1 Florence Dawson
Florence Clark married James Dawson on 7 August 1948 at Park Road Methodist Church in Sunderland. The gown had previously been worn by her aunt, Mrs Emily Simpson for her marriage in 1885 at Holy Trinity Church, Southwick, Sunderland.

2 Sarah Smith
Sarah (Sally) Roberts married Robert Smith in October 1918 at St John the Evangelist Church, Meadowfield, Durham. Sarah’s wedding gown was designed and made for her by her aunt, Mrs Hannah Hoggett.

3 Coco Chanel
This wedding gown was made and designed by Coco Chanel in Paris in 1923. It was made from a high quality winter velvet in a classic 1920’s style.

4 Hilda Squire
Hilda Williamson married Tom Squire on 12 November 1926 at St Antholin’s church, Nunhead, Surrey. Hilda’s wedding gown was made by Frances Ring, a high class dress designer at Conyers Road, Streatham in London. The cost of Hilda’s outfit was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wedding Gown</td>
<td>35 shillings and 6 pence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridal Cap, Wreath and veil</td>
<td>5 shillings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designers fee</td>
<td>4 shillings and 6 pence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>£2.05 shillings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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5 Emma Kelsey
Emma Pearson married Ralph Kelsey at Wadsley Parish Church, Sheffield on 6 June 1932

6 Jenny McGrail
Mary Jane Goodall married George Robert McGrail on 26 December 1934 in Durham.
Jenny’s wedding gown was made by her mother Mrs Hannah Hoggett, manageress and tailoress employed at Singers Sewing Machine Emporium in Durham.

7 Elizabeth Proud
Elizabeth Goodall married Edwin Proud on Easter Monday, 9 April 1938 at High Street South Methodist Church, Langley Moor, Durham
Elizabeth’s gown was made for her by her mother, Mrs Hannah Hoggett who was a manageress and tailoress employed at Singers Sewing Machine Emporium in Durham.

8 Honour Stephenson
Honour and Havelock Stephenson were married at St Mary the Virgin Church, Ponteland in 1938
Honour’s velvet wedding gown was made and designed for her by S. Freeman, Costumier and Dressmaker, Great North Road, Newcastle

9 Letitia Crompton
Letitia Wilson Mackey married William Hunter Crompton on 31 May 1941 at Queen Street Methodist Church, South Shields
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10 Marie Murchie
Marie Woods married Laurence Murchie on 1 August 1945 at St. Mary Magdalen RC Church, Seaham Harbour, Durham. Marie’s wartime 2 piece purple velvet suit consisting of a high collared jacket with long sleeves fastened with buttons down the front and a calf length A line skirt was made for her by a local dress designer. As Laurence was not a catholic the catholic priest informed Marie that he would refuse to marry them if she wore a white wedding gown.

11 Hilda Lewis
Hilda Randle married John William Lewis on 15 April 1949 at the Minster Church of St Michael All Angels & St Benedict Biscop, Sunderland.

12 Mary Heslop
Mary Forster married James Heslop at St Nicholas Parish Church, Hetton-le-Hole on 16 July 1949. It is thought that Mary purchased her wedding outfit at the CO-OP.

13 Teresa Drane
Teresa Byrne married Walter Drane on 18 February 1950 at St Patrick’s RC Church, Langley Moor, Durham. Teresa worked at Stevensons Drapery Store in Langley Moor and it is thought that is where she purchased the material for her wedding gown.

14 Elizabeth Roper
Elizabeth Grimley married George Roper on 26 March 1951 at St. William’s RC Church, Trimdon Village, Durham. Elizabeth purchased her wedding outfit from Blacketts in Sunderland

A Century of Wedding Gowns
A Century of Wedding Gowns

15  Veronica Wilson
Veronica Grummett married John E Wilson on 6 September 1952 at St Leonard’s Roman Catholic Church, Silksworth. Veronica’s wedding gown was specially made for her by a local dressmaker.

16  Olive Elston
Olive Robinson married John Elston on 10 June 1954 at St. Giles Church, Gilesgate, Durham

17  Dorothy Riley
Dorothy and Howard Riley were married in Orangefield Presbyterian Church, Belfast on 30 December 1954. Dorothy was from Belfast and Howard from South Wales and they met whilst they were both working in London. Dorothy’s wedding gown was bought from a shop on Kensington High Street in London. At her wedding Dorothy’s mother insisted she wear a bolero because the gown showed too much flesh!

