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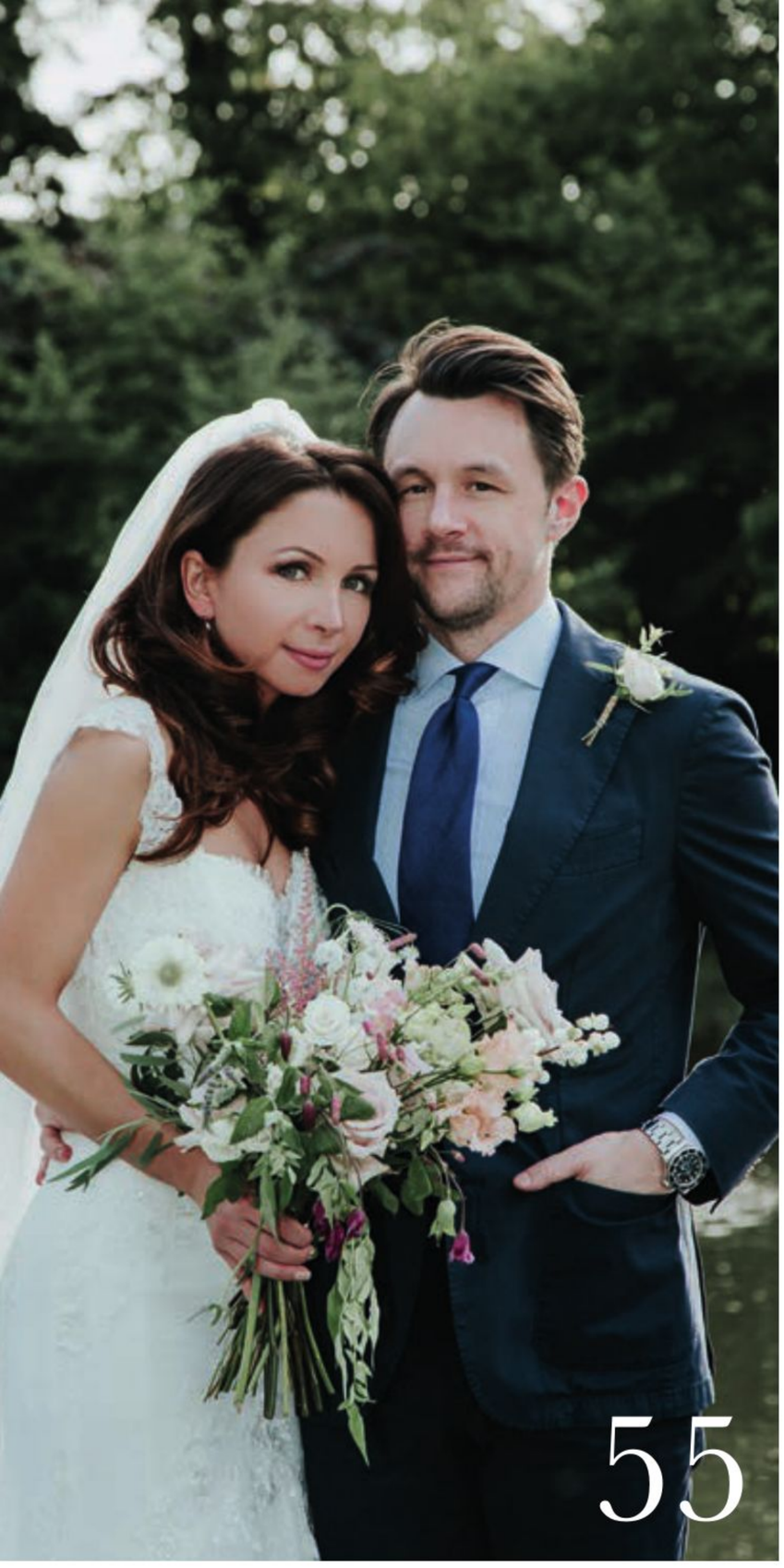
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ISSN 1753-0911

kd MEDIA PUBLISHING
cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

Say 'I do' this spring



Goodbye winter, ice, and coats and hello spring – we've missed you so much! I'm so excited to see what our brides and local suppliers do with Pantone's colour of the year, classic blue, which is said to bring calmness, confidence and connections.

