deposits with the Charities Official Investment Fund and one interest-bearing account with CAF Bank, although interest is also paid on the CAF Bank current account.

## **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. Mid-year accounts are prepared on the same basis as the annual accounts and are available to any member who wishes to inspect them. These are not subject to the same external scrutiny as the annual accounts and therefore readers ought not to place the same reliance on them.

Approved by the trustees on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and signed on their behalf by

C. Jones  
Chairman

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Confraternity of St. James Charitable Company**

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012 as set out on pages 8 to 14.

### ***Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner***

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act) and.
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### ***Basis of independent examiner's report***

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and the seeking of explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### ***Independent examiner's statement***

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

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements

- (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (revised 2005) have not been met;
- or

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

I S McLaughlin FCA  
Reporting Accountant

23 West Farm Avenue  
Ashted, Surrey, KT21 2LD

Statement of Financial Activities for Year to 30 September 2012

	Unrestricted		Designated and Restricted Funds				Total	2011
	General	Fund	Miraz	Rabanal	Bursary	Other		
INCOMING RESOURCES	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>from generated funds</b>								
<b>Voluntary Income</b>								
Donations	3	3,630	20,391	2,089	-	91	26,201	53,735
Subscriptions	4	55,705	-	-	-	-	55,705	51,075
Books and Publications – Sales	5	42,451	-	-	-	-	42,451	34,087
Other Items – Sales	6	2,455	-	-	-	-	2,455	2,229
Visit Income	7	1,883	-	-	-	-	1,883	5,578
		<b>106,124</b>	<b>20,391</b>	<b>2,089</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>128,695</b>	<b>146,704</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>106,169</b>	<b>20,391</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>128,858</b>	<b>146,853</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>								
Representative Conferences		-	-	-	-	-	-	239
Bursary Grants	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	(600)
Refugio Gaucelmo	10	-	-	8,527	-	-	8,527	2,299
Miraz	11	-	23,254	-	-	-	23,254	73,659
Bulletin	12	11,598	-	-	-	-	11,598	9,862
Library	13	2,686	-	-	-	-	2,686	3,149
Speaker Meetings	14	(111)	-	-	-	-	(111)	(328)
Books and Publications – Costs	5	26,441	-	-	-	-	26,441	20,532
Other Items – Costs	6	2,083	-	-	-	-	2,083	1,455
Visit Expenditure	7	1,849	-	-	-	-	1,849	5,024
Donations – Amigos Service	23	850	-	-	-	-	850	1,959
<b>Direct Charitable Activities</b>		<b>45,396</b>	<b>23,254</b>	<b>8,527</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,177</b>	<b>117,250</b>
<b>Other Charitable Costs</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31,312</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,880</b>	<b>36,318</b>
<b>Administration Costs</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>28,118</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,118</b>	<b>27,971</b>
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>104,826</b>	<b>26,038</b>	<b>11,311</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>142,175</b>	<b>181,539</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,343</b>	<b>(5,647)</b>	<b>(9,181)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>(13,317)</b>	<b>(34,686)</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>18,374</b>	<b>(15,594)</b>	<b>12,926</b>	<b>10,181</b>	<b>6,093</b>	<b>31,980</b>	<b>66,666</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>19,717</b>	<b>(21,241)</b>	<b>3,745</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>18,663</b>	<b>31,980</b>

**Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2012**

	Notes	Designated & Restricted Funds					Total	2011
		Unrestricted	Restricted Funds					
		General Fund	Miraz	Rabanal	Bursary	Other		
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>17</b>	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Computers etc		1,218	-	-	-	-	1,218	1,827
Works of Art		3,900	-	890	-	-	4,790	4,790
		<b>5,118</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,008</b>	<b>6,617</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>								
<b>Stocks and Work-in-progress</b>								
Books and Publications for Sale	22	5,837	-	-	-	-	5,837	6,924
Other Items for Sale	22	1,374	-	-	-	-	1,374	1,512
Postage Paid Envelopes		285	-	-	-	-	285	475
		<b>7,496</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,496</b>	<b>8,911</b>
Debtors	18	<b>6986</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,986</b>	<b>6,221</b>
Cash at Bank and In Hand		<b>16,718</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>36,015</b>	<b>49,137</b>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>31,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>50,497</b>	<b>64,269</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>								
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19/20	<b>(37,842)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(37,842)</b>	<b>(38,906)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>(6,642)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>12,655</b>	<b>25,363</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>								
		<b>(1524)</b>		<b>3,745</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>18,663</b>	<b>31,980</b>
<b>ADJUSTMENT – MIRAZ ACCOUNT</b>		<b>21,241</b>	<b>(21,241)</b>					
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>19,717</b>	<b>(21,241)</b>	<b>3,745</b>	<b>10,212</b>	<b>6,230</b>	<b>18,663</b>	<b>31,980</b>

**Audit Exemption**

- (a) For the year ended 30 September 2012 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act")
- (b) Members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.
- (c) The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:
- ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with sections 386 and 387 of the Act; and
  - preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year, and of its profit or loss for the financial year, in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 of the Act, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company;
- (c) The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Act relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

Approved by the trustees on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and signed on their behalf by **Rev.C. Jones Chairman**

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2012

### 1. Accounting policies

#### (a) Basis of accounting

The trustees have assessed going concern and although there was a deficit in the year, there is a reasonable level of reserves. The charity also enjoys the continued support of the trustees and members and as a result, the financial statements have been prepared under the going concern basis of accounting.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities. The length of the current and previous accounting periods was one full calendar year.

