# Unforgettable

*Nenah Favelle & James Hamilton*



DATE: Saturday 14th June 2025
VENUE: Ladyburn House, Kilkerran
PHOTOGRAPHY: Lauren Stirling Photography






This couple wed in a stunning botanical-inspired ceremony at their very own venue in South Ayrshire





"It was unlike anything I'd ever seen."

For Nenah and James, founders and owners of Ladyburn House, their love story is completely intertwined with their beautiful country house. "It was more than a venue for us – it was always the place we were meant to say 'I do'. That's why we created it with so much intention," smiles Nenah.

The couple first met via online dating and after calling and texting, their first in-person date was climbing Ben Vrackie near Pitlochry. "Quite the challenge considering I was recovering from serious injuries from an accident," Nenah recalls. "But something told me to go, and that decision changed everything."

James proposed on their third anniversary in December 2023 at Cromlix House in Dunblane, with his son Ralphie by his side. "It turned out to be a triple celebration: our anniversary, the proposal, and the very same day our offer on Ladyburn House was finally accepted," Nenah smiles. "We feel incredibly grateful that Ladyburn House is not just our home, but the heart of our shared vision – an exclusive use venue that is a place of connection, celebration and soulful hospitality."

From the beginning, they envisioned getting married under the majestic oak tree and hosting their celebration in the new Garden Pavilion marquee, a feature they built and launched especially for their wedding and future couples to enjoy. Their biggest priority was to create a celebration that truly reflected them. James says, "It was important that the day felt like us – relaxed, heartfelt, and meaningful. I'm proud of what we created at Ladyburn, not just for our wedding but for the couples who'll celebrate here in years to come." And Nenah adds, "We wanted the entire day to feel grounded in nature and full of meaning for us and our guests."

"We were inspired by a palette of soft botanical elegance, with tones of dusty rose, sage, and ivory. These colours not only reflected the natural beauty of the gardens and surroundings at Ladyburn but were also intentionally aligned with our new brand identity for the Garden Pavilion."

## Beautiful botanicals

Nenah knew she wanted a dress that felt ethereal and romantic, but also a bit wild and grounded in nature. "I was drawn to fabrics with movement, soft silhouettes, and unique detail – nothing too traditional or structured," she says. "I worked with personal stylist Tanya from Suki Style. She had pre-selected the most stunning gowns, all aligned with my botanical and romantic vision.

"It was at our final stop that I found the dress. The moment I stepped into it, my mum – who was visiting from Australia – burst into tears, and we both just knew it was The One.

"It was a delicate, botanical-embroidered gown with sheer sleeves and a gentle scoop neckline and a train. It featured a soft overlay of floral vines trailing down the fabric, which felt like it mirrored the garden landscape at Ladyburn. I chose it because it looked and felt like a garden come to life – whimsical, elegant, and deeply connected to the land on which we were getting married. It was unlike anything I'd ever seen and felt completely 'me.'"

Nenah kept accessories minimal to let the embroidery speak for itself. She wore vintage-inspired pearl earrings, a diamond tennis bracelet gifted by her mum and a soft veil that added a touch of dreaminess, without detracting from the detail of the dress.

Her one bridesmaid was lifelong best friend and former business partner, Alexandra Hill. "We've shared over 25 years of friendship, and there was no one else I could imagine standing by my side. She travelled all the way from New Zealand to be there, which made it even more special. I wanted Alex to feel completely herself on the day, so I let her choose her own dress. She picked a beautiful cornflower blue gown that suited her perfectly and happened to coordinate beautifully with the best man's kilt – it all came together effortlessly."

James wore a full Highland kilt outfit made bespoke by Kilts 4 U. His look included an olive tweed jacket and waistcoat, and a rare ginger ≫













"Heart of our love story."

Highland cow sporran. In his wedding party were best friend Scott and 12-year-old Ralphie.

"We had a family dinner in Ladyburn the night before – it felt grounding, calm, and full of love. I woke early with a mix of excitement, nerves, and emotion that had been building for days – I was completely full of feeling. There were definitely tears, happy ones, as the reality of the day sank in. It was overwhelming in the most beautiful way. We started the morning with a big group breakfast at the house, which was so lovely."

## Sacred moment

For Nenah, walking down the aisle was like "stepping into a sacred moment – but with a twist of last-minute magic." Just five minutes before she was due to walk, there was a break in the weather, and James made the spontaneous call to move the ceremony outside under the oak tree! "It was a whirlwind shift, but one that brought so much excitement. Despite the sky threatening to close in again at any moment, it felt like the universe held space just for us."

Nenah was walked down the aisle by Ralphie while their string quartet played *The Secret Wedding* from the film *Braveheart*: "It wasn't just meaningful – it was unforgettable. Seeing James waiting under the tree, surrounded by our people, with Ralphie by my side, felt like the most sacred, love-soaked moment of my life."

Their ceremony was conducted by humanist celebrant Alexis McKenzie and James surprised Nenah by inviting Scottish poet and author Donna Ashworth to read out her poem *I Choose You*.

A delicious wedding breakfast celebrating Scottish produce was designed in collaboration with in-house chef, Callum Dow and served to their 50 day guests. A further 25 joined them for the evening festivities.

"We had the most magical evening reception under the Garden Pavilion, which felt like a garden-party-meets-festival-vibe. As the sun set, the space came alive with soft lighting, laughter, and music. We kicked things off with a lively ceilidh, and it wasn't long before everyone was up on the dancefloor – from the kids to the grandparents!"

Nenah adds, "For us, Ladyburn House was more than a venue – it was the heart of our love story. Now, it's ready to hold space for others to write their own."

**With exclusive use weekends, on-site luxury accommodation, and the new Garden Pavilion marquee, Ladyburn House now offers a truly personal wedding experience in the heart of South Ayrshire.**



Turn to page XXX to read all about James' experience of creating the perfect outfit with Kilts 4 U



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## Dream team

**BAND**
The MacDonald Brothers
**BAR**
1958 Marquees & Events
**BRIDE'S DRESS**
La Novia Bridal Studio
**BRIDE'S SHOES**
Santorini Sandal Shoes
**BRIDE'S HEADWEAR**
La Novia Bridal Studio
**CONTENT CREATION**
R.S.V.P
**CATERER**
1880 Catering, Wee Knead Desserts
**CAKE**
A Bonnie Wee Cake
**CELEBRANT**
Alexis The Celebrant
**DOG CHAPERONE**
Dirty Mutts
**FLOWERS**
Tass Floral Studio
**GROOM'S OUTFIT**
Kilts 4 U
**HAIR**
Eleven Eleven Salon
**MAKE-UP**
Laura Dewar MUA
**RINGS**
Flawless Fine Jewellery
**STATIONERY**
Love, Beth
**STRINGS**
Strings Con Amore



**PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT**

"Nenah and James' day was a beautiful blend of heartfelt moments, happy tears, and endless laughter shared among loved ones. Every detail was a reflection of Nenah's impeccable style and thoughtful touch. As a photographer, it was an absolute dream to capture."

**LAUREN, LAUREN STIRLING PHOTOGRAPHY**