

**CONFRATERNITY OF PILGRIMS
TO ROME**



NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2014 No. 20

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Editorial

This is the twentieth issue of the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome's *Newsletter*. (An index to the articles and book reviews published in issues numbers 11 to 20 will appear in issue #21.)

There are six articles, a list of additions to the CPR library and the section entitled "Secretary's Notebook," containing short items of information likely to be of interest to our members.

Harry Bucknall describes the Swiss part of his journey from London to Rome, after which Stein Thue discusses another pilgrim route to Rome, the *Via Romea Stadensis* from northern Germany, first taken by the Abbot Albert von Stade in the year 1236.

Bronwyn Marques presents the second in a series of "Recipes along the *Via Francigena*," with two from northern France, after which Marion Marples presents the options open to the pilgrim wishing to walk **to** Canterbury to begin his/her journey to Rome. This is followed by advice on how to obtain the *Testimonium* once the pilgrim has arrived in Rome and then Garry Ridway's personal appreciation of books about the Eternal City.

Articles are always welcome for future issues though, in the interests of variety, we do not normally include more than one account of a pilgrim journey per issue. Note, however, that the views expressed are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the CPR.

When submitting articles (most versions of WORD are acceptable – short items can be sent by email) please do **NOT** use automatic/preset formatting as this causes a lot of problems with the layout and, if you include photos, please send them as separate files, indicating where they should be placed in the article, i.e. not integrated into the text formatting.

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Over the border we go...

Harry Bucknall

Six weeks and 680 miles into his pilgrimage from London to Rome, the travel writer and former army officer, crosses into Switzerland ...

As a piece of navigation, finding Switzerland, in anybody else's hands, would have been a gift, but for me, gazing in wonder at the grassy slopes incongruously populated by skiing machinery, the excitement at the quantum change, not only in scenery but frontier, was too much of a distraction. I nearly walked through a wood missing the border post all together. I needn't have worried. The guard was asleep anyway.

So, I sort of slipped into Switzerland by default, rather than make my grand entry by design. The place was just as the posters would have it – cows with bells everywhere, fields greener than billiard baize that were aburst with buttercups overlooked by towering Christmas trees, and air as fresh as a sea breeze. By comparison with France which, after five weeks, felt never ending at times, there was an instant intimacy to Switzerland – until I went to buy a drink.

"How much?" I questioned. "But not a hundred metres earlier I could have bought four cans of *Orangina* for the same price," I reasoned.

"This is Switzerland, M'sieur", the man replied matter-of-factly.

The contrast between France and again, on the far side, Italy, was marked. Switzerland was like a playboy's paradise: young everywhere, everybody looked fit and everyone drove a top-of-the-range car. Switzerland already felt like the Malibu of Europe. A fanciful notion, of course, as only minutes later I wandered through a ramshackle farmyard where hayricks were being prepared by hand and then, a few days later, I slept in a hovel and caught fleas. Nonetheless the notion of an overpowering confidence that the Swiss possess, almost a superiority to anyone else, never left me the entire time I was in the country.

Way off my track, I took the train to Geneva. I would never have gone, had there not been the lure of a party. It was a long day in the toiling heat to reach Lausanne, where I broke my journey; the stench of bitumen cloying in my nostrils as tarmac melted under foot. As I left the woods, suddenly, there was the unmistakable cry of seagulls overhead. I looked questioningly at the horizon – in the distance the great expanse of Lake Geneva lazed in the sun. So incongruous a sight, it took some time for my eyes to realize what they were actually looking at. The joy I experienced at that moment was so instant it was almost animal-like. I couldn't help wondering how my forebears, men and women of the Middle Ages when pilgrimage was at its height, would have stared at such a beautiful prospect after so many miles.

I slaved through Lausanne's streets to reach the Cathedral, which was, needless to say, at the top of a hill, before putting my weight against Notre Dame's massive oak door. In the Pilgrim Chapel, I stared up at the frescoed walls and ceilings, rich in colour and detail – a reminder of times past before the Protestant Reformation. Defeated by the day, I sat down heavily on a chair, caught my breath, said a prayer and left, heading down the hill to Ouchy where I would pick up my trail in a couple of days.

After a few night's of excess among the beautiful people of Geneva, I returned to Lausanne. Just like Sigeric, Æthelred the Unready's Archbishop who recorded the route that the current *Via Francigena* is based upon, I opted to take a ferry across Lake Geneva.

There was an almost audible gasp of appreciation from the crowd as the elegant lines of "*La Suisse*" rounded the breakwater. On board, the paddle steamer was all polished brass and shiny steel; her enormous Sulzer Frères pistons, built in 1910, were busied about by stokers wielding oil cans like grooms to a champion racehorse. A blow of her whistle, the telegraphs *brranged*, gauges danced, the pistons drew to full height and with a pleasurable sigh lunged forward to pick up their rhythmic *bish-boo* once again, as this latter-day Quinquieme of Niniveh nudged out into open waters.

