

## C898 Jill Green

Leicester W. C. 'Leicester 100', Hungarton 1992 (100 miles); 23.13.59  
Club: London Vidarians

I joined The Ramblers on the Isle of Wight in 1977. The programme Secretary at that time was Harry Peel C 196. He qualified in 1952, the year I led my first walk when was 11 years old. We used to see the London to Brighton every year as we lived on the Brighton Road. Harry had retired to the Isle of Wight from Birmingham. He was very active and led lots of walks.

The Vectis Walk was held annually on the first Saturday in October, a 50K walk organised by the YHA. Henry took me training for this event. He often wore his Centurion badge and I asked him about it. Harry told me I was a good walker and if I took up training I could be a Centurion like him. At that time I only wanted to walk in the countryside. The Vectis Marathon was the most I wanted to achieve.



*Training walk with Harry  
1974*

My Centurion ambitions came later through the Long Distance Walkers Association when I met Chris Steer, a founder member. When he came to the Isle of Wight to walk the Vectis Marathon he stayed in our home. To repay our hospitality he invited us back to his home so I could do an LDWA event. I really enjoyed it, Harry Peel's walk training really stood me in good stead.

I joined the LDWA and met Ann Sayer C599, Ernie Bishop C654, Bob Watts C839 and his brother Ken C859. I progressed to tackle the South Downs 80 Miles, this is a run but I walked, then the LDWA 100 miles.

It was Bob Watts who put my name forward for our team in Roubaix, France. They were short of ladies for the 28 hour race and Bob had noticed I was happy and clearly enjoyed walking 100 miles with no ill effects. When I got my letter confirming my participation I telephoned and offered to help. However I was needed to walk so my first race was for 28 hours. I loved it, I had found something I could do well. After this I was asked to help Sandra and Richard on their Paris to Colmar race. I drove the van, walked with Richard and Sandra and I thought to myself 'I could do this'. Bob Watts said he thought I could. He came down to the Isle of Wight to help me on a training walk. It was time for me to try the Centurion race that Harry had told me about. I did this at Leicester in 1992. Charlie Weston C584 was on hand with lots of encouragement, just like he was in the 2011 Centenary race. I was sad that, by this time Harry Peel had died, I would have loved to share my joy with him.

I have been so lucky, I have been privileged to become a Centurion in 6 different countries: UK C 898, Australia C 38, USA C 53, Continental C 282, Malaysia C 20 and New Zealand C8.

I was so fortunate that my husband Dave supported me and helped to make my dreams a reality. Three Chalon to Colmar races, and I have visited Australia three times; twice to take part and once to help. My race walking years have been so rewarding.

I decided to stop when I was 66. In 2007 I became the first lady over 65 to complete a Centurion and was awarded the Chas Shelley Trophy. I hope many other ladies will be able to add their names to it.



By 2006 Jill had walked the equivalent of 2½ times round the world



Trophy for the best ultradistance performance 1996