



Pregnancy, baby and child bereavement heroes from across the country, honoured at glamorous Mariposa Ball in London, in aid of the Mariposa Trust

On Saturday, March 16th, the Mariposa Trust held its annual 'Mariposa Ball' at the stunning 5* Landmark Hotel in Marylebone, London. This is the 5th time that the charity, which many will know by the name of its primary support division, 'Saying Goodbye,' has held the ball at the Landmark, which served as the perfect backdrop for what was an incredible night.

Famous faces from stage and screen came in support of the charity - which is one of the leading support organisations for anyone affected by baby loss – with Morning Live and Waterloo Road star Kym Marsh hosting the evening. Kym, who is a long-term ambassador of the charity, knows personally the pain and devastation of baby loss - following the loss of her son Archie in 2009 - and beautifully guided the programme of entertainment, fundraising and awards over the evening.

During the evening, guests were treated to a wealth of musical entertainment, which started with a breathtaking performance of 'Never Enough' by Millie Ferguson. Performances by multi-award-winning singer-songwriters Chris and Abby Eaton, Spirit YPC, ex-Hollyoaks star Bethannie Hare, and Rosso continued throughout the evening.

Mariposa Trust co-founder and CEO Andy Clark-Coates took an opportunity to share about the charity's incredible successes over the past 12 months, with the launch by the British Government of 'Certificates of Loss' for bereaved families after a 9-year campaign by the charity. He paid tribute to the fantastic frontline NHS and community workers who care and support the bereaved but stressed that it was only by everyone coming together that real global change would happen.

The Mariposa Trust provides free support to people affected by baby loss, pregnancy after baby loss, fertility, adoption and more. The Trust has become the leading support charity in this field, reaching over 50,000 people a week globally. Charity Founder and co-CEO Zoe Clark-Coates MBE said, "Heartbreakingly, around 700 babies die every day in the UK, whether that's in pregnancy, birth or infancy. Despite baby loss affecting so many each year, it is still not widely spoken about, which can leave families struggling for support. The Mariposa Trust exists to ensure that each baby that has gone too soon is recognised and that the parents, extended family, and friends receive the support they need for as long as they need it.

Fundraising on the night came in the form of a silent auction, a live auction, and a hilarious game of 'Heads and Tails', all led by charity ambassador Sky Sports James Green. The live auction saw lots, including jewellery from Boodles, signed artwork by the late great Stan Lee, football memorabilia, and luxury trips snapped up to raise vital funds to support the work of the charity.

Later in the evening, charity ambassador Briony May Williams—winner of the Christmas Bake Off and presenter of Food Unwrapped and Escape to the Country—hosted the Mariposa Awards. The awards recognise midwives, nurses, bereavement midwives, doctors and community members who have gone above and beyond in the care and support they have provided for people who have experienced baby loss.

This year, a host of celebrities and award judges, presented awards in 10 categories with one of the presenters, **James Green**, having this to say, "It was an honour to be asked to present one of the Mariposa Awards this year. Having experienced baby loss personally, I am all too aware of the need for compassionate care and support, which is something exemplified by the nominees and winners of the 2024 awards."

The 2024 Awards were presented to:

The Arlo Award

In memory of Arlo Mallen, who sadly passed away in 2021, this award is for a medical practitioner who has gone above and beyond in the level of care they have provided. This award was **presented by actress Jessica Fox**.

- Winner – Dr Elaine Church

The Hero Award

Following a serious medical incident, which led to a successful resuscitation and recovery, the charity chose to recognise the extraordinary work of 2 off duty doctors. It was **presented by TV Chef and Author Georgina Haydon**.

- Winners – Professor Nick Harding OBE and Dr Kerry Bailey

The Lifetime Achievement Award

This special award looks to recognise a medical professional who has devoted their life to the care, and support of the bereaved. This award was **presented by Love Island winner Jessica Hayes**

- Winner – Rachel Small

The Archie Bereavement Professional of the Year 2024

This award recognises excellence in care from a bereavement specialist, and was **presented by Kym Marsh**.

