

Got a story or an opinion you want to share?

Call 020 7782 4276  
email [sunwoman@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:sunwoman@the-sun.co.uk)  
or text: SUNWOMAN then your  
comments to 86611  
(texts cost 35p plus your standard network charge.  
SP: Spoke 0844 415 0726)

Edited by  
SAMANTHA  
WOSTEAR



# SUN woman

## A WHIRLWIND romance with an African toyboy turned Sue Hadley's life upside down.

The 60-year-old was smitten when she met musician Bunny Eagle – but it soon turned out the reggae star wasn't all he seemed.

After just **TEN DAYS**, Bunny proposed. He then sat Sue down to explain he hadn't been entirely honest with her.

At this point, some Brits might have expected to hear something about a visa dodge – but what Sue was told was like something from a fairytale.

Indeed, Bunny admitted that his real name was Ugochukwu Anikwe – and that he was a Nigerian **PRINCE**.

Sue recalls: "I felt sheer panic. Then I remembered how my friends and I used to dream of meeting our very own prince."

"I thought to myself, 'Go for it, girl!'"

Sue and Bunny first met in December 1996, in Gambia's capital Banjul.

After a three-month working holiday, Sue, then 43, decided to stay on in the west African nation, and got a job doing voice-over work for a local radio station.

One evening she looked up from her studio and noticed that a "very handsome man with dreadlocked hair down to his waist" was staring at her. It was Bunny, then 32, visiting the radio station with his band from Nigeria.

The pair hit it off as friends – but just a couple of weeks later, it turned to romance after they shared their first kiss.

After ten days of passion, Bunny proposed. Sue recalls: "We were having a quiet drink and he just came out with it. I was flattered but really shocked. I was 43 at the time – hardly the age when women get married."

### 'I wore a blue tie-dyed M&S dress to our wedding'

"I said, 'Why do you need to marry me? We don't really do that in England. Couples tend to live with each other.'"

Bunny, now 49, adds: "I said, 'Well, we don't do that in my place. You don't live with someone unless she is your wife.'"

So the next day he asked her to marry him again. And this time Sue, from Middle Barton, Oxon, said, "Yes".

She explains: "The sensible part of my brain was saying, 'Don't be mad. He's an out-of-work musician'. The other part was thinking, 'This man is amazing'."

Bunny told Sue that his kingdom was made up of two large towns – Illah and Mbiri – which had a combined population of more than 265,000 people.

Six weeks later, the couple travelled to Illah so Sue could see it for herself.

She says: "It wasn't until then I truly believed Bunny was a prince."

"All the children came running out to see him and everyone bowed."

"It was a shock to see the man I'd thought of as a lowly musician, suddenly worshipped by everyone he came across."

"His sister asked me, 'Are you his concubine?' I told her, 'No, I'm his wife-to-be'. That pleased her and she said, 'Oh good, you can come out with us.'"

Much to Bunny's relief, the elders of the town also welcomed her with open arms.

He says: "They were surprised, and asked me if Sue would accept our tradition. I told them we would both have to make compromises – and they were happy with that."

The couple soon moved in to Bunny's seven-bedroom "palace" with 14 servants.

Two days later they were married in an elaborate wedding, attended by the townsfolk, 15 chiefs, and the reigning king – Bunny's 97-year-old father.

Sue says: "Everything happened so quickly, I didn't have time to get nervous."

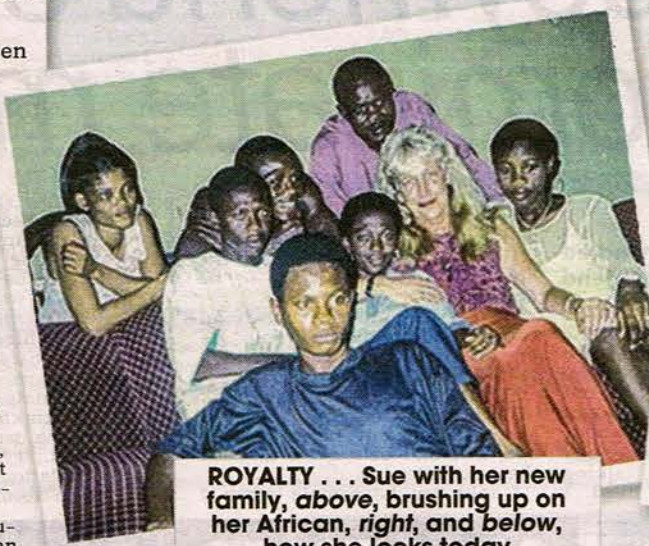
"In the rush, I had to wear my blue tie-dyed Marks & Spencer dress."

