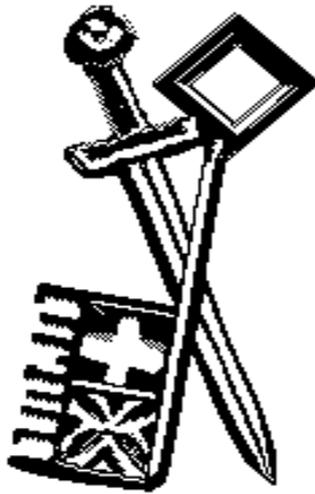


**CONFRATERNITY
OF
PILGRIMS TO ROME**



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013 No. 19

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Editorial

This is the nineteenth issue of the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome's *Newsletter*.

There are seven articles, the Chairman's report of the CPR AGM on March 1st this year, a book review, 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.

Ewa Ewak writes of her inner journey along the *Via Francigena*. Bronwyn Marques presents the first in a series of "Recipes along the *Via Francigena*," after which Robert Muirhead discusses the use of GPS units and their various pros and cons. Alberto Alberti and Stein Thue describe the Pilgrims crossing Borders' project, a pilgrim relay walk starting in Norway, going through Germany to Rome and then on to Jerusalem, scheduled for 2015. Chris George presents an appreciation of Brian Mooney's latest book, *The Wrong Way for a Pizza*, after which Alberto Alberti describes the walk along the historical *Via Appia* (northwards to Rome) in April-May this year. The *Newsletter* editors follow this with a plea for material for future issues after which Robert Muirhead provides accommodation feedback on parts of the *Via Francigena* in France, Switzerland and Italy.

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.

We would like to thank Ann Milner once again for providing a PDF file for the electronic version of this issue

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The Voice

Ewa Ewak

It's been over a year now since I arrived in Rome after more than a 1000km walk along *Via Francigena*. I started my journey in Switzerland as a hiker and ended it in Rome as a pilgrim. The first days were easy. I had the feeling that I was being moved along the way by the strength of adventure. As I passed numerous power stations I experienced my energy levels rising, as if the sheer view of the Alps was my source of energy. I expected that crossing the Great Saint Bernard Pass would be a challenge but the weather - even though somewhat capricious - was inviting, and so I reached the Pass without too much trouble.

Later I walked and walked and walked, and I realized that in spite of the fact that I am a rather sceptical person, I carried something more besides my backpack. I was hoping to hear a voice, or, rather: The Voice. So even though I thought the odds were very slim, I switched on my listening ears. Just in case. Hours and days and weeks were passing by, but the only sound I could hear was that of my lonely steps on white roads. Do you remember the tiny white gravel and the dust that took so long to settle after the occasional car passed by? Even now, when I listen carefully, I can hear the sound of my feet. One – two, one – two, one – two. And the hot, still air. No voice of God.

Around the fourth week on the Way something changed. It was not me anymore, who was moving. It was the Earth turning below my feet. All that was required from me was just to keep one of my feet up while the other was down, and then reverse the order. It was a bit as if I was on a running track in an indoor gym. One day I realized that between early morning and late afternoon the Earth under my feet changed position for over 40 kilometers, without much effort on my part. "Hey", I thought, "and I am way over 40! Not very fit, not very slim." My *veschicche* [blisters], huge as they were, stopped bothering me.

And only then I got an idea that the voice I want to hear would probably not come from the outside. So I tuned my listening ears inside, to what I thought must be a very thin little inner voice. But again, all I could hear were voices of the *Via*. My lonely steps on gravel. One – two, one – two, one – two, one – two. And my breathing – fully compatible with the steps. In – pause, out – pause, in – pause, out – pause. And I walked and walked and walked, and walked. I did not think much, which was a blessing. I was there.

Somewhere way into Tuscany instead of The Voice I discovered The Void. Huge, empty, infinite space inside me. At first, but only for a short period of time, it was a bit scary. But as I walked along with my void I saw that void was good. Then I discovered fear. So I walked along with my fear and I saw that fear was good. A few days later I discovered love. So I walked along with my love and I saw that love was good. And then I was in Rome.

Fear and love, I am made of these two, I think. And probably of my backpack, too.

I did not hear the voice of God - or did I?

* * * * *

Recipes along the *Via Francigena* (1)

Bronwyn Marques

In medieval times, it was common for Christians of all ages and social classes to embark on a pilgrimage to Compostela or Jerusalem. Travellers made their way along the *Via Francigena*, looking for places where they could find food and shelter. They stopped at towns along the way to purchase typical local products like onions from Certaldo, persimmons from Lucardo, cheese from Langres and wine from the Champagne region.

People in the Middle Ages used salt as a form of refrigeration and preferred to use their ovens solely to cook bread as the fat from roasted meats would contaminate "bread's dignity." Incredible recipes stem from medieval traditions such as "testaroli" from Lunigiana (a special type of macaroni), stuffed omelettes from the Garfagnana and "Martinacci" from Fucecchio. Siena's famed "panforte" (a delicious dessert) also has ancient origins.

Below is a recipe from Canterbury and in future *Newsletters* we will print regional recipes from other towns and provinces along the route.

UNITED KINGDOM CANTERBURY

Canterbury Tart

1-2 hours preparation time

30 minutes to 1 hour cooking time

Serves 10

Ingredients

For the pastry

100g/4oz butter, cubed

200g/8oz plain flour

25g/1oz icing sugar, sifted

1 egg, beaten

For the filling

4 eggs

200g/8oz caster sugar

2 lemons, rind and juice only, grated

100g/4oz butter, melted

2 large Bramley (cooking) apples (about 350g/12oz in weight), peeled

2 dessert apples, peeled and thinly sliced
25g/1oz demerara sugar

Preparation method

1. If making the pastry by hand, rub the butter into the flour and icing sugar until it resembles fine breadcrumbs.
2. Stir in the beaten egg and bring together to form a dough. This can also be done in a food processor.
3. Chill for about 30 minutes. Roll the dough out on a floured surface and line around 28cm/11in (3.5cm/1½in deep) flan tin. Form a lip around the edge. Chill for a further 30 minutes while making the filling.
4. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas 6.
5. To make the filling, beat the eggs, caster sugar, lemon rind and juice together in a large mixing bowl.
6. Stir in the warm melted butter.
7. Coarsely grate the Bramley apples directly into the mixture and mix well.
8. Remove the tart from the fridge and spread the runny lemon mixture over the base.
9. Level the surface with the back of a spoon and arrange the dessert apple slices around the edge, overlapping.
10. Sprinkle over the demerara sugar.
11. Put on a heavy baking tray and bake in the oven for about 40-50 minutes until the centre feels firm to the touch and the apples are tinged brown.

Serve

* * * * *

GPS: A Great Tool - but use with Care

Robert Muirhead

Dedicated Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation units and smartphone navigation apps are becoming more popular for walkers, but they don't do away with the need to have sound navigational skills when walking in potentially challenging environments that can occur, even on straightforward routes such as the *Via Francigena*.

