



Confraternity of Saint James

Bulletin



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Cover picture:
Roundel of St Birinus,
Dorchester Abbey

Editorial

Gosia Brykczynska

Spring is definitely here. The daffodils are out, the magnolias are in bloom, and my Compostela tulips are beginning to poke their way through the heavy London soil. There is a sense of urgency in the air and of frenzied preparations and activities, as much in the gardens around London as in the CSJ office, on Blackfriars Road and among this year's Rabanal working party which is just about ready to leave for Spain. As our calendars become quickly full of Practical Pilgrim dates, we avidly read all we can on the Camino and its many routes and what pilgrim perils to avoid. We trust that no disease will befall us on the way, or other impediments stop our forward thrust to Santiago – Ulteia! Indeed, all these and many other concerns are reflected in this spring issue of the CSJ *Bulletin*.

Laurie Dennett, our chairman, rightfully reminds us that we have now come of age, but that with this honour comes the double obligation of faithfulness to our original founding ideals and the need for creativity to keep us comfortable with all that our modern times can present to us. Such reflections can be assessed while reading about the activities of the Flemish association and its animator Father Mondelaers, who died last year. Whatever else we are about we are pilgrims of St James, and as such we are not just passing tourists or rambles; although it most certainly lifts flagging spirits to see splendid wonders of architecture as one pilgrims along the way, as our contributors Colin Jones noted on the Ruta de la Lana and Marion Clegg in Astorga.

In fact Marion Clegg had it the best of all worlds since she returned to a part of the Camino to enjoy it once again with members of the CSJ. Yes, we are not just walkers, as Abbot Jeremias Schröder OSB of St Ottilien Abbey noted in his congratulatory letter to the CSJ, on the tenth anniversary of Rabanal. "...While we Benedictines profess hospitality as an injunction of our holy rule, we have to look far and wide to see it practised anywhere with such a degree of dedication as you have shown over these past ten years...". This is not to say we can now rest secure, rather that we seem to have interpreted the message of the Camino correctly but need to continue to be vigilant that we do not start to forget the purpose of our mission.

For those who will not be going to Santiago this year other pilgrimages closer to home beckon as Pat Taylor and Jane Bradshaw point out. For those going to Rome, the increased pilgrim activities in Italy must be welcoming news. Wherever the spirit of pilgrimage calls us, let us not forget our true motivations and reasons for being pilgrims in the first place, as John Blackwell points out. His conclusion that we are really people of Emmaus touched me deeply. Obviously the masons at Santo Domingo de Silos thought so too, when they carved the figure of Christ wearing a shell on his garments, and Caravaggio portraying the surprised disciple at Emmaus as a pilgrim. Just so the skeleton of the woman found in the medieval cemetery in Fishergate, Yorkshire, who had a shell on her person. Finally, we too are distinguished from walkers or tourists primarily by our motives and by the wearing of our shells and Jacobean emblems.

So together with the children of Estaing, let us sing this Easter the familiar song:

Frère Jacques, Frère Jacques,
Où vas tu? Où vas tu?
Je vais à Saint Jacques pour fêter les Pâques,
Utreia! Utreia!

Feast of St Benedict, 2002

Chairman's Report

Laurie Dennett

2001 was an exceedingly busy year, as I think any of you who lend a hand in administering the Confraternity would agree. It was not a Holy Year, but at times it felt like one, and it had its share of challenges. In retrospect, it was dominated by three events, each of which was of major importance to the Confraternity, and which I will mention briefly here in the context of some general comments.

The first of them was our International Conference, which took place at the University of Kent at Canterbury in April. It was dedicated to the supremely important theme, at least in Santiago pilgrim circles, of hospitality – and specifically, *Hospitality on the Roads to Compostela Through the Ages*, and despite the inroads made by foot-and-mouth crisis on the attendance from abroad, proved to be highly informative and enjoyable occasion for the just over 100 people who were able to be there.

Then, in October, we had the great joy of marking the tenth anniversary of the opening, after an energetic fundraising campaign, of Refugio Gaucelmo in Rabanal. This was a gathering that drew together many good friends from the village, the surrounding region and the Camino de Santiago – the fruition and hopes which have guided this project since the day of its inception.

Thirdly, a few weeks later in November, and not without affectionate backwards glance, we left our homely quarters in Talbot Yard for new premises at Blackfriars. Those of you who have seen the new office will bear me out in describing our new home as larger, lighter and more attractive, but above all better suited to our activities than the office we left. (That it was also obtained for a lesser rent than we envisaged having to pay seems like one of St. James's minor miracles, but I will leave others to comment on that later.)

Now, what have these three events in common? It occurred to me, seeking some unifying thread as I always do when preparing this Report, that each and all of them exemplifies a phase into which the Confraternity has passed, almost imperceptibly, rather as one colour on the spectrum blends imperceptibly into the next. I would characterise that phase Maturity. We have grown up. This was our second conference, eleven years after the first; almost fourteen years have passed

since the spring day when three of us first saw the ruins where Refugio Gaucelmo now stands; and our new Blackfriars office is the third we have occupied since we outgrew the generous shelter of Marion's sitting-room. Suddenly, it seems we have a history. The years of laying the foundations and building up the Confraternity have gently ceded to a stability from which point we can look back and around us, perhaps with a degree of delighted surprise, and see that we have achieved a strong identity; that we have resources of many kinds with which to pursue our aims, that we have a tangible spirit and way of doing things, and that we have taken our place, independent yet with much to share and learn, as a member of an international family of associations.

This maturity of which I am speaking has less to do with age than with outlook, which is essentially one of perspective. We can see where we have come from, we can see where the Confraternity fits in the Jacobean mosaic to which the tiles are continually being added. It is this blend of continuity and new entities, projects and enthusiasms that, paradoxically, keeps the Associations dedicated to the pilgrimage to Compostela, the Confraternity among them, youthful in outlook even as they mature. It is refreshing and exciting to consider the pilgrimage – as a force for good, as a factor on the plus side of the balance sheet when the need for international understanding dominates our media, as a cultural phenomenon that can be fairly promoted as inclusive, not exclusive, in the revival of a European identity. It should give us confidence, therefore, to consider that the maturity we have arrived at allows the Confraternity to play her part in these positive developments even as we continue to enact our perennial objectives of educating the public and assisting pilgrims on an individual basis. If we do not lose sight of what we are really about, maturity will never mean repetitiveness or complacency.

It is not surprising however, given the length of time that we have been involved in, as I put it a moment ago, 'building up the Confraternity' at home and abroad, that some of us officeholders, feel that we should pass our respective responsibilities to others. By initiating the process of renewal now, we can give our successors, whoever they may be, the benefit of our experience while ensuring that their energies are unhampered by having, so to speak, to 're-invent the wheel'. David Wesson, who once again has presented the Confraternity with the most up-to-date guide available anywhere in the form of the Pilgrim's Guide to the Camino Francés for 2002, plans

to step down as editor after the 2003 edition, and so we will be seeking to replace him during the year. Alan Hooton, who handles Pilgrim Records, wishes to stand down fairly soon if there is someone who wishes to could take this job on, please let Marion know. Timothy Wotherspoon has told us that he is not in a particular hurry to cease being Treasurer, but would like to be replaced within the foreseeable future. And finally, I plan to stand down at next year's AGM, so that this will be my last year as Chairman. We always need main committee members to replace those who decide not to stand for re-election. And office volunteers, event organisers and so forth. There is plenty of scope – and need – for your talent and energy.

It is as yet premature to thank the people I've just mentioned as if they were disappearing immediately, but I would like to thank them for another year's generous and dedicated help. In particular, I would like to commend the efforts of Timothy Wotherspoon and Peter Tompkins, who have spent a tremendous amount of time this year dealing with the Charities Commission, Companies House, the VAT Registry and Gift Aid matters, and Rosemary Wells who looks after covenants. Their efforts, together with the kindness of those of you who made donations to the Confraternity this year have contributed to our solid financial position as of September 2001, which Timothy will be reviewing shortly, despite the loss made at the Canterbury conference.

There are many others to thank on your behalf. Tim Siney took over as Membership Secretary last May and has done a sterling job at this most demanding of behind the scenes administrative tasks. Gosia Brykczynska became *Bulletin* Editor at short notice. Since September, with the continued production help from James Hatts and a group of dedicated proof-readers, she has been firmly and imaginatively in charge. In thanking everyone who helped at Canterbury, it seems only fair to single out Mary Moseley, who worked so closely with Marion on it. As always, John Hatfield has run the Slide-Library and managed the database with great generosity and dedication. The members of the Main Committee and the Rabanal Sub-Committee are to be warmly thanked for the harmonious working of our affairs, both here and in Spain, and for all the particular jobs that they take on in addition to serving on the committees. Thanks also to those members who have helped with events or lectures during the year.

Our move from Talbot Yard was a major exercise in terms of packing, transport and un-packing, capably carried out by Howard Nelson and a small team of helpers. Once we had gone, Timothy

Wotherspoon and Peter Tompkins spent several days painting and repairing the old premises in fulfilment of the conditions of the lease. These were mammoth, virtually thankless jobs, but I think it right that you should know the kinds of work undertaken behind the scenes that underpin the smooth running of the Confraternity. Marion has her own stories about living through the move – suffice to say that having survived it, she deserves your thanks and mine this year more than usual. Besides the conference and the numerous events during the course of the year, she organised the week-long visit to León in October that enabled 30 CSJ members to be in Rabanal for the anniversary celebrations. What Marion does as Secretary of the Confraternity is beyond price and almost beyond description; she is, more than any of us, the public face of the Confraternity and thus a key element in the very positive perception of it.

We have fewer publications this year, due to the pressure of other concerns, but we have a few: besides the new Pilgrim Guide to the Camino Francés, there are two in the series relating to the North Coast routes. One is the Guide via the Tunel de San Adrián, by Tony Roberts and Eric Walker, and the other is Eric's Guide to the route between Gijón and Arzua. These are essential reading for anyone thinking of doing these comparatively less-travelled but very scenic Caminos. I hope that you were pleased to receive the conference proceedings, which extended the benefits of the Conference to the entire membership and to our many contacts abroad. Several Research Working Party County Guides are apparently nearing publication and should be available during the year. There is one external publication that I should mention, and that is CSJ member David Baldwin's little CTS book, *The Pilgrimage to Santiago* available in many churches and Christian bookshops. This is just the thing to give to all those friends who are curious about your pilgrimage, but not yet curious enough to do it, to give them the push they need! And finally, I am sure that you will be as surprised as I was to hear that our website received upwards of 500 hits a week last year, and many if not most of them made straight for the Bookshop.

