

Best Midwife

'MY LITTLE GIRL AND I BOTH OWE OUR LIVES TO NINA'

MIDWIFE NINA KELLOW was waiting for mum-to-be Alice Clements in intensive care when she was admitted to the Royal Gloucester Hospital with early-stage organ failure.



PRIDE... Nina with Isabelle

Alice, who was due to give birth to daughter Isabelle seven weeks later, had developed severe pre-eclampsia, which can be life-threatening to expectant mothers and their babies. Her kidneys and liver were shutting down.

The next few hours were crucial. Alice was rushed to theatre to have an emergency C-section.

But Nina stayed by her side and gave her round-the-clock care, which, not only enabled her survival, but helped Alice come to terms with what had happened.

Nina stayed with me and for the first few days of Isabelle's life.

"She brought me photos of her from the special care unit when I was too sick to see her. I'll always be grateful to her."

Nina, 51, said: "I feel humbled to be nominated by Alice. I am passionate about giving the best care at crucial times to all parents."

'GRIEF CAN BE SUCH AN OVERWHELMING EMOTION'

THE pain of losing a baby you have only just welcomed into the world is one of the hardest things a parent could ever face.

Few know more about what these mums and dads go through than HILARY PATTERSON, 54.



BABY... Charlene with Hilary

The specialist bereavement midwife, who is based at Ulster Hospital, County Down, has spent 11 years counselling hundreds of grieving parents.

One of those is Charlene McCabe, 36, a classroom assistant from Belfast.

Her daughter Myla was born in July, 2013, and died less than two hours later because of Edwards' syndrome, which is a chromosome disorder.

Hilary was there to give support, including registering Myla's birth after she died and helping with the funeral.

Charlene said: "You've lost something you love so much, your world has fallen apart."

"How you're helped through the grief makes all the difference to how you remember and how you learn to live again. I

couldn't have coped without Hilary." Charlene has since given birth to a healthy boy, Harry, who Hilary helped deliver on July 31.

Hilary said: "The job has such elements of sadness and broken heartedness. Grief can be such an overwhelming emotion."

"Processing it properly means parents can learn not to let it overwhelm them. I'm honoured to be nominated because my job really is a huge privilege."

'MIDWIFE SHELLY SPOTTED FATAL SIGNS DURING VISIT'

ENI BROWN was just four days old when she was admitted to the children's liver ward at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, with a life-threatening liver problem known as biliary atresia.



RELIEF... mum Charlie with Eni and midwife Shelly

Days later she went under the knife to have new bile ducts made, which have allowed her liver to function relatively normally.

But Eni, now four, only received her life-saving diagnosis because SHELLY GASCOGNE, 51, a community midwife based at Pontefract Hospital, spotted the fatal signs on a home visit.

Eni's mum Charlie, 40, a school support worker, said: "Shelly realised something was wrong with what was in Eni's nappy and contacted the hospital."

"Shelly's quick response and call to the doctors at the hospital changed our family's future in such an amazing way."

"Things could have been remarkably different without her

quick-thinking actions and I can't thank her enough."

Shelly said: "I vividly remember Eni because her condition isn't something you see very often. I know how there are often tragic outcomes with biliary atresia. To be nominated for this award is lovely but seeing Eni fit and well is better than any award."

By CHRISTINA EARLE

IMAGINE slicing open the chest of a newborn baby and attempting to operate on a heart smaller than a walnut.

Just a slip of a scalpel could change that child's future.

But this is the risk Dr DAVID CROSSLAND, 45, from the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle, takes every day.

In his 16 years working at the leading heart hospital, the consultant cardiologist has operated on more than 2,000 babies.

And it is only down to his immense skill, steady hands and nerves of steel that smiling Chanel Murrish is alive today.

Born with a one in three million mix of heart conditions, Chanel had a five per cent chance of surviving the op on her tiny ticker, which she underwent at just one minute old.

But now, aged three, she is starting nursery and wants to be a doctor when she grows up – even hosting her own pretend consultations in her living room.

Her mum Fay, 28, said: "The first op was very risky but she pulled through and Dr Crossland has been there every step of the way since."

"I can't thank him enough for all he has done for her. Without him and his incredible team, she wouldn't be with us today."