#### (b) Donations and similar incoming resources

Except as specified in Notes 4 and 20, these are included in the year in which they are receivable, (which is when the charity becomes entitled to the resource), and any conditions for receipt are met; the trustees are reasonably certain that they will receive it; and the trustees are reasonably certain that the value can be reliably measured. Incoming resources from tax claims are included within the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the funds are received and a claim can be made. Subscriptions paid in advance under the discounted membership scheme are recognised in the membership year to which they relate.

#### (c) Investment income

Income from investments is included in the SOFA in the year in which it is receivable.

#### (d) Resources Expended

All expenditure is included on an accruals basis and is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay for it. All costs have been directly attributed to one of the functional categories of resources expended in the SOFA. The charity is not registered for VAT and accordingly expenditure is shown gross of irrecoverable VAT.

#### (e) Tangible Fixed Assets & Depreciation

Fixed assets currently include Works of Art both historic and contemporary. Depreciation is not charged on these as their residual value is considered to be higher than their carrying value. The Library is held in the unincorporated association for the time being for the benefit of the public and does not form part of the assets of the company. All expenditure on the refugio at Miraz is written off as spent including any improvements on the building, on the basis that any expenditure is of a purely charitable nature and of no future major financial value to the Confraternity. All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Depreciation of computers, related software and other office equipment is charged over four years.

#### (f) Exchange Rates

Moneys received and paid in Euros are converted at the actual exchange rate on the transaction date with the exception of moneys received and paid at Miraz on a daily basis where the seasonal mid point exchange rate is used. The exchange rate used at the accounting date was 1.25 Euros to the £. Net exchange losses in the year were £730.

## 2. Restricted Funds

	At 1 Oct 2011	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	At 30 Sep 2012
	£	£	£	£
Rabanal	12,926	2,130	11,311	3,745
Miraz	(15,594)	20,391	26,038	(21,241)
Bursary	10,181	31	-	10,212
Ted Dickinson Fund	3,269	45	-	3,314
St Christopher Fund	2,824	92	-	2,916
	13,606	22,689	37,349	(1,054)

The Miraz Fund is a designated fund, the Rabanal Fund is a restricted income fund; the remaining funds are expendable endowments. All funds have accumulated through donations, interest and allocations by the trustees, and have therefore already been recognised as income rather than capital receipts.

Rabanal Fund – for capital projects, upkeep of the fabric and miscellaneous expenses at Refugio Gaucelmo.

Miraz – Funds are held on behalf of the Refuge at Miraz. A bank account is held at Banco Pastor in Friol but operated from Blackfriars Road to pay expenses such as electricity, telephone and insurance. This account also receives cash locally via donativos from pilgrims. This account is in deficit and is supported by the general funds of the organisation. It is expected that this deficit will be recovered over a period of about 5 years now that all capital works are completed.

Bursary Fund - for educational scholarships for young people. It was established by the committee in 1995-1996 and allocated an endowment of £10,000. The Bursary Fund now stands around the just over the £10,000 mark and awards may be paid out each year dependent upon applications being received.

Ted Dickinson Fund - raised by special subscription in memory of a member who died in 1994. It is for helping pilgrims in financial hardship and associated purposes.

St. Christopher Fund – founded in 2002 to enable frail or elderly pilgrims to take a companion with them to Santiago.

## 3. Donations

General donations have reduced a little during the year. These are funded occasionally from legacies but mostly from the many generous voluntary contributions made by members in addition to their subscriptions.

## 4. Subscriptions & Gift Aid

Subscription income had increased appreciably in the year, due to many new members. However Tax reclaimed on subscriptions decreased to £8,486. (2011 £9,720) Gift Aid tax claims are recognised when a claim can be made, hence when members are paying a 3 years subscription, only a claim is made in the first year.

Current subscription rates are: -

### 1 year

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£25.00	Overseas	£30.00
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£30.00	Overseas	£35.00

### 3 years

Individual Members	UK and Europe	£67.50	Overseas	£81.00
Joint or Institutional Members	UK and Europe	£81.00	Overseas	£94.50

## 5. Books and Publications

Turnover increased due to the popularity of the Guide to the Camino Frances and the expected reduction in business through our secure on-line bookshop due to competition from on-line book shops did not materialise. This gave rise to a trading surplus of £16,010. This compares with an overall trading surplus of £13,555 in 2011.

## 6. Other Items

Sales of other items (principally badges, sweatshirts, caps and DVDs) produced a surplus of £372 compared to £774 in the previous year.

## 7. Visits

The visits for the year were to Ampleforth and Scotland.

## 8. Investment Income

Investments which generate income consist of interest-bearing deposits with the Charities Official Investment Fund and one interest-bearing account with CAF bank. As can be seen, income continues at a minimal amount in the year.