It remains only to return to my earlier comment about 'maturity'. As many of you will realise, by January next year the Confraternity will have been in existence an incredible 20 years, and the Committee is naturally beginning to draw together ideas about how best to mark the occasion. Please give this some thought and let us have any ideas you come up with, along with any thoughts on future events in general. We aim to spread the thinking as well as the work – please consider how you can help with that too!

Farewell to Father Mondelaers

Dirk Aerts

On Friday 21 September 2001, at the St Andries Abbey, at Bruges, the funeral took place of Father Mondelaers, founder and animator of our Association. [Vlaams Genootschap van Santiago de Compostela]. There were many members present.

The passing away of Father Mondelaers reminds us of the first years of our Association. At the same time we realise all that had happened quite a long while ago. Indeed in the 16 years of our existence quite a lot has happened along the Camino. The Way of St James has become a concept not only in Western Europe but also far away from its borders. That the Camino has travelled so far has obviously many causes. Yet, the real breakthrough for the Camino phenomenon, half-way through the 1980s, was mainly due to the commitment of a number of personalities who, each in their own way performed real pioneering work. Father Mondelaers was undoubtedly one of those. As many of these Camino pioneers already belong to the history of the Camino, it's not a bad idea, particularly for the benefit of the new generation of pilgrims, to put some of them on the stage, and give them their due credit.

Let's start with Don Elias Valiña, a priest, who died in 1989, and is well known as the inventor of the famous yellow arrows along the Camino. The Association des Amis de Saint-Jacques was the pace-maker of the Camino revival in France. In France, René de la Coste-Messelière was for many years the dominant figure in the Association. He played an important role in the identification of the routes of St James in France. His numerous publications and lectures contributed to the growth of new interest in the pilgrimage to Compostela. Another legendary figure was Madame Debril, who in St Jean-Pied-de-Port supplied passing pilgrims with a stamp in their Pilgrim's Passports. There are obviously many others who with heart and soul have committed themselves entirely to the welfare of pilgrims and the pilgrimage. Who, for instance, still remembers (yet another priest), l'abbé Bernés? He was the one that put together the first guide for the present day pilgrim. His little maps, drawn by hand (which were later redrawn by Renée Brynaert) contrast sharply with the richly illustrated topo-guides presently available for the Camino.

When one reviews all these personalities, one is struck in first instance by their sheer enthusiasm and the way in which they stuck obstinately to their ideals. At the same time their personal positions were very weak. To begin with, they experienced little help from official bodies: neither political nor ecclesiastical authorities had any notion of the possibilities which were hidden in the revival of the Pilgrimage routes to St James. Furthermore they were in a certain sense hobbyists: they were each in their own way caught up in an adventure, without the necessary experience required to reach their goal.

Reading anew the Compostela book by Herman Vuijsje, might help to clarify many things in this context. This obstinate Dutch journalist, made in 1990 a reverse pilgrimage: he walked from Santiago to Amsterdam. The *Pilgrim Without God* is still one of the best books about the modern / present day experience of life on the Camino. Vuijsje, remains at all times an outsider, but all the same, he knows the full tradition in which the pilgrimages are embedded. Furthermore, he always analyses in a light and joking style, but very insightfully, the behaviour of modern travellers to Santiago. His book contains a number of brilliant portraits of prominent personalities who have dedicated their lives to the Camino. He had long conversations with many of them, which generally came down to the fact the he, as an unbeliever, could not share their convictions. Most of these pioneers turned out to be obstinate individuals, which the author if he had wanted to, could easily have made to look foolish. Instead, we only find mild irony and in some cases a lot of respect.

Reading again the chapter about René de La Coste-Messelière, I recalled Father Mondelaers. During the early years some international deliberations between the different Associations started to get off the ground. It should, however, not be surprising that this was not a smooth process. There existed quite some significant distrust between the pioneers and founders of the different societies and the previously mentioned hobbyism of these individuals showed up very clearly during these early meetings. Thus, in 1987 there was the First International Congress of the Compostela societies, during which Father Mondelaers in particular, drew attention to points of view little appreciated by the French Confraternity. De La Coste-Messelière found it very difficult to get over this collision of perspectives. From his talk with Vuijsje, it appeared that he did not appreciate the appearance of other Compostela societies alongside the French one. As he related it: - at the Jaca Congress, “...une bande de coquillards led by the Flemish

laid an ambush for me. They blamed me because like France I wanted to reign over Europe. They wanted to create a completely new European Association. The English are still with us. The Walloons are very friendly but want to stay on speaking terms with the Flemish. The Dutch don't yet have a standpoint."

It's a beautiful passage. In first instance, it evokes Father Mondelaers, who was very outspoken and besides loved to stand up on a platform. It also shows that European union was as difficult for Compostela Associations as for politicians. Nevertheless, there existed among all these personalities a deep friendship. Like Father Mondelaers, all were by nature very sincere: not only in their mutual respect, but even when they fundamentally disagreed.

In recent years some notable changes have noiselessly slipped into the Compostela societies. In the first place, their numbers have undergone an enormous increase. Spain and France each, already count several Associations, so that bringing them together within their national boundaries already constitutes quite some task. On the Boards of the Associations which were founded more or less at the same time as ours, a new generation has generally taken over the management. The new Board members are often better prepared for the task which they now undertake for the society. But, at the same time theirs is a more limited engagement. In contrast with the pioneers of former days, they don't want to necessarily commit themselves for the rest of their lives to Santiago.

By itself, this evolution is not a problem. Furthermore, the current work for the Compostela societies is carried out more professionally, so that everyone benefits. But, at the same time, some things might start to lose their original flavour. Father Mondelaers had been ill for a number of years and was not aware of these changes. Even if the ways of the pioneers of the earlier years are no longer our ways, all Associations can benefit from continuing to be inspired by them. Our mission is still the same; to take care that the Ways of St James don't degenerate into common walks (footpaths) and that a Compostela society remains more than an Information Office. May the sincere and disinterested commitment of pioneers of the Camino, such as Father Mondelaers continue to be a lesson to us.

Translated by Jan Lelijveld from De Pelgrim no 67, 2001. Dirk Aerts is the Secretary of the Flemish Association and a nephew of the late Father Mondelaers.

For more information on some of the people referred to in this tribute to Father Mondelaers you may wish to refer back to:

M. Coste de la Messelière: Bulletin No. 56, May 1996 pp 10-11

Elias Valiña Sampedro: Bulletin No. 34 Feb. 1990 p7

Mme. Debril: Bulletin No. 69 March 2000 pp3-15; Bulletin No.74 July 2001 pp23-25

Carrión to Rabanal - 2001

Marion Clegg

“I will come back here as a tourist” was the comment we often made as we walked the Camino Francés in May 1998. The Confraternity trip to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Refugio Gaucelmo seemed a good way to revisit at least a small part.

The journey from Asturias Airport took a long time, first by road through tunnels in the Cordillera Cantabrica - very spectacular - later along the undulating open land towards Carrión de los Condes close to the Camino. There were the benches and the line of trees, still inadequate for shade or shelter, at least in my lifetime.

We were walking from Fromista to Calzadilla de la Cueva the day we visited Carrion in 1998, missing the opportunity of sleeping with the nuns of Santa Clara in their crisp white sheets. As I walked past the façade of San Zoilo on that hot afternoon towards the Roman road I had no idea of the delights behind the wall, and just as well perhaps in view of the basic facilities in the refuge at Calzadilla! The old building has been sympathetically restored to offer great comfort while retaining its atmosphere.

Angel Luis Barreda Ferrer, former president of the Federación de Amigos del Camino, was our guide when visiting Carrión. He took us around the San Zoilo cloisters and church with its fine Romanesque doorway. The cloister is quite remarkable. I was especially interested by the representations of the women with the prophets and judges, Esther and Deborah among them. The library of the Federación of Santiago Associations was a haven for us on a grey afternoon with its brightly painted *trompe d'oeil* ceilings and well-stocked bookshelves.

A walking pilgrim is denied the chance to see ‘off the track’ places of interest. On this trip we were able to visit the Roman villas of Quintañilla and La Olmeda with their wonderful mosaic floors. A busy day included a visit to Palencia to see the Cathedral and the excellent new museum which houses some of the original capitals from San Martín in Fromista which was next on our itinerary. Yes, I know it is over-restored but I love it. At Villalcázar de Sirga there were two more joys missed in 1998, a chance to get inside Santa Maria la Blanca (well worth a three and a half year wait), and lunch at Mesón de Villasilva where we were welcomed by Pablo ‘el mesonero’, a sometime pilgrim

himself. In spite of the good food and wine some of us walked on to Carrión.

Next day we went west to Sahagún with its many Mudéjar churches. I was especially pleased that we could go inside the church of La Peregrina where, after admiring the Moorish plasterwork, we managed to fill the huge nave with the sound of the *Salve Regina* to honour La Peregrina herself. There was no time to visit La Trinidad with its skilfully adapted interior housing the pilgrim refuge, surely a suitable use for a redundant church, as well as San Tirso and San Juan de Sahagún. That evening we entertained Señor Barreda at a festive meal.

In an area full of interest we inevitably had to miss something. León was seen only from the coach, as was Mansilla de las Mulas. However, a great compensation was a detour to the Abbey of Sandoval, just the sort of thing a walking pilgrim cannot afford to do. We waited while Marion and Janet sought the key-holder. A small, frail-looking woman hobbled towards us balancing on wooden pattens holding a stick and wrapped in a black shawl, through the abbey where restoration-work was in progress. She was Munda, was 92 years old, and had lived there all her life. She pointed out architectural features, asked questions, and spoke in a strong, clear voice saying she was just an amateur unlike the learned professors from Madrid. As she guided us around it became clear to us that she was an authority on the place. In the church, still a place of worship, she was delighted by the singing of the *Salve Regina*. We left Sandoval glad to have met this extraordinary woman.

In Astorga I visited the refuge and was pleased to find there a young Brazilian warden who was training for the priesthood. He said he would not be at the fiesta but looking after the pilgrims. Pilgrims were still the top priority too at Rabanal though many others had arrived for the celebrations. We were comfortable at Antonio's and at Gaspar's. Next day we walked through Foncebadón and saw signs of new life there. A new refuge seems to be ready though there are still problems to be resolved. The signs of renewal in and around Rabanal are encouraging. We continued by coach to the Iron Cross and El Acebo before going down to Molinaseca for lunch. Some of us walked back down from the Iron Cross – much easier than the climb up! There were flowers where the German pilgrim died in 1998. Care of pilgrims is not restricted to this life.

