

[Landlord's shock death - News - Oldham Advertiser](#)

You are here: [Home](#) | [News](#) | Landlord's shock death

News

 [Print Article](#) |  [Share this article](#) |  [Submit Comments](#)

advertisement

Landlord's shock death

Ruhubia Akbor and Mike Keegan
27/ 2/2008

Well-known and popular pub landlord has died after contracting Legionnaires' disease while on holiday.

Michael Diveney, the former publican at the Hark to Topper, on Bow Street, passed away at the weekend after spending more than a week battling the deadly disease in hospital.

The 57-year-old, who moved from the pub in Oldham centre two years ago to run a hotel in Blackpool, was struck down by the fatal illness - a form of pneumonia - at the beginning of the month after returning from the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh, in Egypt.

His wife Susan, 55, is struggling to come to terms with what has happened and said: "I'm not really up to talking about it because if I do I'll break down and start crying."

Speaking on behalf of the family, his sister-in-law Tammy Knight said: "Michael died surrounded by his family. It's unbelievable. You go on holiday, come back, and this happens.

"It was the first time they had gone there. They used to go to Benidorm, but decided to give Egypt a try."

She said the couple had been married for 20 years and had planned a retirement in the sun.

"They were together 24 hours a day. They worked together and lived together. They had quite a lot of pubs in the Oldham area," she added. "They wanted to retire to Cyprus. It was another dream which would have come to reality in the next couple of years."

Michael was heavily involved in Oldham's pub scene and was key in instigating the Streetsafe Scheme. He went on to chair the Oldham Pub and Club Watch.

Current chairman Dave Hilton paid tribute and said: "I knew Mick from 2001 and he helped me a lot when I first came to the town. He was great and a typical pub landlord - very much a man in charge, and a lovely man all the same.

"This has come as a huge shock to us all. The faces here have changed a lot since Mick left but a lot of people who worked with him at the time will be shocked at the news.

"He had a town centre pub that was run as a traditional pub and he ran it very much for his regulars - you don't see that often.

"He was already missed a lot but this is just such a shock, 57 is a young age."

A number of regulars have also spoken of the loss of a man described by many as a great landlord and friend.

Moira Grime said: "He was a fantastic bloke. I've known the family for years and they're all obviously devastated by the news. He had a big heart and was a party man."

Tom Lingard added: "He was a cracking bloke, the salt of the earth. I used to go and visit him in Blackpool and he'd always ask about 'that lot back in Oldham'."

John Callaghan, who worked for him for two years in Oldham, added: "He was nice to work for - he was always fair and straight up."

- The details of Mr Diveney's funeral have yet to be confirmed.

 [Print Article](#) |  [Share this article](#) |  [Submit Comments](#)

Search



© M.E.N media 2008