Walking up the course of the mighty Rhône, I eventually reached the pretty town of Saint-Maurice, where the effect was

like opening the door to an enormous darkened theatre and switching the lights on. I was in the Alps; above me, soaring peaks and summits peered like grizzled aunts fussing over a baby in a pram.

That night I stayed with friends in a vineyard high above Martigny where Caesar established a garrison town after defeating the Gauls in 57BC. Talk at dinner was of the treacherous crossing, made in early winter, by Hannibal in 218 BC, before taking Scipio by surprise at the historic Battle of Ticinus.

The following morning, as I climbed high into the valley, the laboured whine of lorries making their way towards the Great Saint-Bernard Tunnel thousands of feet below me, I gazed on as men worked in the fields to bring the hay in, the land too steep for machinery.

I picked the way carefully back to my room, come dusk at Bourg Saint-Pierre; here, I walked among the ghosts of the countless armies that had staged through the village over the centuries, bent on bold moves that would lead to some strategic advantage or other.

The next day, up with the dawn, all about me marched the men of the French Armée de Réserve as the First Consul of France, the thirty-year old Napoleon Bonaparte, goaded and cajoled his men against the odds over the Great Saint-Bernard Pass in a remarkable feat of military movement to defeat the Austrians at Marengo in June 1800.

In the azalea-carpeted uplands, I was treated to a secret world where startled marmots scattered in every direction like clumsy poachers caught in the act and herds of ripped Herens cattle engaged in impromptu jousting displays –enraged snorts ringing out across the landscape as they threw up plumes of dust in the forceful confrontations.

Designed for practicality over style, the barrack-like Hospice which has stood resolute at 8,000 foot at the Great Saint-Bernard Pass since the 17th century, is no thing of beauty. But within lies concealed a warren maze of flagstone corridors, refectories, wood paneled dormitories, gilded chapels, simple crypts and three solitary monks, assisted by an army of

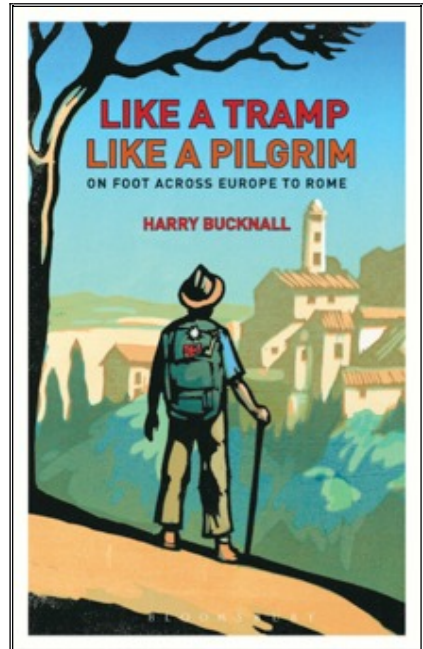
volunteer cooks and kitchen hands to cater for the needs of the hundreds of visitors – be they on foot, car or ski – who visit daily.

By evening, the daytrippers back in their hotels, the Pass should have returned to peace and calm. The night I stayed however, a choir was visiting too, thus we were 77 for dinner. Toward the end of the meal, some home-made *eau de vie* appeared, a tuning fork sounded and for the next hour, the Alps echoed with song.

It was with a heavy head I that ventured out into the dawn the next morning, through snow drifts to the Italian border and Aosta six thousand feet below.

*

Harry Bucknall's new book, relating his journey from St Paul's Cathedral in London to St Peter's in Rome, is published by Bloomsbury and was released on 17th July this year. Described as a "wonderful book" by Hollywood actor Martin Sheen, as a "jubilant adventure" by The Times and as a "remarkable story" by Alan Titchmarsh it is available on amazon.co.uk and all leading bookshops.



Harry will be talking about his experiences walking the Via Francigena at the CPR AGM and Gathering in London on 7th March 2015.