The moving ceremony of blessing and installing the icon to the memory of Stephen Badger has been written about elsewhere. The

Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Astorga, assisted by our Benedictine friends, was all that one could hope for, inclusive of everyone there and the many who sadly could not attend. Yes, there was singing, led by Dr Mary Remnant, and I wondered what the locals made of Bunyan's hymn.

The *fiesta* followed in the orchard. Speeches were made. Happily for the CSJ members Laurie Dennett's speech was printed in the last *Bulletin*. Several people there could see the results of work they had done over the years. Pilgrims joined in the fun while Terry played his tin whistle accompanied by Margaret. A great joy and surprise was finding the two wardens from May 1998, Susie Quarrier and Veronica Mathew, who had offered true hospitality with such grace.

The next day we left early. We saw no pilgrims until just before we left the Camino and went north. But before we reached our destination we passed the place seen a week earlier where a yellow arrow marks the way of Camino del Norte. That reminded us of another route not yet taken, perhaps in 2002.

What was the best thing about our 1998 pilgrimage and the 2001 Confraternity trip? The answer is the same, the people. We were fortunate to find ourselves among a varied and harmonious group of people. I felt I gained far more than a chance to relive part of the Camino and to explore the country around. I benefited from the perspectives of the others in the group, not all of whom had walked the Camino. The music too was important, the discs Dr William Griffiths and Vincent Kelly had provided for the coach, the singing at Mass in Rabanal and especially the spontaneous singing at places such as La Peregrina and Sandoval, always to the delight of local people.

To those who shared the experience with me, my many thanks. To our secretary, Marion Marples and Dr William Griffiths special thanks for the excellent organisation and to Janet Richardson for her work as interpreter, which made such a wonderful contribution to our understanding and enjoyment. May St James continue to guide you all.

“So why are you doing this?”

John Blackwell

When we prepared for our pilgrimage from St Jean to Santiago in summer 1997, my wife Susan and I read a number of the books written by people who had walked or cycled the route. It was the first major walk we had ever undertaken, and we had some trepidation about the challenges we would face.

So we read and reread several of these books, notably those by Bettina Selby, Ellen Feinberg, Lee Hoinacki, and Jack Hitt, seeking almost anything that might be useful. I recall that Susan focused intensely on the pages describing the climb to Roncesvalles, saying that if she made it up that hill then she was sure that we would make it to Santiago. Afterwards, when we returned home, we had to admit that all this reading had not been especially useful from the practical point of view. But before we went the authors formed a kind of support group as we prepared for this new experience. Although these books are superficially different, they follow a common structure, covering to varying extents the history of the camino, the ‘survival skills’ necessary, and the individual author’s motives for walking/cycling the route. Significantly, they all eventually develop into a series of day-to-day anecdotes about the new people they meet, and with whom they form a relationship as fellow pilgrims.

This formula is followed even in a book I read more recently, by Shirley Maclaine – Yes! I read them all, although in this case I admit to skipping some of the ‘over the edge’ passages. She is mystical, and into reincarnation, and goes along the camino in conversation with people from her previous lives. These conversations so dominate the book that frequently it is hard to know just where she is on the walk. For example, only those who have already been there would recognize Molinaseca as the place where the river is dammed up as a swimming pool, and where she “realizes” that this is where she was baptized in a previous life. But whatever one might think of her mysticism, one has to have an admiration for the fact that she did actually do the whole walk on foot and on her own, and stayed mainly in refugios, when she is used to staying in five star hotels and could do so every day for the rest of her life (or in her case, the rest of this particular life.) It obviously wasn’t easy, with the press hounding her as a celebrity, something that ‘

most of us do not need to worry about.

I mention this book because it made me wonder once again about our own motives for the walk: in particular, what sort of expectations did we have before we started, and were they fulfilled? Pilgrims we met on the route frequently asked us about our motives. We found we had problems explaining what we were doing to ourselves let alone to strangers, and when we tried the answer came out as an unconvincing combination of things: the history, the architecture, an interest in Spain. I remember saying several times that we had read so much about it that the idea of doing it just grew and grew, and so here we were. Quite a number of listeners were unsatisfied by our efforts, clearly expecting something more profound. At times we wondered what the priests would make of us when we went for our *Compostela* after we finally reached Santiago. We had heard stories about the priest behind the desk asking about motive, and refusing to issue the *Compostela* if not satisfied. We began to imagine that this 'exit interview' might be formidable, like a university oral exam, which we might fail. This wasn't a pleasant thought, given the effort we were putting in: we really wanted to have this document, even if we couldn't fully explain why. As we got close to Santiago we decided that if asked, we would talk about the awesome feeling of being part of the millions who have walked before us, which I think is a powerful and strengthening aspect of the camino. But in the end it turned out that we were worrying about nothing. When we entered the office, the priest was on the telephone, and did not hang up while he wrote out our *Compostela* and put the last stamp on our passport. We wrote our names, country of origin and starting point on his form, checked a few boxes about motive, and left with our documents, while he continued his conversation in an unintelligible accent.

However, our conversations with other walkers brought up some interesting insight into their expectations or at least their hopes. The ones I recall best are those who set out with the plan to use the solitude of the camino to think through important matters, and take personal, professional, or religious decisions. Two rather extreme examples stick in my mind. The first was a German man, who dismounted from his bicycle to walk with us up the road just before we went through Foncebadón. He said that he was doing the camino for the second time, trying to decide what to do about the difficulties in his marriage: should he get divorced from his wife, who was back in Germany with their two young children? He said that he had made the same journey

last year, during which time he had met a wonderful young woman, and they had paired up for the second half. He added that he had learned from her about “a lot that he was missing in his present relationship”, although we did not press him to elaborate on this. But after getting to Santiago they had split up. He had returned to Germany and continued with his strained family relationship. Now it was a year later, and here he was, back on the camino, without the young lady he found last year, but still deciding what to do. All I wanted to say to him was “You didn’t manage to decide last year! What makes you think you are going to decide this year?” But I didn’t say that, and we split up as he kept to the road while we walked through the ruined village, more concerned about anticipated problems with the famous dogs. There was no sign of the dogs – lucky for them, because we had very big sticks.

Two days earlier, near to Astorga, we walked part of the way with a young German woman who was also trying to sort out her life. She had just returned to the camino after breaking her walk in León the year before, when she became too sick to continue. She said that she had first come on the Camino in an effort to decide whether to quit her job. At that time she was working in a bank, and had the job of informing mortgage applicants that the bank was turning them down. The applicants were often very upset by this, with tears being quite common as dreams of a home were dashed, and she found it all very stressful. Even so, she had not decided what to do when she was forced by illness to return home. But on arriving back in Germany she found that it had all been decided for her: the bank had been ‘down-sized’ and her position had been eliminated. Since then she had been living on her unemployment allowance, unable to find a job, and now was back on the Camino trying to figure out what she should do. For all our sympathy, why should the answer be here in the fields outside Astorga, rather than back home in Germany? Walkers on the camino may be some of the world’s best listeners, so we hope that the opportunities to talk may in fact have led to a rationalization of her problems.

This is not to question the clear evidence of lives changed in a night and day manner as a result of time spent on the Camino. We have no experience of walking alone, when the solitude must be a major dimension. It has seemed to us that the solitary pilgrims form a quite separate subset of our fellow walkers, and I’m glad to say that the two I describe above were not typical. However, what concerns me is the arousal of unreasonable expectations: is the Camino the best way to approach major decisions, rather than for example isolated

contemplation on retreat? Our experience of five summers on the Camino has been that one has many things to think about from moment to moment: following the path, avoiding falls, watching out for traffic when one has to use the road, meeting people, finding somewhere to sleep, getting provisions, coping with the hot weather or rain, replenishing water bottles, etc. And then there is the beauty of nature to be experienced, and the discoveries in the French and Spanish villages. This is not to say that there isn't some time for philosophical thought, but one could do without all these distractions if the thought process was to be really unbroken. Maybe that is the great thing about the camino: the sheer effort and all these distractions really help to put self-centered cogitation in the right perspective.

We know we are fortunate in that we have not had major problems that needed "solving". But the dividends from investment of our time in the Camino have been enormous, even if our listeners en route were unimpressed. Yes, our hopes in terms of insight into the history, architecture and culture were realized, but as it turned out this was not that important after all, and when we talk with friends about the Camino, this is not what we choose to talk about. Rather through walking we have learned a lot about what really matters in our lives: the simple pleasures that had been lost in the day-to-day pressures at home and at work. Even so, we should remember that far more people are learning about the Camino from books like that by Ms Maclaine than from the CSJ publications and web site. When they set out from St Jean or wherever, what will their expectations be? Perhaps the CSJ passport should have a warning printed on the back, something like the message on cigarette packets:

*The Confraternity of Saint James warns pilgrims that
Road to Damascus experiences on the Camino are not
guaranteed.*

In any case, it is not the Road to Damascus that is the metaphor for the Camino: rather it is the Road to Emmaus.

La Ruta de la Lana – the wool route

Colin Jones and Paddy Barr

In the spring of 1624 three pilgrims left their tiny village near Cuenca and set out for Santiago. They were Francisco Patiño, his wife María de Franchis and Francisco's cousin Sebastián de la Huerta. Their motive for going to the tomb of the apostle was very personal; they wished to give thanks to God for a miraculous escape from a fire that had engulfed their home the previous year. That they were alive, Francisco believed, was due to the miraculous intervention of Santiago himself. Midday of 22 April they arrived at the Cathedral of Santiago. Their route had taken them near Monteagudo as well as Santo Domingo de Silos before they joined the Camino Frances at Burgos. That we know of their pilgrimage, its motives and their itinerary is because these were recorded both by Francisco's employer, the Duke of Modena, and by the ecclesiastical authorities at Santiago cathedral. On 2 May this little family group left the cathedral to return to their village, a distance of some 500 miles.

This pilgrimage must have been typical of many that were undertaken throughout the centuries. Like many other pilgrimages, their journey and the official records could have been long forgotten had it not been for the hard work, research and imagination of the *Association of the Friends of the Camino to Santiago* in Cuenca. Their research into the routes taken by pilgrims through their province eventually led them to this small family group. As in a good detective story, bits of information began to come together to create this snapshot of Jacobean history. From these humble beginnings it wasn't long before the idea emerged of retracing Francisco Patiño's route through the lands of Cuenca, Guadajara and Soria to Burgos. A small guidebook, which was the fruit of this reconstruction, has now been published, but it is only in Spanish. It is packed with explicit directions, historical notes and practical information. It was enough to tempt me and Paddy to follow in the footsteps of Francisco and his family.

