

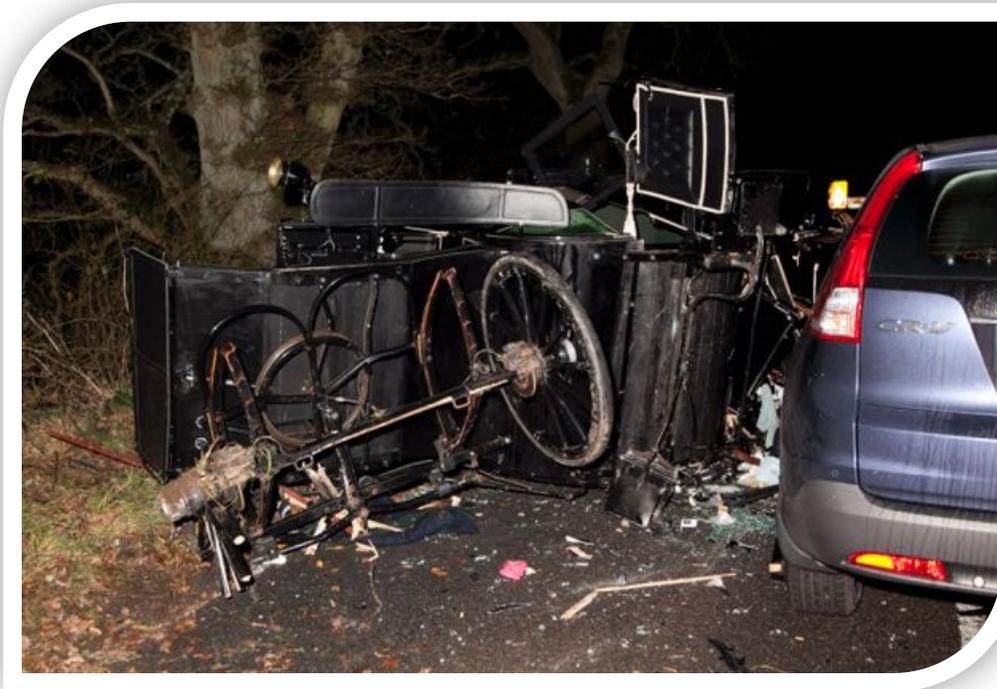


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Bride escapes horse-drawn carriage crash unscathed to make wedding ceremony

By Lynn McPherson 2 Dec 2012 00:01

Bride escapes horse-drawn carriage crash unscathed to make wedding ceremony
DONNA PENNYCOOK was travelling to her wedding venue with her father when their carriage was involved in a collision with a car on the A710 at Mabie, near Dumfries.



A BRIDE got married yesterday – just hours after a miraculous escape when her horse-drawn -carriage crashed.

Donna Pennycook was travelling with her father Lawrence when their carriage was involved in a collision with a car just a quarter of a mile away from the wedding venue.

The accident happened just after 2pm – less than hour before hairdresser Donna, 29, and fiancée Adam Stokes were due to get hitched at Mabie House Hotel, near Dumfries.

The carriage, which was being pulled by two horses, and a Honda CRV were involved in the crash on the A710 at Mabie, near Dumfries.

Four ambulances and a helicopter were called out to assist although the chopper was later stood down. A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service said: "It's a miracle that they got out of with just minor injuries.

"They were determined that they would get back for the wedding."

Donna and Lawrence managed to scramble clear of the wreckage and help the carriage driver, Simon Miller, 45, who was seriously injured.

Simon's daughter Hannah, 18, who was accompanying her dad on top of the carriage, was also slightly injured.

After being treated for bruising and shock at Dumfries Royal Infirmary, Donna and Lawrence were able to make it to the country house hotel.

Donna and Adam were married several hours late and were piped to the top table last night where they were given a rousing welcome by wedding guests.

The bride said: "I don't want to talk about it. We just want peace to celebrate our wedding."

A spokeswoman for the hotel said: "We cannot say much except that the wedding went ahead and everyone is delighted."

Simon was said to be stable last night after undergoing emergency treatment.

A vet was also called out to the scene of the crash, where he treated the horses for minor injuries.

The carriage was hired from the firm Tartan Carriages, based in Annan, Dumfriesshire.

On their website they state: "Welfare is our priority and we strive to set the highest standards."

Dumfries and Galloway Police said they were investigating the incident last night.