

Press Release

For Immediate Release

An Unforgettable Night of Celebration, Compassion and Impact: The Mariposa Ball & Awards 2026

On Saturday 25 April, the iconic The Landmark London was transformed into a space of both elegance and meaning, as the **Mariposa Ball & Awards 2026** brought together leaders, celebrities, clinicians and supporters for an extraordinary evening in aid of Mariposa International.

With a guest list that was rich in influence and heart, the evening stood as a powerful reminder of what can happen when compassion meets action.

From the moment doors opened, guests were immersed in a night of exceptional entertainment. Performances from the internationally acclaimed Flawless captivated the room, alongside a ‘Wicked’ themed performance by the inspirational Spirit YPC. Performances by Millie Ferguson and Evie Loose wowed the guests, while West End star Adrienne Langley delivered a standout performance that created a moment that felt both electric and deeply personal.

The evening was expertly hosted by Briony May Williams, known for The Great British Bake Off and Escape to the Country, alongside Sky Sports James Green, bringing warmth, humour and seamless energy to the night. The Mariposa Awards ceremony itself was led with wit and brilliance by acclaimed comedian Rachel Parris.

A highlight of the evening was the live and silent auctions, which saw guests come together with remarkable generosity, raising vital funds to support families experiencing baby loss and bereavement. The atmosphere in the room was one of shared purpose, where every bid carried meaning far beyond the moment.

The **Mariposa Awards** honoured over 30 exceptional individuals and teams who have demonstrated outstanding dedication within the baby loss and maternity care community. Categories included *Bereavement Midwife of the Year*, *Bereavement Team of the Year*, *Midwife of the Year*, *OBGYN of the Year*, and *Employer of the Year*, alongside many others, each recognising those who go above and beyond in moments that matter most. A full list is detailed below.

The evening was further elevated by the presence of a wide range of well-known figures from across entertainment and media, including actress Tamsin Outhwaite, West End star Gina Murray, influencers Genevieve Turley and Grace Booth, comedian Harriet Kemsley, Love Island’s Jess Hayes, among many others who lent their support to the cause.

Beyond the glamour, the Mariposa Ball & Awards carried a deeper resonance. It was an evening rooted in remembrance, recognition and hope, shining a light on the individuals and organisations transforming care for bereaved families, while raising essential funds to continue that work. This was emphasised during the speech given by charity co-founder and co-CEO Andy Clark-Coates, who called upon the guests to join with the charity’s global efforts.

As the night drew to a close, one thing felt unmistakably clear, this was more than an event. It was a gathering of voices, a celebration of courage, and a powerful step forward in ensuring that no family faces loss alone.

The Mariposa Ball and Awards 2027 will take place on the 13th of March 2027 at the Landmark Hotel, and tickets, tables and sponsorship packages are available at www.mariposaball.org.

Mariposa Award Winner & Special Recognition Awards

The Arlo award, which recognises a medical practitioner who has excelled in the care they have provided, was won by Bereavement Midwife Nicola Galloway from East Lancashire NHS Trust, with special recognition awards for Clinical Psychologist Laura Francis and Research Nurse Leanna Brace.

The Employer of the Year award, which is presented to brands/organisations that are making a difference for their employees, was jointly won by The Metropolitan Police and accountancy firm Deloitte. The Special Recognition was presented to TJX Europe, better known as TK Maxx and Homesense.

The Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Dr Kathleen Graham, who after 41 years as a frontline doctor working in maternity, has just retired.

The Fundraiser of the Year, was presented to star of Traitors, Minah Shannon, for her fundraising through the Great North Run, and also her inspirational leading of the team of runners at the GNR.

The Compassion award, is presented for a medical professional who has shown exceptional care and compassion, and was jointly won this year by Early Pregnancy Bereavement Specialist Nurse Emily Cooper from the New Cross Hospital, and GP Dr Emma Humphries.

The Community award is presented to someone working in the community to support people through loss. The winner this year is Counsellor Lucy Smith from Oxford, with special recognition awards presented to Hospice worker Sara Balmforth, Laura Atherton from Chester Milk Bank, Charity leader Leanne Pether and Men's football champion Raj Chagger.

The Corporate Supporter award was presented to an incredible print and design company who have been long term supporters of the charity, Mediaport Solutions from Aylesbury.

The Midwife of the Year award was won jointly by Midwives Fiona McFadyen from Airedale and Bethan Hughes from Wales for their exceptional level of care. Special recognition awards were presented to fellow midwives Trudy Ziwewe, Natalie Barry and Laura Woffendin.

The Archie Bereavement Professional award, named after the son of charity ambassador Kym Marsh, recognises a bereavement professional working to improve care. This year's winner was Maddie Holland from Bristol with Grace Banham from Lancashire Mind receiving the special recognition.



OBGYN of the Year was presented to Cambridge Consultant Dr Miriam Baumgarten, with special recognition given to Dr Helen Collier from East Lancashire Hospital.

The highly contested **Bereavement Midwife of the Year** award saw one winner and five special recognition awards for frontline bereavement midwives dealing with baby loss every day. This year's winner from Essex is Victoria Williamson, with special recognition awards being presented to Nicola Galloway, Navi Fernandes, Wiktoria Ciekanska, Sara Hunt and Kirsty Malcolm.

The final award was the **Bereavement Team of the Year**, which looks to recognise the team that have had the biggest impact in supporting bereaved parents. The Winner of this years award is the Daisy Bereavement Team from the Royal Cornwall Hospital, with special recognition awards for the Snowdrop Bereavement Team from Bristol and the Lotus Team from Manchester.

The Mariposa Awards 2027 are now open and nominations can be submitted at www.mariposaball.org

Mariposa International is a UK and global bereavement charity, primarily supporting people affected by baby loss and infertility. It is led by Zoe Clark-Coates MBE, a leading grief specialist, author and government advisor, and Andrew Clark-Coates. More information on the charity can be found at www.sayinggoodbye.org and www.mariposainternational.org

Images are available upon request.