Albert the Abbot and the *Via Romea*

Stein Thue

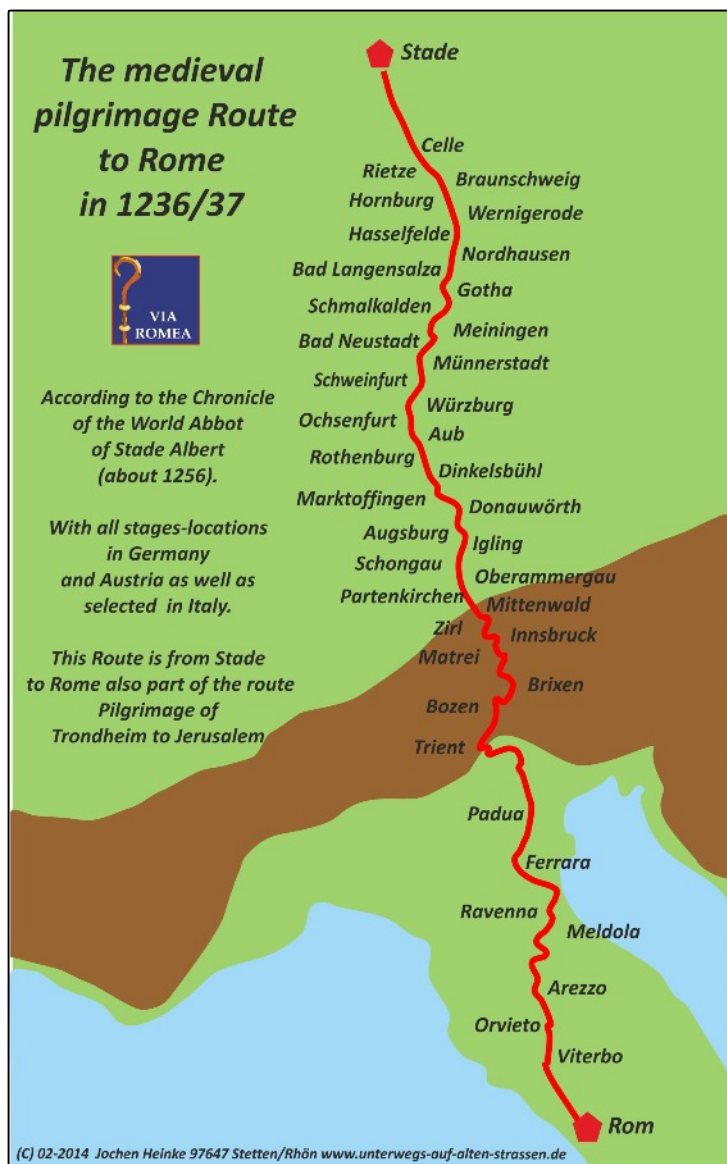
Albert was an abbot who lived in the German town of Stade, by the mouth of the river Elbe, in the 13th century. He had been appointed abbot of the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Virgin Mary in Stade in 1232 but was not, however, entirely content with the regime in his monastery. He wanted to introduce a more literal observance of St. Benedict's rule and a stricter discipline for his monks. He was impressed with the practice of the Cistercians, and sought to reform his monastery accordingly but in order to do so he needed permission from the Pope.

Thus, in 1236, he set out on the long and strenuous journey from Stade to Rome to get the Pope's permission, travelling on horseback, or perhaps in a two-wheeled horse-drawn cart. His affinity for the Cistercian ideals made him take a rather long detour on his way to Rome, namely to Cîteaux in eastern France, home to the abbey of the first Cistercian monks. Their monastic life was founded on simplicity and evangelical poverty, ideals held high by Albert von Stade.

In Rome, he obtained the Pope's permission to reform the monastery in Stade according to Cistercian rule. He set out on the long journey home through Italy, Austria, Bavaria, Thuringia, Sachsen-Anhalt and lower Saxony. His journey covered 3500 km and lasted approximately half a year.

Back in Stade, the monks in the Monastery of the Holy Virgin Mary were not keen on welcoming Albert's wish for reform, in spite of the Pope's permission. Albert therefore resigned as abbot. Instead he joined the so-called Minorites, a Franciscan order in the monastery of St. John of Stade. It was here that he wrote the so-called *Annales*, chronicles of important political and ecclesiastic events of his time. In these he describes a dialogue between two monks who impart facts and advice regarding the best pilgrim route to Rome. The dialogue is a kind of pilgrim guide based on Albert's own journey to Rome, mentioning

the holy sites, the resting places and the distances for each stage (the latter recently checked and found to be correct).



The abbot's nearly 800 year old manuscript is still intact in the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel. Until recently it was of interest mainly to scholars and researchers but this ancient route attracted popular attention when, in 2001, the Italian archeologist Giovanni Caselli investigated the history of the *Via Romea Stadensis*, the old road to Rome.

The *Via Romea Stadensis*

Caselli soon discovered that the Italian continuation of Albert's route to Rome was identical to the *Via Romea dell'Alpe di Sierra* that ran through the Casentino Valley, not far from his home town Bibbiena, in Tuscany. Pilgrims and other travellers had used this medieval road to reach Rome for centuries but the existence of this old pilgrim trail was made known to the general public through a series of documentary films broadcast on Italian television in 2004. An interest in the abbot's old pilgrim road had also been gaining momentum in Germany for some time and a meeting between Caselli and the mayors of several German towns along the route was held in Ochsenfurt am Main. Resolute and enthusiastic cooperation resulted in a common project where the goal was to revitalize the *Via Romea* as a path for modern pilgrims on the way from northern Europe to Rome; or vice versa. An association to achieve this goal was established in January 2009; the *Via Romea Stadensis*, or the [Förderverein Romweg - Abt Albert von Stade. e.V.](#)

Their first meeting was held in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in 2009 and delegations from both Germany and Italy attended. An Italian sister organization, [the *Via Romea Germanica*](#), was founded soon afterwards, joining forces with fellow pilgrims to promote the old pilgrim ways to Rome.