Here I will focus on my experience with a Garmin Dakota 20 GPS unit and offer a few cautionary remarks. The following weblink gives a review of the Dakota 20, but it also shows screen shots of the various functions available: <http://www.gpsinformation.org/penrod/dakota/dakota.html>

A GPS unit gives you a location in three dimensions (latitude, longitude and altitude). It is also an accurate compass. Once the user's position has been determined, a GPS unit can calculate other information, such as speed, compass bearing, the actual track walked, trip distance for many days and distance to the day's destination.

GPS units are accurate to about +/- 15m according to Garmin, although you will see online claims for far greater accuracy.

Routes

The best GPS routes for the whole *Via Francigena* are available to buyers of the three-volume *LightFoot Guide to the Via Francigena* by Paul Chinn and Babette Gallard, which I used. A quick Google search shows that other digital routes for popular stages in Italy, for example, may be available online as GPX files.

Walkers can create their own routes manually. A typical daily stage on the *Via Francigena* (say 25km) can have 40 - 80 waypoints depending on the complexity of the route, so creating even one stage route can be quite tedious, let alone the 74 stages required to get from Canterbury to Rome. A waypoint is simply a location defined by latitude and longitude coordinates. But you don't necessarily have to key in actual coordinates to construct a route. You can simply select points on a digital map using appropriate software, such as Garmin "BaseCamp". The software will allow you to upload the route to your GPS unit as a GPX file.

Digital Maps

The Garmin Europe City Navigator map is quite detailed but has to be bought separately to the GPS unit, which comes with only a very basic world map. The Europe City Navigator map has no topographical detail, but does show minor rural roads, some accommodation and other information of more use to drivers than walkers. Garmin Topographical maps are very good in terms of detail, but are very expensive. Many other digital map suppliers can be found by a simple Google search. Some can be bought on eBay, but be careful of fakes.

Navigating a Route

On an actual walk, a GPS unit will show you the compass direction to the next waypoint, how far away it is and how long it will take you to walk there based on your average walking speed as measured by the GPS unit. It will also give you an estimated arrival time at your final destination that is useful for planning your day and booking accommodation.

The unit will beep just before you reach a waypoint. However, remember accuracy! If you create your own route from a 1:100,000 map you might be accurate to +/-1mm on the map, but that is +/-100m on the ground. Add in another +/-15m for the accuracy of the unit itself and your waypoint accuracy could be only +/- 115m. Routes using waypoints chosen by another GPS unit will be more accurate, but possibly only to +/-30m.

So care will be needed when navigating in forests with a lot of side tracks – or through towns with lots of turns on small streets. The GPS beeps are useful reminders that you are close to a waypoint, but situational awareness and “ground truthing” with a guidebook or physical map is still necessary. I have taken wrong turns several times in villages just by following GPS beeps uncritically at waypoints.

A GPS compass points to the next waypoint in a straight line, regardless of how the path to it actually twists and turns. At the start of a long, winding leg of say 1000m the compass may show the direction to the waypoint to be completely different to the direction you are actually walking at any given moment. If the path takes a complete U-turn, on switchbacks in steep terrain for example, the GPS unit may show you to be walking 180 degrees opposite to the next waypoint. That is disconcerting until you realise what is happening. Of course, it is obvious on short switchbacks, but may not be so obvious on winding forest paths.

Situational awareness is always important when navigating, but especially so with a GPS unit. On one occasion last year when I was an infatuated new user of my GPS unit I came to a fork on the *Via Francigena* where the GPS compass indicated one fork and my guidebook the other. I chose to believe in the “infallibility” of the GPS unit rather than the human-produced guide and set out on an unplanned forest ramble to the next waypoint.

A GPS unit can also lead to overconfidence that may have unwanted consequences. I had problems after Bouvernier when I walked the *Via Francigena* this year. In one place the path seemed to continue into the forest beyond a large landslide but it soon dwindled to faint (imaginary) traces as I made my way deeper into the forest. One often sees what one wants to see!

My GPS unit showed the next waypoint was only about 700m away and I was heading to it, albeit slowly. So I opted to press on, through increasingly difficult country with very thick vegetation pulling at my clothes and pack, and steep, crumbly slopes requiring me to haul myself up the sides of loose scree using trees. The ground was very broken underfoot with large rocks and fallen branches hidden in undergrowth. After about 45 minutes of strenuous bush-bashing I eventually reached the waypoint.

Needless to say it was a poor decision for a solo walker like me to press on. I should have gone back and looked for the correct path instead of following the GPS compass into the unknown. An accident was a possibility in such conditions. Or I could have reached a place that was actually impassable and been forced to turn around.

A GPS compass may show the way but it does not show the actual walking conditions en route – a very important point to remember before one becomes too psychologically committed to pressing on, seduced by the accuracy of a GPS unit. It’s a pretty basic warning to walkers that I ignored.

Recording a Track

A GPS unit will also record an accurate track of where you actually walk when following a route. “Tracks” in GPS jargon are where you actually walked and may contain over 1000 points for a daily stage, while “Routes” are where you planned to walk and may include 50 waypoints for a stage.

Tracks can be uploaded to websites and blogs and have geo-tagged photos attached, adding interest to an account of a walk. There are many excellent online blogs with tracks that can help others to plan their own walks.

A Track is useful if you go astray because the GPS unit will allow you to back-track accurately to a known point. Experienced walkers know that things often look very different when you come to re-trace your way in forests with multiple paths and forks. It is a good practice when walking in the bush to turn around occasionally to get an idea of what the path looks like if you need to retrace it. A GPS track can be a big confidence booster when retracing one’s steps after going astray.

GPS Unit Screens

The small screen of a GPS unit is not such a disadvantage as it may seem. You can easily zoom out to get the bigger picture when required and zoom right in for accurate navigation in tricky situations and through towns.

While on the subject of screens, those on dedicated GPS units such as the Garmin series are easily readable in very bright light, whereas (in my experience) LCD screens on smart phones are almost unusable in bright outdoor conditions. I would not rely on a smartphone navigation app without first trying it out in bright outdoor conditions.

Navigating with the Compass

The compass function is very useful for walkers who don’t want to slavishly follow a pre-determined route but who do want to check their navigation from time to time. Twisting tracks in featureless forests can be disorienting in dull conditions when shadows may not be visible for orientation.

I have met a few pilgrims on the *Via Francigena* who don’t even like following guidebook notes and prefer map and compass. That’s quite feasible in Italy but in France, where waymarking often seemed untrustworthy to me, a GPS unit is preferable to carrying the 7 or 8 IGN Top 100 series of paper maps.

In general, I would prefer not to navigate with a GPS unit at all on well-signed routes such as the *Camino Francés* and parts of the *Via Francigena* in Italy because navigating by beeps does isolate you from the bigger picture and causes one to focus too much on following instructions rather than on the countryside and all it has to offer the reflective walker. But the same criticism can be made of following detailed guidebook instructions.

Conclusion

A GPS unit is a wonderful aid to navigating confidently and for producing detailed records of your walks that can be shared online, but it is no substitute for sound navigational skills and, importantly, situational awareness.

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For **accommodation lists for Italy** go to viefrancigene.org and click on “Accoglienza.” Two lists appear (though sometimes they overlap): “pelligrina” (basic parish refugios, *ostelli* etc.) and “turista” (B&B, small hotels/pensione, religious houses with guest accommodation.)

