Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent GCVO

[1933 – 2025]



The Duchess of Kent was elected to Life Membership of the Club in 1992.

Katharine, Duchess of Kent was born Katharine Lucy Mary WORSLEY on the 22 February 1933 at Hovingham Hall, Yorkshire. She was the only daughter of Sir William Arthington Worsley 4th Bt., and his wife, Joyce Morgan Brunner.

The Duchess of Kent was the wife of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, who is a grandson of King George V and Queen Mary, and first cousin of Queen Elizabeth II. She preferred to be known in her private life as "Katharine Kent", and also expressed a preference for being known as "Katharine, Duchess of Kent". However, her formal title remained "Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent".

She was educated at Queen Margaret's School, York and at Runton Hill School in North Norfolk. At school she was introduced to music, and was taught to play the piano, organ and violin. She held a teaching certificate from the Royal School of Music. The Duchess of Kent was strongly associated with the world of music and performed as a member of several choirs.

On 8 June 1961, she married Prince Edward, Duke of Kent at York Minster. The couple had three children together, George, Earl of St Andrews, Lady Helen Taylor and Lord Nicholas Windsor. None

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of them carry out royal duties. As a young army wife, the Duchess followed her husband when he was posted to Hong Kong and Germany. Many will know her as the lady who stood at the Wimbledon Tennis Championship finals every year to hand out prizes.

Her contribution to royal life was one carried out steadily and without much press coverage over the years. She also never forgot her Yorkshire roots, and in April 1988 the City of York granted her its highest honour by making her a Freeman of the City. With so many young grandchildren to occupy Katharine's time, and the news that she took on a new Patronage of Breast Cancer Charity in East Yorkshire, it seems this once hardworking Royal, with a caring and down to earth attitude, had a raft of new admirers.

The Duchess of Kent was invested with the Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO) in 1977. She also held several honorary military appointments, including:

- Honorary Major-General,
- Colonel-in-Chief, of The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire,
- Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, of Adjutant General's Corps,
- Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, of Royal Dragoon Guards,
- Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, of Royal Logistic Corps, and formerly
- Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, of Yorkshire Volunteers.

The Duchess of Kent visited the United Service Club Queensland on the 25th of February 1992. Her visit was part of the Club's centenary celebrations and an afternoon cocktail party was held in her honour. She was received by the then President, Major-General "Digger" James and Mrs James; and Club Trustees, Life Members, Committee members and their wives. Over 300 members were in attendance. She was offered, and accepted, Life Membership of the Club.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent died on 4 September 2025 (age 92 years), at Kensington Palace, London – survived by her husband The Duke of Kent.



Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents