

DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE'S FLAMBOYANT RELATION SHARES

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW



by Claudia Joseph

IT WAS the moment the nation had waited for: A new Prince and a beloved first baby for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. As the Royal couple walked down the steps of St Mary's Hospital cradling Prince George, the waiting crowds cheered and tried to catch a glimpse of the new arrival.

But for one man, Gary Goldsmith, the historic moment had a much more personal resonance. 'It was such a moving moment,' he says.

Wearing a checked Savile Row jacket and a white shirt, with a flamboyant pink handkerchief in his pocket, Gary – the brother of Kate's mother Carole – looked every inch the proud great-uncle as he sat in the Union Club, a townhouse in the heart of Soho where he is a member.

'My wife Julie-Ann was in tears and I felt really emotional,' he says of the world's first glimpse of baby

'It's incredible that our blood flows in his veins'

George. 'It's quite incredible to think that, as Catherine's uncle, a future King of England now has my family blood in his veins.'

'It brought back loads of memories for me. I remember the moment I first held Catherine – I fell in love with her instantly. Now Catherine is a mother herself and we are all incredibly proud of her.'

'I thought it was wonderful that when she came out of hospital she looked like any other brand-new mum. She was incredibly poised and beautiful but there was nothing posed about her. There is a classy informality to everything she and William do.'

It was Monday morning when – along with the rest of the world – Gary first found out that his niece had gone into labour.

Woken up by a thunderstorm outside their apartment in Marylebone, his fourth wife Julie-Ann saw the announcement from Kensington Palace on television.

'It felt like a drum roll from above announcing the birth,' he says. 'Within 30 seconds, my phone had gone into meltdown. I had text after text from friends telling me to turn on the television. I went straight into the lounge and sat down with a cup of tea watching everything unfold.'

'When I tweeted how excited I was, my number of Twitter followers doubled instantly. I now have 2,033 followers. That's when I realised what a momentous event it was.'

After speaking to his daughter Tallulah, 11, he and Julie-Ann took their two chihuahuas – Chih and Quila – for a walk in Regent's Park and stopped off for lunch in their local restaurant, Providores.

'Tallulah and I were convinced the baby was going to be a girl as we have a lot of girls in our side of the family,' he laughs.

'But on Michael's side they are all

Unbelievable! I'm great-uncle to the future King of England

By GARY GOLDSMITH



GENERATION GAME: Carole Middleton with baby Kate in 1982

boys, so it was always going to be the toss of a coin.'

Gary and Julie-Ann were at The Warwick pub, in London's Regent Street, when they found out that Kate had, in fact, given birth to a son. The couple immediately went home and spent the rest of the evening watching television.

'I was so completely glued to the box I forgot to have a drink,' says Gary, who was celebrating with Buck's Fizz on the morning I met him. 'All my friends were ringing me to rib me that I had got the sex wrong. Luckily I didn't put any money on it as I wasn't sure they would take my bet.'

That evening, he texted his nephew James, Kate's brother, to say congratulations. 'Once I knew it was a

Excited texts to James, a rush to buy presents for George...and for this proud member of the Middleton clan, poignant memories of sister Carole and baby Kate

boy, I sent him a text saying how incredibly happy I was for him, as I have loved having a nephew,' he reveals. 'I told him that I hoped he has as much fun being an uncle as I have had. He texted me back and I could tell he was incredibly chuffed. The whole family is thrilled.'

The following morning, Gary and Tallulah began to plan a present for Prince George – a time capsule in a treasure chest bought from Camden Market in London.

He also popped into Smythson's to buy blue writing paper – for a boy – and at the same time had his brown leather iPhone case engraved: 'Dad, Husband, Uncle G, Great Uncle G, G.G.'

He is now organising for all the family to write letters – Gary's aunt Ruth (the baby's great-great-great aunt), cousin Alison and her children Joanne – who has a 17-month-old son called Jesse – Jessica and

Catherine, as well as himself and Tallulah – to include in the capsule.

'Tallulah very brightly reminded me that all the heads of state would be sending gifts so we should do something personal,' says Gary. 'I did a time capsule when she was born so she thought it would be lovely to replicate that. One day,

'I've put a Chelsea kit in his time capsule'

when George is old enough to look at it, it will remind him of the year he was born.'

To furnish the chest, Gary has collected all the newspapers of the day, invested in the top ten albums and bought the best-selling novel *One Day* by David Nicholls, *Hello maga-*

zine, *Empire* magazine, the *Big Issue* and *Q* magazine's official festival souvenir for Glastonbury 2013. 'Something for everyone,' he says.

Naturally sport features heavily – he has included a DVD featuring Andy Murray winning Wimbledon 'because obviously we all love tennis', a souvenir DVD of the Tour de France, an official Olympics DVD and baby-sized England football and rugby kits.

He has even thrown in a Chelsea strip and DVD as a joke for William, who is an Aston Villa supporter. 'I'm not going to give up on this one,' he jokes. 'Do you think he will ever wear it? Never. But that is fine because it's part of the fun.'

By 2pm, Gary was back at home to hear the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery fire a 41-gun salute to the new Prince George from Green Park. 'We were sitting with the windows open when we heard the gun salute,' he says.

'It's extraordinary to think it was for a member of my family.'

But he then had to go out for a business meeting at Mayfair club Home House and caught only the tail end of William and Kate leaving hospital.

'I saw William putting the car seat in,' he says. 'That wasn't someone who was doing that for the first time. That was a dad who has been practising. The look on his face was fabulous. He seemed to be saying, "Pheew".'

'I love the fact that he was driving the car himself, just like any other father. He looked so normal with his sleeves rolled up – nowadays a father would not go to hospital to pick up his son with a tie on.'

'I remember driving my own daughter Tallulah home in the car for the first time. I went at 7mph –