



The couple on the steps  
of St George's Chapel

# Lady Gabriella's Love Story

The royal wedding of the year: Lady Gabriella Windsor and Thomas Kingston say 'I do' at historic Windsor Castle

Words by Rachel Avery

**R**oyal wedding fever swept the nation in 2018, with not just one, but two regal weddings. Firstly Prince Harry and Meghan Markle got married in May and then Princess Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank said their vows in October. But 2019 only saw one royal marriage, and although it may have slipped under the radar of the mainstream press, it was still every bit the royal occasion. On 18th May 2019, Lady Gabriella Windsor and Thomas Kingston married in a sumptuous ceremony at Windsor Castle.

Daughter of Prince Michael of Kent, Lady Gabriella Windsor is 52nd in line to the throne. Her father is The Queen's first cousin and he married Baroness Marie Christine von Reibnitz in 1978, where her title changed to Princess Michael of Kent. The couple had their first child in 1979, Lord Frederick Windsor and in 1981 Lady Gabriella Windsor was born.

Although it has never been revealed how Lady Gabriella and Thomas Kingston first met, it is likely that this was through mutual friends. Thomas isn't a stranger to royal circles and has previously been photographed at prestigious events and in the company of Pippa Middleton.

You will be forgiven if you are not that familiar with the place in which the happy couple got engaged. The summer of 2018 saw them holiday on the Isle of Sark, which is one of the Channel Islands. This remote location has a population of only around 500 people, and it was in this secluded spot that Thomas decided to ask the all-important question.

## THE CEREMONY

Their wedding took place in the same location as both of the previous year's royal weddings – St George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle has seen its fair share of extra-special occasions. In fact, a year ago to the day of Gabriella and Thomas' wedding, was actually the eve of Harry and Meghan's nuptials. ▶

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Guests leave St George's Chapel after the wedding

The official wedding ceremony was conducted by the Dean of Windsor and it began just after 12 noon, shortly after Lady Gabriella arrived with her father in a pristine Rolls Royce. As well as the exchanging of vows and rings, the ceremony consisted of traditional hymns and a reading from Lady Frederick Windsor, Lady Gabriella's brother's wife.

### THE WEDDING OUTFIT

The bride looked stunning in a Luisa Beccaria gown, adorned in lace and delicate embroidery. The Italian designer is renowned for her elegantly feminine style in both bridal wear and occasionwear – and Lady Gabriella's dress was the epitome of her signature style. The cut was simple and the lace sleeves were beautiful with intricate floral lace, but it was her spectacular tulle veil and train combination, at over six metres, that really wowed the guests. Every inch of the flowing train provided a real royal statement, mirroring the grandeur of the iconic dresses of the Duchess of Sussex and Princess Diana.

'Something borrowed' was the Gabriella's Kent City of London Fringe tiara, an heirloom passed down through the family from

her grandmother, who was gifted it on her wedding day. There were some traditions that Lady Gabriella shunned though, and one was the tradition that mother of the bride approves (or at least sees) the dress prior to the wedding. Speaking to *Hello!* magazine, Lady Gabriella reveals: "I wanted to surprise both of my parents on the day, so I worked closely with Luisa without any family seeing the dress as it came together, until my wedding day."

The bride clutched a delicate blush and yellow bouquet, crafted by Paul Thomas, as she climbed the chapel's iconic steps with her father. The bouquet also featured a special 'Ella' rose, named after the bride by David Austin, of David Austin Roses. After the ceremony, the newlyweds emerged and kissed on the steps, providing the perfect photo opportunity.

### THE BRIDAL PARTY

The bridesmaids included Lady Gabriella's nieces, Maud and Isabella, as well as four other gorgeous girls, Leonora Weisman, Aurelia del Drago, Eliza Goldsmith and Emily Conolly. The boys were well and truly outnumbered, but there were three pageboys, namely Frederick and Rafferty Murray and Karim Khawaja. Just like the bride, the bridesmaids and pageboys

## THE HAPPY COUPLE

**Name:** Lady Gabriella Marina Alexandra Ophelia Kingston (née Windsor)  
**Nickname:** Ella  
**Age:** 38  
**Qualifications:** Comparative Literature and Hispanic Studies at Brown University  
**Job:** Senior Director at Branding Latin America and freelance writer

**Name:** Thomas Kingston  
**Nickname:** Tom  
**Age:** 40  
**Qualifications:** Economic History Degree from the University of Bristol  
**Job:** Financier and Director of Devonport Capital



Family arrive at Windsor Castle for the wedding

sported Lusia Beccaria designs. The girls wore floral crowns to match the flowers in their bouquets and the boys looked the part in traditional knickerbockers.

### THE GUESTS

As expected, the guest list was a rather exclusive one, including many members of royalty. The Queen looked captivating in pink and was joined by Prince Phillip. While Meghan stayed at home with baby Archie, who was only 12 days old at the time, Prince Harry was in attendance, seen laughing and joking with his grandparents. The Earl and Countess of Wessex, the Duke and Duchess of York and Princess Beatrice were also among the guests. Many of the Middletons were in attendance too, including Pippa Middleton with her husband James Matthews, her brother (also called James) and her parents, Michael and Carole.

### THE RECEPTION

As on Harry and Meghan's wedding day, Frogmore House played host to the evening events that followed. The sun was shining and the guests enjoyed celebrations in a large marquee in the impeccable grounds, toasting the newlyweds with Bollinger champagne no less. Guests also got to enjoy Caragh Chocolates from the Isle of Sark, paying homage to the special place where the couple got engaged.

Their impressive eight-tier wedding cake was comprised of three different flavours (that's one way to keep all the guests happy), and was made by Fiona Cairns. Perhaps Lady Gabriella got her inspiration from



The elegant eight-tier wedding cake by Fiona Cairns

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's wedding back in 2011, as Fiona also crafted their special cake. In addition to a layer of traditional fruit cake, they also selected a Victoria sponge and a modern limoncello lemon cake tier. Hand-crafted sugar flowers were carefully placed upon the tiers, mirroring the beautiful fresh flower buds used throughout the wedding day. The couple have been pictured on Instagram, cutting the spectacular cake with a ceremonial sword.

At some point during the reception, it is reported that Lady Gabriella stood up to make her own speech, another choice that she has in common with Meghan Markle, as it's rumoured that she too decided to address her guests when she and Harry wed in May 2018.

With royal honeymoon destinations from Scotland (Prince Edward and The Countess of Wessex) to a private Seychelles island (Prince William and Catherine Middleton), we'll wait and see where this happy couple decide to go to celebrate their wonderful marriage – and wish them all the very best! 🍷