18  Grace Bell
Grace Bowman married Eric Bell on 26 March 1955 at Pelaw Methodist Church. Grace worked for the Co-op and purchased her wedding outfit from the Co-op Wholesale Department in Newcastle at a cost of around £15.

19  Doreen Murrell
Doreen Johnson married Frank Harrison Murrell on 26 November 1955 at Wheatley Hill Primitive Methodist Church. Doreen purchased her wedding outfit at Maurice’s Fashions in Sunderland. Her wedding gown cost £7.19.11p and the headdress cost £1.5.9p.

A Century of Wedding Gowns
A Century of Wedding Gowns

20 Jean Greenwood
Jean Donnelly married William Greenwood on 19 May 1956 at St Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Birtley

21 Kathleen Bennett
Kathleen Dobinson married Allan Bennett on 2 January 1957 at St Matthews Church, Silksworth

22 Susan Stead
Susan Carter married John Stead on 14 February 1959 at Peterlee Methodist Church
Susan and John were the first couple married in the new methodist church at Peterlee
Susan purchased her wedding gown at Doggarts Department Store in Durham at a cost of £20.

23 Pamela Burton
Pamela Shaw married to Kenneth Burton on 2 April 1960 at St Michael’s Church, Sutton.

24 Anne McKenzie
Anne McCabe married Malcolm McKenzie on 19th August 1961 at the Immaculate Heart of Mary RC Church in Sunderland.
Anne designed and made her wedding gown herself aided by her mother. It is a satin brocade gown with a full skirt, fitted sleeves and a high collared V neckline copied from the neckline of her tennis dress.

25 Anne Howard
Anne Robinson married George Howard on 13 October 1962 at St. Giles Church, Gilesgate, Durham.
Anne purchased her wedding outfit at a bridal boutique on Lynthorpe Road in Middlesbrough
26 Wendy Clish
Wendy Mitchell married Jeremiah Clish on 21 March 1964 at St Michael and All Angels Chutch, Houghton-Le-Spring.
Wendy purchased her wedding outfit from The French Salon in Fenwicks Department Store in Newcastle.

27 Dorothy Proud
Dorothy Tate married Eric Proud on 24 October 1964 at St Paul’s Church, Evenwood, Bishop Auckland, County Durham.
Dorothy purchased her wedding gown in Newcastle at a Bridal Wholesalers helped by her mother and a family friend.

28 Janet Bowie
Janet Bird married John Bowie on 5 June 1965 in Birmingham.
Janet’s wedding outfit was designed for her out of French Ribbon Lace.

29 Kathleen Pringle
Kathleen Brownsword married Alan Pringle on 9 October 1965 at St Peter and St Paul’s RC Church, Tyne Dock, South Shields.
Kathleen purchased her wedding outfit at Paige’s Fashion Boutique on Northumberland Street in Newcastle.

30 Jean Scott
Jean Duncan married Allan Scott on 28 August 1967 at The Church of the Ascension, Newcastle Upon Tyne.
Jean purchased her wedding outfit from the Fenwick’s French Salon in Fenwick’s Department Store on Northumberland Street in Newcastle.
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31 Margaret Whitfield
Margaret Dawson wore this gown for her marriage to Alan Whitfield to on 28 September 1968 at St Mary’s Church, Horden followed by a reception in the Argos Butterfly in Peterlee. The outfit was purchased from a bridal shop in Middlesbrough.

32 Judith James
Judith Curry married David James on 16 August 1969 at St Mary Magdalen Church, Belmont. Judith’s outfit was designed for her at the Leeds Bridal House at a cost of £35.

33 Pauline Watson
Pauline Watson was married on 12 September 1970 at St Nicholas Church, South Gosforth. Her wedding gown was crocheted by a lady at Four Lane Ends, Newcastle from a pattern in the Woman’s Weekly at a cost of £8.