## 9. Grants

In the past, bursary application forms were issued to universities and colleges of further education at the start of the academic year. Students between 18 and 25 were asked to submit proposals for their research and to indicate how it would be facilitated by financial assistance from the Confraternity. Short-listed applicants were invited to interview before a panel consisting of Mark Hassall, former lecturer in Archaeology at UCL, and James Maple, Hon. Vice-President of the CSJ, and awards may be made for one outstanding project, or shared between several, up to a maximum of £1,000 per applicant. They were generally paid in two tranches, part in advance of the research and the balance when the resulting dissertation has been commended after being academically reviewed. The best of these were published in the Bulletin. No bursaries have been awarded in the five years to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012. An on-going review of the purpose and possible recipients of this award is continuing.

## 10. Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino

Expenditure of £8,527 this year includes: -	£
- Solar Panels	6,996
- Travel & subsistence	422
- Hospitaleros emergency travel	585
- Sundry	524

Pilgrim donations and related expenditure on food, hospitality, cleaning etc in Spain are for the benefit of the refugio at Rabanal and do not form part of the Confraternity funds or its accounts. Any surplus is put towards overheads such as electricity, bank charges, repairs etc.

## 11. Refugio Miraz de Peregrinos de Miraz

Income of £20,391 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

	£
- Donativos and goods sold – Spain	16,341
- Donations (UK)	3,487
- Gift Aid	563

All income received from pilgrims is treated as CSJ income due to our sole tenancy of the building.

Expenditure of £23,254 relating to the refuge was as follows:-

	£
- Construction cost – Casa Rectoral	9,644
- Household, repairs, food, heat and light etc	9,517
- Working Party costs	2,320
- Goods for resale	143
- Travel – Hospitaleros	573
- Exchange losses	697
- Sundries	340



## 12. Bulletin

The Bulletin is published quarterly and the costs include printing, distribution and a new software publishing programme to enable more origination work to be undertaken by the new volunteer undertaking this task.

## 13. Library

This item represents a grant to the unincorporated association, registered charity number 294461, for managing the Library.

## 14. Speaker Meetings

Speaker Meetings are those held to further the charitable objects of the Confraternity.

## 15. Other Charitable Costs

The costs directly attributable to charitable activities are

	£
Personnel	35,171
Other Direct Costs	<u>1,709</u>
Total	<u>£36,880</u>
Allocated:-	
General	31,312
Rabanal	2,784
Miraz	2,784

## 16. Administration Costs

	£
Personnel	10,454
Accommodation	7,186
Office Running Costs	8,006
Finance charges	644
Member Meetings & Sundry	<u>1,828</u>
Total	<u>£ 28,118</u>

Personnel costs include a total of £1,146 paid to 7 trustees for reimbursed personal travel expenses.

The only governance costs are £35 Data Protection licence and £14 Companies House filing fee. Due to their minimal amount, they have not been shown under a separate heading on the Statement of Financial Activities on page 8.

## 17. Fixed Assets

	Works of Art	Office Equipment	Total
Costs	£	£	£
At 1 Oct 2011	4,790	10,616	15,406
Additions	-	-	-
At 30 Sep 2011	<u>4,790</u>	<u>10,616</u>	<u>15,406</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 Oct 2011	-	8,789	8,789
Charge for year	-	<u>609</u>	<u>609</u>
At 30 Sep 2012	-	<u>9,398</u>	<u>9,398</u>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
At 1 Oct 2011	<u>4,790</u>	<u>1,827</u>	<u>6,617</u>
At 30 Sep 2012	<u>4,790</u>	<u>1,218</u>	<u>6,008</u>

Works of Art comprise a mediaeval oak carving of Saint James (valued at £3,400) and an embroidered banner (valued at £500), both in the assets of the General Fund, and an icon of Saint James (valued at its cost of £890, covered by donations in memory of Stephen Badger) in the Rabanal Fund.

## 18. Debtors

	2012	2011
	£	£
Prepayments	1,771	2,155
Accrued Income and Other Debtors	<u>5,215</u>	<u>4,066</u>
	<u>6,986</u>	<u>6,221</u>

## 19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2012	2011
	£	£
Trade Creditors	12,188	11,466
Deposits and payments held for CSJ Visits after accounting date	-	925
Deferred Income - Subscriptions in advance	<u>25,654</u>	<u>26,515</u>
	<u>37,842</u>	<u>38,906</u>

## 20. Deferred Income

Subscriptions paid in advance total £25,654; £17,677 related to the year 2013, £7,392 to the year 2014 and £585 for later years. These have been shown as falling due within 1 year as the actual subscription has been received.

## 21. Related Parties

During the year, Mona Lowen Consultants Limited, a company in which the treasurer and company secretary Tony Ward has a material interest has carried out the bookkeeping function of the CSJ. He was not appointed a trustee of the organisation and a director of the company until 4<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The amount provided for this service within the accounts prior to his appointment is £375. This arrangement ceased on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

## 22. Stocks

Stocks have been valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Dated stock has been assumed to be of negligible value.

## 23. Donations

The major donation in the year was a grant of €1,000 (£850) towards the cost of the Amigos Service providing the Pilgrim Welcome in Santiago.