A Road to Friendship

The ensuing cooperation has inspired several pilgrim walks where Italians and Germans set out on the pilgrim ways together, confirming the old saying that we become friends by walking and talking together. The most recent walk went through Sachsen-Anhalt and Thuringian Germany

and was organized earlier in 2014 with participants from Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Norway. A ceremony to celebrate the pilgrimage was held in the town of Wernigerode on June 28th 2014. Ministerpräsident of Sachsen-Anhalt Dr. Reiner Hasseloff, Mayor of Wernigerode Peter Gaffer and Jerusalem-pilgrim Johannes Aschauer attended the ceremony, not only to celebrate the *Via Romea* pilgrimage, but also to promote Aschauer's book [Auf dem Jerusalemweg](#), in which he describes a six-month pilgrimage for peace from Switzerland to Jerusalem in 2010.



(The map on the previous page is from the article "The Via Romea Stagensis leading to Rome" by Prof. Giovanni Caselli and Rodolfo Valentini. Courtesy of the European Association Via Francigena Magazine *Via Francigena and the Pilgrim Ways*.)

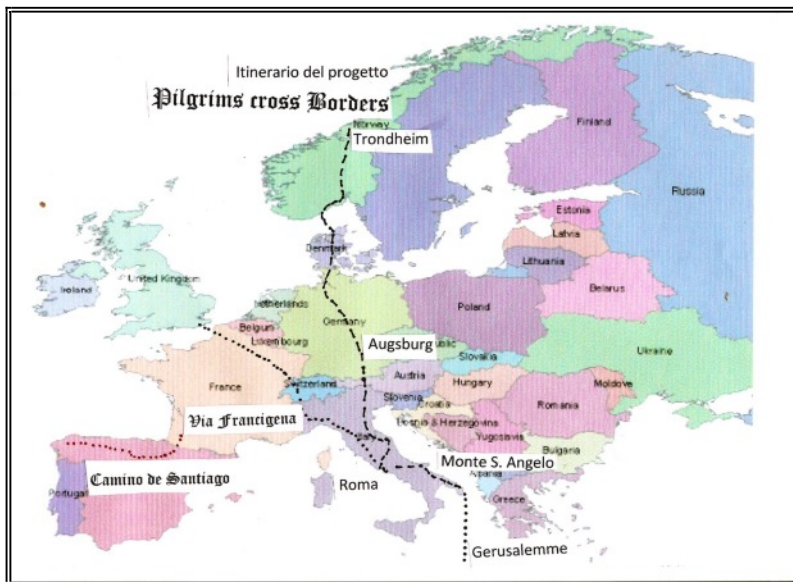
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Pilgrims Crossing Borders – A Reminder

In the previous issue of the *CPR Newsletter* (No. 19, December 2013) Alberto Alberti and Stein Thue described the project for a 3000 km pilgrimage, starting in Trondheim, in Norway, on April 23rd 2015 and reaching Jerusalem by the end of the year.

Alberto will be talking about this project at our Open Day in November (see *Secretary's Notebook* section) but for those interested in participating in this journey (whether for all of it or a section) contact details are repeated below.

Itinerary



Through Norway, from Trondheim to Oslo

Stein Thue (The Pilgrim Confraternity of St. Olav)

E-mail: stein.thue(at)gmail.com

From Oslo to Larvik

Eivind Luthen (The Pilgrim Confraternity of St James, Norway)

E-mail: pilegrim(at)pilegrim.no

Through Denmark

Elisabeth Lidell

(Pilgrim Pastor in Aarhus, Denmark)

E-mail: Lidell(at)webspeed.dk

Through Northern Germany from Padborg (Bov kirke) to Hittfeld

Bernd Lohse (Pilgerpastor der Nordkirche)

E-mail: lohse(at)jacobus.de

Through Italy

Alberto Alberti

(Rete dei Cammini/The Gruppo dei Dodici)

E-mail: ro_albea(at)hotmail.com

For the walk in the Holy Land

Einar Vegge (Pilgrim Pastor in Trondheim, Norway)

E-mail: einar.vegge(at)kirken.no

To send e-mails to any of the above please replace "(at)" with @ in the above addresses.