34 Jane Moor
Dorothy Jane Dodds (known as Jane) married Geoffrey Moore on 31 July 1971 at St Oswald’s Church, Shiney Row, Sunderland Jane’s wedding gown of shantung silk, lace and satin ribbon was made by Mrs Cockburn from Herrington, Sunderland who was a very close family friend and dressmaker and who gave the wedding gown to Jane as her wedding present.
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35 Penny McGoverin
A winter wedding gown of velvet trimmed with Marabou Feathers. The gown has a round neckline with long sleeves and a hood. The straight skirt has an overtrain from the waist.
The gown was worn by Penny Murchie for her marriage to Joe McGoverin on 30 December 1972 at the Church of the Holy Name of Mary in Middlesbrough.
Penny’s wedding gown was made and designed professionally for her.

36 Ann Clarke
Anne Duffell married Michael Clarke on 20 October 1973 at Christ Church, Seaham.
Anne purchased her wedding gown at Bridesworld in Sunderland. Her Sari Silk wedding gown cost £30.

37A Jean Hughes
Jean Simpson married Kenneth Hughes on 3 November 1973 at Holy Trinity Church, Murton
Jean purchased her wedding outfit from Books Fashions in Sunderland.

37B Norma Heslop
Norma Wheeler married Melvin Heslop on 17 November 1973 at All Saints Church, Eppleton, Hetton-Le-Hole, Durham.
Norma purchased her Marilyn Martin designer wedding gown that she saw in a magazine at Joplings department store in Sunderland.

38 Valerie Patchett
Valerie Crompton married Alan Patchett on 30 June 1979 at St Peter’s Church, South Shields.
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39  Judith Peart
Judith Clough married Angus Peart on 26 March 1977 at St John the Evangelist Church, Meadowfield, Durham.

40  Sue Snowdon
Susan Hanselman married George Keith Snowdon on 8 June 1977 at St. Pauls Church, Spennymoor. Sue purchased her wedding gown and guipure lace cap at Marie Louise in Darlington at a cost of £85. Mrs Susan Snowdon is the Lord Lieutenant of Durham and she was the first Lady Lord Lieutenant in the country.

41  Elizabeth Beattie
Elizabeth McDonald married William Beattie on 24 February 1979 at the Muirhead Free Church. Elizabeth purchased her wedding outfit in Glasgow.

42  Lynn Crinion
Lyn Cleveland married Gerard Crinnion on 22 August 1979 at the Passionist Monastery Minsteracres followed by a reception at the Carlton Restaurant, Consett. Lyn purchased her wedding outfit from Bride Shops, Grainger Street, Newcastle at a cost around £50.

43  Susan Brown
Susan Wear (a deputy Lieutenant of Tyne and Wear) married Jeff Brown (BBC Look North Presenter) on December 23rd 1988, at St Mary’s Church, Heworth. There was a problem with her first choice warmer winter season dress, so this one had to be bought quickly from the just-in spring collection at Bainbridge’s, Newcastle, weeks before the wedding, but it turned out to be exactly what Susan wanted.
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44 Lynn Fenwick
Lynn Stones married Kevin Fenwick on 10 June 1989 at Old Elvet Methodist Church, Durham. Lynn purchased her wedding outfit from Poppy’s in Darlington.

45 Angela Williamson
Angela Drane married Bill Williamson on 2 December 1989 at St Patrick’s RC Church, Langley Moor, Durham. Angela purchased her wedding outfit from the Berkertex Bride Shop in the Metro Centre at Gateshead.

46 HRH Princess Margaret, the Countess of Snowdon
Princess Margaret married society photographer Anthony Armstrong-Jones later Lord Snowdon on 6 May 1960 in Westminster Abbey. Elegantly simple and thoroughly modern, the Queen’s younger sister knew exactly what worked for her when she commissioned couturier Norman Hartnell to design her bridal gown.

The original royal style icon, it is unsurprising that Princess Margaret’s choice of wedding dress has gone down in the annals of fashion history, inspiring brides today with its simplicity and elegance. Rather than something that would overwhelm her petite frame, Norman Hartnell created an unfussy dress, with a fitted, tailored bodice and waist, long sleeves and full-length, voluminous skirt (using 30 metres of fabric) with a small train. There was no embroidery or motifs on the dress - just plain, silk organza - which makes this dress standout even more versus those of other royal brides. It was refreshingly modern, and was an instant hit amongst the fashion press (Life magazine named it ‘the simplest royal wedding gown in history’).
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Princess Margaret cont’d…

The gown that you can see here is one of the toilet made by Norman Hartnell for Princess Margaret to be able to get an idea of what her wedding gown would look like on her wedding day. The toile is a dressmaker’s equivalent of a working document. The gown is displayed with a copy of the The Poltimore Tiara.

