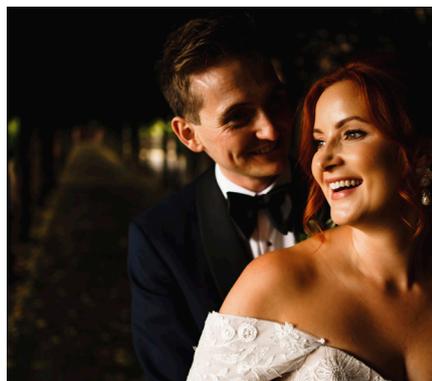


Mr. & Mrs.

Married 25th June 2021

# Hassall



Whilst I was away, Callum later told me it was during this time that he knew it was time to "put a ring on it". He ventured to Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter with his Mum and chose me a solitaire diamond platinum ring. I have his Mum to thank for my amazing ring - she persuaded him to 'go bigger'!

*"We were both set on a countryside manor with exclusivity and guest accommodation on-site."*

Being both extremely organised, 'Project Wedmin' started as soon as we returned home to London. We didn't want a long engagement and aimed for Spring/Summer 2020. Although Callum is from Cheshire, I'm Danish-born and New Zealand raised, so he thought it was only fair to keep the venue search UK-wide. Not having a region in mind meant we had a bit of a mission ahead. However, we were both set on a countryside manor with exclusivity and guest accommodation on-site. After visiting a few venues and feeling rather deflated, we still hadn't found "the one". That was until we visited Thornton Manor. From the moment we drove into the striking gatehouse entrance, we were in absolute awe! The staff were so friendly

Photographs by:  
Ste Walker Photography

**O**ur wedding story begins in March 2019 when Callum proposed to me at a gorgeous lodge overlooking Loch Lomond, Scotland. It came a few months after I lost my Grandma and had travelled back to New Zealand to attend her funeral.



from the get-go and once we had seen the Music Room, the grandest room in the house (which was purposely left until the end of our tour) we both knew we had found our dream venue. We cancelled our remaining venue appointments and booked Thornton Manor for July 2020.

Over the next few weeks, we spent time researching and booking Suppliers and our wonderfully creative friend Ari Wisner designed 'Save the Date' cards which featured a hand-painted floral design that was replicated on our wedding stationery. To keep on top of our to-do list, we downloaded the Bridebook app and scrolled Pinterest for inspiration! I also found my hairstylist and makeup artists via Instagram; the incredibly talented hairstylist Vicky Millington and equally gifted MUA Gemma Baxter.

Next up, my dress. I had absolutely no idea what I wanted but after visiting four boutiques with my Mum and trying on over a dozen dresses, I found my perfect dress - Madi Lane 'Haven' in Latte from Angelica Bridal, London. I loved the unique colour, the floral lace motifs and my favourite feature of all - the billowing tulle train. I customised the

dress, adding off-shoulder sleeves, a look I adored.

So far, so good... all going to plan.

*"As we had been so organised, we took a well-earned Wedmin break!"*

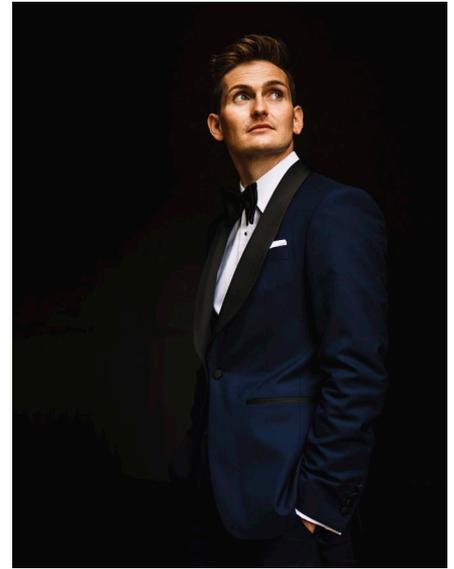
Fast forward to March 2020 it soon became clear that our wedding may not go ahead as scheduled due to the dreaded C-word. A few weeks into lockdown, we decided that the safest bet was to postpone, particularly as we had so many overseas guests. We were incredibly fortunate to have an understanding venue and we pencilled in 25 June 2021 which worked for all of our Suppliers. In truth, it was a massive relief once we had made the decision and as we had been so organised, we took a well-earned Wedmin break for the rest of the year.

As we hit 2021, we were still apprehensive but then heard more positive news - 'freedom day' scheduled for 21 June.

We spurred ourselves on and booked a PT to help with the lockdown bulge and I booked in my trials and purchased my accessories. We chose our wedding rings, started tasting potential wines (tough job) and finalised invitations.

In May we had the most epic 'Sten' do organised by our bridesmaid Sadie and the Best Men, a festival-themed weekend glamping in Somerset. The final few weeks leading up to the big day were a blur - we didn't actually know until a week before the wedding as to whether it would be able to go ahead! Although 'freedom day' was pushed back, we were relieved to hear that our guest numbers wouldn't be affected.





My parents, sister and nephew arrived in London to quarantine which sadly wasn't feasible for the rest of my Danish family (nor those further afield). We travelled up north the week before the wedding to meet with Suppliers and to purchase finishing touches - photo-booth props, a polaroid camera, glow sticks - the list went on. The venue reassured us that even with the restrictions, we'd have the best day ever and we knew we were in safe hands.

Our day finally arrived! With a huge sigh of relief, we handed over our very detailed (and meticulously planned) run-sheet to the venue so that we could finally enjoy the day we had been waiting for. Getting ready on the wedding day morning in our respective onsite cottages was pretty relaxing until the final hour, which flew by. I got ready with the bridesmaids who both looked stunning in chiffon and satin ballet pink Vera Wang dresses. I melted a little when I caught a glimpse of my bouquet; wild, flowing and littered with Silver Fern, native to New Zealand and a reminder of home. It was tied together with my "something blue" - a blue silk ribbon fastened to a pendant of my Grandma which Callum had bought me after her passing.

Throughout the morning, both Callum and I were visited by our videographer, Christopher James, and photographer, Ste Walker who were an absolute dream on the day - super professional and great with our guests.



The best piece of advice we can give to future brides and grooms is to not skimp on a photographer and videographer if your budget allows. Aside from memories, these are the only things you'll have to look back on! We have already spent hours reliving the day; laughing and crying at the incredible footage they captured.

*"In a break from tradition, we thought it would be nice for Callum's suit to be a surprise for me on the big day."*

We married at Christ Church, Barnston, where all involved were wonderful and helped us navigate the ever-changing Covid requirements. The aisle was dressed with eucalyptus and olive pew ends ready for my entrance which was accompanied by 'The Prince of Denmark's March' played on the organ. The look on Callum's face will always stay with me as I walked up the aisle and he looked back to catch a glimpse! In a break from tradition, we thought it would be nice for Callum's suit to be a surprise for me on the big day. I now know that he was a big fan of the Tom Ford tuxedo and so he turned to Whitfield and Ward - a bespoke tailor, who designed him a stunning midnight blue suit with a wide black satin lapel. He looked so incredibly handsome and was overcome with emotion. During the service, my sister read a verse and our incredibly gifted friend, Merika Holmes, sang 'God Only Knows' and 'Can't Help Falling in Love'.

We left the church in a white 1961 MK2 Jaguar. Chris at Classic Wedding Cars, Cheshire was fantastic and went above and beyond his chauffeur duties.

Arriving back at the Manor we were blown away by the dressing of the entrance table that displayed our table plan. We took inspiration from my Danish heritage and named the tables after Hans Christian Andersen fairy tales. Whilst our guests enjoyed Canapes and Prosecco we also caught a sneak peek of the Music Room, fully dressed and decorated with fresh flowers, foliage and candelabras.

Leaf Flowers did a wonderful job!

We entered the wedding breakfast to Dizzee Rascal's 'Fix up, Look Sharp'; which was a roaring success and got our guests in the party mood. Before tucking into food, we started proceedings with emotional speeches by both Fathers and Callum. We then enjoyed Mozzarella, Tomato and Basil Bruschetta followed by Sticky Beef with Dauphinoise Potatoes before handing over to the Best Men who made a memorable speech. We then devoured a Chocolate Orange and Crunchie Tart. Our menu was a huge success and massive credit to Olive Tree Catering. Several guests said it was the best wedding food they had ever tasted. Our playlist for the wedding breakfast featured artists we'd seen live together at Glastonbury, Coachella and on the gig circuit.

After a brief pause from eating, it was time to cut our beautiful cake created by Maria Dobson. The cake featured textured layered icing folds with intricate sugar flowers and hand-dyed silk ribbon.

We then made our way back to the Music Room for our first dance - 'Latch' by Sam Smith which our DJ, Jules Bailey remixed. Our guests were astonished when the acoustic version of the song merged into the Disclosure dance remix and at the same time, we were joined by sax player, Sax Every Weekend! The evening kicked into full gear and everyone was entertained by the fantastic band 'The Hip Shakers' and Ben on sax. They absolutely made the evening for us playing tunes until the early hours. We decided on a photo booth with a difference and had a 'Til Death Us Do Party' neon sign displayed in front of a tropical foliage wall courtesy of



Ultra Lighting Weddings. During the evening our guests were also treated to a chip shop bar which served all the usual favourites and went down a treat!

Despite the weather, and various Covid restrictions, our wedding day was absolutely perfect, and we wouldn't have changed a thing about it - apart from being able to have our overseas guests of course! We stayed on-site for a few days after the wedding to wind down and reminisce with our families before Callum and I headed off on our last-minute honeymoon to Scotland (our safari and beach honeymoon was cancelled, but don't feel too sorry for us; Gleneagles and the Scottish Isles did not disappoint!)

We wish all couples the best navigating this stressful time planning a wedding during a pandemic. Keep persevering - it will all be worth it in the end and you will get the day you have dreamed of. We sure did.



"Thank you for making our day so special"

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