

Captain's Letter
June 2012

Dear Fellow Centurions

I would be the first to admit to being a human squirrel! When it comes to hoarding boxes and folders in cupboards and under the bed, I am one of the worst offenders. As fellow hoarders will know, all of this material is precious to me – it is the “stuff” of memories and dreams. Quite a lot of this relates to my walking life: event programmes and reports, certificates, photographs, letters etc spanning 30 years.

Most of us have collections of mementoes like this. We want you to look them out, and here's why:

- At the centenary dinner in 2011, we launched “Centurion Memories,” a project to gather your thoughts on what being a Centurion means to you. Since then, a good number of you have written. The resulting booklet, compiled by Sue Clements, is on our website, and a very good read it is! If you haven't yet shared your story, please do so, and send a suitable photograph if possible. Look at your archives and be inspired! We want to hear from Centurions of all ages and eras. Your memories will become part of Centurion archives. You can email your contribution to Sue Clements [susanclements950@btopenworld.com], or post it to our Hon Sec Chris Flint or myself. Our thanks go to Sue for taking forward this initiative.
- We are fortunate that the Centurions' archives are safe and well cared-for at the Surrey History Centre in Woking. They are also helping us to look at the important question of maintaining e-archives. The SHC staff share our concern to ensure that material not yet in the Centurion archive isn't lost. It is very easy for those boxes and folders in the loft or garage to be accidentally lost or damaged. Don't let it happen, please! Your story is the Centurions' story, a vital part of the bigger picture. You can help in two ways. If or when you don't want to hold on to any personal Centurion items, let us know what you have, and we will be pleased to receive any material which should be added to the Centurion archives. There is NO pressure, I emphasise this, to give up things you treasure. But you can help safeguard their future if you will please ensure that family and friends know where you want your Centurion material to go – one day. I am sorry about this serious note, but many precious personal collections have been lost already for want of a simple instruction like the following: “I want my records and photographs which relate to the Centurions and my 100 miles walk[s] to be given to the Centurions1911, and sent to the Hon Sec of the Centurions [see www.Centurions1911.org.uk]”

On a lighter note, with other English Centurions and aspiring Centurions I recently had the great pleasure of joining our Dutch friends for their very enjoyable weekend festival of long distance walking, including the Continental Centurions' qualifying event. The results are on our website. I hope that we can continue and expand our participation in this excellent event in future years. If you would like to know more about it, please contact Kathy Crilley or myself.

Next up, I look forward to seeing fellow Centurions on our Diamond Jubilee Greenway social walk in London on 15 July, and at our 100 mile/24hours/50kms

event at Colchester on 22–23 September. Our thanks go to Chris Flint and Kathy Crilley for their hard work on these events. Please keep in touch with information about these and other developments on our website.

Thank you again for your help on “Centurion Memories” and our archives, and for your support for our events.

My best wishes to you all

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