## 24. Net Movement in Funds

The levels of primary purpose trading income, subscriptions and donations mean that there are reasonable funds carried forward

## 25. Capital Commitments

The work undertaken at the Miraz refuge has now been completed and all invoices received in connection with the extension and related expenditure have been paid, these included a new chlorification plant as legally required but not included in the original specification. No further capital costs are expected in the near future.

## Supplementary Report for Members & Supporters

The main report gives information required by the Charity Commission and by the Companies Acts. This supplementary report is intended for all those supporters, past, present and future, who are interested in more detailed information on the CSJ's activities.

### Refugio Gaucelmo

Refugio Gaucelmo is situated in the village of Rabanal del Camino, between Astorga and Ponferrada in the Montes de León. It is a refuge for pilgrims travelling to Santiago de Compostela and is owned by the Diocese of Astorga.

In 1989 the CSJ entered into an agreement with the Diocese of Astorga and the Asociación de Amigos del Camino de Santiago de El Bierzo, whereby for a peppercorn rent, we would together develop the tumble-down priest's house and orchard, to make it available for the overnight accommodation of pilgrims. Pilgrims are welcomed by a relay of hospitalero/as, recruited and supported by Julie Davis, while an autumn working party looks after the maintenance and refurbishment of the building.

The partnership between the two associations and the Diocese has continued strongly. In 2006 a new contract was signed between all three parties, which sets out the terms of the co-operation between us and in which the Diocese grants a further 25-year lease. We will be handing over a cheque for 2917 Euros as their share of the Donativos at our meeting with the Amigos del Bierzo in March 2013.

Prospective hospitaleros are invited to a training day in January, during which they are given some historical background to Refugio Gaucelmo as well as instruction in the administration of the refuge during their two-week stay. On completion of their 'tour of duty' they are invited to a meeting and lunch so that the CSJ can both thank them for their work and also learn how we can improve for the following year.

Various improvements were carried out during 2011 the most significant of which was the installation on the roof facing the huerta of four solar panels which are linked to a new 500 litre water tank, these are working well and saving money. The huerta and herb garden are in great shape despite the strange weather, very wet followed by very dry. Our collaborative relationship with the monastery goes from strength to strength with the monks visiting frequently.

The busiest month was July with 924 pilgrims but even this represents an average of 30 pilgrims per night. This has been the case for 3 years running and raises some questions about the number of hospitaleros needed and whether or not we could use the facilities at Rabanal better. For instance the Biblioteca was used only very occasionally but is kept as a spare dormitory

Highlights of the 2012 season:-

- Pilgrim numbers up by 308 to 4930
- Donativos up by 5151 Euros
- Pilgrims - Spain 603 down 5%, - USA 594 up 265% - Germany 650 down 10% - Italy 468 down 6% and UK 307 up 31%

We are most grateful to the members of the Gaucelmo sub-committee for giving their time so generously and to all those who support Gaucelmo's work in any way. Particular thanks are due to various people including Paul Spink (treasurer), Julie Davies (hospitalero co-ordinator), Dave Arthur (Premises manager), Alison Raju (expert on all Rabanal matters!) and Marion Marples (for sound advice and speedy responses).

**Dick Crean**

## Miraz -8<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

The challenge of maintaining a refugio on the Camino del Norte that is welcoming to pilgrims lies ahead through sustaining our facilities and refreshing our hospitality. These demands may be underestimated while the enthusiasm in modern premises sometimes blurs our vision.

This year over 3,500 pilgrims have stayed with us in Miraz. On a comparable basis numbers are up by 17% on 2011 while our income per pilgrim has remained static at just over 5 Euros. Our costs of running day to day operations are met from pilgrim donations with a small surplus available to deal with minor works and unforeseen events.

32 hospitaleros served pilgrims at Miraz this year. On behalf of the CSJ and the grateful pilgrims, we thank them all for what they have given in 2012. Alan Cutbush deserves a special mention for his co-ordination in a difficult year. We are always looking for new blood especially for the peak periods of July, August and September.

The building now functions well with 26 beds that at times are full. This creates pressure both on our facilities and the well-being of our volunteer hospitaleros. The heating system continues to cause concern and a full review has been undertaken by Keith Young. The garden has suffered from the ravages of the builder and is being reassessed by Keith and Joan Davies this autumn. We are particularly grateful to Judith Edwards-Burrows who as a Galician resident has been able to assist us on several occasions.

Pilar, Anna, Luis and Rafa have helped us in many ways this year. Panics, emergencies, and illness can all be coped with in this remote situation so long as we can call upon these friends in the *parroquia*.

We closed at the end of November until Holy Week next year. Already the Miraz Committee is planning a Spring Clean next March. The preparation of the facilities and domestic systems will be re-examined. It requires hard work, resources and fundraising to keep Miraz fit for purpose.

Now a challenging future lies ahead for our Refugio de Peregrinos. It appears from the accounts that we will have to return to fund raising again in 2013. Stocking the garden, kitchen facilities and pilgrim amenities are priorities. The Miraz Committee is active in its hospitality and looks forward to maintaining a modern refuge for pilgrims.

Number of pilgrims from 4<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 **3,553**

Average per day **17**

Cumulative from opening in 2005 **19,807**

Nationalities: Spanish 41%, German 18%, French 7%, Italian 6%, and numerous other nations.

