

# Women of the Year

Est. NineteenEightyTwo

Friday 13th October 2023, Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel

#WOTY2023 #WomenSupportingWomen

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# Sally Lindsay President's foreword

It's Sally (your president here). And, just like that, here we are again.

It's that very special time of the year again to get together and personally I can't wait. Time to be in the room together again and charge our positive energy with like-minded people all wanting the same things, equality and opportunity for women.

Connect with Sally on:

[sally\\_lindsay](https://www.instagram.com/sally_lindsay)

[sallylindsay73](https://twitter.com/sallylindsay73)

The Women of the Year awards seems to grow stronger and stronger year after year. Our message seems to be reaching the ears of some brilliant women and men There are some very exciting powerhouses who have joined our board and we could not be happier.



Firstly, can we welcome our newest Director, the legend Wendy Dean of Strategi Solutions. Also, a very warm welcome to our new Ambassadors, Business Woman of the Year Suzanne Linton and the Entrepreneur extraordinaire Gareth Harold-Shenton. These three very special people who are more than anything, simply inspiring and we are thrilled they are now part of the team.

What a year for women eh? I think my highlight of the year was The Lionesses proving that, even though women have literally received no grass roots support for decades, they still managed to get to the FIFA Women's World Cup Final and galvanize our nation with some sort of national pride. National pride has been very thin on the ground for the past few years after a divisive Brexit, the pandemic and endless political scandals. I think as a nation our collective moral was very low it took a team of inspirational women to play their hearts out to bring us all together again, at least for a moment, but it was beautiful, nonetheless. Thank you Lionesses, your achievements are nothing less than stratospheric, and we thank you. Leave it to the girls eh?

So, the eternal question. Why do we still need these awards? Why do we have to fill a room with top businesswomen to inspire and lead our sisters coming up? Why isn't it all equal yet? Why are we still fighting?

If the World Cup proved anything, we still live in a world where some people still feel we are inferior and treat us such. How can women's football be equal to men they say? I say it isn't. It's much higher I say. They managed to do it despite the obstacles, and they did it in style.

We are still achieving in the workplace but good grief it's just the same schtick. Women in data or technical roles are twice as likely to be the only woman in the room in their workplace, but it has been proved that companies with even just one woman sitting on their board record a better turnover than without.

In 2016 a government commissioned equality and human rights survey found that 3 in 4 women experienced pregnancy and maternity discrimination and 7 years later in 2023, 54,000 women lost their jobs for the audacity of getting pregnant.

It's depressing I know, but today we look to the Lionesses and know we can make it better, we can fight one discrimination and belittling comment at a time, and today is about galvanizing our power and coming out stronger.

Have the most wonderful day. Eat ,drink and be merry and know you are in a room of friends and potential business partners. Make those connections, take those cards and grow like the phenomenal women that you are.

Best wishes

*Love Sal xxx*

# Chair's Foreword

In the last 12 months we've seen many things happen across the UK and wider afield that no one could have prepared for or predicted.

We've seen a woman single handedly challenge the Government who gained such following and support that her mission has now changed the way childcare will be funded in this country for the better. We've seen our Lionesses get to the World Cup Final and be supported by over 1.3 billion people across the world that tuned in to watch.

At home, we continue to see the effects of the financial crisis that has grasped much of the country in 2023. I am sure that in some shape or form we have all been affected by the crisis and yet today we welcome some 600 guests, despite a disrupted economic climate. On this day we have all chosen to come to celebrate and recognise the achievements of some truly inspirational women. So, whether this is your first or forty first time joining us, thank you for your support. We are stronger together.

Enjoy the afternoon.

**Zalena**



# Aldermore

## Foreword

We are delighted to be headline sponsors of the Women of the Year Awards for so many reasons.

As well as being a wonderful event with the opportunity to hear so many inspirational stories and meet many exceptional women, it's also a real chance for us to put into action the values that we hold so close.

At Aldermore, we are passionate about advocating for diversity and inclusion and championing potential. This feeds into the products we offer and the customers we work with, as well as how we treat our colleagues.

In fact, we were so moved by the awards that we decided to hold our own version at Aldermore. All of our 2000+ colleagues were invited to nominate in various categories, and we are proud to say that our winners are in attendance at the event today.

Have a wonderful afternoon, and congratulations to all the participants.

**Lisa Hannah**

Director of Group Communications and Corporate Affairs, Aldermore

Proud sponsors of this year's Women of the Year Awards.

# Programme for the day

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
The Hilton Birmingham Metropole

- 11.00  
Arrival and drinks reception in the Monarch Foyer
- 12.10  
The 2023 WoTY Lunch, designed by guest chefs Anna, Chariya and Delia
- 14.00  
Keynote Speaker – Maxine Laceby, Founder of Absolute Collagen
- 14.30  
Boodles Luxury Prize Draw and Raffle
- 14.45  
Presentation of the Freeths Woman with Edge Award
- 15.45  
Presentation of the Woman of Achievement Award
- 16.15  
Presentation of the Business Woman of the Year Award
- 16.30  
Conclusion



Prince's Trust

## Anna's Starter

**Autumn Kale, Roasted Ras El Hanout Squash & Beetroot Salad**  
with Toasted Pumpkin Seeds, Micro Herbs, Whipped Feta with an Orange & Pomegranate dressing.