We have some exciting features for this issue to make the planning of your big day so much easier. Our music and entertainment feature is perfect for inspiration on how to keep the party going all day and discover hot and up-coming floral trends in our flowers feature.

Check out our honeymoon pages, which showcases beautiful destinations, and read all the latest news from around the region in our nearlywed news feature.

And finally, take a step back in time and discover venues with a story to tell in our historical venue's feature and who knows, your dream big-day setting might be just a page away!

That's all from me, now it's time to sit back, relax and celebrate anything and everything wedding!

Olivia x

Olivia Gibson, Editor



perfect-timing-photography.com

How adorable is this photo from the beautiful shoot on page 65?

You will love our flowers feature on page 73!



WIN!
A HONEYMOON IN ITALY, WORTH £1,500 ON PAGE 116

Any wedding worries? Turn to page 101 and read our expert advice.

Turn to page 60 to check out this shoot.

juliaandyou.com

nataliestevensonphotography.com



Find local venues in West Herts on page 25.

emmahurleyphotography.com



beckykerrphotography.co.uk

Check out Robbie and Joanne's real wedding and discover beautiful images on page 35.



I love how this bride is looking at her new husband, you can tell how in love they are! Turn to page 49 to read Scott and Laura's story.

markhaysom.co.uk



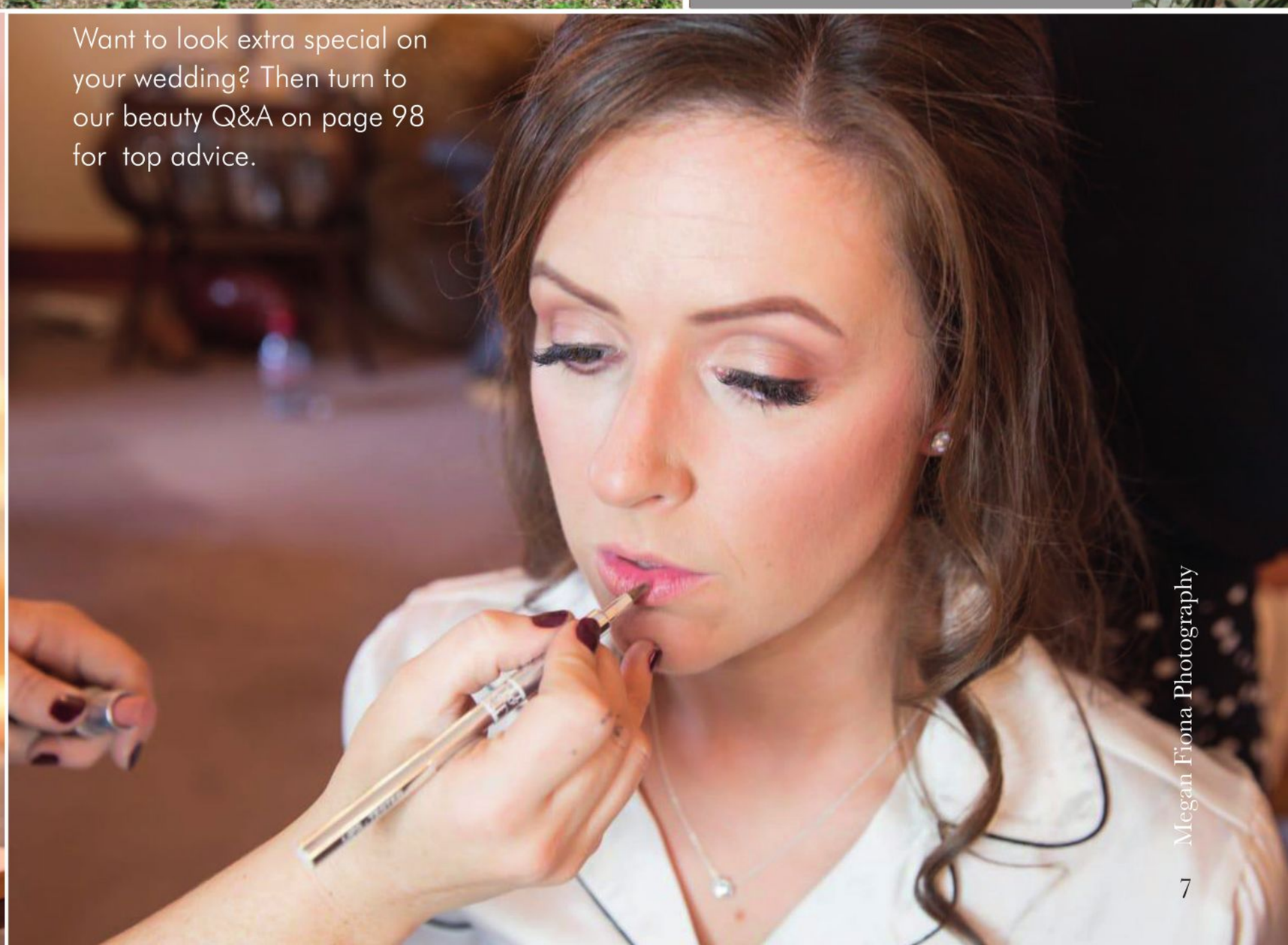
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Stef looked beautiful on her big day – turn to page 55 for more.