**Richard Jefferies**

## Secretary's Review of 2011 -2012

The development of two regional groups suggested by the Strategy Group has continued: in the NE members have met on very a local basis with interest in their own Practical Pilgrim type day; in Bristol a very successful meeting in January combined local historical interest with pilgrim information of all kinds. The regular activities have continued: Practical Pilgrim days in London and Glasgow were well attended, as were three Saturday Office Open days. A visit to Edinburgh in the steps of St Margaret brought interest from Scottish members and St James Day in Portsmouth encouraged a few new local visitors too. Interest in the Camino Portugués has grown, with several members walking together from Lisbon and Porto in the autumn. This year's pilgrims gathered together in Bristol for a moment of reflection on the pilgrim experience. The Refugio teams have offered preparatory training and arranged a thank you day in November and there were three fundraising social events to support Miraz. For the first time some 16 CSJ members participated in a Spanish for Hospitaleros course run by the University of Santiago.

Other results of the Strategy Group proposals include an increase in membership, work towards a new website, three editions of an e-newsletter for members, the publication of a new Guide to the St James Way: Reading to Southampton and discussions with the Pilgrim Office in Santiago about promotion of this alongside the Camino Inglés in Galicia. The Amigos Welcome Project in conjunction with the Irish Society of Friends of the Way of St James has begun strongly and representatives of both were present at the inaugural Blessing in Santiago in May. Trustees continue to work on other promotional material and activities to help CSJ grow.

Inevitably, as some people have retired, new people have stepped forward to take on various roles. Tony Morwood Leyland has become Membership Secretary after Alison Thorp and now will also have some book keeping responsibilities. Howard Nelson has stepped down as webmaster and we welcome Colin Goodier to the job. Liz Keay has taken over Bulletin production from James Hatts. David Garcia and Graeme Taylor have both resigned as Trustees during the year: the CSJ is grateful to them both for the time and interest they have given to the Confraternity.

Marlon Marples

## Membership Statistics

Membership at 30 September 2012 stood at 1,664 paying members (1,588 at 30 September 2011) plus 287 (264) honorary and honoured (aged over 70 with 10 years' paid-up membership) and 41 exchange subscriptions with kindred organisations. The paying members were split as follows (2011 numbers are shown in brackets): -

	Individual	Joint	Institutional
UK	872 (829)	466 (433)	20 (18)
Europe	63 (62)	25 (23)	4 (4)
Rest of World	<u>139</u> (147)	<u>74</u> (71)	<u>1</u> (1)
Total	<u>1,074</u> (1,038)	<u>565</u> (527)	<u>25</u> (23)

See page 19 for details.

## Analysis of Other Charitable & Support costs

**Administration costs** are those covering an irreducible minimum of administrative costs that cannot be assigned to any directly charitable purpose, e.g. the costs of the Annual General Meeting, processing subscriptions, balancing the books, and just keeping the organisation ticking over.

**Other charitable costs** are directly attributable to supporting the charitable activities of the Confraternity e.g. providing information about the Camino de Santiago, supporting pilgrims and refuges, lobbying for protection of the routes, selling relevant books and publications and fostering European networking

**Salaries & NI** - The company employs a secretary, a finance manager and an office administrator, all on a part-time basis. The small increase in salaries from £43,301 to £43,856 is due to the annual salary review.

**Travel & Subsistence** - trustees are generally required to attend 6 meetings per annum. The majority of trustees now live out of London resulting in travel and subsistence expenses. The costs for all committee members of £1,146.

**Member Meetings** - This represents the net cost of various members' meetings including the AGM. Income this year was £2,069 and expenditure £3,658 compared to £1,267 & £3,892 respectively for 2011.

### Other Charitable and Governance Costs

		Other Charitable Costs	Administration Costs	2012 Total	2011 Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Personnel Costs</b>					
	Salaries & NI	35,083	8,773	43,856	43,301
	Travel & Subsistence	88	1,681	1,769	2,293
		<u>35,171</u>	<u>10,454</u>	<u>45,625</u>	<u>45,594</u>
<b>Accommodation</b>					
	Rent	-	7,764	7,764	7,672
	Insurance	-	974	974	926
	Depreciation	-	609	609	609
	Office Maintenance	-	391	391	101
	Office Equipment < £500	-	-	-	275
	Less Library Recharge	-	-2,552	-2,552	-2,461
		<u>-</u>	<u>7,186</u>	<u>7,186</u>	<u>7,122</u>
<b>Office</b>					
	Telephone	-	1,005	1,005	954
	Post	-	18	18	75
	Printing & Stationery	-	2,761	2,761	2,119
	Computer Support & Consumables	-	3,347	3,347	1,933
	Book-keeping	-	875	875	1,500
		<u>-</u>	<u>8,006</u>	<u>8,006</u>	<u>6,581</u>
<b>Other</b>					
	Legal & Professional	-	49	49	50
	Bank Charges	-	76	76	74
	Credit Card Charges	1,709	568	2,277	1,934
	Member Meetings	-	1,589	1,589	2,625
	Sundry	-	190	190	309
		<u>1,709</u>	<u>2,472</u>	<u>4,181</u>	<u>4,992</u>
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<u><b>36,880</b></u>	<u><b>28,118</b></u>	<u><b>64,998</b></u>	<u><b>64,289</b></u>