## Delia's Main

**Catalan Chicken Ballotine**  
Escalivada, Potato Terrine, Charred Baby Leeks, Romesco Sauce, Chicken and Sherry Jus, Chicken Skin

**Vegetarian Option**  
Celeriac, Escalivada, Potato Terrine, Charred Baby Leeks, Romesco Sauce, Crispy Onion

## Chariya's Dessert

**Toffee & Pear Upside Down Frangipane Cake**  
with Vanilla Crumb & Condensed Milk Ice Cream

The Women of the Year Luncheon & Awards 2023 is delighted to welcome back 2019 MasterChef finalist Delia-Maria Asser and extends a welcome to new friends, celebrated cookbook author of Anna's Family Kitchen, Anna Stanford and MasterChef 2023 winner Chariya Khattiyot who are all here today having designed this afternoon's sumptuous menu.



**Chariya Khattiyot** has gone from master coffee roaster to MasterChef Champion, becoming the 19th amateur cook to claim the coveted title on BBC One's prestigious cooking competition.

Facing off the talents of 44 other ambitious contestants, Chariya triumphed at the end of eight exciting weeks of MasterChef culinary challenges, which culminated in a white-knuckle cook-off against the exceptional remaining finalists. Chariya was awarded the revered MasterChef trophy by judges John Torode and Gregg Wallace on TV's biggest cooking competition.

**Chariya Khattiyot -  
2023 MasterChef Winner**



**Delia-Marie Asser** is a police officer with the Metropolitan Police and was also a finalist on MasterChef in 2019. She reached the first all-female final alongside Irini Tzortoglou and Jilly McCord. Born to a Spanish mother and English father, Delia grew up with a passion for food and languages. Before beginning university, she travelled to Palestine to undertake refugee work and then went on to study Arabic, spending over a year living in both Spain and Morocco, which fuelled her love of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern flavours.

**Delia-Maria Asser -  
2019 MasterChef Finalist**



**Anna Stanford** is a recipe creator and food writer. A self-taught cook and mother of three, Anna started Anna's Family Kitchen with the aim of simplifying family meal times. She has now achieved a large loyal social media following where her recipes are known as faff free, family friendly and wholesome. Anna has a zero waste ethos and, in her book and via her Instagram account, shares tips on how to create meals from leftovers, the benefits of batch cooking and how to adapt and tweak recipes to cater for family members who may have intolerances, allergies or strong dislikes.

**Anna Stanford -  
Celebrated author, blogger  
and culinary connoisseur**

# Welcome from the Directors

The directors of Women of the Year Luncheon & Awards welcome you to the 41st Anniversary event held once again at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.



**Zalena Vandrewala, Chair**

Zalena Vandrewala is a commercial litigator with Top 50 National Law Firm, Freeths LLP. Having been recognised for her work in the Legal 500, Zalena has conducted and resolved a wide range of commercial and general disputes nationwide over the last 17 years.

Zalena is also a mentor for start-up and SME businesses throughout Cheshire and Staffordshire and is passionate about supporting young people in business to help achieve their goals.



**Emma Elston MBE**

Emma Elston MBE is Co-Founder & CEO of a leading waste container repair and refurbishment firm. She is passionate about the creation of a circular economy and has used this focus to drive success for her business which saves local authorities and waste companies money by refurbishing and reusing waste & recycling containers.

UK Container Maintenance is now the biggest container refurbishment & re-manufacturing company in Britain with Head Quarters in Cheshire.



**Fleur Sexton DL**

Fleur Sexton is Chief Executive and co-founder of multi-ward winning PET-Xi Training, one of the most hard-hitting and dynamic training providers in the UK with a reputation for success with the hardest to reach people.

Deeply committed to changing lives through education and employment, since 1995 she and her team have delivered impact, inspiration, and value to 250,000 learners in a wide range of communities across the UK, making social mobility a reality by finding and breaking barriers, improving life chances and making communities stronger.



**Dr Sharon Redrobe OBE**

Sharon was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's New Year Honours List 2017 for her services to Skills, Science, and the Economy.

As a former winner of the Women of the Year category 'Business Woman of the Year', Sharon joined our board of directors in 2021 and is committed to promoting and celebrating the achievements of female role models across the UK and all areas of society and business.



**Wendy Dean**

A true people person, Wendy enjoyed a career delivering impactful culture change programmes across diverse business for over 20 years. A key highlight was when Wendy was recognised as Personnel Today's HR Director of the Year. Ready to leave the corporate world, in 2015 set up her own business, Strategi Solutions Group.

With culture change at the heart, Wendy saw an opportunity to align three core business streams: People, Marketing and Creative. Three symbiotic disciplines all working simultaneously to help businesses thrive through change, using her wealth of experience to support every step of this journey.

# Meet our Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors work alongside the Board of Directors to deliver the event. If you are interested in sponsoring our Awards or nominating a candidate in 2023 please contact one of them to learn more.



**Emma Heathcote-James**  
Founder – Little Soap Company

Emma Heathcote-James created the multi-award-winning Little Soap Company when she questioned why UK supermarkets didn't offer any choice of natural or organic beauty on their shelves.

Now fifteen years on, it has become one of the UK's fastest growing companies in the toiletries sector with a copious amount of personal and product accolades under its belt.



**Jennie Johnson MBE**  
Founder and CEO of My First Five Years Ltd

Serial entrepreneur, Jennie Johnson MBE, is Founder and CEO of My First Five Years (MFFY). She was the first female to win the UK Private Business Awards CEO of the Year (2017) and was voted UK's Businesswoman of the Year (2019).



