

## The Wiltshire Gazette and Herald with This Is Wiltshire Thursday 15th April 2010

Former Devizes pub landlady Lesley Badge has died suddenly at her home in Worton at the age of 59.

Mrs Badge was born in Tredegar, South Wales, and educated at Cefn Forest School. Her first job was with Braces Bakery. She was taught to drive one of the delivery vans but on her first day reversed into the chairman Ernie Brace's brand new car.

She met her husband Brian on the top deck of a bus when she was 15 and he was an 18-year-old soldier about to go overseas.

Mr Badge threw a paper aeroplane to her with his name and address on it and the couple corresponded while Mr Badge was serving in Hong Kong.

The couple were married on May 5 1969 at Blackwood Church in South Wales. They had three children, Elaine, Bryan and Emma and three grandchildren, Daniel, 12, Robert, eight, and Tyler, five.

When Mr Badge left the Army, the couple went into catering in South Wales and in 1991 took on the troubled Dolphin pub in Devizes.

They worked solidly to make it popular again and it became the place to go in Devizes on Friday and Saturday nights.

On leaving in August 1995, Mrs Badge earned money for the family first at car boot sales and then by taking her antiques stall to markets all over the West Country.

Her bubbly nature made her popular wherever she went.

She had a wide range of interests. While in South Wales she was a member of a women's football team and became one of the first women to become a referee in the Welsh FA.

She loved animals and was rarely to be seen with a dog in tow. She loved flowers as well and badgered Mr Badge to plant them among his vegetable garden at their home in Worton.

Mrs Badge was also a hard-working member of Worton Parish Council.

Her funeral is due to take place at Christ Church, Worton, next Thursday, April 22, at noon. Mourners can either bring flowers or make a donation to Wiltshire Air Ambulance if they prefer.

## A Later edition report Thursday 15th April 2010

Tributes have been paid to former pub landlady and parish councillor Lesley Badge, who died suddenly at her home, just a month short of her 60th birthday.



Mrs Badge will be best remembered as landlady of the Dolphin pub in Northgate Street, Devizes, from 1991 to 1995 but more recently as a market trader at the Old Curiosity Market in the Shambles.

She collapsed at her home in Worton last Thursday and was airlifted to Frenchay Hospital in Bristol but was dead on arrival. It is thought she suffered an aneurysm in her brain.

Her husband Brian said: "The paramedics were fantastic. They were here within five minutes of me phoning 999. They put her on a ventilator straight away.

"They told me she could have died at any time in her life because it was a weakness in a blood vessel."

Mr and Mrs Badge came to Devizes in 1991 to run the Dolphin. Mr Badge said: "We gave it our best shot and we were successful.

"Lesley worked so hard on that, doing meals for senior citizens at lunchtime. We were really busy at weekends, though, and were the first pub in the town to have door staff because we had to have people leave before we could allow any more in."

While at the pub Mrs Badge was instrumental in raising £3,300 to help a local child with the rare cancer neuroblastoma.

After giving up the pub, Mr Badge became a chef at Erlestoke Prison and worked at the jam factory in Easterton before going to work at Henry Aldridge & Son auctioneers.

Mrs Badge became an antiques dealer, specialising in linen, and was a popular personality in the Old Curiosity Market in the Shambles, Devizes.

On Tuesday stallholders decorated her pitch with daffodils and roses in her memory. Market organiser Bill Huntley said: "She was a very warm, very pleasant and very polite lady. Her politeness shone out like a beacon."

Mrs Badge had also been a parish councillor in Worton for some years. Her funeral is due to take place in Christ Church, Worton, on April 22 at noon, followed by a reception in the George & Dragon, Potterne.

## Thursday 29th April 2010

Christ Church in Worton was full on Thursday for the funeral of former pub landlady Lesley Badge.

Mrs Badge, who used to run the Dolphin pub in Devizes with her husband Brian, died suddenly, aged 59, at her home just yards from the church.

The Rev David Howard, who officiated at the service, said it was more difficult to cope with the death of someone who had gone so suddenly and at a relatively early age.

He said: "There are those who live fewer years but what they achieve during their time is phenomenal. Lesley was one of those people."

Mr and Mrs Badge's elder daughter Elaine read a poem before her son, Bryan, paid tribute to his mother.

He said: "She watched us grow up and move away but was never happier than when we were all gathered together, even if we fought amongst ourselves."

Mr Howard said Mrs Badge was involved in many areas during her life and was one of the first female referees in the Welsh Football Association.

He also referred to Mrs Badge's career as an antiques dealer, specialising in antique linen.

She was also a hard-working parish councillor in Worton for ten years.