## Membership Statistics

	Honorary	Honoured	Individual	Joint	Group	Exchange	Total
<b>UK</b>							
E Anglia	1	17	48	29	2	1	98
Home Counties - N	1	32	88	38	-	1	160
Home Counties - S	1	28	118	72	4	1	224
London	3	17	139	68	5	3	235
Midlands E	-	13	31	34	1	-	79
Midlands W	1	24	64	29	1	-	119
N Ireland	-	3	11	5	-	-	19
NE	-	14	58	35	2	1	110
NW	-	10	65	20	1	-	96
Scotland	-	7	90	38	-	-	135
Southern	-	29	61	39	2	-	131
SW	2	25	72	45	1	1	146
Wales	-	3	23	11	1	-	38
Channel Islands	-	-	4	3	-	-	7
	<b>9</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,597</b>
<b>EUROPE</b>							
Belgium	-	6	1	-	-	1	8
Czech Republic	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Denmark	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Finland	-	-	6	2	-	-	8
France	1	4	7	2	-	4	18
Germany	-	5	5	2	1	1	14
Gibraltar	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Italy	-	-	2	1	-	2	5
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Malta	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Netherlands	-	-	3	1	-	1	5
Norway	-	-	1	1	-	1	3
Poland	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Portugal	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Rep. of Ireland	1	5	14	4	2	1	27
Spain	5	4	14	4	-	19	46
Sweden	-	1	4	3	-	-	8
Switzerland	-	-	1	2	-	1	4
	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>REST OF THE WORLD</b>							
Africa	-	1	-	1	-	1	3
Asia	-	-	3	1	-	-	4
Australia	-	8	74	44	-	-	126
Canada	-	2	15	6	-	1	24
N America	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
New Zealand	-	1	8	9	-	-	18
S America	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
U S A	-	10	38	12	1	-	61
	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,992</b>





## Confraternity of Saint James



### Annual General Meeting

**Please bring this booklet and the Accounts with you**

Notice of the 13th Annual General Meeting of the  
Confraternity of Saint James (the Company) to be held on

**Saturday 2 February 2013**

St Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, London EC1 7AB at **11.30am**

### Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting (4/2/12)**
- 4. Chairman's Report for 2012**
- 5. Annual Report & Accounts 2011-2012**

Proposal: To amend clause 5.4 of the Articles of Association by adding "any such sub-committee appointed by the trustees may use the title committee if prefixed by the purpose of that sub-committee".

*Explanation - this change reflects the importance given to our sub-committees in the work they undertake on behalf of the Confraternity*

- 6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo, Rabanal del Camino**
- 7. Report on Refugio de Peregrinos de Miraz**
- 8. Report on Amigos Welcome Project**
- 9. Programme for 2013 –CSJ 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**
- 10. Election of Trustees:** Resigned: David Garcia, Graeme Taylor; from AGM: Angelika Schneider). Half the directors stand down and are standing for re-election: Colin Jones, Gosia Brykczynska, Paul Graham, Mary Moseley, Liz Crean, Clare Taylor. **Continuing:** Dick Crean, Richard Jefferies, Tony Ward. **New nominations:** tba
- 11. Any Other Business**

\*If you would like an A4 copy (larger print!) of the Accounts  
please contact the Office\*

**!!!! PROGRAMME for the Day PLEASE NOTE TIMINGS !!!!**

11.00 **Doors open** Coffee available  
11.30 **Annual General Meeting** Main Hall  
1.00pm Bring Picnic **Lunch** (drinks available) or pubs nearby  
2.30-3.30pm **Via Lusitana: history and promotion of the Camino Portugés from Lisbon.** Helena Bernardo, Via Lusitana Association.

3.30 Tea Main Hall

4.00 - 5.00 pm **Camino Marketplace**

Opportunities to hear about progress of CSJ Strategy, learn about being hospitaleros at Gaucelmo, Miraz or Santiago, Sponsor-a-Week, St James Way, Other Routes, Abraham's Path etc There will be a special gathering for members who joined from 1983-1993.

6.00 **Annual New Year Party** Main Hall

The **Annual General Meeting** is the main event for members in the Confraternity's year. It is friendly and fun and a good way of meeting other pilgrims. Please help us by returning the form to speed Registration and avoid seating problems.

*A list of nominations and existing Trustees will be available on the day.*

**Trustees: Existing and those Standing for Re-election**

**Colin Jones:** During recent years I have been involved with the development of the refuge at Miraz. Being a trustee and Chairman of the CSJ are ways in which I can help our Confraternity in its role of promoting the various Caminos to Santiago and supporting those who wish to discover what it means to be a pilgrim.

**Gosia Brykczynska:** I have been an active member since 1983. For the past 11 years I have been editor of the Bulletin and since 2010 I have been Vice-Chair. I have been walking the various pilgrim routes through France, having completed the Camino Inglés and Portugués and more recently the Arles route.

