

MCUNTBATTEN--HICKS, WEDDING  
OF THE YEAR.

It was the whitest of all possible white weddings. On the coldest day of winter so far, nature seemed almost to defy the thousands out watching, to stay there, but it would have taken a lot more than that bitter wind and driving snow to bar them from seeing all they could. Stage and screen were represented. Douglas Fairbanks and his wife hurried to the Abbey, soon followed by Noel Coward.

In Romsey Abbey, twelve-hundred guests were assembling to see the marriage of Lady Pamela Mountbatten and Dr. David Hicks. Sir Malcolm Sergeant was there, soon followed by Lord and Lady Attlee. And still down came that driving snow. Members of the Royal Family had come from Sandringham by train. The Duke of Edinburgh arrived with Prince Charles, and then turned his attention to a very young person indeed, five-year-old Princess Frederica of Hanover.

Next arrival to battle against the weather was the brides father, Earl Mountbatten, perhaps just a little harassed, as any father of a bride is entitled to be on such a day. All that Lady Pamela could possibly do was to seek the shelter of the Abbey without delay. While the thousands waited outside, she and Mr. David Hicks became man and wife. In the porch they posed for the pictures millions wanted to see. In that weather, women had to be very close, to take in the superb gown. It was created by Worth, of white silk satin, collared and cuffed in white mink.

What bad luck for the onlookers that the wedding party had to rush away to Broadlands; but this was no day for standing about.

Everyone admired the assurance of Princess Anne, a bridesmaid for the first time, at the age of nine. How exciting it all was for her and the other young people, to be so very much in the limelight, though even they, no less than the spectators, must have wished, if only it hadn't been snowing. Prince Charles was very much a young man, in long trousers. It was certainly no day for bare knees.

Next to draw cheers were the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret.

Within the walls of Broadlands, Hampshire seat of Earl Mountbatten, the bitter weather was forgotten. The wedding cake was modelled on Broadlands. Then the toast was the happy couple, with the Queen's children well to the fore in drinking it. If only circumstances had not prevented the Queen herself being present.

Mr. David Hicks is a well known interior decorator, a friend of the Mountbatten family for some time. Princess Alexandra and others of the family party now took their places in the wedding group.

That night Mr. Hicks and his bride went on board the liner Queen Elizabeth, which was sailing next day. They had the ship to themselves; surely an all time record for any honeymooners. But now, hours before they were due on board, they were among a host of friends and relatives. The whole country wishes a long life of happiness to Mr. Hicks and Lady Pamela.

oooooooooooooooo