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Pilgrims Crossing Borders

Alberto Alberti and Stein Thue

“Pilgrims Crossing Borders” is a pilgrim relay walk with many participants from several countries, where pilgrims from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Italy and elsewhere literally join up to pass on a specially made pilgrim staff and a special diary from Nidaros to Rome – and then on to Jerusalem. The journey is planned to start in Trondheim in April 2015.

The distance from Nidaros (the old name for Trondheim) to Rome is approximately 3000 kilometres. If you normally walk around 20 km a day, it will take you something like five months to get to Rome. If your pilgrimage started in Trondheim in April 2015, you would arrive in Rome around October 11th the same year. The next stage would depend on how you travel, but we expect to arrive in Jerusalem in November 2015. It sounds ambitious, but we think it’s possible.

itinerary

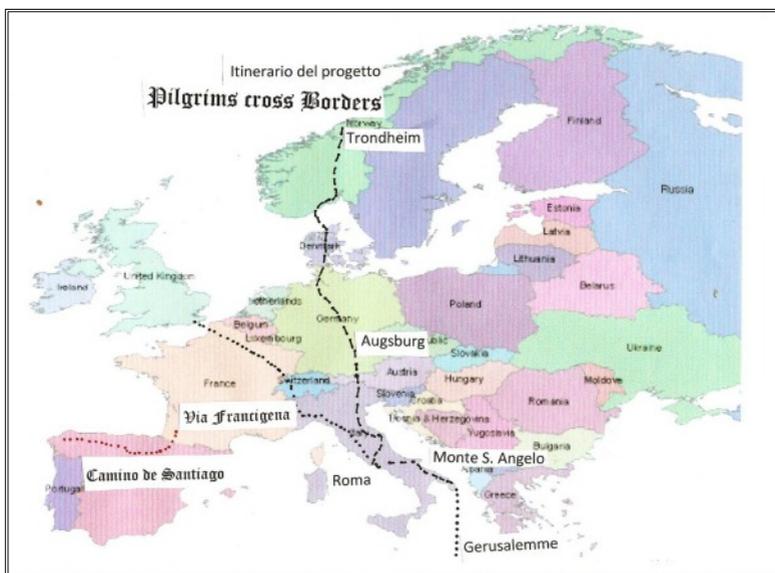
International Cooperation

A great deal of idealism, enthusiasm and will power will be necessary if we are to complete such a long walk, but it will be possible if we can arrange an international event based on a spirit of cooperation.

“Pilgrims Crossing Borders” will follow existing pilgrimage routes where possible. Through Europe we will follow the “Romweg of Stade” which goes from Stade, near Hamburg, then crossing Germany, Austria, Northern and Central Italy to Rome. This route follows the itinerary of the Abbot Albert von Stade in the 13th century. The route is being promoted by the German association “Via Romea” and the Italian “Via Romea Germanica.”

Luckily we have good connections and idealistic allies all over Europe. So far we have established co-operation with the following associations and enthusiastic contributors: three Scandinavian associations, the “Romweg von Stade” of Germany (from Stade to the border of the Alps), “Via Romea Germanica” (from the border of the Alps to Rome), “Rete dei Cammini” (which includes “Gruppo dei Dodici” - Rome to Benevento), “Speleo Trekking Salento” (Lecce, Brindisi and Otranto), 18 other associations and the CAI (Club Alpino Italiano) of Southern Italy (from Benevento to the Gargano and the Adriatic Sea).

The European Institute of Cultural Roads, the European Association of the Via Francigena and the National Pilgrim Centre in Norway have endorsed the idea of our pilgrim walk from Nidaros to Rome and Jerusalem. Other international participants may join. Consider yourself invited!



The pilgrim staff – which has been specially made for this event – will start its journey from Trondheim on April 23rd 2015. The Norwegians will walk - or ski, depending on the weather. Transport solutions will be chosen if necessary as the main idea is to keep to the schedule and ensure that the staff and the diary arrive at their destination at the agreed time and place. The temporary itinerary on the next page should give you an idea of what we have in mind. Detailed information will follow.

All the participants – from Nidaros to Roma and Jerusalem – are encouraged to

contribute a brief text about their day's walk in the diary, which will accompany the staff. A blog will also be set up where we will publish reports and pictures. All participants and volunteer helpers will receive a .pdf version of the final diary after the walk has been completed (i.e. a computer file with a scanned version of the diary in Adobe format).

"Pilgrims Crossing Borders Itinerary"
(draft, subject to change, comments are welcome)
Average distance per day: 22 km /14 English miles

Places	Departure dates	Stages
Trondheim/Nidaros- Oslo	23 April - 23 May	30
Oslo – Larvik	23 May - 29 May	6
Larvik-Hirtshals	29/30 May	Ferry, one day only
Hirtshals - Fredrikshavn- Flensburg	30 May - 21 June	21
Flensburg – Stade	21 June - 2 July	10
Stade	2 - 3 July	Day of rest
Stade – Augsburg	3 July - 8 August	36
Augsburg	8-9 August	Day of rest
Augsburg - Austrian Border	10 August - 19 August	9
Austrian Border - Brenner Pass	19 August - 22 August	3
Brenner Pass – Orvieto	22 August - 4 October	41 (1 day of rest included)
Orvieto – Rome	4 October - 12 October	8
Rome	12-13 October	Day of rest
Rome – Benevento	13 October - 26 October	13
Benevento- Monte San Angelo/Siponto	26 October- 3 November	7
Siponto – Brindisi	3 November - 17 November	14
Brindisi - Santa Maria de Leuca	17 November - 27 November	10
The route continues to Jerusalem	Details to be decided	

A meaningful walk

We believe that an international collaboration such as this will create international dialogue and fraternisation. We also want the pilgrim walk to be based on values such as hospitality, tolerance, dialogue, solidarity, human rights and peace. In this way we hope to include participants from all sorts of backgrounds to meet, walk and talk together. We want to tie bonds and build friendship, crossing boundaries both literally and metaphorically. Being a pilgrim means becoming a "stranger" so as to gain insight and understanding. Our walk should symbolise diversity and togetherness, and everyone is welcome to join, regardless of religious denomination.

Welcome pilgrims

We invite groups as well as individual pilgrims to join the walk for one or more stages. An updated and detailed itinerary will be published this autumn (2014). Pilgrims who wish to participate in the walk should contact the local organizers, i.e. the pilgrim confraternities and/or contact persons who are responsible for the stages in question. Detailed contact information will also be published on our blog "Pilgrims Crossing Borders:" <http://picrobo.blogspot.no/>

We would like to extend a special invitation to the members of the Confraternity of Saint James and the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome to join in the great walk next year. We would be most grateful for your support and participation.

Questions and queries are welcome. If you would like to participate, please let us know.

Contact details

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

Signing up for the walk

To send us e-mails, please replace "(at)" with @ in the above addresses. Contact info for the walk through Germany and Austria will follow.

* * * * *

Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral

Evensong is at the same time throughout the year: 17.30 Monday-Friday and 15.15 Saturday & Sunday.

There are some rare occasions when the weekend Evensong is moved to the later 17.30 time (particularly if there is a large evening concert requiring rehearsals in the afternoon.) If you want to check a specific date, service information is also available on their website: <http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/worship/services>

* * * * *

Brian Mooney's *The Wrong Way for a Pizza*

Chris George

In place of a conventional book review what follows is an appreciation of Brian's latest book, London: Thorogood 2013, 219 pages.

At last year's CPR Annual General Meeting I sat with my leg in a plaster cast, next to a smartly-dressed gentleman who I recognised as Brian Mooney from the pictures in his book about his 2010 walk to Rome following the *Via Francigena*, entitled *A Long Way for a Pizza*. Brian was there to give a talk to the members present about his experiences and impressions following his reverse, 1,324 mile walk the previous year, from Rome back to his home in Coggeshall, Essex. Now we have the book!

Brian is a man of many parts, author and journalist, having spent thirty years working as a Reuters Correspondent in many parts of the world, and an elected Common Councilman of the City of London for the ancient Queenhithe Ward. However, as far as I am concerned, his greatest attribute is that he is a very enthusiastic long distance walker. I share this compulsive preoccupation with the open road and its adventures but did wonder what prompted his desire to make the return journey from Rome. The "challenge," he explains, came by way of an observation by a friend: "In the Middle ages pilgrims walked home. They didn't have the luxury of Ryanair."

Brian spent three years during his career with Reuters as their correspondent in Rome, and he reported on three Popes during these three years in the Eternal City.

Two walks, there and back from Rome three years working as a correspondent in Rome - is it just "serendipity" that we find the following: "the pathway leading up to St Pauls Cathedral from the end of the Millennium Bridge, which comes ashore on the north bank of the River Thames in Queenhithe Ward, is called "Peter's Hill?"

Perhaps not surprisingly, being a journalist, this book is well-written and contains many astute observations about the people he met and places he visited.

Obviously, it is the record of a journey, and consequently has a well-defined beginning and end. He leaves Rome on the 14th July 2012, keeping mainly to the *Via Francigena*, whilst heading to the Alps under the scorching sun of a very hot continental summer; the heat became a feature of the walk until he reached northern France. He summed up his feelings as he headed north with the words that "it was if I was trespassing on my own past". On long-distance walks, be they "pilgrimages" or not, friendships are made and Brian was missing them.

However, he had the pleasure of being joined by his wife Gail in Tuscany for a few days, where they met an Englishman walking south, one Harry Bucknall. Brian, like all seasoned long-distance walkers is well aware that the less weight you carry the better. His maxim is that “a credit card weighs less than a tent” . Harry, however, had 17 kilos on his back and he christened Brian the “Papal Nuncio” because he stayed in “posh hotels”. Make no mistake, Brian may prefer hotels to hostels but he is a very accomplished strong walker, covering stages in all that heat in very impressive times and, overall for the whole trip, averaging nearly 21 miles per day. I was also impressed, nay jealous, how he managed, on occasions to seek out exotic ladies to massage away the discomfort of aching limbs following a long, hard day. One of these ladies who happened to be from Brazil told him: “ I’ve never seen a pilgrim before.” “I’m not sure I am one” was Brian’s reply, and the question of what constitutes “being a pilgrim” has no definitive answer in my opinion.

However he did meet some people from his walk towards Rome again, one such being Danilo Parisi, “the Admiral of the River Pô.” He is a person Brian considers to be “one of the gatekeepers of the modern pilgrimage to Rome.” I myself regret never meeting Danilo when I walked the *Via Francigena* in 2005 but I was informed in Orio Litta that his boat had broken down. Both Danilo and Brian had some interesting comments about the future of the *Via Francigena*.

A niggling concern for Brian on this journey was the condition of his boots. Do you believe in “angels?” Harry Bucknall had asked him and then told him they were lurking around on the *Via Francigena*, and they appear to have rescued Brian a number of times when boots and trusty yellow rucksack broke apart.

Striking out on one’s own from the prescribed guide book route, to go “off piste,” is exciting and can be rewarding. Not wishing to repeat the crossing of the Alps via the Great Saint-Bernard pass, he opted to cross over into Switzerland using the Theodule Pass that links Cervinia with Zermatt . For this he had to hire the services of a guide cross a glacier safely, meeting up with another old friend in the process and recalling past climbing experiences on the Matterhorn. Switzerland brought back memories and renewed friendships from the “old days” but also a number of frustrating encounters. After his brief reunion with the *Via Francigena* in Switzerland he went “off piste” again over the Jura mountains, heading for Dijon and Paris rather than Besançon and Reims.

So - after eight days crossing Switzerland - he walked through an abandoned border post into France and onto the “home straight.”

More boot and accommodation problems were lying in wait just across the border in France but, once again, problems were overcome. By *routes départementales*, Burgundian canal towpaths, *pistes cyclables* and the help of further “angels,” he traversed “la France profonde” until the rooflines of Paris hove in to view. No easy task crossing a capital city on foot but, once again,

knowledge gained on previous visits proved invaluable and enhanced his experiences.

The route chosen to Calais contained many memories of the Great War and was 182 miles from Paris. Near Abbeville he intersected with the the route he took to Santiago some 12 years previously. Amazingly these 182 miles from Paris to Calais were “ticked off” in just seven days.

The “home run” from Dover began in the company of another old friend. Having whizzed along the *routes departementales* in France, the loose paths of the North Downs Way were a bit of a struggle. Refreshment was taken at “The Bell” in Shepherdsweil where, seven years earlier on my way to Rome, I heard of the terrible 7/7 bombings in London, then into Canterbury and, for Brian, a decidedly underwhelming welcome from staff in the cathedral. Another river crossing this time, his city ward friend the River Thames, by ferry from Gravesend to Tilbury. On his own again from Tilbury he headed for the “Dubai of Essex,” Basildon. His last night was spent in there, no *tagliatelle ai funghi*, here just the offerings of “Pizza Express” - how appropriate! Then he found himself on “St Peter’s Way” again as he neared his Essex home and a reunion with his wife Gail on the outskirts of Coggeshall. Together they walked across the fields to the village church of St Peter ad Vincula and then home to Church Street.

(Guess what Brian didn’t want for his “welcome home” dinner!)
To conclude, and as Harry Bucknall remarked on reading this book: “a most enjoyable tale – and worthy of Saint Augustine himself.”

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Difficult *Via Francigena* section after Martigny

To help those who have not yet walked the route, Robert Muirhead has uploaded over 20 geotagged photos of this section to Picasa: <https://picasaweb.google.com/bob.m.melb/TrickyRouteAfterMartigny#>
Here you will be able to see the exact locations of the photos in Google Maps (or Google Earth if installed on your computer) and so get a rough idea of the conditions.

