



Centurions 1911

President's Christmas Letter 2014

It gives me great pleasure to send Christmas and New Year greetings to all Centurions wherever you may be.

This has been an active year, especially because of the dynamism injected by your Captain, Sandra Brown C735. Her regular newsletters have been an excellent way of keeping Centurions up to date and well informed. Unfortunately, Sandra ends her three year maximum term as Captain at the forthcoming AGM. You will recall at the AGM in January 2013 we passed a Motion proposed by Sandra that except under exceptional circumstances neither the President nor the Captain should serve for more than three years consecutively. Sandra was first elected in January 2012. Our most sincere thanks are due to her for all her efforts. Sandra is a Force of Nature when it comes to completing races of 100 miles or more. Her tally so far is 161 and counting. Unbelievable.

Sandra is, of course, not the only hard-working member of the Committee. Chris Flint C 849 continues conscientiously to manage the Centurions as Hon. Secretary combining this with his other race walking administrative roles. Richard Brown C 760 is the well organised Treasurer, while Sue Clements C 950 records and consolidates our developing archive, and Tony Perkins C 685 has been busy as our Merchandise Officer. Kathy Crilley C 933 is our active Assistant Secretary, and with Martin Fisher C 788 and Pam Ficken as Committee members we have a group keen to promote the Centurions. We have been delighted to see Carl Lawton C 750, our immediate Past President, back on the committee where his wise counsel is listened to intently.

Our qualifying event this year was the Southend track hundred. A lot of effort was put into organising this by Chris and Kathy but particular thanks and great appreciation must go to Southend AC who were very enthusiastic and immensely helpful in their organizing and practical backup. The result was a successful event with five new Centurions to whom we send our sincere congratulations. We hope to see them at the AGM on 31st. January 2015 for their formal admission to the Brother/Sisterhood.

For 2015 the Isle of Man has kindly offered to put on another 100. This time it will be in Castletown in the south of the island over the weekend of August 15-16 and we shall encourage participation from existing Centurions and particularly those walkers who aspire to becoming a Centurion.

The Social Walks, of which there have now been three, are beginning to grow in interest. They follow a route arranged by a volunteer leader and so far have included such diverse places as Hadians Wall, Canvey Island and most recently north London to include the grave of John Edwin Fowler Dixon C 1. One of the nice things about these walks has been the

people who have turned up - a good mix of people, young and old, Centurions, some with friends and spouses/partners. We hope to continue the Social Walks next year. Please try to attend one in 2015. Easy pace. Very good chat.

In November Chris Flint, Sandra Brown, Kathy Crilley and I attended the Annual Reunion of the Dutch Centurions (Centurion Vereniging Nederland). We were made most welcome with excellent hospitality and a visit to a unique museum of bygones. Post-luncheon we presented awards and trophies to the new Centurion and to others, and they expressed their grateful thanks to Pam Ficken and John Eddershaw for providing replica trophies of the Hew Neilson C 147 trophy and the Sunday Dispatch trophy.

At the Reunion CVN Secretary Piet Jansens C 370 made an unexpected donation of 300 euros raised by CVN members as a contribution to our reserves to help set up a fighting fund which will be available to assist clubs in the organisation of future 100s. We have thanked CVN very warmly for this generous donation.

The organisation of 100 mile events is increasingly challenging financially and a so-called fighting fund will indeed allow us to offer help to organisers when and where necessary. We would like to build up the fund to £1,000 and CVN's donation is a significant step on the road to achieve this figure. At the same time we want to maintain our tradition that everyone who qualifies as a Centurion can participate in our society and receive its services for life, with no subscriptions. We have no intention of introducing any kind of annual membership charge which, in any case, would be contrary to the ideals of the Centurions. It means that we will be very grateful to receive any donation that you can give to the Centurions. Cheques for whatever amount will be warmly welcomed and to be sent to Richard Brown C 760, Badgers Keep, Barnhill Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5BG. Thanks.

If you have received this letter by post and you have an email address which you have not passed to Chris please let him know at flintc@scr-ltd.co.uk

As you know we are building up a Centurions archive and the collection at the Surrey History Centre in Woking needs your help. Please let Sue Clements know what personal memorabilia you have as we do have a number of gaps in our history. Also, don't forget our merchandise. Visit the Centurions 1911 website for details or contact Tony Perkins, Deans Farmhouse, Tye Green, Cressing, CM7 8HU. Tel. No. 01376 321 392.

AGM Nominations and Motions

The committee is willing to stand for a further year.

There is a vacancy for Captain (as explained earlier Sandra is standing down) and there has been one nomination. Chris Flint C 849 proposes Kathy Crilley C 933 as Captain and seconded by John Eddershaw, C 299.

If there are any other **nominations** for Captain or for any other post please let the Hon. Secretary know soonest, and certainly by 20th. January 2015. Any nomination must be seconded. Equally, any **Motion** for consideration by the AGM must be proposed and seconded

Below is a nomination and voting form which can either be returned by post to Chris Flint C849 at Glenthorne, 65 Liverpool Road, Walmer, Kent, CT14 7NN or by email at flintc@scr-ltd.co.uk

The AGM is on Saturday 31st January 2015 at the Bankside Community Centre, 18 Guildford Street, Southwark, London, SE1 0FD. Doors open at 12 noon for a 1 pm start. Refreshments (teas, coffees) will be available. A street map is below, and nearest tube stations are Southwark, London Bridge, and Blackfriars. It is off Southwark Street.

Finally, it has long been the custom of The Centurions to celebrate our unique organisation at Christmas so please raise a toast to “The Centurions” at 2 pm on Christmas Day.

My very best wishes to you all for a happy festive season and a happy and healthy 2015 with plenty of walking opportunities.

Ann Sayer
President of the Centurions C 599

18 Great Guildford Street, London, SE1 0FD showing tube stations



Please return to Chris Flint at flintc@scr-ltd.co.uk or post to Glenthorne, 65 Liverpool Road, Walmer, Kent, CT14 7NN

If you wish to **nominate** a Centurion for the post of Captain please use this form by 20th January 2015

Centurion Nominated.....(*name & number*)

Centurion making the nomination.....(*Name & Number*)

Secunder.....(*Name & number*)

Agreement of the nominated person(s)(*Yes or No*)

Date.....

If you are unable to attend the AGM and you wish to Vote for Kathy Crilley C 933 as Captain please mark the box with an X

Your vote will be added to the votes cast at the AGM for Kathy.



If you are unable to attend the AGM and you wish to Vote for the Re-Election of the Committee en bloc please mark the box with an X

Your vote will be added to the votes cast at the AGM