The tiara originally belonged to Lady Poltimore, the wife of the second Baron Poltimore. Made in 1870 by the House of Garrard in London. The family put it up for auction in January 1959 where it was purchased for £5,500 by Princess Margaret.

Despite having access to the crown jewels the then 29-year-old Margaret wanted something she could call her own.

A year and a half later, on 6 May, 1960, Princess Margaret wore the tiara on the most important of occasions: her wedding to Antony Armstrong-Jones. It became the most-associated tiara with Princess Margaret.

Following her death in 2002, Christie's held an auction of Princess Margaret's private collection. The offerings included the Poltimore Tiara, which was sold for £926,400 to a private buyer. Its whereabouts are unknown.

47  HRH Princess Anne the Princess Royal
Princess Anne married Captain Mark Phillips on 14 November 1973 at Westminster Abbey.

Anne’s gown was designed by Maureen Baker, the chief designer for the ready-to-wear label Susan Small who had previously designed outfits for the princess. The dress was an embroidered Tudor-style princess line gown with a high collar, mediaeval trumpet sleeves and a seven-foot-long train, embroidered by Lock’s Embroiderers and white silk chiffon undersleeves edged with pearls and jewels.

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Princess Margaret cont’d...

Anne designed many aspects of the dress herself. Compared to previous royal wedding dresses, it was described as "simplistic" and was noted as being close to contemporary 1970s wedding fashions. The wedding gown is shown with a copy of Queen Mary’s Russian Fringe Tiara also known as Queen Mary’s Diamond Fringe Tiara. The tiara was made by E. Wolff and Co. for Garrard in 1919. The diamonds were a part of a necklace made by Collingwood that Queen Victoria gave to Mary as a wedding gift in 1893. But Queen Mary the jewelry innovator struck again, dismantling that gift and re-using the diamonds to make this tiara. While this tiara was in the Queen’s collection, she very rarely wore it although she did wear it on her wedding day. It has since only been worn by two members of the family, the Queen’s daughter Princess Anne, who wore it on her wedding day in 1973 and her granddaughter Princess Beatrice who wore it on her wedding day in July 2020.

48 Diana, Princess of Wales
Lady Diana Spencer married Charles, Prince of Wales on 29 July 1981 at St Paul’s cathedral. Diana’s bridal gown was an ivory silk taffeta and antique lace gown with a 25-foot train and a 153 yards tulle veil, valued then at £9,000 (equivalent to $36,700 in 2021). The bridal gown was designed by David and Elizabeth Emanuel, who described it as a dress that "had to be something that was going to go down in history, but also something that Diana loved," and which would be "suitably dramatic in order to make an impression. Diana personally selected the designers to make her wedding dress because she was fond of a chiffon blouse they designed for her.

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The woven silk taffeta as made by Stephen Walters. The gown was described as “a crinoline, a symbol of sexuality and grandiosity, a merinque embroidered with pearls and sequins, its bodice frilled with lace”. It was decorated with hand embroidery, sequins and 10,000 pearls, centering on a heart motif. An 18-karat gold horseshoe was stitched into the petticoats as a sign of good fortune. The lace used to trim it was antique and hand-made and a square of carrickmacross lace which had belonged to Queen Mary was attached to the gown.

Fittings of the dress posed difficulties because Diana had developed bulimia and dropped from a size 14 to a size 10 in the months leading up to the wedding. Even the seamstress was concerned about her weight loss and feared the dress might not fit as it should. The twenty-five-foot train posed problems. It was realised too late that an allowance has not been made for the length of the train in relation to the size of the glass coach Diana and her father rode in to the ceremony. It was difficult to fit it inside the glass coach, and the gown was badly crushed despite Diana’s efforts. This accounted for the visible wrinkles in the wedding gown when she arrived at the cathedral. The gown is displayed with a copy of the Spencer Tiara which has been constructed using various pieces of jewellery given to members of the Spencer family for nearly a century.