**Sally Penni MBE**  
Barrister and Founder of Women in the Law UK

Sally Penni is a practicing Barrister at law and the founder and CEO of Women in the Law UK. She is a multi-award-winning Barrister for her work in Equality. She is one of the best-known lawyers in the North West of England.



**Kathryn Farmer**  
Industry Brand Ambassador

Committed to inspiring, celebrating and promoting female role models across all areas of society and the business community, Kathryn will help the Women of the Year Luncheon & Awards continue to celebrate the achievements of women across the UK as an ambassador.



**Suzanne Linton**  
Founder & CEO of Freestylew

Suzanne is Founder and CEO of Freestyle, a digital innovation consultancy based in Warwickshire. Mentoring the next generation of business superstars is part of Suzanne's DNA and she is committed to inspiring, celebrating and promoting female role models across all areas of society and the business community as an ambassador for the Women of the Year Luncheon & Awards.



**Gareth Shenton-Harold**  
HR Professional and Entrepreneur

Gareth has had a varied career starting in luxury retail and spent 15 years as a Human Resource director specialising in learning and development and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. He is a professional mediator and seasoned development coach, lending his skills to several organisations such as Young Enterprise and The Prince's Trust.

#WomenSupportingWomen #WOTY2023

# Luxury prize raffle

Tickets are £20 each and are available to purchase online from [womenoftheyear.shop](http://womenoftheyear.shop)

Scan the QR code below for details of the prizes and to purchase tickets.



*EDEN HOTEL COLLECTION*  
*Unique in character Individual in style*

**Win a Luxury overnight stay, including dinner & breakfast at The Mallory Court Country House Hotel & Spa**

Enjoy a one-night stay for two people in a King Executive room on a dinner, B&B basis at The Mallory Court Country House Hotel & Spa, including full use of the Spa facilities.

Kindly donated by Eden Hotel Collection

**little soap company**  
est. 2008

**Win an Eco Warrior Gift Pack**

Experience every one of the plastic free, job specific and high impact Eco Warrior bars in The Total Works Gift Pack.

Kindly donated by The Little Soap Company

*Llanfair Hall*

**Win an overnight Glamping Pod experience at Llanfair Hall**

Experience an overnight stay in one of Llanfair Hall's beautiful Glamping Pods, made from solid treated timber and insulated with sheep's wool - outdoor living, but that little bit more glamorous. The pods are ideal for two people, (although you can squeeze in some children on the sofa bed!).

Kindly donated by Llanfair Hall

*Araminta Campbell*

**Win an Araminta Campbell Alpaca Hot Water Bottle**

Valued at £120, this hot water bottle comes complete with a warm alpaca cover and an insert of one litre capacity. Created in an artisan mill in Scotland from sustainably sourced British alpaca.

Kindly donated by The Araminta Campbell Atelier

**THE WHITE COMPANY**  
LONDON

**The White Company Advent Calendar**

The White Company Advent Calendar is 25 moments of joy, including 4 full-size products (not just miniatures)! Perfect to provide a little daily indulgence in the run up to Christmas, with each of the pull-out drawers containing a favourite seasonal scent or wellness treat. Worth over £175, containing goods worth over £270!

Donated by The White Company





### Win a Prosecco Cream Tea for Two at Harrods

Sit and relax at this iconic location and treat yourself to this decadent pick-me-up. Alongside a refreshing glass of prosecco each, you'll be served fluffy, freshly baked plain and fruit scones with mouth-watering clotted cream and Harrods' own jam.

Kindly donated by Miss Money Savvy



### Win a Harvey Nichols Hamper

A bespoke Harvey Nichols hamper which includes body lotion, body wash, x2 face masks, Neom candle, Earl Grey tea, Harvey Nichols Prosecco Rose, fudge, Pink Champagne truffles, chocolate raisins, strawberry and champagne jam, biscuits.

Kindly donated by LSH Autos



### Win a Day at Cheltenham Races

Win two tickets to the 'St. Patrick's Thursday' at The Cheltenham Festival, on Thursday 14th March 2024 at Cheltenham Races. Enjoy full hospitality on the day in a private box at the winning line, and food and drink throughout the day.

Kindly donated by Peremps



### Win Two VIP Premium Tickets to Co-op Live

2 VIP premium tickets to a show of your choice, already announced at Co-op Live. Gain access through the VIP entrance and enjoy the show from the premium level 2 area which has an array of premium bars, restaurants and experiences.

Kindly donated by Co-op Live



### Win a Berry Bros. & Rudd No.3 Gin Hamper

Berry Bros. & Rudd have a fine history of providing the highest quality wine and spirits throughout the world for over a hundred years. With this hamper Berry Bros & Rudd have provided a wide range of super premium spirits to be enjoyed in your favourite cocktail, with your favourite mixer, or simply enjoyed on their own.

Donated by No.3 Gin



### Win a Tower Stealth 2000 Two Burner BBQ with Side Burner

The Tower Stealth two burner BBQ lets you grill a wide range of succulent meats to a perfect texture and consistency using the precision heat thermometer. The porcelain enamel coated cast iron grill is durable and retains large amounts of heat, providing efficient grilling.

Kindly donated by Eden Hotel RKW



### Full Absolute Collagen Deep Lift Skincare Range and 3 months of Marine Collagen Supplement

This includes:

- Day Cream • Night Cream • Neck and Dec Cream
- Eye Cream • 6 Boxes of Marine Collagen Supplement

Kindly donated by Absolute Collagen



### Win a Luxury overnight stay, including dinner at The Hilton Birmingham Metropole

Enjoy a one-night stay for two people in a King Executive room on a dinner, B&B basis at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole.

Kindly donated by Hilton Birmingham Metropole

# BOODLES

1798

## Boodles Luxury Pink Ticket Raffle



*This beautiful Roulette Small  
White Gold Diamond Pendant*

Worth over £3,000

A charming pendant from Boodles Roulette collection, featuring circle motifs with diamonds set to both sides so they can spin and flip with the movement of the wearer. Worn as a lucky talisman by many, or as a charming alternative to an eternity ring. This pendant is set with a cluster of round-brilliant cut diamonds and set in 18 carat white gold, suspended on a matching 44cm chain.

Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.



£30  
per ticket

[www.boodles.com](http://www.boodles.com)

# REMARKABLE DRINKS, WITHOUT COMPROMISE

Franklin & Sons is proud to support the remarkable Woman of the Year Awards 2023.

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**FRANKLIN  
& SONSLTD**  
LONDON 1886

Scan the QR code to visit  
[franklinandsons.co.uk](http://franklinandsons.co.uk)

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## Business Woman of The Year Winner 2022 Suzanne Linton

CEO of Freestyle

Suzanne is CEO of Freestyle, a digital innovation agency which helps large businesses improve the experience of their users through digital products and services.

She set up the business in 1996 at the dawn of the digital age and has grown it using her core principles of people first, flexibility in the workplace and open and transparent relationships with staff and clients alike – the technology products we create are the result of good business practices, not the start of them.



WOTY is all about celebrating and inspiring women in business and part of that is in supporting the next generation to aim even higher. For me exactly that, helping all women with potential, women that will make a difference in their chosen field and WOTY can help provide the rocket fuel (sustainably of course) to boost them even further, expanding their network, inspiring a whole new generation and helping women achieve more than they currently think is possible.

Suzanne Linton - Business Woman of The Year 2022



INTRODUCING

## The 2023 Women of the Year Keynote Speaker



## Maxine Laceby

Co-founder of Absolute Collagen.

When Maxine Laceby started Absolute Collagen from her kitchen table aged 50, with no business experience, she had no idea it would become the multi-million-pound wellness brand it is today. Absolute Collagen was named 4th in The Sunday Times Hundred and Maxine has been awarded a NatWest Everywomen award amongst others.

Integrity and giving back in all areas are inherent to Maxine personally and professionally, and why she became a patron of the Prince's Trust in 2021. From her humble beginnings living on a council estate with a single mother to her ADHD, which she sees as her superpower.

Connect with Maxine on:

- maxinelaceby
- maxineownsit
- absolutecollagen

[www.absolutecollagen.com](http://www.absolutecollagen.com)



# Save the date!

Join us next year

Friday 27 September 2024  
Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel

**Women  
of the  
Year**  
Est. NineteenEighty Two



## Meet Your Host Arti Halai

Broadcaster, Entrepreneur,  
Investor, Board Director...  
Wife and Mummy.

Connect with Arti at:  
[www.artihalai.com](http://www.artihalai.com)  [Artihalai](#)



[ahaction.com](http://ahaction.com)

“I have had the honour and privilege of hosting WoTY for more than twenty years now. In that time, we have celebrated numerous inspirational women with incredible stories and amazing achievements. I'm so glad you are here as part of this very special and memorable day.”

*- Arti*

Arti Halai spent fifteen years working in news and current affairs for the BBC and ITV where she learnt all about designing and delivering the right messages. An investor and entrepreneur, she used those skills to co-found and build two successful and profitable businesses which grew parallel to reach seven figures and work with some of the world's leading brands.

An Executive Coach, Arti specialises in confident communications and has coached and trained 1,000's of people, helping them to identify their sticky points, laser focus on their message and deliver their outcomes with outstanding results.

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We champion equality by increasing access to finance so that our customers can thrive.

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### Aldermore

Proud sponsors of this year's Women of the Year Awards



# Finalists



## Clair Heaviside

**Co-founder & Creative Director  
Serotonin.**

Clair Heaviside is the Co-founder and Creative Director of digital agency, Serotonin. Based in Manchester UK, the multi-award-winning agency works with clients globally, across a whole range of sectors and industries, from property to technology, hospitality & leisure to health and fashion.

In 2022 she was listed in the Top Ten Female Entrepreneurs To Watch by The Telegraph and NatWest. For the past three years, Clair has been a trustee of Haven, a charity that supports children and young people affected by domestic abuse.



## Eleanor Deeley

**Joint Managing Director  
Deeley Group.**

Eleanor is the Joint Managing Director at a Midlands based Construction and Development firm, the Deeley Group.

Eleanor's life in the construction industry started as a child, when she would spend Saturday mornings at the old Deeley offices with her grandfather, George Deeley. She is involved in everything from Branding to Project Delivery and generating new business, whilst developing partnerships with clients.

Eleanor strives to create more access and openness in the business, and encourages more diversity in an industry that is male dominated, she highlights the professionalisation of the industry to encourage women looking to join.



## Farzana Naz

**Director  
Saracens Solicitors.**

Farzana Naz is a Partner and Head of Family at Saracens Solicitors. She has over 20 years of experience in dealing with family law cases.

