

[Click here to print](#)



17/03/07 - News section

Friends say tragic Sally 'died of a broken heart'

By ELIZABETH SANDERSON

Sally Clark's devoted husband Steve - the man who campaigned for four years after she was wrongly jailed for murdering her baby sons - was away on business in France when she died.

Mrs Clark, a 42-year-old solicitor, was convicted in 1999 but cleared by the Court of Appeal in 2003.

The case has become notorious as one of the worst miscarriages of justice in recent times.

On Friday she was found dead at the family home in Hatfield Peverel, near Chelmsford, Essex. She is believed to have died of a heart attack.

More here...

- [Release of Sally Clark offers hope to jailed mothers](#)
- [I stand by claims, says Clark murder slur doctor](#)

She was alone in the house when her body was discovered.

Her seven-year-old son, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had been taken to school.

The Mail on Sunday has been told that it was the little boy's nanny who discovered Mrs Clark, though this has not been confirmed by police.

Police had to break the news to Mr Clark, who is also a solicitor, while he was away on a brief trip.

A Home Office pathologist will carry out a post-mortem examination on Monday.

A close friend of Mrs Clark said she had seemed well when he spoke to her on Monday, four days before her death.

John Batt, a defence lawyer who had known Mrs Clark from childhood, said: "She was fine. I believe it is the case that Steve was out of the country.

"Sally was a very loving mother and one of the nicest people you would ever meet.

"I hope her legacy is that no loving mother is ever treated by the legal system in such a way again."

Although Mr Batt, who wrote Mrs Clark's authorised biography, *Stolen Innocence*, said she had seemed well on the phone, life after jail had proved difficult and she had bouts of depression and flashbacks of the deaths and the ordeal of the trial.

Mr Batt said: "Sally was a very talented woman.

"The terrible thing is she went through years of torture, starting with the death of her mother ten years ago."

"I spoke to a 60-year-old woman the other day who suffered a cot death 40 years ago and she told me the first thing she sees in the morning and the last thing she sees at night is the face of her baby. Sally suffered that twice."

A spokesman for Essex police said officers found her body at about 10.45am on Friday.

Sue Stapeley, the Clark family's solicitor, said it would be 'very unwise to speculate' on the cause of death and that although Mrs Clark was not suffering from any kind of disease, she was not 'in the best of health'.

Speaking from his Salisbury home, Mrs Clark's father Frank Lockyer said: "We don't know what happened.

"The post mortem is going to be on Monday and it's now in the hands of the coroner."

He was too upset to speak further.

A neighbour, who declined to be named, said: "It's so tragic. I don't think she ever recovered. She died of a broken heart.

"She never looked the same after what she went through. " She lost a lot of weight and looked ill. She didn't deserve any of it.

"Roy Meadow [the paediatrician who gave evidence against Mrs Clark in court] should be tried for manslaughter, he killed her.

"I looked at all the evidence from the case at the time and it was so obvious she wasn't guilty."

On her release Mrs Clark did not return to work but instead became a full-time mother.

In September 2005, she began proceedings against the pathologist who carried out the post-mortems on her two sons.

She used the 17th Century law of misfeasance in public office to make a High Court claim for damages.

Her representatives said she was forced into this because she had never been fully reimbursed for her legal costs.

One of the three judges who threw out Mrs Clark's first appeal against her conviction was charged a fortnight ago with exposing himself to a woman on a train.

Lord Justice Richards, a married father of three who lives in Wimbledon, South-West London, has not been suspended.

However, he will not sit in court pending the outcome of the case.

Find this story at http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=442970&in_page_id=1770

©2007 Associated New Media