

Carol Simpson 1942 - 2016

Alan Simpson

I met Steve Ogden and Ruth in Cambridge when I joined the Cambridge University Rambling Club. These days, one imagines that only oldies engage in rambling; but not then. And indeed CURC left me with a bunch of life-long friends.

Every Sunday we would meet at the early hour (so it seemed) of 10.30 at Mill Lane Bridge, and start on one of our well-rehearsed routes radiating out of Cambridge. We would stop mid-way in a village pub to eat our sandwiches and down a pint or two (no pub lunches in those days) and then continue on our way across boring level muddy fields. But the conversation was anything but boring. The ramble continued in the same direction until we reached our destination in another village at about 4pm; and caught a bus home.

In the Christmas and Easter vacations, there were more exciting adventures afoot. In turn, we visited most of the National Parks, for a week's walking, sleeping at youth hostels.

Carol had studied botany at Manchester University. She was starting her first job as a crop adviser working for the Ministry of Agriculture, and based in Cambridge. A chance encounter with a club member led to her being invited to join the club, and address slightly the woeful gender ratio. This proved most fortunate for me as, in the summer of 1965, we went on holiday together to walk in the Jotunheimen mountains in Norway. And the last thing we did before leaving Cambridge a year later was to get married there.



A close friendship developed between the Ogden and Simpson families, involving an annual week in the Lake District after Easter plus some more distant excursions. The photo shows Steve, Robert, Ruth, Julian and Carol near Mt Rainier in the Rockies, USA, when we did a three-week tour in America in a large camper van in 1987.

We knew of the existence of the Gorphwysfa Club through Steve, but I can't remember when we actually joined. It must have been quite a long time ago because I know we introduced Rodney and Vicky Archard to the club. We had a holiday cottage in Llanberis, and preferred to stay there over New Year rather than join the Gorphwysfa mob down the road – a strange decision. But we did participate on numerous occasions in the Llydaw race.



<u>Course Y</u>	
1	Vegetation Boundary
2	Gate, South side
3	Distinctive tree, South side
4	Path Bend
5	Boulder, East side
6	Gully end
7	Stream
8	Gate
9	Bench
Navigate to finish	

Orienteering had captured the imagination of the Simpson family, and at least every Sunday was devoted to this intriguing sport. The photo shows Carol competing in about 1989. We also took our turn organising local events. It is nice to have a few samples of Carol's handwriting.

The dark clouds of Alheimers Disease gathered in the nineteen nineties. In 1995 Carol was taking uncharacteristic absences from school, and decided in November that she could no longer maintain her role as Head of Biology at Saltash Community College in Cornwall.

Carol died peacefully in her nursing home in Plymouth in December 2016.