Turn to page nine to find out all the news from around the region.

weareweddingly.com



Want to look extra special on your wedding? Then turn to our beauty Q&A on page 98 for top advice.

Megan Fiona Photography

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The MarqueeCompanyUK are an events specialist based in, Hertfordshire. We provide Capri, Pagoda, Clearpsan and Traditional style marquees along with dance floors, tables, chairs, heaters, toilet trailers, generators and much more.

We have put together a number of party packages to help you in the planning of your event. The packages have been tailored made from our wide range of experience in marquee events. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have please feel free contact us on **01442817743** or **07754287312**

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KATY ANGELIDI WINS MAKE-UP ARTIST OF THE YEAR 2020 FOR EAST OF ENGLAND

What an exciting time for Katy Angelidi, who for the second-year running has won the Wedding Industry Awards title of Make-up Artist of the Year for East of England.

Katy has been a make-up artist for more than 23 years and runs her own company to help brides-to-be look their big-day best. Her style is known for being polished, timeless and flattering. Her incredible portfolio was judged by a panel of high-profile industry leaders after her clients' testimonials were scored across several categories.

Katy says: "Winning this award for the second year in a row has been an incredible experience. I don't work for validation but knowing I won off the back of my clients' testimonials as well as my portfolio of work gives me huge satisfaction. I'm so grateful to The Wedding Industry Awards as well as my wonderful customers."

With her amazing business and online tutorials getting more popular, Katy has launched a training academy for budding make-up artists. She says, "I set up MBK Pro Team to train other people wanting to work in the bridal make-up industry," she explained. "It's a great opportunity for me to pass on my knowledge and experience to others – not only about make-up but also the dos and dont's of customer service and what to expect. It's also an excellent way to expand my team of associate make-up artists so that I can collaborate and take on even more commissions in the future."

Find out more: makeupbykaty.com



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

A wedding is so important for couples and symbolises two families becoming one, which is why it's so lovely to preserve the bouquet as a reminder of the day. Sophie May Floral knows this is one of the best ways of keeping a memento from the big day, which is why the company now offers it as a service.

The process starts from when the company receives the bouquet. The team take it apart and dry each flower for a few weeks and then add a cast in several layers of resin – once cured it's taken out of the mould and left to stand. After this it's sanded, finished and given to the couple to love forever. It's perfect for anyone involved in the wedding, such as a large piece for the bride and groom, a smaller piece for the mother-of-the-bride and jewellery to thank the bridesmaids or flowergirl. There's also an option for the groom, with the company being able to make cufflinks made from the bride's bouquet or from his buttonhole.

This service gets booked up fast so if couples are thinking of doing, make sure to reserve a date.

Find out more @sophiemayfloral

Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the region



Dress to impress

Occasions For Less has relocated next to Cream of Royston to enable something for all budgets in one location. Cream of Royston has traded for more than 44 years and has built an excellent reputation as the place to go for mother-of-the-brides and grooms' outfits. They currently have new lines while Occasions For Less have outfits from previous seasons at reduced prices.

