

Why walk the SWCP for ELF?

Mum was Cornish. She was born in Lelant, just outside St Ives, on the 3rd November 1942, while her father was in East Africa serving in the army. Vincent Coleman did not return from the war until December 1945 and Hilarie met him at St Erth Station for the first time when she was 3 years of age. Hilarie was named after the village St Hilary because her parents liked the name, but changed the spelling. Mum's parents were married at Zennor before the war and Mum was christened there. The church at Zennor will be a special visit on my walk.

Vincent went back to work with Joseph Rank (the Millers) and Mum went to primary school in Newlyn, and subsequently to a Roman Catholic school in Penzance. She spent most of her childhood growing up in St Ives, her grandfather being a tin mining engineer.

Mum was then 'proper Cornish', and she just loved the county and everything about it. She moved to Tiverton with her parents when she was 17, enhanced her secretarial skills and worked for Heathcoats, and met David Maunder.

As a family we spent every Summer Holiday at Harlyn Bay in North Cornwall and walked the coastal path in that area. Mum did loads of walking with Dad both in the UK and abroad especially in France and was really quite fit.

Mum started walking the South West Coastal Path in 1995, and over the next 5 years each Spring covered the miles culminating to a total of around 180 (remove) between Westward Ho and Coverack with her Devon friends.

It was then an enormous shock to us all when Mum was diagnosed with AML at Easter 2001. The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital were fantastic, especially the Yarty Ward and staff therein.

She put up a great fight, but finally lost the battle on the 1st August 2002.

Dad (David Maunder) retired from work the following year and walked the 1000 miles from Nice to Devon raising funds for ELF. Nice was a place they had spent time together and Dad just felt he wanted to take on the challenge, especially having done a lot of walking already in France.

And so finding myself with the opportunity to take on the SWCP challenge, I have decided to complete all 630 miles, and try and raise some more funds for ELF. I look forward very much to spending some time in the area that Mum grew up. It is a lovely coastline and I am very proud of my West Country roots, and cannot wait to get started.

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