



100 WORDS
COMPETITION
Winners





In March 2020 we partnered with the Society of Civil and Public Service Writers to launch our first ever writing competition – 100 Words for 100 years, to celebrate our upcoming centenary.

The rules were simple. It must be exactly 100 words. It can focus on any element or experience of CSSC. And it must be non-fiction. Amazingly and slightly poetically, we received just over 100 entries. The standard was phenomenal and each and every entry was sublime in its passion and munificence.

As special recognition to the deserving winners and runners up, we've compiled our favourite articles for your enjoyment.





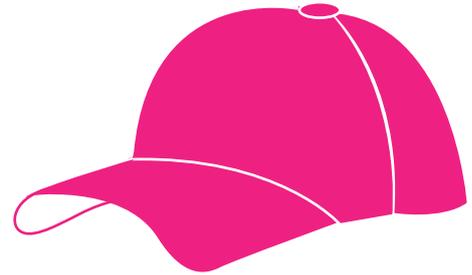
1ST PLACE

**THE CSSC MAN
CAME A-CALLING**

The CSSC man came a-calling. **I listened** - it sounded good, but I let it go. He came a-calling a year later. **I listened again** - it sounded even better, **but still I did nothing.** Another year passed, **I listened more intently.** It seemed stupid to ignore, so I had a proper look. **Why did I wait so long(?),** when the decision was obvious. **Years lost, but a future to be gained** - I joined. **Good call.** So glad the CSSC man persevered. Tell your colleagues - I have. **Nothing to lose, so much to win.** So glad the CSSC man came a-calling!

2ND PLACE

BIG AL'S BUS EXTRAVAGANZA



Despite my protests that all I wanted to do was drive a minibus, I had been chosen to head up the Transport Team at the 2011 CSSC Games. Fortunately, my team contained some of CSSC's finest "characters" and if nothing else, it would be fun. Teamwork was essential but if that failed, we would revert to type and wing it. Thankfully, fate played a hand in the shape of twelve pink baseball caps emblazoned with "BABE". These were seized upon with obvious glee, the team bonded immediately and "Big Al's Bus Extravaganza" was born, now part of the Games folklore.

Alan Hall

HIGHLY COMMENDED

WHILE I GREW-UP, MY CSSC MEMBERSHIP GREW WITH ME

At twenty-one I laughed with friends every year we filed onto a coach to go Christmas shopping in London. Friday nights, in the social club, I knocked the battered wooden skittles flying. When I became a mother, adventures to the beach, the cinema and theme parks filled our school holidays; the day to day savings paying for the trips. Now I am over fifty, and I use the English Heritage membership and a gym. You can find me in Pilates classes and afterwards in the café, swiping my reloadable gift card, buying a treat, usually coffee and a Bakewell tart.

Jane S Lark



COMMENDED ENTRIES

COOL, SAVING, SATURDAY CLUB

Another week draws to an end. Logged off, time to drive home. Forget the emails, forget the deadlines.

“Hi All. Good day at work and school?”

An exciting target awaits. Saturday’s Parkrun day!

All the gear, no idea. Me, a running club member? True, I proudly run with CSSC Sports & Leisure Club. Staying optimistic, I will win a voucher one day in the monthly Parkrun challenge!

The run’s over. Kids - Mami’s got a new PB!

Let’s celebrate by exploring a Cadw castle via the CSSC card and dine and save with the tastecard at Frankie & Benny’s!

DO IT WHILE YOU CAN

While Covid-19 is confining us - it gives time to reflect on the things we took for granted. CSSC means so many things to so many people, and each of us has a story to tell. For me: tastecard meals; English Heritage sites e.g. Clifford Tower and the Cold War bunker; theatre tickets eg Beautiful and Aida; and concert tickets eg A-Ha and Chic. Just writing this has brought back happy memories and appreciation for the experiences. So, when restrictions are over, look at what is available and go, see and do - for we never know when we might be stopped.

Barbara Hilary Manning

COMMENDED ENTRIES

RELEVANCE

In its centenary year, the CSSC continues to empower and provide opportunity for its members to develop both themselves and those around them. Examples are abundant, as sport and social activity consistently provides the platform for inspirational demonstration of diversity and inclusivity, leadership and mentoring, winning and losing. Whether on court, pitch side, or from the bench, members enjoy the benefits, drawing camaraderie, support and strength from like-minded others. In an age of digital connections, the CSSC has perhaps never been more relevant in allowing members to switch off and get involved, forging new friendships and relationships that last lifetimes.

David Collier

THE LILAC LADIES

The girls of Stockport Valuation Office would never be described as sporty, what we lacked in ability we made up for in enthusiasm.

A netball competition was announced, we had all played once upon a time. "Call yourself The Old Ovarians" suggested the office "comic". We ignore him, ordered ourselves one size fits all purple shirts and called ourselves "The Lilac Ladies".

It surprised us that our competitors wore polo shirts with netball emblems and had proper team names as they spilled out of minibuses with sports associated motifs.

They knew the rules, could score and pass. We came last!

COMMENDED ENTRIES

(PADDLE) BOARD TO DEATH

Balanced on the paddleboard, sun beaming down and wind flowing through my hair as I sped through the rippling water, I felt free, strong, and...SWAN! My newfound confidence deserted me - despite our elementary introduction of different paddle strokes I found I was limited to one speed and direction - Forward & FAST... thus putting me directly in the path of the combative cygnus. Wait - apparently 'I could achieve an alternative - OFF', and it was this advanced move I involuntary applied, landing in the grey waters with a splash and half-swallowed yelp only to face the furious feathers of my imminent demise...

Thank you to all our winners and entrants for your marvellous contributions in celebration of CSSC.

“Fill your paper with the
breathings of your heart”

William Wordsworth