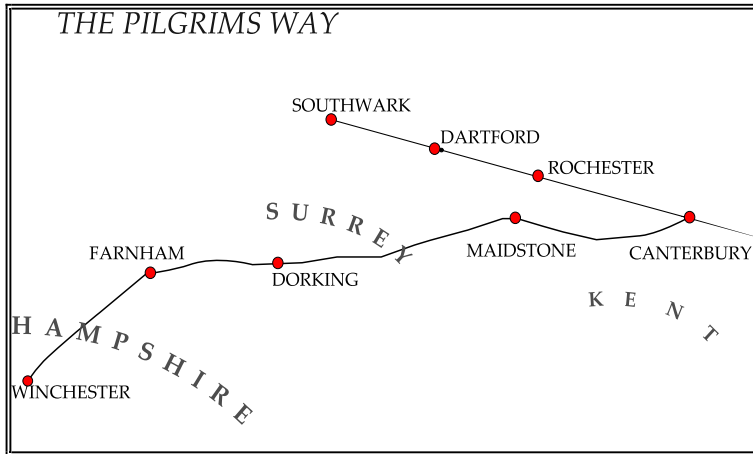
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Stop Press The Summer 2014 edition of the AIVF's *Letter to Friends* is now available on their website: see www.francigena-international.org

Getting to Canterbury to start the *Via Francigena* is not as easy as it seems...

Marion Marples

To reach their starting-point for the *Via Francigena* many pilgrims from abroad decide to take the combination of the *Saint Swithun's Way* from Winchester to Farnham on the Hampshire/Surrey border and then the *North Downs Way* down to Canterbury.



Map: Ruth Abrahams

Those wishing to follow in the tracks of Chaucer's pilgrims have more choices to make.

Medieval pilgrims from London followed more or less the line of the Roman road - Watling Street - the A2, which runs directly south-east from Southwark to Canterbury.

Having visited *Southwark Cathedral* to see the Becket Window showing the nearby Tabard Inn and learning of Becket and Chaucer connections (*a passport and pilgrim stamp will be available from the autumn*) go down *Borough High Street* (passing *Talbot Yard* and a *blue plaque to Chaucer*) to *St George the Martyr Church*. Then turn *hard left* to *Tabard Street* (formerly *Kent Street*), passing *Pilgrimage Street* and 1930s ex-council flats

named after Kentish villages. After the *Bricklayers Arms* roundabout follow the now very diverse *Old Kent Road* (*find shops/cafes/churches from every continent*) to the *Thomas Becket pub* (opposite Tesco), which was historically the *Thomas a Watering* and which stood near the river *Neckinger* crossing, the boundary between London and Kent.

Continue a bit further to the former *North Peckham Civic Centre*, with murals depicting the *Canterbury pilgrims* as well as other notables passing this point en route for London or Kent. The road then passes *New Cross, Deptford* to *Greenwich*. By this time you might decide that public transport (bus, train) to Dartford, Rochester etc becomes preferable.

A more pleasant, but longer alternative, is to follow the *Thames Path* on the south bank of the river all the way to *Erith*. Continue a short way to *Crayford Ness*. Unfortunately you cannot cross the river *Darent* at this point. Follow the *London Loop* path inland to *Slade Green* or follow the path until you are on the A206 and you cross the river and pick up the path into *Dartford*.

Dartford was a prosperous market town in medieval times, benefitting from the pilgrim trade, but today is rather struggling as the large *Bluewater shopping complex* is nearby.

From Dartford continue south along the *Darent Valley Path* to *Otford*. Here you can pick up the *North Downs Way* and the route to Canterbury.

An alternative route from the *Thames Barrier* is to follow the *Green Chain Walk* (www.greenchain.com) via Charlton, Plumstead, Abbey Wood to Erith.

As always, it is hard to find accommodation at ideal walking distances along the Way.

New Project

Increasing numbers of pilgrims are being seen at Winchester, Rochester and, particularly, in Canterbury itself. Canon Clare Edwards has convened a team to create

a new *website* www.pilgrimswaycanterbury.co.uk to help those planning a pilgrimage, with information on accommodation, food and other facilities available, as well as bringing together the parishes along the Way.

The *website* will be launched with events on Sat 4 October in Canterbury and on Sunday 5 October the Archbishop of Canterbury will lead pilgrims in from St Dunstan's church, to partake of pilgrim loaf and tea (bring your own mug) before preaching at Choral Evensong at 3.15pm.

A *leaflet* about the alternative routes from London will be available from www.cathedral.southwark.anglican.org in the autumn

More information from the Confraternity of Saint James at office@csj.org.uk

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On *Saturday 4 October 4th* there will be a "pilgrim day" in Canterbury, focusing on the journey **to** that city, with the following events:

At the Beaney House of Art and Knowledge (18 High Street)

- 11.30-12.30 Guided walk to St Martin's and Eastbridge Hospital;
- 1-2pm Pilgrim Clinic: for those interested in Pilgrims Way, pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and to Rome;
- 2-3pm Talk by John Butler on practice of pilgrimage to tomb of St Thomas;
- 3-4pm Talk on Green Pilgrimage Network including other pilgrim places in Kent.

At St Dunstan's Church

- 7pm Screening of "The Way" (Martin Sheen) (6pm light pilgrim supper; suggested donation for Christian Aid: £5).