At the Cathedral office of Cuenca we met the author of our soon to become indispensable guide-book and Vincente Malabia took us through some of the changes that had taken place during the 2 years since the book's publication. He also emphasised that the route had deliberately not been marked with yellow arrows. Partly he said,

because pilgrims of past centuries did not have the benefit of them and partly because it meant that we would have to pay close attention to the book, the country and, if in need, ask for help. How true all this proved to be!

From Cuenca, Paddy and I passed through areas that once supported vast numbers of sheep, hence the name *La Ruta de la Lana*, but today it is given over to field upon fields of sunflowers. Always heading north, we passed through many tiny villages typical of Old Castille. Some were, in effect, summer residences for families from Madrid, others were working farming villages. Of course, obtaining a stamp for our 'credentials' required a certain amount of detective work – finding out whether a priest actually lived in the village we happened to be in, or whether there was a town hall, or even a bar! Yet it was always possible to see the traces of past pilgrimages. A tiny wayside shrine to San Roque, a chapel dedicated to Santiago, a centuries old hospital, or St James's scallop shell carved into the wall of a church.

Wherever we went we were greeted by genuine interest and support, once people realised that we were on pilgrimage to Santiago and not following the tourist route of El Cid. The most generous hospitality was awaiting us in a tiny *pueblo* near the borders of the provinces of Soria and Burgos. On leaving Cuenca it had been stressed that when we arrived at the village of Taracuenca we were to seek out the house of Innocente Garcia de Andrés. Here, we were assured, we would be offered a fulsome welcome and a good night's rest in his house. This was heavily underlined in my guidebook, just to make sure I got the message. A threatening sky and the rumble of thunder overcame any inhibitions that we might have had of imposing ourselves on a complete stranger when we arrived at the village. Sadly, we were informed, that Don Innocente was not in the village – he had gone to Madrid only the day before – but as we stood somewhat bedraggled debating what to do next, Don Innocente's brother slowly strolled up to us to say that perhaps we could stay with him! That evening we were treated to many stories of the village and of the pilgrims, both ancient and modern who had passed through the village.

Further north, the route winds its way through the spectacular Caracena Canyon where vultures sit sentinel until the air currents are strong enough to support their flight in search of food. Some days later, after following a narrow trail through pine forests, we stood overlooking the principal reason why pilgrims traditionally had followed this route before going on to Burgos – we arrived at the

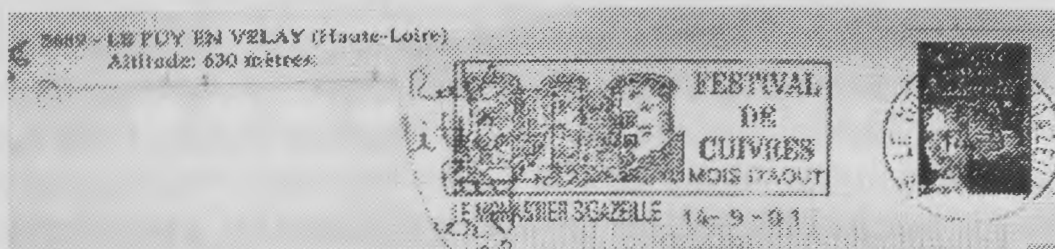
monastery of Santo Domingo de Silos. Here the celebrated cloisters contain the famous representation of the Risen Christ on the road to Emmaus, wearing the insignia of a pilgrim to Santiago. Moreover, the ties with the Camino are not just in stone. The monastery, which is a place of prayer expressed so beautifully through the melodies of Gregorian plainsong, now also finds its place on the Camino at Rabanal, where a small group of monks originally from the Silos Monastery, have set up a small house of prayer.

After Silos it is just a couple of days walk into Burgos. From that pivotal city it was possible to sum up our experience. The *Ruta de la Lana* is hard, but not because the terrain is particularly difficult rather because there can be long distances between villages. It is however, a beautiful route with many contrasts of geography and history.

From Burgos the real contrast between *La Ruta de la Lana* and the *Camino Francés* becomes obvious. Suddenly we were joining a constant stream of pilgrims along the *Camino Francés*. Following the Wool Route had required us to pay attention to our surroundings; to our guidebook and to advice we received from local people. It also meant being very aware of the route we were following. The lack of yellow arrows kept us alert. While we met no other pilgrims with whom we could share our stories and experiences there was a deep sense of focusing on our own reasons for being pilgrims.

Postmarks from the Pilgrim Way

John Revell



If I were eminent enough to appear on panel games or current affairs programmes and the question posed was “Can the team name one simple pleasure which gives them more continuing enjoyment than anything else?” I would have a ready answer. Surely and unhesitatingly I would reply “Postcards from France”.

My mind ran along these lines recently when the day's post brought me a card from Le Puy from Marlène and Jacques who live in Strasbourg. Our mutual memories go back to autumn days in 1993 when I walked the GR65 from Le Puy to Cahors and they and I shared the route as far as Conques. We have corresponded in the way of pilgrims ever since and so it was natural that their thoughts should dwell on pilgrims past on their recent journey south through France. A further glance at the postmark on the card showed that it had been posted not in Le Puy but at Le Monastir-sur-Gazeille, well known to followers of Robert Louis Stevenson and his donkey.

Allowing my thoughts to wander I speculated on the clarity and charm of French postmarks. Unlike their counterparts in fellow members of the EU, they have an appeal that must bring in an annual harvest of thousands of euro (I write for readers of the future!) to the French tourist trade. Strictly in terms of the pilgrim route along the GR65, a dip into the mailbag of yesteryear (our house rules dictate that pleasing postcards are retained for a minimum of 25 years) reveals such samples as Saugues with its fearsome Beast of Gévaudan which terrorised the local neighbourhood in the eighteenth century, Conques featuring the abbey-church of Sainte-Foy, Moissac with capitals from its famed cloister – and a scallop shell! – and Aire-sur-l'Adour as the

Gascon 'capitale du foie gras', adequately conveyed by a portly goose which would no doubt in time see fit to lay the golden *pâte*.

But there are exceptions to the rule. Condom and St Jean-Pied-de-Port must be secure in the strength of their own fame because they carry no legend and are content with the date and a series of wavy lines. As far as St Jean is concerned I would like to think that the clear slate allows pilgrims to project themselves forward over the mountain barrier into Iberian space where the local postmarks will be less rehearsed in application and more prone to a nagging insistence on the use of the postcode!

Pilgrims, stride on and keep writing! By doing so there will be a twofold advantage. Firstly I will be able to monitor the continuing excellence of France's postmark industry, and secondly the way will be clear to torment our editor with future philatelic thoughts such as these.

A Santiago pilgrim in York?

Excavations of part of a medieval cemetery, probably 12th to 15th century, were undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists in the year 2000. The cemetery is situated on the route south out of the city of York, on the periphery of the medieval suburb of Fishergate. It had long been thought that Fishergate may host a 'lost church'. It is possible that this cemetery belongs to the putative church although it could equally be a graveyard owned by a church that lay within the city walls and was used when burials elsewhere became too dense. The area of cemetery contacted prior to a residential development yielded about two hundred and forty individuals. Preservation was generally good but the cemetery was densely packed and new graves often disturbed earlier ones which in turn were subsequently disturbed themselves by later grave digging activities. Dating of individuals within this sequence is almost impossible without 'absolute' dating.

One grave contained the remains of a female who had died at between thirty-five and forty years of age. At her waist was a small shell pierced twice as though it had been sewn onto some cloth or strung about her waist like a belt. It is possible that the shell was attached to a bag made of cloth that has long since rotted away.

Osteological analysis of the skeleton of the female showed that she would have stood about 1.60 metres high and that she suffered from infection in her legs that was severe enough to leave evidence on the bones. She also has slightly worn hips and may have suffered from osteoporosis, although all of these ailments were not uncommon. There is no evidence to suggest that these conditions were brought about by pilgrimage.

Provisional identification by Professor Terry O'Connor (University of York) suggests that the shell is not in fact a scallop shell but a smaller bivalve. The shell itself measures a mere six centimetres in length and seven centimetres at its widest point. It is intended that this shell will be put on display in the medieval gallery of the Yorkshire Museum alongside a lead *ampulla* in the shape of a scallop believed to derive from another pilgrimage to Santiago.

The Confraternity is grateful to Field Archaeology Specialists and their consultant, Mike Griffiths and Associates, for this report. The Fishergate excavations have been funded by Shepherd Homes Ltd. We are also grateful to Callie Hemmings and Hilary Hugh-Jones for obtaining this information.

James Rice of Waterford

Patricia Kennedy

One of the items of interest in Waterford Cathedral of Christ Church is the tomb of James Rice. James Rice was Lord Mayor of Waterford in the 15th century. He built a chapel to house his tomb in the Norman cathedral in 1481. His tomb is a fine example of a cadaver monument depicting the horror of death and the glory of saints.

We know from records held in the Vatican archives of the Roman Curia and the Chancery and Exchequer Rolls held in the Public Record Office in London that James Rice as Lord Mayor of Waterford went on pilgrimage to Santiago on at least two major occasions. The first time he travelled was in 1473. He had to obtain permission from the Irish Parliament to appoint a deputy Mayor. The second time he travelled was in 1483, a Jubilee year of Saint James. On this occasion he received special permission from King Richard III to appoint a deputy as he decided to take with him the city's two bailiffs and members of the Corporation. James Rice died in 1488 before he could make a further pilgrimage which he was planning.

At present there is a Fundraising Campaign for the restoration and conservation of this ancient cathedral, first built by the Vikings in 1096 and totally redesigned in a neo-classical Georgian style in 1773 at a cost of £5,397. The current restoration work is estimated at EUR 2,540,000! The Irish government have already given EUR 1.4 million towards the conservation and restoration work.

Pilgrims at the Border, 2001

Patricia Quaife

Le *Petit Bourdon* ('The Small Staff') is the name of a newsletter produced by the Amis du Chemin de Saint Jacques des Pyrénées Atlantiques – not to be confused with its big brother *Le Bourdon*, the quarterly journal of the Aquitaine Regional Association. Both are edited by Jacques Rouyre, who brought a group to England in 1996 to participate, with Confraternity members, in Le Walk from Southampton to Reading.

Issue no 4 of *Le Petit Bourdon* gives some interesting facts and figures relating to pilgrims travelling via, or starting their pilgrimage from. Both Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port (Roncesvalles pass) and Oloron Sainte-Marie (Somport pass). The Accueil Saint Jacques, set up by the Amis of the Pyrénées Atlantiques, gives advice and information to pilgrims (and enquirers) in both towns, using a team of 60 volunteers who work from 7am to 11pm over a period of nine months – a wonderful service provided mainly by past pilgrims to new (in most cases) pilgrims. In addition the Accueil runs the pilgrim refuge at 55 rue de la Citadelle in St-Jean and when that is full they try to find other accommodation in the town for the overflow.