She has managed a high number of complex cases including involving high net worth individuals. She is also an author of her book "Divorce Know The Score" which she wrote with a divorce coach to help guide those thinking of separating or getting divorce. Further she has been featured in the Telegraph for giving her views on grandparents' rights and has been put forward for several awards.



## Sue Bancroft

**Group People Director  
MGI Group.**

Sue is an experienced HR Leader with over 23 years' experience within the logistics industry and more recently within manufacturing and construction as Group People Director for the MGI Group.

As a role model for women, Sue's passion is helping women recognise their abilities and strengths enabling them to create their own opportunities.

Sue's achievements in this area include the creation of leadership programmes such as the Aspirational Women Programme in her previous company, which gave women across the business a voice, gave them more confidence in their roles and enabled those that wanted to, to progress into more senior roles.

# Finalists



## Jackie Hyde

Managing Director  
Stanmore Insurance Brokers.

Jackie Hyde is the Managing Director of Stanmore Insurance Brokers and has worked there for 35 years. She started as a Commercial Account Handler and worked her way up through the company to take over the ownership in 2001. Her passion for providing top quality customer service is a driving factor in all she does.

In 2003, Jackie spotted that children's nurseries weren't being offered the insurance support and protection they needed. She therefore created dot2dot nursery insurance, a dedicated insurance scheme for the childcare sector. The scheme has been a huge success growing by 15-20% year-on-year and currently has a Gross Written Premium of over £6 million with clients on a nationwide basis.



## Julia Kessler

CEO & Co-Founder  
Nix&Kix Ltd.

Julia Kessler is the co-founder and CEO of Nix & Kix, a multi-award-winning adult soft drinks brand. A hint of cayenne is added to great tasting fruit flavours, for a clean refreshment.

Nix & Kix has built the company from zero to over 1,000 stockists across the UK and internationally, along with a diverse distribution network spanning retail and foodservice.

Julia's experience consists of 12 years in Supply Chain Operations and Program Management in the Hi-Tech industry. She has led numerous business process improvements across multiple regions as well as leading various cross-functional and international teams.



## Kirsty Davies-Chinnock

Managing Director  
Professional Polishing Services.

Kirsty Davies-Chinnock has over thirty years' experience in the metals sector. She is the managing Director of Professional Polishing Services, Director of the British Steel Association and sits on the UK Metals council.

She is also the founder of the Women in Industry Podcast and the Women with Metal Conference. She is an international consultant for surface finishing on stainless steel and aluminium in both architectural applications and technical applications such as for the nuclear and pharmaceutical industries. She is passionate about supporting women in the manufacturing and engineering sectors and to help them fulfil their potential.



## Lee Elizabeth Thomas

Founder/Managing Director  
Aesthetics Event Staff.

Lee Elizabeth Thomas came from a working-class background, leaving school in Coventry at 15 with one O-level in Art. Lee's self-employed career started in 1987 with a small grant from the Prince's Trust. With sheer hard work, determination, and a drive to succeed, she has led two successful businesses turning over 15 million each in 2022 at the height of the pandemic by diversifying into providing Covid support staff.

Returning to education In 2011 Lee was awarded a first-class honours degree in Business Management and is a board member of Coventry and Warwickshire Children's Charity helping raise £3M+ for children suffering abuse.



**At Beyond Repair Entertainment we are a female-led boutique company that thinks of our team as family – a creative bunch of artists bound together by our originality, attention to detail and commitment to making every production a masterpiece.**

Our name stems from the idea that perfection is overrated. We know that drawing from a diverse range of life experiences is the best way to create unique shows and events that you'll never get anywhere else. We see the beauty in what others may consider flaws and give our team the freedom to be authentically themselves.

It's in this spirit that we feel a strong connection and kinship with the work of the Women of the Year, we understand the challenges of women all over the world and the importance of women being recognised for the exceptional things they achieve in all aspects of life. We could not be happier to be working with WoTY this year and beyond.

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[beyondrepairentertainment.com](http://beyondrepairentertainment.com)



## Judges



A huge thank you to the Business Woman of the Year 2023 Judges.

Our Business Woman of the Year Award is arguably our most sought-after award and, considering the unprecedented challenges of a post-pandemic world, the achievements of this year's finalists are testament to their ongoing commitment and drive.

This year's impressive shortlist of eight finalists were nominated from all over the country through the Women of the Year website. We had people nominating themselves, and others who were nominating someone else for the award. The initial WoTY review panel had to narrow down over 300 applications to a shortlist that would go on to be interviewed by the carefully selected Judging Panel.

Judging of the Business Woman of the Year Award took place in the beautiful setting of Mallory Court Hotel and Spa, and we extend our sincere thanks to the team there for making this possible.

We continue our commitment to build a strong future for Women of the Year Luncheon & Awards and would encourage you to join the growing list of high-profile achievers by submitting a nomination for Women of the Year 2024!

[info@womenoftheyear.org.uk](mailto:info@womenoftheyear.org.uk)  
[www.womenoftheyear.org.uk](http://www.womenoftheyear.org.uk)



Left to right (back row): **Lisa Thurkettle** Pertemps, **Paul Parry** Strategi Solutions.  
 Left to right (front row): **Dr Angela Jeffery** Aston University, **Lisa Gilligan** Freeths LLP



### Women Supporting Women

is a passionate group who are committed to changing the lives of young women at The Prince's Trust, helping them build their confidence and skills and supporting them into jobs, education and training.

If you would like to find out more about joining please visit Women Supporting Women:  
[princes-trust.org.uk/women](https://princes-trust.org.uk/women)



Prince's Trust

**WOMEN SUPPORTING  
WOMEN**

**I attribute  
my success to  
this: I never  
gave or took  
any excuse.**

**Florence Nightingale**  
Founder of modern nursing



## Aston University is again supporting Women of the Year, cementing a long-term relationship.

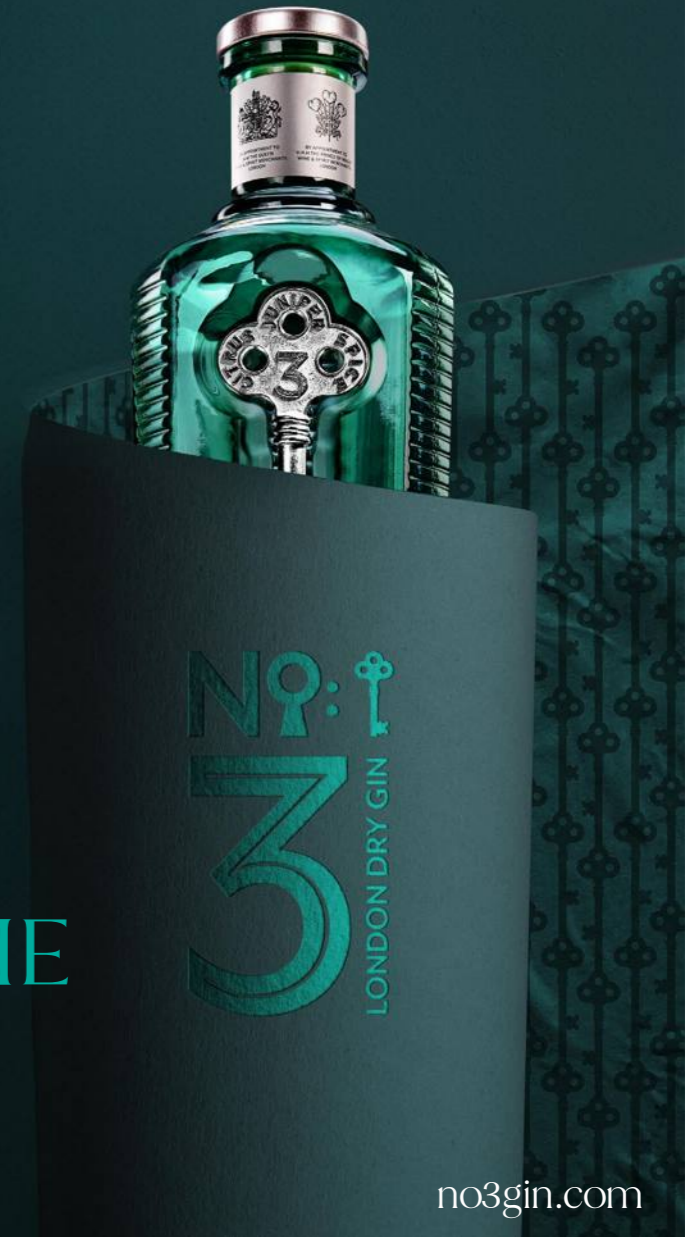
With inclusion and diversity at the heart of who we are as a university, our commitment to gender equality is vital to ensuring everyone can succeed. We are committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG), and sponsoring Women of the Year is one of many Aston activities to support UNSDG Goal 5 – Gender Equality.

Aston's commitment to fostering equality is evident through our multi-agency Civic Agreement, implementation of the Race Equality Charter and securing University of Sanctuary status. We are also only the second university in the UK to be honoured with the prestigious Athena Swan Gold Award for diversity in engineering. As a university that also champions diversity, we embed intercultural awareness across all disciplines in all our taught courses: **creating a powerful platform for our inclusive future.**



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We champion the exceptions to the rule and look for ways to say yes, focusing on future potential.

Our 2000+ team across eight UK locations are all working towards the same goal – to back customers to achieve their hopes and dreams.

Sponsorship of the Women of the Year Awards is something very close to our hearts here at Aldermore; it feeds directly into our core values of supporting women in finance, celebrating the achievements of women in business, and advocating for diversity and inclusion.

[www.aldermore.co.uk](http://www.aldermore.co.uk)

Strategi Solutions is a Staffordshire based business consultancy committed to helping businesses do better. With experts in People, Marketing & Creative Strategi delivers an end-to-end solution for all business-oriented requirements, both for large multi-nationals and locally owned companies too.

We are passionate about using our expertise to have a real impact on, not just the businesses that we work with, but the communities that we serve too; committed to delivering diverse and inclusive solutions that truly impact the world in a positive way, through the services that we offer.

Strategi epitomises its core values of partnership, innovation, courage, and honesty to deliver the best outcome for their clients. Becoming an extension of its client's businesses, Strategi is both the clients' helping hand and the shoulder to lean on, wherever and whenever we're needed. We are plain speaking and approachable, no industry jargon, just simple and straightforward language and a friendly attitude that keeps existing clients loyal and prospective clients engaged.

