

A little charm in Windsor ....

Cinderella went in to the Guildhall at Windsor to marry her Prince. "Oh dear," the crowd said. "She is just Mrs Camilla Parker Bowles, she has no titles and is always at the back of any procession. She has no precedence."

Fortunately, Clair Williams was used to being Fairy Godmother to brides in distress. She is a Flackwell Heath woman who as Clair Woodhouse started at Carrington School in 1964 and has been a Brownie and a Girl Guide. Her mum was a Brown Owl and very wise.

Clair had a plan. "When I nod, I want you and Charles Philip Arthur George just to say, "I do"".

It was not a long ceremony and as they reached the end they both said, "I do" as instructed. And nothing happened.

There was a breathless pause and then with all the authority of the Superintendent Registrar for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Mrs Williams said the words "...and I pronounce you man and wife." With that there was a flash and a bang and instead of poor Mrs Parker Bowles there was the Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall standing next to her Prince. "And there is more - as you shall see", said Mrs Williams.

As they walked out to the cheering, flag waving crowd the Duchess thought important guests were standing back because she was the bride and this was her special day. But then she realised that the only people whose backs she would ever see in future were her mother-in-law, her father-in-law and her husband. Everyone else would always be behind her.

The Duchess was careful to invite her Fairy Godmother to the royal celebrations at the Castle. She heard that offended Fairy Godmothers can cause a lot of agro to fairy Duchesses. But I have spoken to Muriel and John Woodhouse at their home in Philip Drive and they assure me that their daughter would not dream of doing anything nasty. And anyway she had been invited weeks before.

Tim Kendell