To start with Oloron and Somport: up to 10 October 2001 1170 pilgrims were received there, compared with 318 for the whole of 2000, an increase of 368%. Proportionately there were far more walkers (87%) than cyclists (69% in 2000) among the 32 nationalities represented in 2001, and also more men (up from 66% to 80%) than in the previous year. Slightly over half (608) were French with the Dutch (150) and the Germans (107) next, and other countries well behind.

St-Jean-Pied-de-Port saw the biggest ever influx of pilgrims – at least in modern times – in the first months of the year (to 31 October) 13,638 in number, up 32% in 2000, with 80% of these starting their journey in St Jean. Interestingly, while the ratio of walkers to cyclists (86% to 13%) was similar to that of Somport pilgrims, the sexes were better balanced, with 41.4% women compared with 58.6% men. People aged 50 to 59 made up the biggest age group (23.5%), followed by the 60 to 69s (19.1%), not to mention nine who were over 80. Around one-third of all pilgrims (4632) were of French origin, followed by no fewer than 60 further nationalities, including 493 from

England, 42 from New Zealand, and 13 from Chile and four from Russia – to pick a few out at random.

What conclusions can be drawn from these figures? Should we be encouraging more younger pilgrims, even though anyone who has been on the Camino in the summer months in recent years will be aware that there are too many pilgrims for comfort? Or perhaps some of those starting their pilgrimage in France might be encouraged to use the Somport pass, for a more tranquil experience, at least before they reach Puente la Reina and the tide of pilgrims on the Camino Francés.

Whatever the answers (if indeed there are answers) to such questions, our sincere congratulations to our friends in the Pyrénées Atlantiques association for the tremendous work they are doing for pilgrims in both Saint-Jean and in Oloron.

A Gloucestershire Pilgrimage

Pat Taylor and Jane Bradshaw

Napoleon's loss of the battle of Waterloo has been put down by some, to his having a heavy cold at the time – how history could have changed! Augustine's supposed lack of courtesy in failing to rise to greet the Welsh bishops in 603 AD at Aust, resulted it seems, in an unsuccessful mission and a church not united under the rule of Rome. Without this mistake would Augustine be still remembered in Wales and Gloucestershire, for bad news lasts longer than good? No excuses have been put forward for Augustine's lack of courtesy, suffice to say that the following year he died. One wonders whether there would have been a Reformation, or the diverse churches there are today? No doubt other cracks would have emerged. The annual pilgrimage to Aust is ecumenical and is intended to indicate the wish to understand and try to heal the wounds caused by the differences in Christian worship.

Aust was an ancient crossing point to Monmouthshire and Wales and is nowadays at the east end of the original Severn Bridge, just off the M42. Its earlier name was Austin, the diminutive of Augustine, as a reminder of his ill-famed meeting with the Welsh. Chamber's *Biographical Dictionary* states that the place of Augustine's meeting in 603 was at Aust. Perhaps some of the current confusion as to the exact location of Augustine's Aust, is due to the fact that the place of the meeting was said to have been near Worcester, and Aust was located in the diocese of Worcester at that time.

The Aust pilgrimage, originally started some seventy years ago, was revived in 1995 as an ecumenical walk from Bristol along byways to Aust, allowing time for contemplation and concluding with a service in Aust's little Chapelry of St John the Evangelist. In 1997, as a part of the commemorative activities to celebrate the arrival of Augustine in England from Rome with his forty monks fourteen centuries earlier, a thousand strong celebration took place in Aust. Included among the pilgrims and faithful were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of Wales, numerous bishops, and dignitaries both civil and clerical including the Bishop of Clifton, the Bishop of Bristol, and both the Lord Lieutenant and the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire. It was a splendid day and the sun shone on the blessed gathering.

In 2000 the pilgrimage was widened into a festival. It opened with a Catholic Mass and finished with an Anglican service and included a Festival of Celtic Music comprising concerts, lectures, workshops and the pilgrimage walk from Bristol. Plans for a pilgrimage in 2001 came to nothing because of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. This year the pilgrimage will take place again, and the date is set for Saturday 25 May, leaving Bristol first thing in the morning, calling at various points on the way and ending at Aust for a ecumenical service at 4.30 p.m. There will also be a talk at The Old Parsonage in Aust (home of the award-winning St Augustine's Vineyard) on Wednesday 29 May. The exact times for both these events have yet to be finalised and anyone wanting further information should contact Jane Bradshaw directly at the address supplied below.

Plans for 2003 are already under way, for the celebrations commemorating the fourteenth centenary of the meeting of Augustine with the Celtic Bishops. A concert and a commemorative book are high on the agenda, as well as the pilgrimage walk itself and a ceremony at Aust with the participation of the Anglican Bishop of Bristol and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton. Please let us know any ideas you may have for the celebration of this piece of Gloucestershire history and please join us on Saturday 25 May in Aust.

Incidentally, there is a regular programme of musical events, largely Celtic, folk and medieval, in the church at Aust each year from March onwards. This year's website which will be operational in the near future, will have the entire programme. (www.aust.music.btinternet.co.uk)

Jane Bradshaw, The Bank House, Oldbury on Severn, South Gloucestershire, BS35 1PR, email: j13bradshaw@btinternet.com

A Pilgrimage to Rome

Joe Patterson

Having made my pilgrimage from St Jean-Pied-de-Port to Santiago de Compostela in 1998, a chance remark by my wife set me thinking of undertaking another pilgrimage, this time to Rome. The year 1999 came and went and I resolved to make the walk in 2000, Jubilee Year. But January 2000 saw me with acute chest pains, and February, March and April saw me in and out of hospital till eventually in May 2000 I had a surgical procedure to open a coronary artery, which was by then 98% blocked. The rest of that year was spent regaining my fitness.

So could I walk from Canterbury to Rome? I reasoned there was only one way to find out, so in August 2001, following a blessing in my local church of St Augustine, in Weymouth, I travelled to Canterbury. That day was a day of contrasts. I received a pilgrim blessing from the Dean in of Canterbury Cathedral, and later watched Kent County cricket team play a game under floodlights. Not something I was likely to experience on the way. A brisk walk the next day along the North Downs Way, took me to Dover, where I walked straight on to the ferry and before I had time to reflect, I found myself in France wondering what I had let myself in for.

The Via Francigena through France is non-existent, as far as any signposting is concerned, so I had resolved to follow the route described by Sigeric, Archbishop of Canterbury, on his return from Rome, with perhaps some variation where accommodation appeared to be difficult. I therefore walked south along the French coast to the old port of Wissant, where Sigeric embarked for England, as had Julius Caesar before him, and later Thomas Becket.

Relatively easy walking across the northern plains of France through Guines, Tourneham, Theroruanne, Bruay, Arras and Laon, brought me to Reims and its beautiful cathedral, where I attended Mass which was celebrated in Latin. Much thought had gone into the next part of my journey. Sigeric's route had taken him through Châlons-sur-Marne, (now Châlons-en-Champagne), Donnement, Humes, Grenant, Seveux and other small villages to reach Besançon. Research suggested however, that it would be difficult to find accommodation along that route, so I followed the Marne-Saône Canal to Langres, which

provided level walking for seven days. I reached Besançon two days later.

By now the terrain was becoming steeper as I entered the Haute Saône region, and three days later I entered Switzerland. The Customs Officer at the custom post knew of the Via Francigena and was himself setting off to walk the Camino Francés the following week !

Walking through Switzerland, apart from the stretch into Lausanne, was a pleasure, especially from Ste Croix to Orbe, through the Gorges de Coutances. From Lausanne it was possible to follow the lakeside and vineyard paths, and then along the Rhône valley, with the Alps seeming to grow higher all the time. I was welcomed as a pilgrim at the monastery at St Maurice, a beautiful peaceful place. From now it was very much uphill for the next few days.

Approaching Bourge St Pierre the sole suddenly parted from my boot, which prompted a friend later to comment, "Most people walk to Rome to save their souls, not to lose them." A roll of elastoplast solved the immediate problem, but as there were no facilities in Bourge St Pierre, I had to return the twenty plus miles to Martigny, to purchase a replacement pair of boots. Re-equipped I eventually reached the top of the Grand St Bernard Pass at two in the afternoon, with the temperature at minus 5 degrees Celsius. The date ? The 11 September, so I will forever remember that particular day. The descent to Aosta was spectacular, with minus 8 degrees Celsius at the St Bernard Pass and 26 degrees Celsius at Aosta. Sadly, this is where the road walking started again. Unlike France however, these were busy roads!

Prior to my departure from Canterbury, I had obtained a copy of the *Vademecum*, produced by the Via Francigena Association. This booklet proved to be invaluable. It follows the 'historical' route and thus guides one along the main highways, but also includes lots of relevant information, including addresses of where to stay. Another useful publication I had with me was a book by Gianfranco and Claudio Bracci, *La Via Francigena, 1000 anni dopo*. Although aimed at cyclists, it described several walking itineraries, which I followed. Trying to find routes not on the main roads became a pre-occupation. The Po valley seemed to be just one long industrial estate, but the crossing of the river Po was made memorable by the warm and friendly hospitality of Pierluigi Capelletti and his wife Daniela at Orio Litta. Pierluigi is a primary school teacher and so introduced me to his class, who sang a song in English for me, namely, *John Brown's body lies a mouldering in its grave*. I am still getting letters from the children. The crossing of the Po

was accomplished in a small modern boat, but the ferryman lives on the far side so you have to phone him up first.

The province of Parma is one of the few provinces that have made efforts to sign-post a route away from the roads. Their route over the Passo Della Cisa is exciting. You actually descend to go over the pass which itself is at 1040metres. After Pontremoli the signs disappeared and it was back to the main roads for a while. Some time before reaching Castelfiorentini I developed very painful tendonitis along one shin-bone and eventually had to attend the casualty department at Castelfiorentini, my only experience of the Italian 'NHS' service. Doubly interesting as I could not speak Italian. No documentation seemed required, the doctor called me 'English' throughout, declined to look at my leg, scribbled on a piece of paper which he handed to me, mimed shaving himself and closed his eyes feigning sleep whilst holding three fingers in the air. This translated into: I've seen pilgrim injuries before, a prescription for a cream, which resembled shaving foam, and rest for three days.

Several painful days followed, particularly going uphill, so I followed main roads for a while as the gradients were generally kinder. At Viterbo I met the only other pilgrim on the way. He was Danish, and had walked from his home in Denmark in four separate stages. We walked together for two days, which was pleasant, but strange after being alone for so long. We had slightly different timetables, so that my last day of walking into Rome, was alone.