- Winner: Veronica Spibey
- Special Recognition: Dr Laura Kollinsky, Christina Axton
- Outstanding Contribution: Perdita Jeffers, Candice Noonan

The Community Award

This award is for someone in the community who has supported someone through baby loss. This award was **presented by Awards Judge, Mrs Rebekah Stocker**

- Winner: Evie Thomas-Broomfield
- Special Recognition: Jo Donlevy, Julie Ellingham, Chloe Howard
- Outstanding Contribution: Chynna DeSaxe

The Compassion Award

This award recognises compassionate care. This was **presented by Hollyoaks star and charity Ambassador Kirsty-Leigh Poster.**

- 2 Winners: Leanne Jeffrey, Sophie Leader
- Special Recognition: Maxine Ridley-Snell

OBGYN of the Year Award

This award is presented to an OBGYN who has displayed exceptional levels of clinical care and support for patients, and was **presented by award judges Professor Nick Harding and Dr Kerry Bailey**

- Winner: Dr Louise Simcox
- Special Recognition: Dr Oliver Wildman, Dr Kirsty Adcock, Dr Helen Le Grys
- Outstanding Contribution: Dr Hannah Law, Dr Ahmad Nassar, Dr Jeannie Essex, Dr Sophie Haynes

Midwife of the Year

This award looks to recognise the incredible midwives who form the backbone of maternity care. It was **presented by International News Anchor Rhiannon Jones.**

- Winner: Caroline Judge
- Special Recognition: Rebecca Crook, Gillian Campbell, Lauren McDonald-Wright
- Outstanding Contribution: Jane Slaughter, Erin Tanyar, Michaela Douma, Navi Fernandes

Bereavement Midwife of the Year 2024

This award looks to find the best bereavement midwife. **Presented by actress Natalie Anderson.**

- Winner: Kate Boxall
- Special Recognition: Emma Barritt, Sara Hunt, Samantha Behagg, Marie Kelleher
- Outstanding Contribution: Amy Barnes, Barbara Gergett, Kirsty Malcolm, Ali Brett

Bereavement Team of the Year 2024

This award looks to acknowledge the work of bereavement teams across the UK. This was **presented by Sky Sports James Green.**

- 2 Winners: Kings Mill Hospital, Blossom Team at Broomfield Hospital (tables 27 & 28)
- Special Recognition: Queens Hospital, Burton, Lotus Team at St Mary's Hospital, Northampton General Hospital.
- Outstanding Contribution: Leeds Teaching Hospital, George Eliot Hospital

In a surprise extra award, the Mariposa Trust paid tribute to the exceptional work of Zoe Clark-Coates MBE and Samantha Collinge, who led the five and a half year 'Pregnancy Loss Review' for the British Government. The review, which was laid in Parliament in July 2023, put forward 73 recommendations to transform clinical care and support for millions of bereaved families for generations to come. These were all accepted by the government, and are already being rolled out. Zoe and Sam were honoured with the Mariposa Legacy Award, receiving a standing ovation from the packed ballroom.

The evening concluded with a stellar performance by Bethannie Hare, whose uptempo set, filled the dance floor. Guests were then treated to luxury goody bags, with items donated by a range of generous brands.

Zoe added "We know there are so many more unsung heroes supporting those who are grieving and challenging the taboo when it comes to talking about baby loss so if you know someone who should be recognised, please head to our website and nominate someone for the 2025 awards that are now open."

-ENDS-

More information on the charity can be found at www.mariposatrust.org and via www.sayinggoodbye.org. The charity has multiple social media pages, and can be followed on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sayinggoodbyeuk and on Twitter @SayingGoodbyeUK.

The charity can be contacted by email at office@sayinggoodbye.org

Editors Notes (not for public release):

For more information and images, for any of the winners please contact the Saying Goodbye press office via press@sayinggoodbye.org