In the 1930s, Garrard supplemented the various gifts and constructed the tiara into the diamond floral diadem we know today. All three of the Spencer daughters — Jane, Sarah and Diana wore the Spencer tiara at their weddings and it was also worn by Victoria Lockwood at her wedding to the current earl in 1989.
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49 HM Queen Camilla
Camilla Parker Bowles married HRH Charles, Prince of Wales on 9 April 2005. Following their wedding at Windsor Guildhall the couple celebrated with a blessing of their marriage at St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle. For the blessing Camilla chose a pale blue full length chiffon gown covered by a long sleeved coat dress which swept out into a small, integrated train at the end also in pale blue and covered in golden embroidery and embellishments. Her outfit was designed by Antonia Robinson and Anna valentine. London designers who worked under the name Robinson Valentine, now solely called Anna Valentine. Although Camilla did not wear a tiara for her wedding blessing we are displaying the gown with a copy of The Greville Honeycombe Tiara. In 1942 Dame Margaret Greville bequeathed her jewels to Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother) This tiara was designed for Mrs. Greville by Lucien Hirtz of Boucheron in Paris in 1921 being a complete overhaul of another diamond tiara from her collection, which had been made by the same firm 20 years earlier. The Greville tiara is Camilla’s favourite tiara.

50 HRH Catherine, Princess of Wales
Catherine Middleton married Prince William on 29 April 2011 at Westminster Abbey. Her wedding gown was designed by Sarah Burton, creative director of the luxury fashion house Alexander McQueen. The ivory satin bodice was padded slightly at the hips and narrowed at the waist, and was inspired by the Victorian tradition of corsetry that is a particular Alexander McQueen hallmark. The bodice incorporated floral motifs cut from machine-made lace, which were then appliquéd on to
A Century of Wedding Gowns

HRH Catherine, Princess of Wales cont’d...

silk net handmade by workers from the Royal School of Needlework, based at Hampton Court Palace. On the back were 58 buttons of gazar and organza, which fasten by means of rouleau loops. The skirt, underskirt trim and bridal train also incorporated lace appliquéd in a similar manner. The main body of the dress was made in ivory and white satin gazar with a long, full skirt designed to echo an opening flower, with soft pleats which unfolded to the floor, forming a Victorian-style semi-bustle at the back, and finishing in a short train measuring just under three metres in length. The wedding gown is displayed with a copy of the Cartier Halo Tiara made and designed by Cartier in 1936 for King George VI (then Duke of York) as a wedding anniversary gift for his wife, Elizabeth. The diamond ‘halo’ is made up of 16 graduated scrolls, set with 739 brilliants and 149 baton diamonds. The tiara was loaned to Catherine by Queen Elizabeth II to wear on her wedding day.

51 Megan, Duchess of Sussex
Megan Markle married Prince Henry (Harry) of Wales on 19 May 2018. The gown was designed by the British fashion designer Clare Weight Keller, artistic director of the fashion house Givenchy. The design of the simple white dress and the name of its maker were revealed only when the bride got out of the car and entered St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle for the wedding service. The dress was made of silk with three-quarter-length sleeves, an open boat neckline and a train. The wedding gown is displayed with a copy of Queen Mary’s Bandeau Tiara - also known as The Queen Mary Diamond Diadem.

A Century of Wedding Gowns
A Century of Wedding Gowns

Megan, Duchess of Sussex cont’d...

The centre stone of the Bandeau Tiara is a brooch, featuring ten diamonds which was given to Mary then Princess Mary of Teck when she married Prince George, Duke of York as a wedding gift from the County of Lincoln in 1893. The diamond and platinum bandeau tiara was specifically made forty years later in 1932 to accommodate the brooch. It is a flexible band of eleven sections, featuring interlaced ovals and pavé diamonds along with large and small brilliant diamonds. Queen Mary officially bequeathed the tiara to Queen Elizabeth when she died in 1953. Queen Elizabeth II loaned the tiara to Megan to wear at her wedding.