**Richard Jefferies** completed his pilgrimage to Santiago in 2006. With his wife Sheila, he has acted as warden for the last five years on the Voie de Vézelay and at Miraz. He became a trustee and involved in fundraising for the Confraternity in 2009. He is Chair of the Miraz Committee and hopes to maintain its good reputation in the years ahead.

**Liz Crean:** I have been a Spanish teacher for many years and have always promoted walking to Santiago as a multifaceted and fun experience. I've been committed to the Pilgrimage myself since 1998

when I started in Le Puy. I completed that, walked part of the del Norte and the Mozárabe and have been a hospitalera in both Miraz and Gaucelmo. As a trustee, I am coordinating a regional group for the Southwest and working on the Bulletin.

**Clare Taylor:** I joined CSJ with my husband when we were planning our first Camino and we have been enthusiastic members for many years now. We love being hospitaleros at Rabanal. I joined the trustees in January 2010 and am currently very committed to spreading the news about the Camino and CSJ - most particularly in my own region, the North East of England.

**Tony Ward:** I became a member in 1997 whilst on a long term pilgrimage from St Neot (Cornwall) to Santiago which took 8 years in fortnightly slots. I was appointed Treasurer in 2004 and have continued in that role ever since. I have actively supported the activities of the CSJ over the years including three spells as hospitalero at Miraz.

**Paul Graham:** I joined the CSJ in 1988 - penny farthing ride from Bordeaux to Santiago in 1989 - joined Laurie and Walter on first visit to Rabanal and Ponferrada - chairman of Gaucelmo from 2000 to 2006 - re-joined Gaucelmo committee in 2008.

**Mary Moseley:** an enthusiastic walking pilgrim on C Francés, Via de la Plata, C Portugués. Helps to organize major CSJ events.

**Dick Crean:** a pilgrim and hospitalero with my wife Liz (see above). I am chair of the Gaucelmo sub committee.

## **Helping and participating on the AGM day**

### **Book Sale & CSJ Publications**

Second hand Camino books for sale and selection of free Bulletins to catch up on will be available. Also the full range of CSJ Publications including the 2013 edition of The Pilgrims' Guide to the Camino Francés.

### **Hospitality**

We are able to offer accommodation in London members' homes to people from far away who otherwise would not be able to come to the AGM. You are invited to make a donation to the Miraz Appeal. If there are more London members able to offer accommodation, please make sure you indicate on your AGM Form. Hotels near the office are listed on [www.london-se1.co.uk/hotels](http://www.london-se1.co.uk/hotels)

### **Badges and Friendship**

Everyone attending the AGM is asked to wear their name badge given on arrival. Those attending for the first time will have a distinctive badge.

**New Year Party** As usual we ask people to contribute homemade food rather than pay if possible. If you would like to help with the food shopping, preparation or serving please contact Ruth Johnston on 01903 885068. If you bring food to the value of £5 you do **not** have to pay to come to the party. If you contribute food to a lesser value we ask you to pay the balance for the Party. Otherwise the charge for the day, talk and party is £5. Please complete and return the enclosed form.

### **Hospitaleros/hospitaliers/Amigos**

Find out about hospitality on the Camino and becoming a hospitalero in Spain or hospitalier in France, or working with the Amigos Project in Santiago: please speak with Julie or Alan at the AGM. It is hard but rewarding work. We want to encourage more UK members to volunteer at Rabanal and Miraz and to point people with good Spanish to volunteer in Santiago, or good French to volunteer on the Vézelay route.

### **Important Things to Bring with You**

- this copy of the Agenda, and the Accounts
- any outstanding Library books you wish to return
- any photos/albums of your pilgrimage you would like to share
- any jiffy bags for recycling
- your contribution of food
- Money /cheques for Publications, including 2013 Camino Francés Guide.
- Raffle prizes with a pilgrim theme

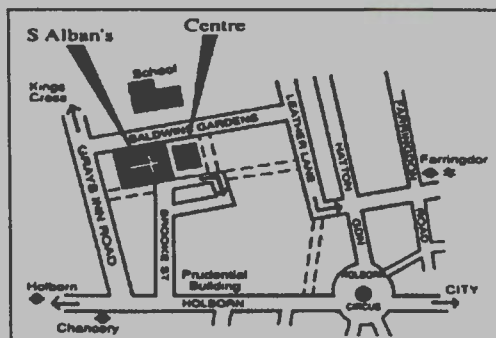
### **Things to do**

#### **Sponsor-a Week at Gaucelmo or Miraz.**

This scheme allows pilgrims to continue supporting and keeping in touch with events in Rabanal and Miraz by sponsoring-a-week for £50 (or share with a friend), receive a letter from the *hospitaleros* telling you of pilgrim news and know that you are helping the pilgrims. See Paul Murray at the AGM for details of weeks available.

#### **Exhibitions:** East & West Seminar Rooms *upstairs*

Displays on the Vézelay route, and the development of pilgrim routes stretching back into Eastern Europe and Poland. Any further displays welcomed.



### **Arriving & Parking**

You are strongly advised to travel to the AGM by public transport as there is little local street parking.