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Walk with us on the Historical *Via Appia* (Benevento to Rome). April 17th - May 7th 2014

Alberto Alberti

The Roman *Via Appia* (*Regina Viarum* or “Queen of all Roads”) dates back to the 4th century BC. Apostles walked it, emperors, and popes, saints such as St. Francis of Assisi and St. Thomas Aquinas, artists like Petrarch and Tasso and (remember his book *Travel in Italy*), musicians such as Mozart. Along it are running the paths of the *Via Francigena* or *Via dell'Angelo*, used by pilgrims for ten centuries but today almost forgotten. For the last six years we are striving to revive it, walking from Benevento in Campania and crossing the river Garigliano to Rome (some 300 km in 20 days, 350 m max. difference in level).



The itinerary is very interesting, dotted with Roman temples, Cistercian basilicas, monasteries and hermitages, with castles and Renaissance palaces, in villages sometimes older than Rome. We walk on sandy beaches by the sea, on mountains and country paths, along the shores of four lakes, in six natural parks, in thick woods and through Mediterranean vegetation. 20% is on original Roman roads. We will enjoy the cultural, spiritual and social values of the way, attend concerts of local ancient music composers and so on. In each place we will meet local communities, country people and shepherds, with interesting events. Above all we will appreciate the company of our fellow pilgrims. Some of the participants are religiously motivated, others not, and nothing is obligatory, so if you prefer you can avoid any involvement and enjoy time on your own.

On the negative side: some 8% of the route is on national roads with heavy traffic and 22% is on paved roads (but with limited traffic).

On arrival in Rome on May 7th we will receive the *Testimonium*, a parchment certificate from the Vatican acknowledging our pilgrimage to Rome.

The route: leaving Benevento on April 18th, we continue through S. Agata dei Goti, S. Angelo in Formis, Calvi, Teano, Sessa Aurunca, Castelforte, Minturno, Formia, Fondi, Terracina, Fossanova, Sezze, Bassiano, Sermoneta, Ninfa, Cori, Velletri, Castelgandolfo, arriving in Rome on May 6th. The following day we will attend the “Welcome” festivities.



Cost per person: Enrollment: 10€. Daily cost per person: 2€ insurance (legally required in Italy for any group with a guide). 3€ for vehicle (luggage transportation and assistance; this is optional).

Accommodation: in double room, breakfast & evening meal (average cost: 45€). Sometimes in cheaper hostels in multi-bed rooms (average cost with meal: 32€). Or pilgrims can arrange their own accommodation.

We are a small "non profit" association (20 members) of friends, expert in pilgrimages and resident along the pilgrim routes. We are not tourist operators. Our guides pay for their own expenses. They speak English and elementary German and French.

Our objective: to re-establish (and sometimes re-invent) a century-old way to go on foot from the south to Rome. We make a special effort to develop the cultural/spiritual content of the way and to cultivate friendships along the way. Collaboration and participation from pilgrim members of the group is welcomed.

Note:

- Participation in only a part of the walk is not encouraged, but accepted for at least 5 stages.
- Benevento can be reached by train from Rome or Naples.
- The walk is not physically very demanding, but some previous training is recommended.
- Our group will be of no more than 20 people (about 40% foreigners).
- There are foreign pilgrims from the two past walks who are prepared to answer your questions.

Who to contact: Alberto Alberti, Largo Pepere 24, 00151 Roma.

E-mail: ro_albea@hotmail.com

Tel. (00 39) 39065370765, mobile (00 39) 393491648614

Programme**April**

17 Meeting in Benevento

18 Benevento - Sant'Agata dei Goti (25 km) *Good Friday, Traditional events*

19 Sant'Agata dei Goti - Sant'Angelo in Formis (22 km) *Medieval Abbey*

Sunday

20 Sant'Angelo in Formis - Calvi Risorta (14 km) *Easter ceremonies*

21 Calvi Risorta – Teano (10 km) *Agricultural area*

22 Teano - Sessa Aurunca (14 km) *National Park*

23 Sessa Aurunca - Castelforte (Suio) (14 km) *Crossing the river*

24 Suio Ss. Cosma e Damiano - Minturno (16 km) *Ruins of Roman town*

25 Minturno - Formia (17.3 km) *On sandy beach*

26 Formia - Gaeta (11 km) *By sea and then National Park*

Sunday

27 Gaeta - Itri - Fondi (23 km) *Via Appia Antica*

28 Fondi - Terracina (22.5 km) *Mountain on Via Appia Antica and lake*

29 Terracina - Fossanova (Priverno) (km 22) *National Park and Abbey*

30 Fossanova - Priverno - Sezze (21.3 km) *Mountain and plain*

May

1 Sezze - Bassiano (11.5 km) *On mountain*

2 Bassiano - Sermoneta (km 9) *On mountain and Renaissance castle*

3 Sermoneta - (Norma) - Cori (16 km) *Ruins of Medieval town*

Sunday

4 Cori - (Giulianello) - Velletri (21 km) *Lake*

5 Velletri- Nemi-Castelgandolfo (Albano) (20 km) *Woods and two lakes*

Tuesday

- 6 Castelgandolfo ROMA (20.5 km) **(total 330 km)** *Via Appia Antica*
7 Welcome ceremonies *Vatican and Capitol Hill*

Associazione "Gruppo dei Dodici," Via Morosini 14 A, 00153 Roma.
www.romaeFrancigena.eu tel: 065370765 mobile: 3491648614

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Pilgrim Accommodation

a) Barham, Kent If you want to spend the morning in Canterbury before you leave and just walk a short stage (about 8km – 5 miles) in the afternoon Valerie Caless can offer pilgrims a room with a double bed and breakfast (phone or email ahead). No charge as such but a small donation to cover the costs would be welcome. 3, The Grove, Barham, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 6PP. Tel: 01227 831630, email v.caless@vfast.co.uk

b) Between Besançon and Jougue Francis Geere has overnight space for up to 4 (2 couples) at 11 rue du Chateau, 25330 Nans sous Sainte Anne. He can go to collect/deliver pilgrims from/to wherever they have had enough for the day (between Besançon and Jougue). Tel: 0033 381 865 541 and mobile 0033 668 472 580.

c) Rome The brand new albergue in Rome is located a couple of hundred meters from the Tiber river. It is run by the Confraternità di San Jacopo (who also runs the albergues in Abbazia Isola and Radicofani). Pilgrims can stay for two nights. Doors open at 15.00 and close at 22.00. Phone ahead (327 231 9312).

Suore Franciscane del Cuore Immacolato de Maria,
Via dei Genovesi, Trastevere.

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We need your help!

Alison Raju & Chris George

The CPR, with 200 plus members, doesn't have nearly such a big pool of prospective contributors to its *Newsletter* as does (for example) the Confraternity of St. James (with just under 2,000) so we need your help – all of you! - to provide articles, information about new books, events, people, places etc. relevant to the pilgrimage to Rome for future issues if we are to continue to be able to keep it going.

An obvious topic is experiences of pilgrim journeys but in the interests of variety we normally limit these to one per issue. Other subjects that come easily to mind are articles on historic monuments and prominent places along the way but there is also a wealth of other things you must all have seen, heard or noticed as you made your way towards Rome which would be of interest to other readers. For example, and in no particular order:

- All the many items that come under the general heading of “vernacular architecture” – mills, bridges, fountains, wayside crosses, *lavoirs* (in France in particular), communal ovens and other buildings and practical features still extant and characteristic of life in these places in former times;
- Religious iconography and depictions of saints and their different attributes;
- Flora and fauna, medicinal plants, items of geological interest along the way;
- Famous people connected in some way with the pilgrimage;
- Market halls, fairs, former pilgrim hospitals;
- Place names and other topics of linguistic interest (how many of us already knew, for example, that the derivation of the verb “to canter” stems from “at a Canterbury pace?”);
- War Graves in northern France;
- The Ottonian frescoes in Aosta;
- Food;
- Church towers (the *clocher comtois* or “à l’impériale” in the Franche-Comté region of France with their colourful enamelled roofs, such as the Cathédrale de Saint-Jean in Besançon (and some 700 others...);
- Miracles;
- Birds, animals (the marmots in the Alps, for example),
- Pilgrim dress in former times;
- Interesting corners in Rome and other cities;
- Walking, cycling, riding equipment;
- Church clocks and bells;

The list is endless...

As a rough guide substantial articles should be somewhere between 1000 and 1500 words, according to the subject matter, but we can be flexible. Book reviews (300-500 words maximum) are also invited, as is also information suitable for inclusion in the "Secretary's Notebook" section.

Short items can be sent in an email but longer articles should be included as attachments and most WORD documents are acceptable. If you send pictures, though, please do NOT integrate them into the text but send them as separate files (indicating where you want them to be placed).

Material for the June issue of the *Newsletter* should normally reach the editor by early May and by the end of November for the December number. If you are preparing a lengthy item it will help, if you know ahead of time, to alert us to this in advance.

We look forward to an avalanche of contributions!

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French Pilgrims Walk from Calais to Arras After walking from Canterbury to Dover in 2013 the AVFF (Association de la Via Francigena France) is organising the next stage of their walk to Rome, from Calais to Arras this year. They will leave Calais in the morning of Friday, 26.9.14, and arrive in Arras later in the day on Monday 29.9.14. Some segments will be done by car or public transport. CPR members are invited to join them for this walk.

For more information contact Philippe before June 15th:
pseurre@hotmail.com

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Accommodation Feedback

Robert Muirhead

I was surprised that free, fast WiFi is almost universally available in hotels and many *alberghi*. The days of hotels having a public computer for guests to use are gone.

Prices for Swiss accommodation are given in Swiss Francs (SF). 1 Swiss Franc (SF) = 0.8€.

Besancon: *Hotel Florel*. Very close to the train station, but a little remote from the town centre – although that won't be a problem when the new tram system is operating. Good room. Comfortable bed. Free WiFi. Will hold luggage for an extended period if you plan to return after the walk. Excellent breakfast. Single room €59, breakfast €11.50.

Trepot: *La Ferme1839*. Single room and breakfast €50. Dinner €18. Nice welcome on arrival, with a cold drink and fruit. Dinner in the garden with hosts. Nice ambience, decor. Comfortable bed. Quiet village setting. Good breakfast. WiFi.

Aubonne: *La Ferme du Chateau* . Nice welcome on arrival. Dinner with hosts. Nice ambience. Comfortable bed. Quiet village setting. Poor mobile reception, so my hosts phoned and made a booking for me in Pontarlier. I don't have the costs for this stay, but I seem to recall it was similar to La Ferme 1839 at Trepot.

Pontarlier: *Hotel St Pierre*. Single room €65. breakfast €9. Very central right on the main square. Dinner not provided but plenty of places to eat close by. Comfortable bed. Free WiFi.

Jougne: *La Couronne*. Comfortable room and bed. Single room, breakfast, dinner €115. Very nice but expensive. Free WiFi.

Finanche Montagne: Answering machine, no returned call.

Auberge des Enchaux: Phone disconnected when called. Noticed the building was being worked on as I passed and was told the auberge had closed down.

Chavornay: *Daisy Nicolet*, *Arlette Martin* and *Gite du Charron* all fully booked. It was a Saturday. *Hotel de la Gare* is closed on Saturday. So I could not stay in Chavornay.

Orbe: *Hotel/Motel Mosaïques*. A fairly basic motel out of town on the main road, no shops or places to eat close by. No dinner available but you can buy substantial hot snacks at the bar. Staff were very helpful finding me a place to stay for the next day. Comfortable room and bed. Good breakfast. Free WiFi. Single room and breakfast SF105.

Echallens: *Hotel Beauregard*. Off the route but the best accommodation option I could find on the day. A basic highway motel about 2km out of town. Basic rooms (20 available) SF88 single. Will take Euros. Bed OK. No breakfast in the attached restaurant until 8:30am (pay extra SF13) but there is a good breakfast place in Echallens on the route for earlier starters. Excellent dinners available in the hotel restaurant from 6pm, pizza SF19.

Le Break, **Echallens** did not answer and phone disconnects.

Hotel Central, **Mont sur Lausanne** closed Sundays.

Pension Bon Sejour, **Lausanne** full. Close to the route through Lausanne and

so quite popular.

Cully: *B&B Le Vigny* and *Comfort Hotel Intereurope* both full. Stayed at *Hotel Restaurant au Major Davel* in **Cully**. Fantastic location right on the lake with lake views from the rooms and restaurant. Very expensive, but the room was only 3.5stars at best. You certainly pay for the view and not the room. Excellent restaurant. Helpful staff. Free WiFi. Single room and breakfast SF120, dinner SF55. Can't recommend the hotel because of the cost.

Villeneuve: *Hotel du Soleil*. Good location in the town and close to the route. Friendly welcome. Good breakfast. Good room. Comfortable bed. Single room and breakfast SF99.

Saint Maurice: *Hotel la Dent du Midi*. Very convenient location for cafes, food stores etc. Good evening meal. Good breakfast. Comfortable bed. Free WiFi. Friendly staff. Single room and breakfast SF85, dinner SF28.

Martigny: *Hotel du Forum*. Out of town but on the route for the next day. Few shops or places to eat. Good rooms. Comfortable bed. Excellent dinner and breakfast. Single room, breakfast SF108, dinner SF 33.

Orsieres: *Hotel Terminus*. Very close to the train station and tourist office. Food store and boulangerie close by. Good evening meal and breakfast. Single room, dinner and breakfast SF112. Comfortable bed.

Bourg St Pierre: *Hotel du Cret*. Outside the village on the main road. Good restaurant . Friendly staff and welcome. Small shop to buy food and basic necessities eg toiletries. There is a shortcut down the hill across a field directly into the village and the VF route to save a long switchback loop back to the village via the main road. Ask staff to show you. Free WiFi. Single room and breakfast SF92.

Col du Grand Saint-Bernard: *Hospice*. Friendly welcome and hot drink. Filling basic dinner and breakfast. Comfortable room and bed. Religious services. Single room, dinner, breakfast, picnic lunch for next day SF73. Café, souvenir shop in the village. You can change surplus Swiss francs at the village café. Museum. The hotel is directly across the main road from the Hospice.

Etroubles: Nuns at *Casa Alpina Sacro Cuore* would not let me stay and suggested other places. Seemed unwelcoming. Not sure if they were full or were closed for some reason. But there are two hotels in the village, both visible as you walk on past *Casa Alpina*.

Hotel Ristorante Col Serena, **Etroubles**. Free Wifi. Comfortable room and bed. You can also change Swiss francs to Euros in the town. Good basic dinner and breakfast. Breakfast not before 8am. Mobile reception poor. Single room and breakfast €52, dinner €28.

Aosta: *Hotel Europe*. Very central and on the route out of town for the next

strenuous stage to Chatillon. Good modern hotel with all facilities. Comfortable room and bed. Excellent breakfast. Single room and breakfast €70. Very busy with a large (not noisy) tour group during my stay . Free WiFi.

Chatillon: *Albergo Dufour*. Basic folding bed in a cramped single room (€20). Other rooms available. Uncomfortable bed. Very helpful owner went to great lengths to help me find a place to stay for the next day, including printing maps and showing me the route on Google Street View. Dinner available in the town. Breakfast available from the café at the Albergo from 7am.

Les Souvenirs at Issogne was full. The lady at *les Souvenirs* suggested another place in Issogne, *La Cuchinella* (not sure of the spelling) but she did not have the phone number. Later I found *Albergo Bar Brenve, Franzione la Colombiero 2, Issogne* on Trip Advisor but it was after I had booked *B&B il Casello at Verres*. There are quite a few places in Verres and it might be a better stop than Issogne as it is close to the route.

Stayed at *B&B il Casello, Verres*. Nice welcome. Good rooms. Right next to the train station. Comfortable bed . Basic dinner and breakfast available. Single room and breakfast €20, dinner €10. It is a bit far out of the Centre of Verres to go to cafés and shops.

Pont St Martin: *B&B il Castel*. Very central, close to the Roman Bridge. Flower covered building . Excellent modern facilities. Very comfortable room and bed. Free WiFi. Good places to eat close by. Excellent breakfast. Owner very helpful and tried to solve a problem with my GPS unit. Single room and breakfast €60. Recommended for quality and service – one of my two favourite stays on this section of the VF.

Ivrea: *Albergo Luca*. Central and close to the route. Noisy room, both from street and from next rooms eg could hear people using the toilet. Uncomfortable single bed in a small room. Breakfast OK. Good restaurant close by for dinner. Single room and breakfast €45.

Stopped at **Roppolo** to avoid long stage to Santhia. As a result I stayed at the warmest and most uplifting place of the whole journey from Besançon to Vercelli: *Villa Emilia* and its fantastic owner Loretta. Wonderful room, garden and a separate open building for meals and relaxation in good weather. Loretta has lived in Pakistan and Egypt and the whole place is decorated with things she has brought back. It turned out that we have both been to the same remote places in both countries. Loretta cooked an excellent dinner for me and the other pilgrim staying the night because the local restaurants happened to be closed that evening. She is a remarkably hospitable person. She phoned ahead to book us rooms in San Germano. Single room, breakfast €25. In fact, I would make a point of arranging my stages to stay there.

San Germano: *Albergo delle Miniere*. Single rooms face the very busy main

road. I think the double rooms face the other way. Single room and breakfast €20. Ten rooms in all. Room OK. Bed uncomfortable. No hot water in the morning. Very small breakfast handed out individually (one small croissant and a cup of coffee), but you can buy extra. An excellent pizzeria in the village if you don't want to have dinner in the albergo.

Vercelli: *Hotel Restaurant il Giardinetto*. I chose it because it is close to the rail station and it was the last day of my walk. Rooms good with aircon. Ask for the aircon remote control at reception. Good restaurant. Comfortable bed. A little out of the way for visiting the main sights of Vercelli. Free WiFi. Single room and breakfast €65, dinner €25.

Typos, errors

Albergo Vittoria, Santhia phone is +39 (0)161 947 02. The number in the CPR list (+39 0161 930 654) is a fax number.

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Facebook There is now a *Via Francigena* Facebook page, moderated by three of our members. To access it (you need to be on Facebook already) go to the search bar and type in *Via Francigena*. This will take you to the appropriate site.

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Chairman's Report: 7th Annual General meeting of the Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome, March 1st 2013

Joe Patterson

Thank you for coming here today to our 7th AGM. I hope you find it interesting.

Some eight years ago we set up what was to become this Confraternity. I was part of the original group and we had William Marques as our leader/Chairman. Initially we struggled along with membership in double figures but since then membership has steadily increased. Today, it stands at 181 paid-up members, although some 553 people have been recorded as members at some time. In 2009 we issued 32 credentials, in 2013 we issued 130 and so far this year, 2014, we have issued 38.

As our membership has grown so also have the tasks we have to do. In 2008 we changed from a small informal group to a more formal group complete with rules and a Constitution. This led to a committee (Steering Group) being formed and William Marques became our first Chairman. It is due to William's leadership and commitment that we have progressed so much.

In no particular order the current members of our Steering Group are:

William Marques who is now our Membership Secretary and he also maintains our accommodation lists.

Bronwyn Marques continues as our Secretary and also our Minute Secretary and I rely so much on her to make sense of our sometimes rambling discussions.

Robert White is our Treasurer who looks after all our money. (I am assured it is only a coincidence that he spends so much time abroad!)

Ann Milner is our Webmaster. At this time, she is in China teaching English to Chinese students. Ann continues to maintain our website and she also sends us very interesting reports of life in her part of China.

Alison Raju is one of the editors of our *Newsletter*, our "Translator," and is a writer of pilgrim guides. Her latest guide along the *Via Francigena* from the Great Saint-Bernard Pass to Rome has now been published. And is also on sale here today.

Alison Payne, our previous Treasurer, has had a difficult year with ageing parents and has not had much time to take part in our activities. Thankfully her problems are now resolved and I am sure she is looking forward to doing all the tasks nobody else wishes to undertake.

Jim Brodie has taken on the task of putting us on Facebook. He is working with Jonas Ewe, a member, and I believe they are doing well even though I do not know what they are talking about at times.

Last but not least is Yvonne Loftus. Yvonne has put a huge amount of work into the workings of the group. Her organisational skills and clear thinking have proved a great asset to the group.

I must also thank Chris George who works with Alison in producing the *Newsletter* and also Margaret Simonot, a member of the Confraternity of Saint James and their librarian, who has volunteered to be responsible for our library.

I am grateful to all the members of the Steering Group for all the work they have done and for the help and guidance they have given me.

The Steering Group tries to meet at least four times a year, plus AGM's and Open Days. Last year proved difficult with many members unable to attend and one meeting having to be cancelled. This issue will be addressed later.

Last year we decided to hold an Open Day in Canterbury to coincide with a French group of pilgrims walking from Dover to Canterbury. I must thank everybody who took part in this. Yvonne who spent so much energy and skill in making all the arrangements, Jim the super tea-maker, Brian Mooney for his presentation and William and Bronwyn for their great support on the day. Also, Alison Raju, Brian and Yvonne for walking with the French pilgrims. In some ways, the event for various reasons could be described as a "failure" but against that it had a happy ending. (It is not my intention to report on the event in detail. Laws of libel and slander apply in France. I therefore suggest you talk to the members involved for more information.)