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Recipes along the *Via Francigena* (2) Northern France

Bronwyn Marques

Licques

Waterzooi is a dish originating from Belgium that is popular in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais. The original version of this dish is made with fish but many variations use chicken, especially the well-known Poulet de Licques. In the latter case, the name is a ***Kippenwaterzooi***. All versions are based on a soup-base of egg yolk, cream and thickened vegetable broth. The stew itself contains fish or chicken and vegetables, including carrots, onions, celeriac, leeks, potatoes and herbs such as parsley, thyme, bay leaves and sage.

Ingredients to serve 4

3 large carrots
1 large leek
1 medium sized onion
4 celery sticks
1 tsp dried tarragon
50 g butter
0.5 tsp salt
450-500 g chicken filet strips
500 ml light chicken stock
100 ml whipping cream
2 large egg yolks
salt and freshly ground black pepper
a large handful of finely chopped fresh parsley

Directions

Trim and wash the vegetables. Cut carrots, leek and celery ribs into 4-5 cm (2 inch) julienne matchsticks. Peel and halve the onion, then cut into thin slices.

Heat the butter in a heavy casserole dish, add the vegetables, half a teaspoonful of salt and dried tarragon.

Sauté for about 5 minutes, without browning. Transfer 2/3 of the vegetables into a bowl.

Layer the sautéed vegetables and chicken strips into the casserole dish in this order, starting from the bottom: 1/3 of the vegetables, 1/2 of the chicken strips, 1/3 of the vegetables, 1/2 of the chicken strips, 1/3 of the vegetables.

Pour in the chicken stock, so the chicken and vegetables are covered (you may need more stock). Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat, cover and simmer gently for about 30 minutes, until the vegetables are soft and chicken cooked through.

Strain the cooking liquid into a bowl. Whisk egg yolks and cream until combined, then add the hot cooking liquid, spoonful at the time in the beginning ('to temper' the egg yolk mixture). Pour the sauce back into the casserole dish over the chicken and vegetables, stir in most of the parsley and heat until the first bubbles appear. Remove immediately (overheating will cause the egg yolks to curdle).

Divide into hot soup bowls and serve with boiled new potatoes.

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Laon

The French ***Flamiche aux Poireaux*** is a leek pie originating from the Picardy region. It is believed to be the Picardy equivalent of the quiche Lorraine since the typical leek pie is also a classic of family meals in Northern France. Some Picardy locals like to complement the mixture with some nutmeg, grated cheese and/or additional vegetables like carrots or broccoli.

The *Flamiche aux Poireaux* recipe first occurred in the late 18th century, in a French soldier's notebook with other anecdotes of that time. The Picardy speciality is described as a "kind of galette made with baker's dough".

Ingredients

1 tbsp vegetable oil
150 g diced bacon
30 g butter
white part of 3 medium leeks, finely sliced
400 g savoury pastry
4 large eggs
100 ml milk
150 ml cream
salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

1. Heat the oil in a wide non-stick pan and brown the bacon for 2-3 minutes. Transfer the bacon to a bowl.
2. Add the butter and the white of the leeks to the pan and cook over low heat for 10-15 minutes until the leeks are soft, stirring occasionally with a wooden spoon. Allow the leeks to cool.
3. Preheat the oven to 220°C.
4. Roll out the pastry to a thickness of about 4 mm. Line the tin with the pastry and prick the pastry about 30 times with a fork.
5. Spread the cold leeks and bacon over the pastry.
6. In a bowl, whisk together the eggs, milk and cream. Season with salt and pepper, then carefully pour the mixture over the leeks.
7. Place in the hot oven and bake for about 40 minutes until the pastry is cooked. Serve hot.

Obtaining the Testimonium

In order to qualify for the *Testimonium Peregrinationis ad Limina Petri* (certificate of pilgrimage) – similar to the “Compostela” for those who have walked, cycled or ridden to Santiago – you must be in possession of a *credential* (pilgrim passport), have had it stamped each day, and have walked to Rome from at least Acquapendente (130km) or cycled there from at least Lucca (400km). A *Testimonium* can be obtained from the following two places in Rome **(A)** and **(B)**.

A, Uffici della Canonica di San Pietro in the Vatican City. This is open on Mon–Tues, Thurs–Sat, 9.30am–12.30pm. To get there go first to the *Piazza del Sant’Uffizio (1)* on the opposite side of the *Piazza di San Pietro* from the one where you entered **(2)** and go through the *Ingresso del Petriano* (entrance) **(3)**, where the Swiss guards on duty will ask you what you want and direct you to the police booth next to it to scan any bags you have with you. You will then be directed to an office on the right, where your details will be recorded, your passport handed over and a visitor’s badge given to you before you are directed to the *Palazzo della Canonica (A)* (now to your left).

Be prepared for some of the officials, guards or policemen on duty not to be familiar with the Testimonium, so a certain level of Italian is useful.