Within a month, however, Bunny's father passed away – making the newlyweds king and queen-to-be.

Sue says of the ceremonies to mark the old king's death: "Thousands came to pay their respects. On the

**PRINCE CHARMING...**  
Reggae star Bunny

## BRIT TUTOR'S HUSBAND WASN'T AFTER UK



ROYALTY... Sue with her new family, above, brushing up on her African, right, and below, how she looks today

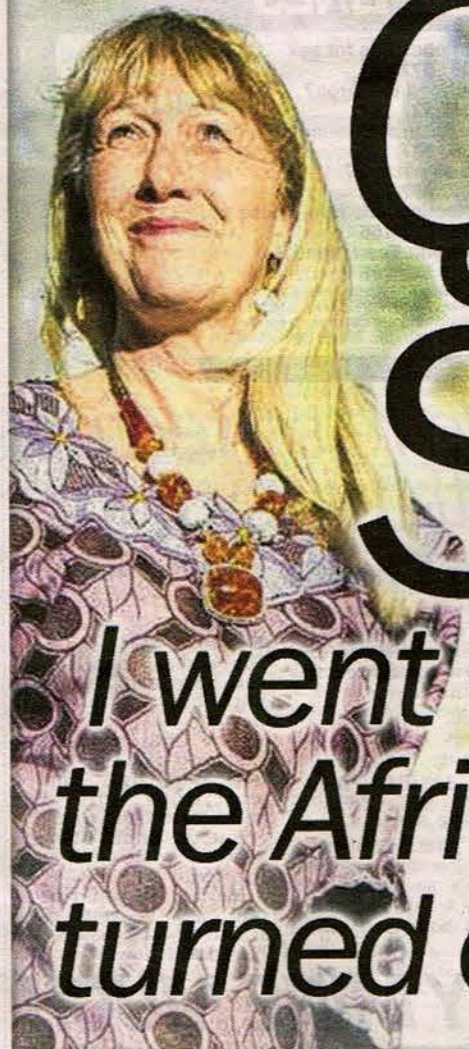


MOST women dream of marrying a prince – but for Sue Hadley, it's a dream that came true.

One day, the Oxfordshire tutor will become a Queen because the man she married almost 20 years ago is heir to the throne of a Nigerian kingdom.

Incredibly, Sue – whose official name is Sue Hadley Ugochukwu Anikwe HRH – had no idea about her lover's royal status when she agreed to marry him after a holiday romance.

Here, she tells AMANDA REVELL WALTON how their marriage has survived against all the odds.



# QUEEN SUSAN

I went on holiday – and the African toyboy I wed turned out to be a prince

night he died I slept with 27 women in my room because I wasn't supposed to be alone. "They came with their mats and we all talked into the night. It was a bit like the Glastonbury festival."

As the new head of the Royal Family, Bunny had to be available to advise "his people" on land, marital or financial issues. Sue says: "They'd travel for miles and wait days to see him. I'd done a three-year course in counselling so I helped out. We made a good team."

But, despite being royalty, Sue says she still lived a "sort of bush life" with no running water and only rarely any electricity. But her happy acceptance of the local hardships won her fans.

She says: "That is why I became accepted – I'd get on the local bus and we'd all be squashed up like sardines."

"There'd be live chickens running around

and people preaching the gospel. I loved it." But after two years, Sue became ill with cerebral malaria and had to be flown back home to the UK.

Bunny came with her for a year but then felt he had to get back to his people – and his duties – in Nigeria.

### 'People think Bunny has wives hidden in cupboards'

Since then, the couple have had a long-distance relationship with Sue returning to Africa to see her husband once a year, for as long as possible.

Meanwhile they are **STILL** waiting to schedule their coronation because Bunny will have to renounce his music career when his reign begins and was reluctant to do so until he was older. The musician, who

has just released a CD, also has to save up the £300,000 that the two-week coronation festivities will cost.

But the pair hope the big event will take place next year. In the meantime a regent has ruled in Bunny's place – a common occurrence in Nigeria.