It is hard to describe that last day. As arranged, I met my wife Constance on the steps of St Peter's, but she had already arranged a rendezvous with Adelaide Trezzini the president of the Via Francigena Association. Almost before I had got my breath back, I was whisked to the studios of Vatican Radio to record an interview, then rushed back to St. Peter's to get my pilgrim passport stamped in the *Sacrarium* and then to attend the Pilgrims Mass in St Peter's, where I was welcomed to Rome from the altar. This was a very emotional moment. The following day was even more emotional than the first, as I was invited back to St Peter's where I was awarded a pilgrim *Testimonium* in a ceremony in the 'Capello Clemente,' Pope Clement's underground Chapel. I was then allowed to see and touch the tomb of St Peter, deep underneath the Basilica. Down there we also walked along the 'Avenue' of the tombs of popes, including that of Pope Hadrian (Nicholas Breakspear), the only English pope, and finally up, out and through the Vatican to the hidden church of St Pelerin - the 'Pilgrim Church,' with

its beautiful 8th century fresco that Sigeric himself might have seen. There I said my own heartfelt prayers of praise and thanksgiving.

So what advice can I offer to any prospective pilgrim? Well, if you have walked the Camino and expect something similar, you will be disappointed. The Via Francigena at present has neither the way-marking, the infrastructure, the camaraderie nor the cohesion of the Camino. Accommodation is not generally a problem on the Via Francigena, though if the route becomes very popular it will present difficulties. I only found three purpose built refuges along the way and many of the religious houses have very limited capacity. But that is not to say that it is not worth doing. Things are changing.

Since the Via Francigena has been designated a European Cultural Itinerary, the Via Francigena Association has been making strenuous efforts to co-ordinate a route from Canterbury to Rome, (and an extra leg from London to Canterbury). The *Vademecum* covering the route from the Alps to Rome is to be joined very soon by a further *Vademecum* covering the route from London to the Alps. The association has representatives in France, Switzerland and Italy, all working to co-ordinate the route and offering help and advice to pilgrims. Within Italy there are many associations at local and national level, as well as the local Communes, who have an interest in the Via Francigena. Chief amongst them is the Giovane Montagna Association (GMA) who in 1999 surveyed the pilgrim path(s) to Rome. The CSJ has a copy of their guide.

Additionally, the Association can be found at www.giovanemontagna.org

The Via Francigena Association is trying to provide all the things a pilgrim might need. In addition to the *Vademecum*, they provide for a *Testimonium* on arrival in Rome and are currently designing a 'symbol' to be carried by pilgrims, just as the Santiago pilgrims carry the scallop shell. I suspect a 'passport' will be the next initiative. It will be many years before the path to Rome matches the path to Santiago. All the more reason to travel it now?

If anyone requires any further information I can be contacted on tel. 01305 833331 or by email at willjoepatt@netscapeonline.co.uk Additionally, a fuller version of this article containing practical advice on the *Via Francigena* can also be obtained from the CSJ Office.

Note: Peter Robins has established an internet forum at <http://francigena.port5.com> for pilgrims to pool information.

From the Secretary's Notebook

Marion Marples

Congratulations

- to Dr Mary Berry on the award of a CBE in the New Year Honours in recognition of her work on Gregorian chant and plainsong.
- to Professor Brian Tate on his 80th birthday in December 2001.

Centro de Estudios y Documentación del Camino de Santiago

We have received a catalogue of Guides to the Camino (mainly in Spanish), a renewed invitation to students of the camino to use the Library facilities at Monasterio San Zoilo, Carrión de los Condes, and a new web site www.bibliotecajacobea.org

Organiser Needed for Anniversary Walk to Walsingham 19-26 July 2003

As 2003 will be the 20th anniversary of the Confraternity, we have been planning a number of special celebratory activities. One is a Walk from London to Walsingham, the second most important shrine of medieval England. This would be on the pattern of Le Walk of 1996, when we invited our friends of the Pyrénées Atlantiques Association to walk with us. We need to establish a planning committee to work under a Chief Organiser, who really has to co-ordinate everyone else rather than do the hard investigative work by him or herself. We are writing to all members in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk for local information and support, but if you can help in any way we should love to hear from you.

Apologies

- to Owen and Ella Devlin, who have been missed off the new members' list for 2 years. Their address is 86 Whitefields Drive, Richmond, Yorks DL10 7DL, tel 01748 823543. They would enjoy hearing from other Yorkshire members.
- from the Secretary about the southern-based nature of this year's programme. I should like to encourage a few regional meetings. We can send out a regional list of labels to advertise a meeting, and support you with a speaker, ideas, slides (see Slide Library note) etc.

Call for Walkers - Start your Camino in England

A group of walkers from Southwark Cathedral, including me, is setting off on a pilgrimage in stages to Santiago. We plan to walk from Winchester Cathedral to Portsmouth along the Millennium Pilgrim trail on Saturday and Sunday 4 and 5 May and then from Cherbourg to Mont St Michel from Friday 18 to Saturday 26 October. The stages will be around 25km and there will be a back-up vehicle. We have chosen the West coast route as we hope to visit the famous wall paintings of 'le pendu dependu', the story associated with Santo Domingo de la Calzada, at Canville la Roque. We shall walk as far as Granville, within sight of Mont St Michel, but may not visit it on this occasion. The price of £300 includes the return ferry fare from Portsmouth. Accommodation is proving slightly tricky so they may be some recourse to public transport if possible.

The Winchester to Portsmouth walk will be good training and preparation, and I hope will celebrate the links between Southwark and Winchester. The medieval Bishop of Winchester had his London Palace just along from the Priory of St Mary Overie, which was the forerunner of the present Cathedral. Accommodation is being booked for Friday and Saturday nights, or it will be possible to start in Winchester early on Saturday.

There may be places on both of these walks for Confraternity members. If you are interested and would like more details please contact me at the Office.

A Big Thankyou to you!

The Confraternity Committee and volunteers thank members once again for their promptness in paying subscriptions which has kept reminders down to a modest number this year. We are also especially grateful that so many of you have paid a donation and that almost all UK taxpayers have done so by Gift Aid. This has once again helped us to postpone any subscription increase.

If you haven't paid yet, you probably won't be reading this! If you haven't done a Gift Aid declaration, there should be a form included with this *Bulletin* which you only need to sign and date.

As you will know, our financial year runs from 1 October and those of you who pay by Standing Order will be given a chance to sign new forms to be payable on 1 October in future years. If you would like to pay by Standing Order, please let us know and we will send you a form. Apply to the Treasurer, c/o the Office.

Slide Library

Another reminder from John Hatfield that slides are available to illustrate any pilgrimage talks you may be giving this spring in the UK. He asks that you give him at least one month's notice, so that a catalogue can be sent and your choice made. He has to operate on a first come, first served basis, so the sooner he hears from you, the sooner he can reserve the slides for your talk. He can be contacted at 9 Vicary Way, Maidstone, Kent ME16 0EJ, tel: 01622 757814

Publications News

New Confraternity Publications

Camino Francés 2002: David Wesson excelled himself this year by preparing the new 20th edition in good time for the AGM, since when they have almost been flying out of the door. 98pp, £6 plus £1 p & p.

Los Caminos del Norte, 2002, B The Tunnel Route, Tony Roberts & Eric Walker, price £5. This is a detailed guide for walkers and cyclists to the route from Irún to Santo Domingo de la Calzada through the Saint Adrian tunnel. Price £5.

Le Puy to the Pyrenees, 2002, Alison Raju. The eighth edition of this Guide is updated and includes information on the Jacobean monuments to be found along the route. Price £5.

Forthcoming CSJ Publication

Los Caminos del Norte, 2002, Ruta de la Costa 1. Irún to Gijón, Eric Walker. With part 2 we now have Guides to the coastal route from Irún to Arzua. Price £5.

Other New Publications

Miam miam dodo by Jacques Clouteau. Schematic guide in French to the Le Puy route, listing accommodation and refreshment within 5km of the GR65. Price £8.50, p&p £1 UK, £2 elsewhere

Forthcoming Other Publications

The Via de la Plata: Seville to Astorga, 2002, Alison Raju, 224pp, 8 pp colour plates, b/w maps and photos. Price £12. Guide for walkers and cyclists for the 991 km route from Seville to Santiago. Includes route directions, notes on accommodation and food and practical hints. Appendices include walking directions for Santiago to Finisterre and information on monuments connected with St James along the way.

The Pilgrim Road to Nidaros: St Olav's Way, Oslo to Trondheim, 2002, Alison Raju, 224pp, 8 pages colour plates, 8pp colour plates, b/w maps and photos. Price £12.

Complete guide to the 643 km route to Nidaros where King (Saint) Olav is buried. Nidaros was a major shrine after Rome, Santiago and Jerusalem, attracting pilgrims mostly from northern Europe. It has

been developed since 1997 as a long distance walkers' path.

Both these Guides are published by Cicerone Press and will be available from the CSJ, either from the internet bookshop or order by post. Please include £1 for P&P in the UK, £2 elsewhere.

Books for Sale

We have one copy each of the following books, available to the first applicant to the Office:

The Scallop Published in 1957 to mark the centenary of Shell, this scallop stamped book contains essays on the scallop shell in antiquity, the Badge of St James, art, heraldry, the Americas and gastronomy. Price including postage £8 (£9 overseas)

My Father, My Daughter, Maria Schell, Donald Schell, reviewed in *Bulletin* 76. Price including postage £4 (£5 overseas)

The Road to Santiago de Compostela, Michael Jacobs, 1991, an architectural guide. Price including postage £6 (£7 overseas)

Walking to Santiago, Mary Wilkie, 2001, reviewed in *Bulletin* 76. Price £10 (£11 overseas)

Books Wanted

Peter FitzGerald of 95 Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 2QW, tel.: 01243 785681, would like to buy a copy of *St James's Catapult*, by Richard Fletcher. If anyone has a copy or finds one in a second-hand bookshop please contact him.

Spanish Bookshop

For those hard to find books try contacting Mr Keith Harris, Books on Spain, PO Box 207, Twickenham, TW2 5BQ, U.K. or tel: +44 (0)20-8898-7789 or email : keithharris@books-on-spain.com; also www.books-on-spain.com

Confraternity Events

Saturday 11 May

Walk

Walk to St James Vine Cross, Sussex. For details phone Andrée Norman- Taylor 01580 291684. This is a repeat of last year's walk, which was completed on minor roads rather than footpaths due to foot and mouth disease.