#### **Underground**

Chancery Lane (Central line) or Farringdon (Circle, Metropolitan)

**Buses** serving Holborn Circus or Grays Inn Road.

## **Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Confraternity of Saint James (the Company)**

Held on Saturday 4 February 2012

**Welcome and Introductions:** The Chairman, Colin Jones, welcomed members, particularly those who had travelled long distances, including Fr Javier Aparicio, prior of the Rabanal monastery and Padraig McSweeney of the Irish Society of Friends of St James.

He congratulated former Chairman William Griffiths and Lucy Boyce on their recent engagement. He recalled active members who had died during the year: Roger Davies and Joyce Culnane.

**Apologies:** 42 apologies received, including Fr Jeremias from St Ottilien and Rabanal

### **3. Minutes of 11th AGM of the CSJ (Company)**

There being no corrections to the Minutes, Mary Moseley proposed acceptance, seconded by William Griffiths: agreed *nem con*

**4. Chairman's Report for 2011:** for full text please see Bulletin 117, March 2012. Colin Jones reflected on the changing landscape of pilgrimage and interest in which CSJ operates and the discussions which have taken place to reinterpret our activity. He announced the launch of the Amigos project in Santiago. He thanked all who contribute to the smooth running of CSJ and gave an appreciation of the work of Alison Thorp as she steps down from her Finance Manager post.

**5. Finance: Annual Report & Accounts:** Tony Ward presented the Annual Report & Accounts for the year to 30 Sept 2011. In spite of a busy year and major expenditure on Miraz, CSJ just broke even. Some contingency funds had been transferred but would be repaid over 3 years. The 100,000 euros grant had been received without trouble.

**Proposed:** to accept the Accounts & Report for 2010-11: Mary Moseley, seconded Simon Wethered, carried unanimously.

**Proposed:** to retain Ian McLoughlin as Independent Examiner: Tony Ward proposed, Richard Jefferies seconded, agreed. Tony Ward was thanked for the presentation of complex accounts.

**6. Report on Refugio Gaucelmo:** Dick Crean reported on the 4472 pilgrims from 63 countries who had stayed at Gaucelmo in 2011. Due to the poor state of the Spanish economy, the lack of a grant towards the solar panels and the fall in number of pilgrims finances were stretched and this year expenditure would be more tightly controlled. Sponsor-a-week is even more important - all encouraged to participate. Fr Javier from the Monastery stressed the importance of the work we do together

to deepen pilgrims' spiritual experiences and thanked CSJ for all we have done and do.

7. **Report on Miraz:** Richard Jefferies said over 3000 pilgrims stayed in 2011. There was a lot to learn about the new buildings but the Working party and premises coordinator would be making a new manual. The garden needs improvement and Ken and Joan Davies will be proposing improvements and maintenance. Hospitaleros were still needed.

8. **Programme for 2012:** outlined by Marion Marples

#### 9. **Election of Trustees**

**Reelected:** Colin Jones, Angelika Schneider, Gosia Brykczynska, Mary Moseley, Paul Graham, Liz Crean, Clare Taylor, **Continuing:** Graeme Taylor, David Garcia, Richard Jefferies. **Newly Elected:** Dick Crean Tony Ward. Whole List proposed and agreed.

**Non Trustees on the Committee:** Marion Marples-Secretary; Wendy Beecher, Anne Froud -Minute takers.

#### 10. **Any Other Business**

- a. John Hatfield had provided slides for 16 talks in year;
- b. John Hatfield encouraged people to sign up as *hospitaliers* on the Vézelay route.
- c. He also encouraged people to consider joining the international and ecumenical pilgrimage from Nurnberg-Konstanz.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Office Closure

The Office will be open on Thursday 20 December, closed for the holiday and reopen for visitors on Thursday 3 January.

#### **St James's Way Walk**

#### **Reading to Southampton c 107km**

Tuesday 4 June Start from Reading

With members of the Association Normande des  
Pelèrins

Exact arrangements to be confirmed.

Finish Sat 8/Sun 9 June

Daily participation possible

Mix of Church halls/hotels

Luggage carried and back-up

**Apply to [office@csj.org.uk](mailto:office@csj.org.uk) to participate**

## Practical Pilgrim Days 2013

**London- Saturday 23 February 10.30-3pm**

Tbc John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NY

**Glasgow -Saturday 16 March 10.30-4pm**

St James's Church, Coatbridge GML5 5DF (bet Glasgow & Edinburgh)

An opportunity to hear what others say about the pilgrimage experience, to build up your knowledge of the route and to ask all those niggling questions about gear, maps, washing, socks.....Opportunities to learn from others and browse the guides to see which suits you best. Bring your questions. Set off better prepared! Please try to attend all day.

### **Approximate timetable : London**

10.30 Introduction/ Spirituality and the Pilgrimage  
followed by general Question & Answer

12noon separate groups for walkers and cyclists

1pm bring a picnic lunch, drinks available

### **1.45-2.45 Presentation**

**Adam Wells: the Camino can change your life**

Tickets £5

**Please indicate whether walker or cyclist and which routes are of particular interest**

	Returned -which route?	New -which route?
Walker		
Cyclist		

Name (s):

Address/email:

Which Meeting? London

Coatbridge (please circle)

Return details for London to [office@csj.org.uk](mailto:office@csj.org.uk)

Please send cheque or cc details in advance to

CSJ London PP, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

Or CSJ Coatbridge PP, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY

