

A CELEBRATION IN MEMORY OF
Laura Wilson-Croome



1957 – 2024

Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 1:00pm
Poole Crematorium

Entrance Music

Who Knows Where The Time Goes
Fairport Convention

Welcome and Introduction

by Alan Jones
Laura's brother-in-law and uncle to Joshua and Callum

Tribute

by Callum Jones
Laura's son

Tribute

by Sue Smallman
Laura's great friend from St Briavels

Tribute

by Simon Newsam
Laura's brother

Reflection and Music

Walking Song
Kate & Anna McGarrigle

Tribute

by Jonathan Wilson-Croome
Laura's brother-in-law

Tribute

by Shirley Harris
and Cardiff College friends of Laura

A reading from ‘My Family and Other Animals’

Gerald Durrell

by Callum Jones

The reading is a conversation between Gerald’s long-suffering mother, Louisa, and her adult son Lawrence.

Laura read this book to Callum before a family holiday to Corfu when he was 10. When the series ‘The Durrells’ appeared on television, Laura watched every episode with Dougal and again a few years later. Dougal was reading the book to Laura the day before she died.

Closing

by Alan Jones

Exit music

Both Sides Now

Joni Mitchell

Laura

Laura Newsam was born on 4 June 1957 in the small village of Shaw Hill, close to Melksham in Wiltshire. Her parents, Eleanor and Ronald, were both schoolteachers.

She was the third of five children: Elizabeth (Liz), Stephen, Laura, Simon and Jonathan and, as Liz was quite a bit older than the others, Laura found herself the only girl amongst three brothers. Her oldest friend, Angela, who lived next door, has 'many happy memories of Laura' and 'playing together in the garden when they were children – making up and acting out magical stories and games.'

She went to Shaw Primary School and afterwards Devizes School, before heading to Cardiff to study dietetics. While there she made many lifelong friends and, in particular, kept in close touch with her flatmates of the time: Lynn, Shirley, Julie, Lucinda, and Carole, and Pete who married Carole.

After qualifying she started work at The University Hospital of Wales rising quickly to the post of chief dietitian. She had a particular interest in Crohn's disease and was involved in research, co-authoring several articles published in The Lancet and the British Medical Journal.

While in Cardiff she met her first husband, Robin, who was studying to be a doctor. They married in 1980, living first in Caerleon before moving to St Briavels in the Forest of Dean where Robin was a GP in the nearby villages of Yorkley and Bream. Their first son, Joshua, was born in 1988, and Callum followed in 1991. Laura brought up Joshua and Callum in the family home of The Old Vicarage. She also worked at the local GP practice giving dietary advice. Sadly, their happy family life was cruelly interrupted when Robin was diagnosed with cancer, and he died in 2007.

Laura had always loved books and literature, was a fantastic cook and wonderful at organising. She threw herself into all manner of things until a chance encounter on the platform at Lydney railway station changed her life yet again. On the way to Cheltenham Literary Festival with friends, she met Dougal. They shared many interests and spent many happy hours walking in the Brecon Beacons, cycling and going to running races.

And then, in 2011, Laura received the devastating diagnosis of a brain tumour. Chemotherapy and radiotherapy followed and fortunately the tumour was stabilised.

Dougal and Laura married in 2014. In 2015 they decided to move house and started looking in Dorset. It took nearly two years to find the right village, one with a shop and a pub, quiet and with an excellent sense of community. They found everything in Iwerne Minster. Laura joined the local Women's Institute and enjoyed many of the community activities that the village had to offer, finding everyone incredibly welcoming and supportive. She loved being able to easily walk to the village shop.

Sadly, the long term effects of the radiotherapy made her mobility more difficult over time and in 2021 she suffered a stroke. Her wonderfully positive nature enabled her to make an excellent recovery from this but her mobility deteriorated further. In all the time from her original tumour diagnosis in 2011 she never complained once.

She died peacefully at home on Sunday 9 June 2024.

Laura was a remarkable person, kind, generous, intelligent and always positive about life.

She will be greatly missed.

Donations in Laura's memory to
The Brain Tumour Charity

can be made online at

www.funeraldirector.co.uk/funeral/laura-ann-wilson-croome

or sent care of

LESLEY SHAND
FUNERAL SERVICE

28 East Street,
Blandford Forum,
DT11 7DR



You are warmly invited to join Laura's family
for light refreshments
and to share memories at

The Village Club

Watery Lane,
Iwerne Minster,
DT11 8NE