

Wife with dementia 'killed by overwhelmed husband'

Georgie Keate

A husband suffocated his wife who had dementia after he became overwhelmed by caring for her, a court was told.

Douglas Addison, 88, who also has dementia, denies murder but is too ill to attend court. Anna Vigers, QC, for the prosecution, told Exeter crown court that Mr Addison was a "proud man" who rejected help for his frail wife.

Ms Vigers said that Avis Addison, also 88, was found suffocated in the bedroom of their bungalow in St Merryn, Cornwall, in February. Pathologists believe that she was also struck with a blunt instrument. The jury was told that a walking stick was found near her

body. Their GP and a care worker saw Mr Addison through a window peering down at his wife. He let them in and said: "I was thinking about calling you. She can't get up."

They found Mrs Addison dead with face, neck and arm injuries. There had been an attempt to strangle her and her right shoulder was dislocated.

Neighbours previously told the court how the pair were often seen walking around their village holding hands.

The couple's GP had earlier found Mr Addison "defensive and aggressive towards his wife", the jury was told. The doctor saw a bruise on her head and thought she was "the subject of abuse or neglect".

The trial continues.

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(FOR ALERT)