For more information, visit [strategisolutions.co.uk](http://strategisolutions.co.uk)

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For more information, visit [aston.ac.uk](http://aston.ac.uk)

Pertemps Network Group has been providing first-class recruitment solutions to businesses of all shapes and sizes and in all industries since 1961. As the UK's largest privately owned recruitment agency, the company offers immediate and strategic solutions to clients across both the public and private sectors.

With a business strategy that combines selective acquisition and organic growth, Pertemps has been recognised as one of the Best Companies to Work for 16 consecutive years.

A nationwide branch network supports businesses in the supply of temporary, permanent and contract workers whilst specialist agencies operating in niche sectors can identify skilled candidates to fill the most challenging vacancies, Pertemps is also an industry leader in talent acquisition and management solutions, providing HR leaders with competitive advantage in the ability to attract, recruit and retain the right people.

For more information, visit [pertemps.co.uk](http://pertemps.co.uk)

Freeths LLP is a top 50 full service commercial law firm with 12 offices across the UK.

Freeths LLP is a long-standing sponsor and supporter of the Women of the Year Luncheon & Awards. We are truly proud to have been part of the exciting journey celebrating the exceptional achievements of women across the UK at this stand-out event.

At Freeths, diversity and inclusion isn't just something we talk about, it's what we do and is integral to our DNA. We value and recognise the benefits that a diverse workforce and senior leadership team brings to our culture, our people, and our clients. The appointment of Philippa Dempster as the firm's Senior Partner was a pivotal step along the way.

The lack of gender diversity in the legal profession is a widely acknowledged challenge and we stand out in our work and genuine commitment to ensuring positive change.

We are proud to have been recognised by The British Chamber of Commerce, as the winners of The National Equality Trailblazer Diversity and Inclusion Award 2021.

We encourage challenging the status quo. We drive positive change by thinking differently and delivering the right results to our clients, every time. Our diverse and innovative networking events programme continues to inspire hundreds of like-minded business women across the country to work together and push aside any boundaries.

For more information, visit [www.freeths.co.uk](http://www.freeths.co.uk)



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Women of the Year  
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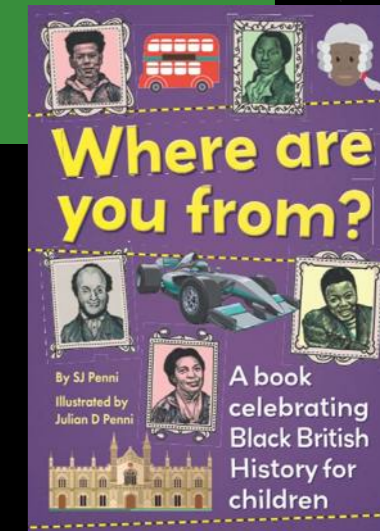
## IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WOTY Ambassador Dr Sally Penni MBE has written a book in celebration of black history month.

'Where are you From' introduces us to 31 figures from British black history, one for each day of October.

Sally is a Barrister at law and Founder of Women In The Law. In 2020, Sally received an MBE for contributions to diversity, social mobility, and law. In 2022 she received an honorary doctorate from Manchester Metropolitan University and in 2023 an honorary doctorate from Salford University.

Where are you from? Is available on Amazon - <https://amzn.eu/d/8Xsncom>





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## G.M. LINTON - AUTHOR

G.M. Linton found her way back to her first loves of reading and creative writing after decades of ignoring the two – and now enjoys nothing better than snatching time to read a good book and losing herself while imagining characters and storylines. She is particularly inspired by her parents, who arrived in Britain, from Jamaica, as part of the Windrush generation, in the 1950s.

G.M. Linton can be found happily snacking on stuffed green olives and may be partial to a slice of cake or two.



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# Become a Sponsor for 2024

Are you interested in becoming a Sponsor of the next Women of the Year event?

Join our ever-growing list of high profile sponsors and supporters and enjoy the benefits of being involved in next year's prestigious event.

For more information, please contact us at:

[info@womenoftheyear.org.uk](mailto:info@womenoftheyear.org.uk)



**Hi. I'm Jemma, owner of The Brook Biscuits.**

After my statutory maternity leave finished in July 2022, I calculated that the nursery fees would be over £2,000 a month, and I soon realised that the hours I would be working wouldn't even cover the costs, so my husband and I decided that for 12 months I would be a stay-at-home mum.

I've been baking for as long as I can remember for family and friends, so everyone encouraged me to start doing postal deliveries and offering local collections, so I started The Brook Biscuits in October 2022 and as of July 2023 I have sent nearly 200 postal deliveries.

I look after my 3-year-old and 17-month-old full time, and when they go to bed, I set up camp for the evening to bake or decorate. Baking around 150-200 biscuits a week. In January 2022 I created 80 biscuits for the Women of the Year launch event and the feedback was amazing, and it was a real pleasure to send out the Biscuit Boxes to the 10 2023 Awards finalists. I am looking forward to supporting The Prince's Trust Women Supporting Women initiative and working with the WoTY team for many years to come.

From September 2023, my children will be going to Preschool and childminder so I am now in a position where I will be able to focus on building my business in the daytime and won't have to go back to an office job.

*Jemma*



THEBROOKBISCUITS





Jennie Johnson won Business Woman of the Year in 2019 and now sits as an Ambassador to the organisation.



After founding Kids Allowed in 2003 and growing it to become one of the UK's largest nursery groups, Jennie went on to successfully exit and retire in 2020.

Everyone knew she wouldn't last more than 12 months!