Thursday 25 July

St James's Day

6.00pm **Mass** for St James's Day at St James's Church, Spanish Place, London W1 (behind Selfridges and near Manchester Square), followed by refreshments at the church.

Afternoon: a suggestion has been made for a trip on the London Eye at about 4pm. Please let us know at the Office if you would be interested and we can make a booking. Price about £10.

Sunday 27 October to Friday 1 November

Visit

Autumn Visit to France-Exploring the Romanesque churches of the Paris route

Provisional programme: Visit to Poitiers (2 nights) and Saintes (3 nights) to explore the monuments and towns of this stretch of the Paris route and some other fine Romanesque churches of Poitou, Saintonge and Charente-Maritime. These include St-Hilaire -le-Grand in Poitiers, St Pierre in Aulnay, St Jean d'Angély, St-Eutrope in Saintes and the church at Talmont on the Gironde. Accommodation will be in 2 star hotels. Travel is not confirmed yet, possibly by Buzz airlines direct to Poitiers, or by train (Eurostar to Lille and TGV). There will be day visits to both Poitiers and Saintes and coach drives to other sites nearby. I have contacted the new Association of St James in Saintes and they are looking forward to meeting us! Cost will depend on mode of travel but will be around £250 plus fares.

Please send a deposit of £50 (payable to the Confraternity of Saint James) to the Office as soon as possible if you would like to join this trip. Please do this even if you have already indicated that you are interested in the visit.

Thursday 21 November
The Pilgrim's Guide

New Members' Evening

A dramatised reading of Book 4 of the *Codex Calixtinus*, all that the 12th century pilgrim might have known.

6.30pm, John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1—alongside our new Office and Library.

Other Autumn Dates

As we go to press these dates are not confirmed, but see the Diary card for the most up-to-date information. However, we are planning a Saturday day meeting in London in October with the theme of making the Pilgrimage with some form of frailty or disability.

The **Constance Storrs Memorial Lecture** will be on another Saturday in October or November.

Other Events

Santiago Holy Years for the Twenty-First Century

2004 – 2010 – 2021 – 2027 – 2032 – 2038 – 2049 – 2055 – 2060 –
2066 – 2077 – 2083 – 2088

Exhibition

An exhibition of Epoh Beech's work of 39 frescoes containing views and scenes of the Camino, will take place at Tom Faulkner Gallery, Exmouth Market, London EC1R 4QP, from 14 March to 6 April 2002. The gallery is open from 10am to 6pm, Wednesday to Saturday. Epoh Beech has used the traditional 'buon fresco' technique, working on wood-wool cement board, producing a result looking like watercolour in stone. The frescos of landscapes and Romanesque architecture were inspired by her pilgrimage along the Camino.

Every Step of the Pilgrims' Way to Santiago de Compostela

CSJ members Revd John and Molly Reardon walked from Le Puy following John's retirement as General Secretary of the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland (now *Churches Together in Britain and Ireland*). Molly and John have a remarkable story to tell. John is an acclaimed photographer and they are visiting Norwich to present an account of their experiences. All members and friends of the CSJ will be most welcome at Jessop Road United Reformed Church, Norwich, Saturday 25 May, 4.30–6pm, including simple refreshments. For any more details please contact Revd John Marsh on 01603 624546.

The Cult of Saint David

St David-Cult, Church and Nation Sunday 23 to Thursday 27 June: Centre for the Study of Religion in Celtic Societies and St David's Cathedral. An international conference to mark 1400 years since death of St David. Contact Dr Jonathan Wooding, Dept of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Wales, Lampeter SA48 7ED, tel 01570 424708, wooding@lampeter.ac.uk

St Birinus Pilgrimage

The twenty-fifth annual St Birinus Pilgrimage will take place this year on Sunday 7 July 2002. The day starts with a picnic at 12.30 leaving Churn Knob at 1pm. Alternatively one can leave Brightwell-cum-Sotwell at 3.30 for Dorchester. There will be refreshments on the way. The pilgrimage then leaves the RC church at 6pm to reach Dorchester Abbey for 6.30. The preacher at Dorchester Abbey will be the Archbishop of Birmingham, The Most Revd Vincent Nichols. After the service at Dorchester Abbey there will be a Bar-B-Q and refreshments from 7.15pm. For more information please contact The Pilgrim Office, 4, Samian Way, Dorchester, OX10 8JS or tel. 01865 340044.

Pilgrim Retreat

Friday 18 October – Sunday 20 October 2002 *Pilgrim or Tourist - Journey into God through prayer*, led by Sister Maria Natella O.P.A retreat to be held at the Benedictine Abbey of Belmont, Hereford, HR2 9RZ For further details please contact the Retreat Master: Dom Blane Maxwell, tel 01432 269986 or e-mail belmontretreats@aol.com or fax : 01432 277597

Medieval Monuments 1200-1530

Saturday 9 November 2002. A day school on the monuments including tombs, chantries, and brasses left to warn, impress or inspire those left behind. Lectures include Dr Rowena Archer (Harris Manchester College, Oxford): *Memento Mori*: the Tombs of Late Medieval England; Dr Judith Middleton-Stewart (UEA, CSJ): Memory without Monuments: Late Medieval Wills; Fr Jerome Bertram FSA (Oxford Oratory): Medieval Monumental Brassess and a speaker on Late Medieval Chantries. Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA, 9.45-5pm, £32 without lunch, £39 with lunch. Tel 01865 270368, email ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

Abroad

Santiago e l'Italia

International Conference organised by Il Centro Italiano di Studi Compostellani to be held in Perugia from 23-26 May 2002. The aim is to provide as complete a picture possible of Jacobean connections in Italy, including confraternities, hospitality, local cults and devotions. The journeys of the 'pilgrim saints' such as Francis of Assisi, as well as the motivation of ordinary Italian pilgrims will be included.

Full details from Prof Paolo Caucci von Saucken, Centri di Studi Compostellani, Via del Verzaro 49, 06123 Perugia, tel 075 5736382, fax 075 5854607, email *santiago@unipg.it*

Touring Exhibition

An exhibition of 150 photographic works by Michel Wasielewski and Jean Bourdaias, authors of 'Guide Européen des Chemins de Compostelle', 1996, has been touring France. From 1-30 June 2002 it will be shown in the Hôtel de Ville in Tours. It is then travelling to Belgium.

The Irish Society of Saint James

The Irish St James Society is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year (2002) with weekend celebrations taking place 19 - 21 July 2002 in Kilkenny City.

Sunday 28 July at 11am there will be Mass at the church of St James in Dublin for the Society members followed by lunch and tea.

For further information concerning the activities of the Irish Society of St James please contact: The Secretary of The Irish Society of St James, Ms Patricia Kennedy, 13, Ardoyne House, Pembroke Park, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland.

Members' Page

Request for cycling companion

I am starting my pilgrimage from Le Puy on Monday 29th July this year (getting the bike-bus from the North of England to Valence on the 27 th July 2002) and planning to do just the French section this year, returning to England by bike bus on the 21st August. Being a woman and in my 50s (but nevertheless determined to enjoy the journey) I think it would be good if I could get in contact with any other women who are considering doing that route or part of that route, at that time, by bike - a tall request!? Please email me or phone 01942 273180 if you are interested.

Barbara Jones

A Warning - Take care

A timely warning comes from Australian member John Innes who was diagnosed with *giardiasis* on his return home late last year. He thinks the source was likely to have been a water fountain, probably in Galicia. "All outdoor travellers may come in contact with things during the trip that can lead to illnesses later on. Typically, the signs and symptoms of these illnesses don't become apparent until after your trip is over, so it is important that you be able to recognise them. Should you experience some of the symptoms noted below after a trip, see your physician and describe your symptoms. *Giardiasis* refers to a syndrome of diarrhoea, excess gas, and abdominal cramping. It is caused by *Giardia lamblia*, a water-borne parasite that is world-wide in distribution. The symptoms usually occur one to two weeks after exposure to the parasite. Symptoms initially include diarrhoea, bloating, nausea, abdominal cramping, and malaise. Weight loss is also a frequent finding. Backcountry travellers usually contract *giardiasis* by drinking water from untreated or improperly treated sources. Chemical treatment of the water and commercial water filtration systems, used properly, eradicate the parasite. The diagnosis of *giardiasis* can be confirmed by inspecting a stool sample for the presence of the parasite. Because this test may not always identify the organism even if it is present, a physician may elect to treat you empirically for the infection."

From *Princeton University Outdoor Action*.

Sponsored Pilgrimages

- Charles Ranald in conjunction with the Electronic Telegraph managed to raise £15000 for his charities.
- James Nash of Hinton St George, Somerset and his son Matthew set off soon to travel in a Canadian buggy drawn by a Welsh cob named William, from Bordeaux to Santiago to raise money for Somerset St John Ambulance and the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. James Nash raised £45,000 for the Jerusalem Eye Hospital fourteen years ago. Please send any donations to James Nash at St John Ambulance, 60 Staplegrove Road, Taunton TA1 1DH, tel 01823 345923.
- New member James Davidson is raising money to help the rebuilding fund of All Saints Church, Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, which was seriously damaged by fire last year. He plans to cycle from Lourdes to Compostela, arriving on Good Friday so will be almost there by the time you read this. Cheques should be made payable to All Saints PCC Tomorrow Fund and sent to James at 232 Railton Road, London SE24 0JT, or by credit card: phone 020 7274 7046 (11am-7pm daily except Wednesday and Sunday) www.all-saints.org.uk/pilgrim
- Walking or bike riding around Atlanta in one of the National Multiple Sclerosis-Georgia Chapter's fund-raisers wasn't enough for J. Holley of Atlanta. This newly-diagnosed patient wants to go half-way around the world to try her hand at her own fundraiser, *Camino 2003*. She plans to undertake a four-week walk of a 500-mile long pilgrimage called El Camino in the Spring of 2003. Spain will be new territory for her, as new as her diagnosis of MS in June 2001. So far, she is going to walk the trail alone, but she hopes her story will be posted on the *Friends of the Camino* website to gain interest, and possibly a walking partner. J. turned to the *National MS Society- Georgia Chapter* for help with this fund-raiser. "I want to make everyone aware of what I am doing," she says. She has also contacted Laurie Dennett, chairman of the CSJ because Laurie's mother had MS and Laurie has walked the Camino several times. "I am doing this for my local chapter," J. says. "All the money raised will be given to them for education, support groups, and awareness drives."

For information, call (404) 256-9700 or (800) 822-3379 or contact, Kim Rakestraw (404) 256-97 or check the web site at www.nmssga.org. The mission of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Georgia Chapter is to end the devastating effects of multiple sclerosis through research, public education, public policy advocacy, programs and services for people with multiple sclerosis and their families.