52 Sally Roberts
Sally Haigh married Gary Roberts on 27 September 1980 at Hanging Heaton Methodist Church, Dewsbury.

53 Susan Bradley
Susan Walton married Alan Bradley on 9 May 1981 at Blackhall Methodist Church. Susan purchased her wedding outfit named Chandelle from the Pronuptia Bridal Store in Newcastle.

54 Susan McKay
Susan Raine married Malcolm McKay on 27 June 1981 at St. Theresa’s RC Church, Annfield Plain, Stanley, Durham. Susan purchased her wedding gown from a bridal boutique in Newcastle.
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55  Angela Hart
Angela Mahoney married Garry Hart at St. Michaels Church, South Shields on 16 July 1983. Angela purchased her wedding gown from a Bridal Boutique in South Shields in 1979 when she got engaged at a cost of £60.

56  Susan Robinson
Susan Hunter married David Robinson on 31 August 1985 at the Holy Cross Church, Fenham, Newcastle. Susan purchased her wedding outfit from Bainbridge’s department Store in Newcastle at a cost of £189.

57  Karen Wynn
Karen Hunter married Andrew Wynn on 2 August 1986 at the Holy Cross Church, Fenham, Newcastle. Karen purchased her wedding outfit from Fenwick’s department Store in Newcastle at a cost of £200.

58  Barbara Reilly O’Donnell

59  Lynn Logan
Lynn Allison married Ged Logan on 17 July 1993 at Holy trinity Church, Washington Village. Lynn’s silk and Nottingham Lace wedding gown was designed by Ronald Joyce.

60  Ruth Bowie
Ruth Williams married Peter Bowie on 11 September 1993 at St Cuthberts RC Church, New Seaham. Ruth purchased her wedding outfit from Chantilly Bride in Sunderland.
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61 Tracey Carney
Tracey Stewart married Austin Carney on 23 September 1990 at St Michael and All Angels’ Church, Houghton-Le-Spring.
Tracey purchased her wedding outfit from the Berkertex Store at the Metro Centre.

62 Margaret Gooda
Margaret Turner married Ken Gooda on 13 April 1997 at Peterlee Methodist Church.

63 Justine Shepherd
Justine purchased her wedding gown from the Pronuptia Bridal Boutique in Newcastle.

64 Catherine Wilkes
Catherine Hutton married David Wilkes on 8 December 2001 at St Mary’s Church, Easington Village.
Catherine’s designed her own wedding gown based on a portrait of Jane Seymour. It was made for her by Tara at Exclusively Yours Bridal Boutique at Wingate, Co. Durham

65 Claire Willis
Claire Hughes married Peter Willis on 7 July 2006 at Washington Old Hall
Claire purchased her wedding outfit at Exclusively Yours in Wingate

66 Amphorn Moore 2006
Amphorn Chim Palee married Duncan Moore on 18 November 2006 at The Registry Office, Durham.
Amphorn purchased her wedding gown at Monsoon and her stole and headpiece at Bainbridge’s in Newcastle
A Century of Wedding Gowns

67  Carole Edwards
Carole and Tony Edwards were married on 29 May 2009 at Derwentside Manor Hotel, Allensford, Northumberland.

68  Kate Short
Kate Smithson married Jason Short in 2013 at St James Parish Church, Castle Eden

69  Frida Mir
Frida and Zeeshan Mir were married on 2 February 2014 at Davenport Green Hall, Altrincham.

70  Kerry Appleton
Kerry Patchett married John Appleton on 22 April 2017 at St Mary & All Saints Church, Cundall, North Yorkshire
A sleeveless silk and lace gown designed by Belfast Designer Amanda Wyatt which she named Anoushka. It has a diamanté clasped belted waist and features covered buttons from the neckline to the end of the train. The gown was from her English Rose Collection at a cost of £1600.

71  Kimberley Short
Kimberley Cowan married Jamie Short on 14 September 2019 at Mas Torroella in Spain

72  Hayley Long
Hayley Gooda married Matthew Long on 9 October 2021 at the Oakley Court Hotel in Windsor. Hayley designed her own wedding gown which was made by Jess O’Shea of She Shea in Liverpool. She chose the Oakley Court Hotel because the Rocky Horror Show is her favourite film and it was filmed at this hotel.

A Century of Wedding Gowns