Once inside you will be invited to sit down at a table and write any comments/reflections you may wish in the pilgrim book, and then be asked to fill in the details of yourself, your journey and the reason(s) for undertaking the pilgrimage in the *Via Francigena* ledger. In the meantime the official will take your *credential*, stamp it for the last time and issue you with your parchment *Testimonium*. (As you leave do not forget to return the visitor’s badge to the security office and collect your passport.)

The office is also closed on Vatican days of holidays (e.g. St Peter's day, 29th June, and of special Papal Ceremonies which are widely advertised).



B. Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi, *Piazza Pio XII no.9 (4)*, just off the *Piazza di San Pietro (2)*, is an organization that arranges group pilgrimages. They are open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat-Sun 9am-4pm (06.69896384), and on presentation of your stamped *credential* will provide you with a certificate of pilgrimage. The names of the recipients are not recorded.

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One of those who arrived in Rome this July was **Glenn Turner**, a member from Newcastle, Australia. He set out from Canterbury on April 25th and arrived in Rome 66 days later, on Sunday, June 29th. However, apart from simply walking the *Via Francigena*, the purpose of his journey was to raise funds for medical research into the "3 D's," - *Diabetes, Depression and Dementia*, the three rampant diseases of this century, and he reports that his efforts brought in close to a staggering \$100,000 by the time he had finished.

You can read about Glenn's experience in his blog: <http://3dhealingwalk.tumblr.com/archive>

The Rome of Robert

Garry Ridgway

Rome, by Robert Hughes, was published in 2011 and the pugnacious author died a year later. It is a scrumptious piece of work, ornate yet facile reading for pilgrims destined to walk the *Via Francigena* and follow the path of Sigeric the Serious to the Eternal City.

To grasp the essence of Rome is no mean effort and Robert Hughes certainly does that. In fact for foreign pilgrims - and I readily admit it - the city can be overwhelming, replete as it is with history, art, architecture and ubiquitous garbage. So it was with delight that I read the *Rome of Robert*, for all its flaws, from beginning to end, after I undertook my own pilgrimage in 2010.

My mentor of all things Roman here in Canberra has been another Robert, the right Reverend Robert Wilson, who directs his acolytes to Livy. Titus Livius worked on the *Early History of Rome* for 40 years until his death in AD17. For early times it's a classic, but I found it impenetrable, dense, deflative and confusing. The book is for purist historians, and possibly not for simple pilgrims setting out from Canterbury.

Hughes' book was slammed for inaccuracy, particularly by historian Mary Beard. "The first half of the book is little short of a disgrace - to both author and publisher."

In fact she is right: go to Livy. But Beard is an author too, and perhaps jealousy erupts here, for academics have long been terrorised by Hughes and his colonial insolence. Of course Hughes plays fast and loose with the truth. Take his muddle in your stride, for he captures the throbbing essence of Rome as no other writer has done.

Alongside Hughes in my bookcase is *History of Rome* by Michael Grant. It was first published in 1978, and is practical to dip into, because of its sweep and incisive style. Grant also knows how to construct a simple sentence, which seems beyond Edward Gibbon in *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. The prose style of Gibbon

(1737 -1794) is ponderously 18th century and I left the book on my shelf to read in retirement which is, in fact, now.

But I can dip into Hughes at will. As I have done recently on the chapter about Augustus, to learn that this title, "worthy of veneration" was bestowed by the Senate. Perhaps the *Rome* of Robert does not merit veneration but it is a good read for pilgrims with their sights on the Eternal City.

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When did you arrive in Rome?

We know how many *pilgrim passports* we issue each year – 130 in 2013, 142 till the end of August this year – and so we have a more or less accurate idea of how many pilgrims set off for Rome during that period. However, very (very) few of you tell us that you actually made it all the way there and received your *Testimonium*.

So far only two people out of the above 172 members have told us they arrived so we are still waiting for news of the remaining 170 other pilgrims who, so far, have remained silent...

We would like to know, though, so that we can include a section in the *Secretary's Notebook* section of future issues of our *Newsletter*. Email either the CPR secretary (pilgrimstoromeseecretary@yahoo.com) or the *Newsletter* editor (alisonraju@btopenworld.com) and tell us where and when you started, whether you walked, cycled or rode and when you arrived in Rome.

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Pilgrim accommodation in Barham, Kent. In issue #19 we gave details of Valerie Caless' offer of pilgrim accommodation at 3, The Grove, Barham, Kent, CT4 6PP, tel: (01227) 831630, email v.caless@vfast.co.uk No charge as such but small donation to cover costs welcome. Note, however, that Barham is **12km (7 miles)** from Canterbury, not 8km (5 miles) as originally stated.

