

# Couple's unique day...



**LIGHTING THE WAY:** Briona Madden wed Daniel Kopman in a humanist ceremony at the Kinsale Hotel and Spa.



**HANDBASTING:** The couple's parents helped them 'tie the knot' in a handfasting ceremony.



**TRADITION:** The couple dancing after the humanist ceremony in the hotel foyer.



**SEALED WITH A KISS:** Briona Madden and Daniel Kopman were wed at The Kinsale Hotel and Spa. Pictures: Wiktorja Jokiel

## Wedding of the week

**T**HEIR Jewish and Catholic backgrounds were both celebrated when Briona Madden and Daniel Kopman tied the knot.

Briona, from Ballymac, near Tralee, in Co. Kerry, and Daniel from Manchester, England, were wed in Kinsale Hotel and Spa.

Although neither of them have a connection to Kinsale, Briona said: "It's just a special place in a wonderful location and was perfect for our wedding."

The couple live in Manchester and met on Tinder. Briona recalls: "I was 40 minutes late for the date — luckily he waited and claims he knew immediately that he would marry me."

They got engaged while watching *Peaky Blinders* on the TV — Daniel paused the TV, hit the floor and caught Briona off guard: "He had gotten the most beautiful ring made for me."

They were married in the Kinsale Hotel and Spa, overlooking Oysterhaven Bay, in a humanist ceremony, by Pat Clarke Brown.

"We are from very different backgrounds. Daniel's family are Jewish and I am Catholic. We have been really lucky to have had nothing but support from our families; all happy to celebrate our love in any way we chose."

There was a 'tish' before the ceremony, where all the men drink a whisky and offer Daniel some advice for married life. They also did 'hand fasting', where their parents used ribbons to help them 'tie the knot'.

"Our ceremony was amazing. It was so relaxed and personalised to us. We did 'ring warming' — our rings were passed around to all our guests during the ceremony so that they could 'warm' them with well wishes," said Briona.

"We had unity candles as is tradition at Catholic weddings. Pat spoke some lovely words 'As Geailge' and this meant a lot to me."

"At the end of the ceremony, Daniel stepped on glass wrapped in cloth as is tradition in Jewish ceremonies — this is done to a cheer of 'Mazel Tov' from the guests."

Special mentions were given to Grainne Ryan, singer, flowers by Carolyn at Stalks and Stems in Togher, and Alison, the wedding planner at the hotel. Briona's mum and god-mother Angela also pulled out all the stops, from doing the table numbers, to baking the cake and taking photos.

There was also dancing in the hotel foyer to some very lively Israeli music and the wedding party were thrown up on sheets and chairs. There was a troop of Irish dancers later in the evening, organised as a surprise.

The Buachalls entertained the guests, while the couple had their first dance to *Can't Take My Eyes Off You*.

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**ISRAELI DANCING:** Daniel Kopman being thrown up in the air, from a sheet, by his wedding guests, as is the tradition.



**BY THEIR SIDE:** Briona Madden and Daniel Kopman with their wedding party. Guests travelled from as far away as New York, Sweden, Vietnam, Switzerland and all over the UK and Ireland to be with them.