Fay's 20-week scan had revealed Chanel had Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS), where one side of the heart fail to develop properly. It is the most fatal congenital heart disease affecting newborns.

'In safe hands'

Ten weeks later, doctors dropped the bombshell that her little girl had the rarest form of it – Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome with intact atrial septum (IAS). The latter causes a blockage to the heart and Fay was told it was unlikely her baby would see in her fifth birthday.

With the odds stacked against her, Fay, full-time mum to sons Chase, seven, and Cole, five, was twice offered a termination.

But the full-time mum had faith in Dr Crossland and his team.

Little Chanel was born in a cardiac theatre in February 2014, then whizzed into the adjoining theatre for her life-saving open-heart op.

Fay, of Seaham, County Durham, said: "I didn't even have a chance to hold or kiss her before she was whisked away for surgery."

"I didn't know what her birth weight was because there was no time to weigh her before the op."

"I had asked doctors to stitch her up and bring her to me so she could die in my arms if she wasn't going to make it, just so I could hold her while she was still alive."

"But after an agonising four-hour wait, I was told she'd survived."

Since then, Chanel has had three further open-heart ops, a stroke and has developed cerebral palsy. She may yet need a heart transplant too.

But Fay cannot thank Dr Crossland enough dedication and skill.

She said: "Not only has he performed lots of her surgeries, he's listened to my tears and fears and worries for her future."

"Despite being busy, he's always got time for us. She has a Guinness World Record for being the youngest person to have this type of heart surgery at one minute old. But,



LITTLE FIGHTER... Chanel with mum Fay and Dr Crossland

OP SAVED MY BABY AT ONE MINUTE OLD

even though it is a world first, Dr Crossland made us feel in safe hands every step of the way. He means so much to our family."

Dr Crossland said: "Chanel's condition is exceptionally rare. But she is a determined little girl who has performed brilliantly in clinical terms."

When Chanel had her first surgery when she was a minute old, the team worked like a well-oiled machine.

Having Fay and Chanel's nomination is lovely but I was

part of a team effort." Children's cardiac nurse specialist, Debs Lawson, 45, has worked with Dr Crossland for 18 years and is representing him at today's Who Cares Wins ceremony.

She said: "It feels quite humbling to be nominated. We do phenomenal work which helps turns kids' lives around. Each of us is committed in our conviction to help these families."

Chanel added: "Thank you for mending my heart, Dr Crossland. You're the best."

British Heart Foundation figures show around 4,000 children every year in the UK are diagnosed with congenital heart disease.

'DR O'CALLAGHAN ENSURES PATIENTS COME FIRST'

STAFF say her Irish charm sweeps through the department, while her patients are always grateful for her kind, reassuring manner.

Consultant oncologist Dr ANN O'CALLAGHAN, 52, has worked at the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, for more than 20 years and has been nominated by her medical secretary, Tricia Barter, 69, who has worked with her for the past 16 years.

Tricia said: "Her office is littered with chocolates and bottles of wine from grateful patients."

"Years ago an alarm went off at the weekend and the hospital manager thought there had been a burglary in her office because of

the state it was in. But that's Ann. It might look a mess but she knows exactly where everything is. Her patients always come first."

Secondary school teacher Kate Corney, 30, from Emsworth, Hants, was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma in 2014 and has been under Dr O'Callaghan's treatment ever since.

She said: "Ann is selfless and has made sure I am OK, from my mental health to my cancer."

Dr O'Callaghan, who qualified as a doctor in 1988 after studying at University College Dublin, said: "It is humbling to be nominated. It is rewarding to work in a field which is advancing so fast."



HONOUR... Tricia, Dr O'Callaghan and Kate

Best Doctor



RECOVERY... Chanel with her scar from the surgery

'HE PIECED ME BACK TOGETHER AFTER CAR SMASH'

WHEN Veronica Johnston, 69, was involved in horrific road smash in 2011, doctors thought her chances of survival were next to none.

The retired cleaner was left with a broken back, collapsed lung and her pelvis broken in two places after the collision on a dual carriageway near Prestatyn, North Wales.

But thanks to the incredible skill of Dr GUNASEKARAN KUMAR, 47, she is alive, well and mobile today.

The orthopaedic consultant, who specialises in pelvic fractures at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, pieced her pelvis back together in a seven-hour op.