Despite spending most of his time apart from Sue, Bunny has not taken other wives as he is allowed to do – his father had 15.

He says proudly: "I've only ever wanted Sue as my wife."

As for Sue, she admits: My friends think it's all very wacky. People can't understand our relationship – especially as we are so far apart.

"They think Bunny has a dozen wives and hides them in cupboards when I go over."

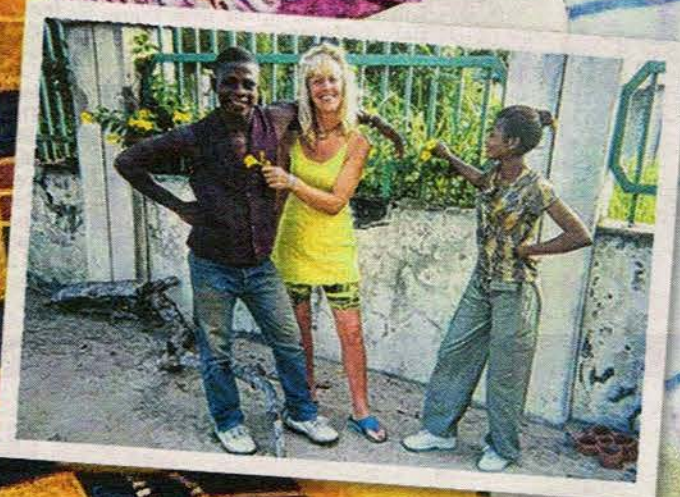
"I just laugh about it. They don't know Bunny and they don't know the great love that we have."

MY TEAM: Dulcie Pearce,  
Nikki Watkins, Lauren Naylor, Jenny Francis,  
Jennifer Tippett and Lucy Gardner  
[thesun.co.uk/sunwoman](http://thesun.co.uk/sunwoman)

## VISA, HE WILL BE A KING IN NIGERIA INSTEAD



**AFRICAN QUEEN**  
... Sue with her fairy tale prince, Bunny



**SO HAPPY ...**  
The couple in Nigeria shortly after they first met, Jeff

## Kate reigns supreme in clothing war

By JOELY CHILCOTT

KATE MIDDLETON is the Queen of the "bridge brands".

That's the term for those mid-market stores priced at the higher-end of the High Street.

They are more pricey than regular "fast fashion" labels, but their dresses won't set you back the cost of a small car.

The likes of Hobbs, LK Bennett and Whistles are just some of K-Mid's favourites which are now bridging the gap between the likes of Matalan and Marc Jacobs.

Thanks to the "Kate Middleton effect", when the Duchess wears a bridge-brand dress, label owners can be heard rubbing their hands in glee - as it is almost certain that her look will fly off the shelves.

With a bit of saving savvy, we can all upgrade to a piece of the royal wardrobe - we just might need to eat bread and butter for a few days.

And the higher prices, often in the £100-£500 range, are reflected in the quality clobber. French Connection is the latest bridge success story. Having suffered three profit warnings in two years, it has just announced an 11 per cent increase in sales for the 11 weeks leading up to April 12, compared to the same period last year.

And Karen Millen is going from strength to strength, too.

A key selling point for these bridge stores is the feeling of exclusivity.

Mike Shearwood, chief executive of Karen Millen's parent company, Aurora Fashions, says: "Even on a big production run for us of 4,000 units, when spread around 400 stores in 65 countries that leads to exclusivity which you just don't get elsewhere on the High Street."

Then there are Kate's beloved LK Bennett nude patent courts, which have been a wardrobe staple. Since the Duchess started wearing the classic heels in 2011, the brand has seen a 17 per cent rise in profits.

And another Middleton favourite, Whistles, is already showing an increase of 20 per cent on last year's sales.

As the K-Mid effect goes from strength to strength during the current Royal Tour of Australia and New Zealand, it's a trend we can't see ending soon.



**TOUR ...**  
In a £245 LK Bennett dress Down Under



**MEETING Mrs O ...**  
in £175 Reiss frock



**LADY IN RED ...**  
a £369 Hobbs coat



**ENGAGED ...**  
£125 Whistles top for photos

TODAY'S CODE

SS9G TYMH Y2X5

IT'S easy to become a Sun+ member. Get a month's FREE trial with the code on the left. Go to [thesun.co.uk/codes](http://thesun.co.uk/codes).