Calling Canadian Pilgrims

You can download the Newsletter of the Little Company of Pilgrims from www.geocities.com/pilgrimage_santiago Fr Ben Lochridge has now retired from St Paul's Mississauga and the Little Company is now meeting at St James's church, Humber Bay, Etobicoke, Ontario. You can contact the organiser, Barabara Cappuccitti on jacobeo@sympatico.ca but she will be on pilgrimage for some of the spring.

Organised Tours to Santiago

THE PILGRIM'S ROUTE TO SANTIAGO

17-27 September. Coach travel through France via Paris, Poitiers and Dax. Stops at Burgos and León in Spain. £799 per person. More details from Pax Travel, 152-156 Kentish Town Road, London NW1 9QB, tel 020 7485 3003, fax 020 7485 3006, email info@paxtravel.co.uk

WALKING TOUR

The Pilgrim's Way, 10 days supported walk from León, 26 May to 6 June and 12 to 21 September, price £1595 per person, £195 single supplement. Walking 6-16 miles per day. Organised by Cox and Kings in association with the *Daily Telegraph*, tel 01233 211 774, quoting reference TGPILGO102

ORGANISED CYCLING TOURS

Member Michael Walton recommends Saddle Skedaddle for a 10 day supported cycling pilgrimage from Burgos to Santiago. Departures on 9 May, 6 June, 4 July, 19 September, price £925 (land only). More details from 0191 265 1110, www.skedaddle.co.uk

From CSJ horticultural correspondence file

From Peter FitzGerald

I note in the article on the previous Members Page [p47 of *Bulletin* no 76], that our editor has a keen interest in horticultural matters. Some years ago whilst at Rabanal we noticed a rather splendid forsythia bush growing beside the church opposite the refugio. It had rather large flowers. As we were returning home we took some cuttings from this bush, which we wrapped in wet tissue paper and put inside a plastic bag. On our arrival at home we planted those cuttings in pots in the greenhouse. As luck had it they survived and were later planted out in the garden. They are now doing well. We later heard that our

neighbours in Rabanal had gone out for the day, and on their return home, they had found that this original forsythia bush had been removed because the road outside was to be made up. They regretted this action and the subsequent loss of the bush. We offered to send them cuttings of *our* bush which we had grown-on in pots, and our offer was accepted. Our plants were taken for us to Rabanal by John and Shirley Snell, who also took two oak trees which they had grown from acorns which they collected from Stourhead. Those cuttings and the two trees are now planted somewhere in Rabanal. So in horticultural fashion things go around and around.

Note from the Editor

Would the pilgrim who sent me two wonderful poems in January/February 2002 please claim authorship, since the poems have become separated from their owner.

WANTED

Office Volunteers

As already noted in our Chairman's report, the on-line bookshop has increased the load of the CSJ office-work enormously. In this year alone the office has already processed over 600 publication orders. If any CSJ member feels that they would like to contribute to the work of the Confraternity and has a bit of time that they could offer regularly, please contact Marion at the office. Duties in the office are not hard, and just think of all those grateful pilgrims out there...

Memories of Gabrielle (Gabi) Wingfield

Christine Pleasants

On the brilliant sunny morning of 14 November a wagon drawn by two large chestnut horses, with black ostrich plumes on their heads, carried a willow coffin garlanded with ivy and white flowers up the hill past Bedford Park. It wended its way through the old cemetery, high above the town, among the beautiful autumn colours of mature trees accompanied by the song of birds, including a green woodpecker. There, Gabi Wingfield was laid in her family grave. Four young grandchildren laid white nosegays on the lid of the coffin which bore her scallop shell, which she had worn on several pilgrim journeys. It was a very moving ceremony, befitting a lady with a feeling for the dramatic.

Back at the little chapel that Gabi attended and where she was well known and loved, a service of celebration of her life took place. The Confraternity was well represented, five members being present. Memories were recalled by the minister and friends. Excerpts from 'Little Gidding' by T S Eliot were read and many references to pilgrimage were made not least the singing of 'To be a Pilgrim'.

The address covered her character of enthusiasm and clear and strongly held opinions. There was the tale of her fall into the Grand Union canal while cruising with a couple of gentlemen who invited her along as cook!

She will be sadly missed, for she was always willing to join an expedition. Despite having to cancel her overland trek to India, she was the first of twelve people to volunteer to accompany David Snelling and Henry the Mule on their sponsored walk to Santiago in aid of cancer research, relief and respite care. She was also the only one who planned to travel all the stages from Le Puy en Velay to Santiago.

As this trip was postponed owing to the Foot and Mouth crisis, she agreed to come with me on the 1066 walk in East Sussex, despite having just recovered from treatment. We backpacked for three days although mostly we walked on roads rather than paths due to the restrictions. I was amazed how far she covered.

The 'Operation Henry' Trust are planning to start their journey

on 2 April 2002. David says Gabi will be with them in spirit, in their training and journey over the Pyrenees to Santiago.

If anyone would care to sponsor this pilgrimage in memory of Gabi this can be done by email to antony.gilbert@btinternet.com Their web site is www.companions-henry.org.uk

They will be very pleased to have your support.

New Members

LONDON

02051	Mr Peter Clifton & Mrs Anne Clifton 146 Coombe Lane London SW20 0BA	020 8947 0678
02050	Mr James Davidson 11 Dalkeith Road London SE21 8LT	020 7274 7046
02071	Mr Francis Girling & Mrs Philippa Greetham 50 Talbot Road London N6 4QP	020 8340 4553
02095	Mrs Florence Hunter 1 Greyladies Gardens Wat Tyler Road London SE10 8AU	020 8692 0614
02022	Amanda Lote 100 Acre Lane London SW2 5QN	020 7738 5231
02019	Mr Giuseppe Ranieri 69 Park Street London SE1 9EA	020 7403 9573
02108	Mr Dino Shiatis Apt 8 Lancaster Court 100 Lancaster Gate London W2 3NY	020 7262 0923
02031	Mr Gary Simmons 512 Willoughby House Barbican London EC2Y 8BN	07803 736935
02063	Ms Alexandra Trouton & friends 31 Limesford Road London SE15 3BX	020 7732 9519

HOME COUNTIES NORTH

02084	Mr Gotthard Liebich 9 Meadowcroft St Albans Herts AL1 1UD	01727 852420
02042	Mr Robin Dorkings Beechwood Cottage Newnham Hill Henley-on-Thames Oxon	01491 641734
02122	Mrs Gil Rennick Wren Lodge 24 Beaconsfield Road St Albans Herts AL1 3RD	01727 855540
02111	Miss Catherine Widdicombe 125 Waxwell Lane Pinner Middlesex HA5 3ER	020 8868 0628
02054	Rev'd Ricky Yates The Rectory Water Stratford Road Fimere Bucks MK18 4AT	01280 847184

HOME COUNTIES SOUTH

02021	Mr Albert Chantler 21 Westfield Blean Canterbury Kent	01227 471685
02072	Mr Garry Michael Jennings 21 Wealdon Close Southwater Horsham W Sussex RH13 7HP	01403 731935
02112	Mr Dave Nash 2 Biggin Close Southgate West Crawley West Sussex RH11 8TW	01293 536483
02069	Mr James Reyes & Mr Rex Budworth 3 Beech Gardens Crawley Down West Sussex RH10 4JB	01342 713492
02068	Mr Peter Sunley 7 Freshwood Way Wallington Surrey SM6 0RL	020 8669 1341

SOUTHERN

- 02097 Mr Roger Berry 01252 844 337
10 Meadow Lane Hartley Wintney Hampshire RG27 8RE
- 02081 Sir John Colfox & Lady Frederica Colfox 01308 422956
Symondsbury House Bridport Dorset DT6 6HB
- 02104 Mr Angus Handoll 01308 482217
Stancombe Cottage Askers Well Dorset DT2 9EG
- 02034 Mr Peter Hyland 01225 783505
125 The Midlands Holt Nr Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 6RG
- 02064 Mr & Mrs Merriman & Mr & Mrs Field 01252 624123
The Merrifield Wheelers 94 Gally Road Church Crookham
Fleet Hampshire GU52 6RU

SOUTH WEST

- 02109 Mr Bobby Hanscomb 01373 812075
St Edmunds Farmhouse Lower Vobster Radstock Avon
- 02106 Mr Dave Johnstone & Mrs Anora Johnstone 01626 872266
Heron Cottage Shaldon Road Combeinteignhead Newton
Abbot Devon TQ12 4RR
- 02105 Mr Edward Lavery 01271 374477
Chapel Cottage St. John Street Newton Tracey Devon EX31
- 02076 Mr Michael McGarvie 01373 451001
Marston House Marston Bigot Frome Somerset BA11 5DU
- 02075 Mrs Sally Roy 01458 250562
The Old Schoolhouse High Ham Langport Somerset TA10 9BZ
- 02082 Mrs Rosemary Stewart 01647 24602
Cholwell Cottage Posbury Nr Crediton Devon EX17 3QE

MIDLANDS WEST

- 02102 Mrs Joan Ainscow 01827 713476
1 Windmill Road Atherstone Warwickshire CV9 1HL
- 02124 Revd Condry & Mrs Condry and J Condry 01788 542936
The Rectory Church Street Rugby Warwickshire CV12 3PH
- 02090 Mr Bill Davy & Ms Maria Thomas 01242 254411
26 Gt Norwood Street Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 2AP
- 02030 Mr Bill Jones 01905 840630
Orchard Cottage Peopleton Pershore Worcs WR10 2EA

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- Thursday 20 June** Talk: Rabanal del Camino and the Refugio Gaucelmo:
why? how? when? where? how? (or 'How we got to give
something back to the Camino'): various speakers
- Thursday 26 July** St James's Day
pm Ride on the London Eye
Mass at St James's Church, Spanish Place, London
W1, 6pm, followed by refreshments at the Church
- Saturday 12 October** Spanish National Day
Talks: At Your Own Pace: Special Pilgrims on the Camino
de Santiago, Brian Matthews (l'Arche community), Paul
Darke (Winston Churchill Travelling Fellow) and others,
3pm, followed by Spanish Tea Party
- Sun 27 October-
Fri 1 November** Visit: to Poitiers and Saintes to look at Romanesque
churches of the Paris route (provisional dates)
- Saturday xx November** VIII Constance Storrs Memorial Lecture
- Thursday 21 November** The Pilgrim's Guide: what the 12th century pilgrim may
have known. A dramatised reading of Book V of the
Codex Calixtinus. To participate please contact the Office.
7pm, John Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 8NY

See Bulletin 78 for further details of venues and times.

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