Now thanks to the pins, screws, rods and tubes he inserted to hold

her pelvis together, she can even walk again.

Veronica, of Dukinfield, Gtr Manchester, said: "I was bed bound, flat on my back for five months before I was finally able to move."

But as soon as I could, I travelled to the hospital to give Dr Kumar flowers and chocolates for saving my life.

"I owe him my life and I'll never be able to thank him enough."

Dr Kumar said: "It is a real honour to be nominated by Veronica and I am pleased the NHS is being recognised by The Sun."

"What I did for her was what I would do for anyone else – it's what I trained to do and what I love doing."



PELVIS REBUILT... Veronica and Dr Kumar

Ultimate Lifesaver

'A MILLION THANK YOUS WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH'

SOPHIE ROYCE was given a one per cent chance of survival after being struck with meningococcal septicaemia five years ago.

But thanks to the ECMO TEAM, ST THOMAS' HOSPITAL, London, she is alive and well.

ECMO stands for Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation – and the team used a special machine to remove and put back the blood from her body.

This re-oxygenated Sophie's body and allowed it to heal itself. She is now 25, and is training to be a nurse.

Sophie, who lives in Southwark, South London, is nominating the team who helped save her – ECMO consultants, Dr Nick Barrett, 44, Dr Nick Ioannou, 42, Dr Chris Meadows, 45, and ECMO lead nurse, Kathleen Daly, AGE.

She said: "I ended up on life support, only a few hours after my symptoms first appeared."

"The ECMO team were like my angels. Without them, it was



FIGHT... Sophie with team

highly unlikely I would have pulled through.

"They are the real heroes who saved my life and who have given me a quality of life. A million thank yous are not enough."

"Not a day goes by when I don't think about them and all they have done for me."

Dr Nick Ioannou said: "It is a wonderful feeling to see people like Sophie get better again. It makes our jobs worthwhile."

'BEING ABLE TO FINALLY MEET MY HEROES IS INCREDIBLE'

STORM WARNER was trapped inside his burning car after he was involved in a horrific crash on the M1 in June last year.

Duty Locality Officer Phil Smith, 44, paramedic Laura Wallace, 31, and emergency medical technicians Emily Wallis, 27, and Julia Horswell, 34, arrived on the scene as his car was ablaze.

But thanks to the EAST OF ENGLAND AMBULANCE SERVICE crew, Storm is alive today.

Phil said: "We arrived to see smoke and flames billowing out of the vehicle, then saw the body lying a few metres to the side."

"As we started the basic assessment of the patient, the car exploded. His blood pressure was dropping fast. I later learned it was caused by damage to his liver and how lucky he was to be alive at all."

With his car a wreck, left,



RESCUE... from left, Emily, Laura, Storm, Phil and Julia

Storm was rushed to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he needed a five-hour op to repair his liver – 45 per cent of it had been damaged and it split in three places. He also had a punctured lung, fractured hip, a broken ankle and several broken ribs.

Storm said: "The paramedics risked their lives to save mine but they didn't flinch."

"Being able to finally meet my heroes is incredible."

'WITHOUT STEVE FLYING ME TO SAFETY, I WOULD'VE DIED'

HELICOPTER pilot STEVE NORRIS has flown 198 life-saving missions in the last 12 months for the EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE.

He has also spent 1,000 hours flying for the life-saving charity, alongside Prince William.

But his dedication to the charity does not stop with him sitting in the cockpit. Steve has learned new clinical processes to improve his scene management skills, handle injured patients better and achieve quicker response times.

One person who is eternally grateful to Steve for his dedication is Catherine Edgington, 49.

The primary school teacher, from Langham, Norfolk, had a life-threatening reaction to a bee sting and Steve flew the air ambulance that rescued her.

She said: "Steve's responsibility for me being alive. His speed and safety meant I was able to get the urgent medical care I needed before I died and that's



PILOT... Steve and Catherine

something I'll never be able to thank him enough for."

Steve, 51, who is also a keen fundraiser for the charity, said: "I know I've got the best job in the world because the future King of England wanted to do it."

"We go to people who are usually having the worst day of their lives. Knowing we may have made a difference is immensely satisfying and gives me a great amount of job satisfaction."