Once again, I thank you all for coming, especially two of our Australian members who have made a special "stop off" in London to come here today on their way to resume their pilgrimage in Vercelli.

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Book Review

Via Francigena – Pilgrim Trail Canterbury to Rome 2: The Great St Bernard Pass to Rome

Alison Raju, *Via Francigena – Pilgrim Trail Canterbury to Rome – 2: The Great St Bernard Pass to Rome*, Cicerone Press, 2014, 342 pages, multiple photos and maps, £16.95, ISBN: 978-1-85284-607-7

It seems unwise to review a guidebook without using it to walk the route but the author, Alison Raju, and the publisher, Cicerone Press, both have so much experience that I am confident that this will be as authoritative a guide as those they have produced for the first section of the *Via Francigena* from Canterbury to the St Bernard Pass and the Caminos.

The guide is in two parts plus appendices: As users of Cicerone guides will know the format is pocket-sized and designed for easy access and reading when on the road or path.

Part 1 Introduction - in 42 pages covers the history and, geography of the route and gives practical advice on planning, equipment and travel arrangements. It also describes the differences between the *Via Francigena* and the *Camino Francés* as many pilgrims will be considering walking to Rome having gone to Santiago. To paraphrase what Alison writes the *Via Francigena* today is as the *Camino Francés* was in the early 1990s with less pilgrims, less accommodation, longer days but wonderful scenery and a pioneering spirit.

Part 2 The Route – of 238 pages is the core of the guidebook. It gives detailed walking directions from town to town and village to village, often of more than one route (the waymarked one and alternatives for bad weather). The maps are not on a large scale except for the towns, which are much more detailed. There are descriptions within the text of the sights along the route and the accommodation and services in each village or town are highlighted, as are the distances between them. This guide is not of the Brierley type with set stages and you are left to make your own decision on how far to walk and when to stop, which I prefer.

The Appendices contain: Visiting Sigeric's Churches in Rome, Sigeric's Stages in Italy, San Rocco Churches, a reading list, Anglo-Italian glossary but also, and most importantly instructions on how to obtain your *Testimonium*. (Obtaining your *Testimonium* in Rome is not as simple and clear-cut as it is to obtain your *Compostela* in Santiago.)

I know how long Alison has been researching and re-researching the route and what she has produced is as accurate as is possible today. That is not to say that it will always follow the signs along the route. The individual provinces and municipalities have their own reasons for changing the route, often creating a longer less direct route which visits more villages and sights. The pilgrim will sometimes have to decide which to follow the sign or Alison's guide. All I can tell you is if you follow Alison's directions she will get you there!

There is a copy in the CPR Library, and the Guide can be purchased through both the CPR at our meetings, the CSJ and all good booksellers.

Willam Marques

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Additions to the CPR Library, April to December 2013.

Margaret Simonot

Association Chemins d'Assise: Chemin d'intériorité; guide spirituel sur le "Chemin d'Assise" de Vézelay à Assise . Cluny, Éditions du Signe, 2010. 96 pp.
Location: CPR. Acc.no: 5653.

Hesp, Anneke: Walking with Chaucer. Amsterdam, Totemboek, 2012. 36 pp.
Location: CPR. Acc.no: 5662.

Mooney, Brian: The Wrong Way for a Pizza. London: Thorogood, 2013. 219 pp.
Location: CPR. Acc. No: 5836.

Nelson, Howard: The Einsiedeln Itineraries: a pilgrim's guide to Rome in Charlemagne's time. Little Berkhamstead, Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome, 2013. 97 pp.
Location: CPR. Acc.no: 5550.

Schofield, Nicholas: A Roman miscellany: The English in Rome, 1550 – 2000. Leominster, Gracewing, 2002. 202 pp.
Location: CPR. Acc.no: 5626.

Trezzini, Adelaïde: La Via Francigena de Sigeric; de Pontarlier au Grand-Saint-Bernard. [n.p.], Association Internationale Via Francigena, 2013. 72 pp.
Location: CPR. Acc.no: 5661.

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Secretary's Notebook

Bronwyn Marques

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 walking or receiving the *Testimonium*) 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

This compares with Paul Chinn's figures for those taking the *Guado di Sigerico*:

2009 - 327
2010 - 296
2011 - 270
2012 - 361
2013 -

and Brian Mooney's figures for the same:

:
2012 - 533
2013 - 507

So - the numbers are very confusing!

Accommodation feedback

Once again we would ask all members who have made the pilgrimage but have not yet provided any feedback on where they stayed to contact William Marques at pilgrimstoromesecretary@yahoo.com. So few people still walk the *Via Francigena* compared to the *Caminos* in Spain and any feedback is valued highly.

New books

The AIVF has just published a new edition of their *DORMIFRANCIGENA B. Gran San Bernardo-Roma – 2014*. This lists 280 places (50 more than the 2012 edition) where low-cost pilgrim-only and tourist accommodation is available on the Italian section of the *Via Francigena*.

See their website: www.francigena-international.org for more information. Harry Bucknall's new book *Like a Tramp, like a Pilgrim* is due to be published by Bloomsbury Press in July this year, an account of his walk to Rome in 2012. We have invited Harry to give a talk at one of our meetings later in the year.

The book is already available on Amazon:

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Like-Tramp-Pilgrim-Across-Europe/dp/1408187248/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1394637932&sr=1-1&keywords=like+a+tramp+like+a+pilgrim

Alison Raju's guide book to the Italian section of the *Via Francigena* (the Great Saint-Bernard Pass to Rome), is now published. Both this (Volume 2) and Volume 1 (Canterbury to the Great Saint-Bernard Pass) are available from general bookshops, specialist walking bookshops, Amazon or direct from the publishers: www.cicerone.co.uk

Maggie Ramsay's book *The Italian Camino* is free every now and again on Amazon (they allow 5 free days every three months), but if not free it is not expensive at £1.96. It is only available as an e-book, but is in a format that can be read on any device: kindle, phone, i-pad, computer.

Recent blogs and websites

A website covering the Swiss section of the *Via Francigena*.
<http://www.wanderland.ch/en/routes/route-070.html>

[Gypsy K - Kim Wilson's Blog](http://kymmiew.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/in-canterbury-hurdles-and-blessings.html)
<http://kymmiew.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/in-canterbury-hurdles-and-blessings.html>

[Anita's Italian *Cammino* - Ramblings and photos of our walk, our *Cammino* of the *Via Francigena* from the Swiss Border to Rome.](http://anitaraftery.blogspot.com.au/)
<http://anitaraftery.blogspot.com.au/>

[Rambling to Rome - Alice Clough's blog of her walk to Rome](http://www.ramblingtorome.com/)
<http://www.ramblingtorome.com/>

When did you arrive in Rome?

As explained above, we know how many *pilgrim passports* we issue each year and so have a more or less accurate idea of how many pilgrims set off for Rome but very few of you indeed tell us that you actually made it all the way there and received your *Testimonium*!

We would like to know, though, so that we can include a section in the *Secretary's Notebook* of future issues of our *Newsletter*.

Confraternity of Pilgrims to Rome

Founded November 2006

www.pilgrimstorome.org.uk

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