



Syncope Trust And Reflex anoxic Seizures

[www.stars.org.uk](http://www.stars.org.uk)

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Working together with individuals, families and medical professionals to offer support and information on Syncope and Reflex Anoxic Seizures

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## Celebration for Midlands Charities as Founder collects MBE

**Event Date: Tuesday 24 November 2009**

The Founder of two Midlands heart charities is today (**Tuesday 24 November 2009**) to collect her MBE at Buckingham Palace.

Trudie Lobban, who started the STARS charity from her kitchen table in 1993, was given the award in the Queen's Birthday Honours list earlier this year.

She started the charity after her younger daughter was diagnosed with a little-known heart rhythm disorder, Reflex Anoxic Seizures, aged four and she could find nowhere to turn to for help.

Since then, the charity, based in Stratford Upon Avon, has grown to become international, with a division in the US. In 2004, Trudie launched a campaign that succeeded in changing a government health policy. The campaign brought about the inclusion of heart rhythm disorders, or arrhythmias, into national standards for coronary care with the aim of improving diagnosis and treatment for all people with irregular heartbeat conditions.

She then founded her second charity, Arrhythmia Alliance, as an umbrella organisation bringing together patient groups, medical professionals and industry to further the gains she had already made. A third charity, based in Bristol, focusing on patients with Atrial Fibrillation has also been formed and in addition, Trudie now sits on many medical boards

Trudie is actively helped in her charity work by her daughters, Charlotte and Francesca who are both now adults. Charlotte has almost completed training to become a doctor herself. The charities employ 16 staff, mainly in Stratford.

Trudie says *"I am so delighted to be receiving this award today. It's been a long road and hard work but we have achieved so much in our efforts to help people with cardiac arrhythmias. I want to share it with the people who have worked with me to make a difference."*

Trudie's husband, Charles, who worked tirelessly alongside Trudie since she started STARS will be especially missed today. He passed away suddenly last year, ironically from Sudden Cardiac Death, before her MBE was awarded.

Editor's Notes:

1. The Award Ceremony is scheduled for 11am.
2. STARS website: <http://www.stars.org.uk>
3. Arrhythmia Alliance website: [http://www.heartrhythm charity.org.uk](http://www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk)
4. Atrial Fibrillation website: <http://www.atrialfibrillation.org.uk>
5. Contact: Tania Tirraoro 07828 140708 (Mon); Jenni Cozon 01789 450564 (Tues)
6. Photos will be taken after the ceremony and will be made available via the STARS website or via email. Please contact us at [jenni@stars.org.uk](mailto:jenni@stars.org.uk) if you wish to receive a photograph and cannot yet download it from the website.

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**Patrons:** Prof John Stephenson, Prof Christopher Mathais, Prof Rose Anne Kenny, Dr William Whitehouse, Dr Adam Fitzpatrick,

Sir Elton John, Twiggy Lawson, Sir Roger Moore, John Burton Race.

**Trustees:** Mrs Susan Broatch, Mr Andrew Fear, Prof Rose Anne Kenny, Mrs Cathrine Reid, Dr William Whitehouse.

**Founder & Chief Executive:** Mrs Trudie Lobban.

Registered Charity Number – 1084898