

Lynn Faulds Wood



Lynn and her husband, John Stapleton were the first married couple on British TV. Lynn presented the BBC's Watchdog consumer investigative programme for eight years, winning many awards, including four Consumer Journalist of the Year, Consumer Journalist of the Decade (1980s) and two Motoring Journalist of the Year awards.

In 1991, after nearly a year of medical delay, Lynn was diagnosed with advanced bowel cancer. Two years later, she left Watchdog to concentrate on making health programmes. The first - an ITV World In Action special focusing on GP training in cancer symptoms (audience - over 10 million) then a woman's health series The Ladykillers and, in 1996, an investigation into bowel cancer called "Bobby Moore and Me", winning a "Medical Broadcaster of the Year" award.

The "Bobby Moore & Me" programme brought in 28,000 letters, which is why Lynn switched from making TV programmes to concentrating on saving lives from bowel cancer. Since then she has worked with leading medical experts, helping to investigate every stage of the patient's journey, from symptoms and diagnosis to surgery and treatment.

So far, Lynn has helped to produce the world's first research-based guide to the symptoms of bowel cancer, advice which has now been officially adopted by the UK Department of Health. She has also helped to change the way doctors learn to use sophisticated equipment, setting up national diagnostic training programmes in colonoscopy for doctors and nurses, an initiative now run from the Royal College of Surgeons' Dept of Education. She has helped to fund the development of diagnostic training centres of excellence around the country. Centres already established include Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Torbay, Liverpool, London and Sheffield.

Lynn invited Prince Charles to talk about 'bottoms and bowels' on every national news broadcast four years ago, when he launched a 15 storey high tie for an event she created, Loud Tie Day. Two years ago, she was invited to the Vatican to meet the Pope to launch the world's first global colorectal cancer awareness campaign.

In 2003, Lynn became chairman of the European Cancer Patient Coalition and she sits on key committees across Europe helping to improve health services for cancer patients. She is founder of the UK charity Lynn's Bowel Cancer Campaign and is helping to set up the European Colorectal Cancer Patient Network, with organisations already in several European countries. John & Lynn have a 17 year old son Nick and Lynn is also part-time consumer presenter on GMTV, Europe's most popular breakfast TV show.