When a friend sent a video of their new baby doing a simple activity during lockdown and she hadn't realised how significant this was for her baby, Jennie couldn't get her next eureka moment out of her head!

If only parents could truly understand child development like the thousands of professionals she'd helped over the last 18 years. A life free of being told that by this age their child should be doing 'x and y'. **A life free of comparanoia!**

A real opportunity for Jennie to bring together all that **knowledge, technology, science, and research to create an app to support and empower parents through the unique challenges of those first five years of their child's life to help parents embrace every step and children to thrive.**

Fast forward one year to the day she retired and the My First Five Years app was born (pardon the pun).

**The only app of its kind that doesn't work in ages and stages,** the MFFY app has already won 3 awards and featured on the App Store 3 times (**latterly as app of the day**).

You can start your free trial on Apple App Store or Google Play Store by scanning the QR code



OPPORTUNITY IS AROUND THE CORNER

## PERTEMPS NETWORK GROUP IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS.

We have a long history of empowering women, and it is fantastic to be involved in an event that gives a stage to celebrating female success.

Since our birth in 1961, we have always supported the people in the communities in which we work and continue to strive to remove any barriers to employment so any individual can be the best they can be and pursue whatever career path they choose, rather than one dictated by history, where they come from or professional misconceptions.

We are privileged to be part of this movement which does such great work.



Whatever the sector, Pertemps can help.

[www.pertemps.co.uk](http://www.pertemps.co.uk)



# The Women of Achievement Award 2022

The Women of The NHS



At the start of 2020, COVID-19 spread worldwide and had catastrophic effects on the global community. The effects on the UK were no different and we looked to the talented men and women of our NHS to support the nation as we battled this devastating virus. 2020 also saw the official marking of the Year of the Nurse and Midwife.

The National Health Service began on 5th July 1948 and next year will have been in operation for 75 years this year. In total there were an estimated 564 million patient contacts with GP, community, mental health, hospital, NHS 111 and ambulance services in 2018/19. This is equivalent to every person in England being assessed, treated and cared for by the NHS 10 times a year. It is the biggest employer in Europe and the world's largest employer of highly skilled professionals. 1.3 million people across the health service in England are devoting their working lives to caring for others.

Nursing in the United Kingdom has a long history, Florence Nightingale pioneered 'modern nursing'. But the role and perception of nursing has dramatically changed from that of 'handmaiden' to the doctor to professionals.

There are over 500,000 nurses in the United Kingdom working in various settings, across all demographics and across a range of specialities like medicine, surgery, theatres, and investigative sciences such as imaging right through to respiratory, diabetes and research.

In 2021, there were 53,000 midwives working across England and Wales. And 200 specialist neo-natal units in the UK providing different levels of care for sick babies. 1 in 7 babies born in the UK are admitted to such a ward.

**In 2022 The Women of the Year honoured those women across all disciplines of the NHS by awarding them the Women of Achievement Award.**

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# A straight— talking team of disruptive thinkers.

## Branding Design Strategy

**53north.uk**



# Thank you

Arti Halai

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Michael McDonald &

Jordan Mountford

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Paul Parry, Jordan Haughton

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Hilton Birmingham Metropole

David Morgan, Simon Jelley

& Graham Thomas

ProTec Europe

Tess Townsend

Studio B

Tara Robinson, Milly Peace &

Charlotte Rides

Eden Hotel Collection

Anthea Fosti & Melissa Chawner

Zeus PR

Jane Coulson & Delle Evans

Beyond Repair Entertainment

Jemma Brook

The Brook Biscuits

Jamie Copeland

QPS

PET XI Training – Volunteers

Natasha Blacklock

Leia Welland

Allison MacDonald-Smith

Caitlin Walton

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**Goody Bag Co-ordinated and**

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Absolute Collagen

Little Soap Co/Eco Warrior

Space Masks

Nix and Kix drinks

Ruuby

Araminta Campbell

**Our Ambassadors:**

Baroness Helen Newlove

Emma Heathcote James

Jennie Johnson MBE

Sally Penni MBE

Kathryn Farmer

Suzanne Linton

Gareth Shenton- Harold

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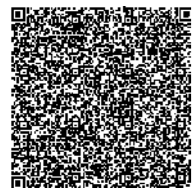


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## BUY WOMEN BUILT (BWB) IS A MOVEMENT AIMED AT CONNECTING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS...

and building a movement that mobilises the enormous power of consumers to support and champion the UK's women-built brands.

It all started with a simple yet powerful tweet,

**“NOT EVERYONE CAN INVEST IN FEMALE FOUNDERS. NOT EVERYONE CAN MENTOR FEMALE FOUNDERS, BUT WE CAN ALL BUY FROM THEM”.**

When co-founder Sahar Hashemi, stumbled upon this tweet it seemed an effective answer to the shocking Rose Review statistics that demonstrated the UK was 30% behind the US in terms of female entrepreneurship, and if levelled could add an extra £200 billion to our economy. With co-founder Barny Macaulay, Sahar built BWB not just to shine a light on the entrepreneurs of today, but also to inspire the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

“If you can see it, you can be it. By shopping women built, BWB believes we can unleash the powerful contribution these businesses make to our economy, our future, and our communities.”



**THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WOMEN OF THE YEAR GOODY BAG:**

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design and marketing for the past 5 years.

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# Women of the Year

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Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel

#WOTY2023 #WomenSupportingWomen

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