Additions to the CPR Library, January to July 2014

Margaret Simonot

Chinn, Paul and Gallard, Babette: *Walkers', cyclists' and horse riders' Lightfoot guide to the Via Francigena; Besancon to Vercelli.* France: Pilgrimage Publications, 2013. 244pp. Location: CPR. Acc.no: 5865

Mooney, Brian: *The Wrong Way for a Pizza; on Foot from Rome to England.* London: Thorogood, 2013. 219pp. Location: CPR. Acc. no: 5869

Raju Alison: *Via Francigena; Pilgrim Trail Canterbury to Rome; Part 2. The Great St. Bernard Pass to Rome; Part 2 of 2-part guide.* Milnthorpe: Cicerone, 2014. 328pp. Location: CPR. Acc. no: 5853

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Secretary's Notebook

Bronwyn Marques

We have 623 members of which 258 are active paid-up ones:

Australia 34, Belgium 2, Canada 17, Cyprus 1, Denmark 6, Finland 2, France 4, Gibraltar 1, Iceland 1, Ireland 13, Italy 1, Japan 1, Netherlands 3, New Zealand 2, Norway 3, Poland 1, South Africa 3, Spain 1, Sweden 1, United States of America 45, United Kingdom 114.

Some idea of the growth in the number of people intending to walk or cycle the *Via Francigena* in any one year (though not the number receiving the *Testmonium*) can be obtained from the number of credentials issued by the CPR since we started numbering them:

2009 – 32, 2010 – 57, 2011 – 62, 2012 – 117, 2013 – 130, 2014 till end August – 142.

Recent Blogs

Bicigrinos Ride Again

Ben and Rishi's blog of their *Via Francigena* ride. A great blog for bikers to read.

<http://rishiandbenridebikes.blogspot.com.au/>

All Roads to Rome

Toni Paterson's blog of her walk from Lausanne to Rome

<http://allroadstorome.com/>

Walking to Jerusalem

Domigee's blog of her walk to Jerusalem with a companion.

<http://domigee.blog.co.uk/>

[Looking at Life from the Outside](#)

[Michael B's blog of his walk from Besançon to Rome](#)

<http://lookingatlifefromtheoutside.blogspot.co.uk/>

City to Champagne Walkies

James Samson's blog of his walk from London to Reims

<http://www.sigeric990.blogspot.co.uk/>

Unlikely Pilgrim

Masha's blog of her walk to Rome

<http://unlikelypilgrim.com/>

[3D Healing Walk](#)

[Glen Turner's tumblr blog in aid of diabetes, depression and dementia.](#)

<http://3dhealingwalk.tumblr.com/archive>

Roam to Rome

Michele Taylor's blog which will start from Winchester in April 2014

<http://roamtorome.wordpress.com/about/>

Meetings

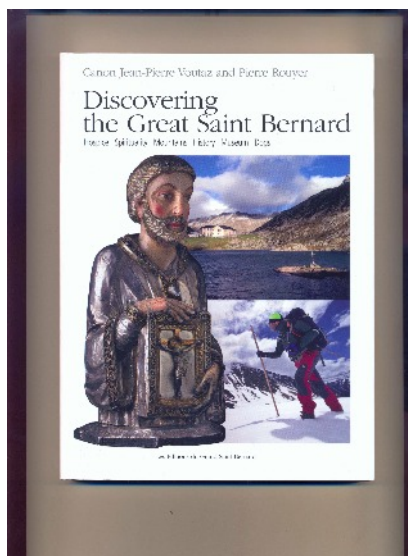
Saturday 4 October 4th "Pilgrim day" in Canterbury, focusing on the journey **to** that city as a pilgrim destination in itself as well as a starting point for a journey to Rome. See page 16 for details of this event.

Saturday November 1st CPR Open Meeting in the Conference Room of St James Church, Piccadilly, starting at 10.30am. The two speakers will be:

- *Giovani Caselli* who will speak about his work in the British Library and on the road rediscovering Sigeric's route to Rome
- *Alberto Alberti* who will speak about the *Via Francigena del Sud* (the route from Rome to Bari for those taking the ship across the Adriatic in order to continue their pilgrimage to the Holy Land) and its place in next year's pan European pilgrimage project " Pilgrims Crossing Borders" - from Norway to Puglia and on to Jerusalem.

Saturday March 7th 2015 CPR Annual General Meeting and Open Meeting in the Conference Room of St James Church, Piccadilly, starting at 10.30am, where the speaker will be Harry Bucknall.

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(To be reviewed in the next issue)

Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome

Founded November 2006

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CPR Publications

Rome: the Early Church. A Pilgrim's Guide. (*Pilgrim Guides to Rome 1*).

Howard Nelson, 2011.

The Einsiedeln Itineraries: A Pilgrim's Guide to Rome in Charlemagne's Time. (*Pilgrim Guides to Rome 2*).

Howard Nelson, 2013.

Guide to Accommodation and Services on the *Via Francigena*. Part 1: Canterbury to the Great Saint-Bernard Pass.

Alison Raju, 2011.

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These publications are available from the Confraternity of Saint James Bookshop, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8NY. This is open for personal visits from 11am to 3pm Thursday or at other times by appointment.

The CSJ's online bookshop can be accessed from its website: www.csj.org.uk

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