Find out more on their website creamfashions.com



A SLICE OF PERFECTION

At Your Wish Cakes is proud to showcases a design that's set to become a new trend and it looks as good as it tastes! Many couples are having a decorated table with sweet treats for guests, with a more unusual centrepiece. A buttercream cake with a macaron tower on the top, dressed with fresh or sugar flowers is becoming one of the most popular alternatives to a traditionally iced cake. The company specialises in macarons in a variety of delicious flavours, such as pistachio, lime and coconut, passion fruit, mango and raspberry. Each colour is coordinated to tie in with any wedding theme. The company bakes lots of flavours with delicious ganache fillings and Swiss meringue buttercream in any colour.

Find out more at atyourwishcakes.co.uk



CHIMNEY FORMAL MENSWEAR WINS MENSWEAR RETAILER 2019

Chimney Formal Menswear is delighted to have won Menswear Retailer 2019 at the Four Counties Wedding Awards, which aims to celebrate suppliers from all aspects of the industry, from bridal boutiques to photographers.

The company moved to its current premises in 2016 and offers a relaxing environment with Chesterfield sofas and club chairs.

The shop was built beside the original 13.5m-high chimney that once provided the draught for the local ironwork's furnace, and has become important and loved by owner Sharon Cousans.

She says: "We're delighted to have won this prestigious award. We offer a fantastic service to our clients, but to have that recognised by our peers makes us very proud."

Entries are judged on their submission, social media presence, website, testimonials, products and services.

Sharon adds: "Every groom receives a personal service as they decide what to wear on their special day. We offer expert advice from experienced staff in this special store nestled beneath the amazing old ironwork's chimney."

Chimney has outfits not only for the groom and his wedding party but also for other formal occasions, including the races or a black-tie event. Staff will also advise on accessories to complement the suit.

Find out more at chimneymenswear.co.uk



Pick of the bunch

Local florist Maples Flowers has been nominated at the British Wedding Awards 2020 in the Wedding Floral Design category.

This is a huge achievement for the Hertfordshire-based company which offer the finest quality of flowers and creative innovative designs.

Shane Maple says: "It would mean so much to our team to win for a second year after all the hard work we put in to make our brides and grooms dreams come true."

The British Wedding Awards recognises and celebrates all the hard work of UK suppliers and the winners are picked by real couples. Voting only takes a few minutes and couples details are entered into a competition and a lucky winner will receive a four-night stay in Istanbul.

Vote here: thebritishweddingawards.com/vote



DISCOVER WOBURN SAFARI PARK

Nestled away in Woburn Safari Park is The Safari Lodge and the Woburn Estate's most distinctive wedding venue, which overlooks Swan Lake and the Desert Springs enclosure – a perfect wedding venue for animal lovers.

For a truly adventurous addition to the day, couples can now incorporate an exclusive Off-Road Safari Adventure VIP experience, an elephant encounter or a leisurely boat ride on Swan Lake into their special day.

Providing an extraordinary backdrop for any wedding, couples might find a cheeky lemur or meerkat photobomb their wedding album!

Whatever couples are looking for, the Safari Lodge team can offer a service that's second to none and the lodge is set up for ceremonies, dinner and dancing. Fully bespoke with a warm and fun informal atmosphere, couples can personalise the day with a choice of dining options, from barbecues on the terrace to three-course banquets. Guests can enjoy reception drinks upon arrival, served on the extended private veranda.

Find out more at woburnsafari.co.uk



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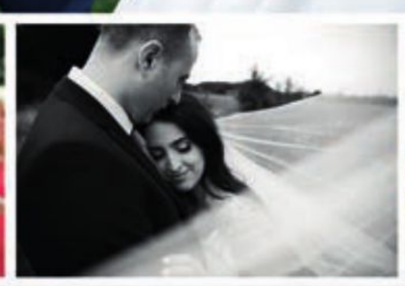
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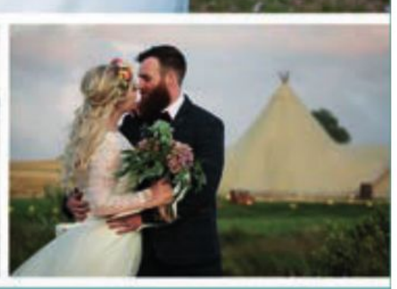
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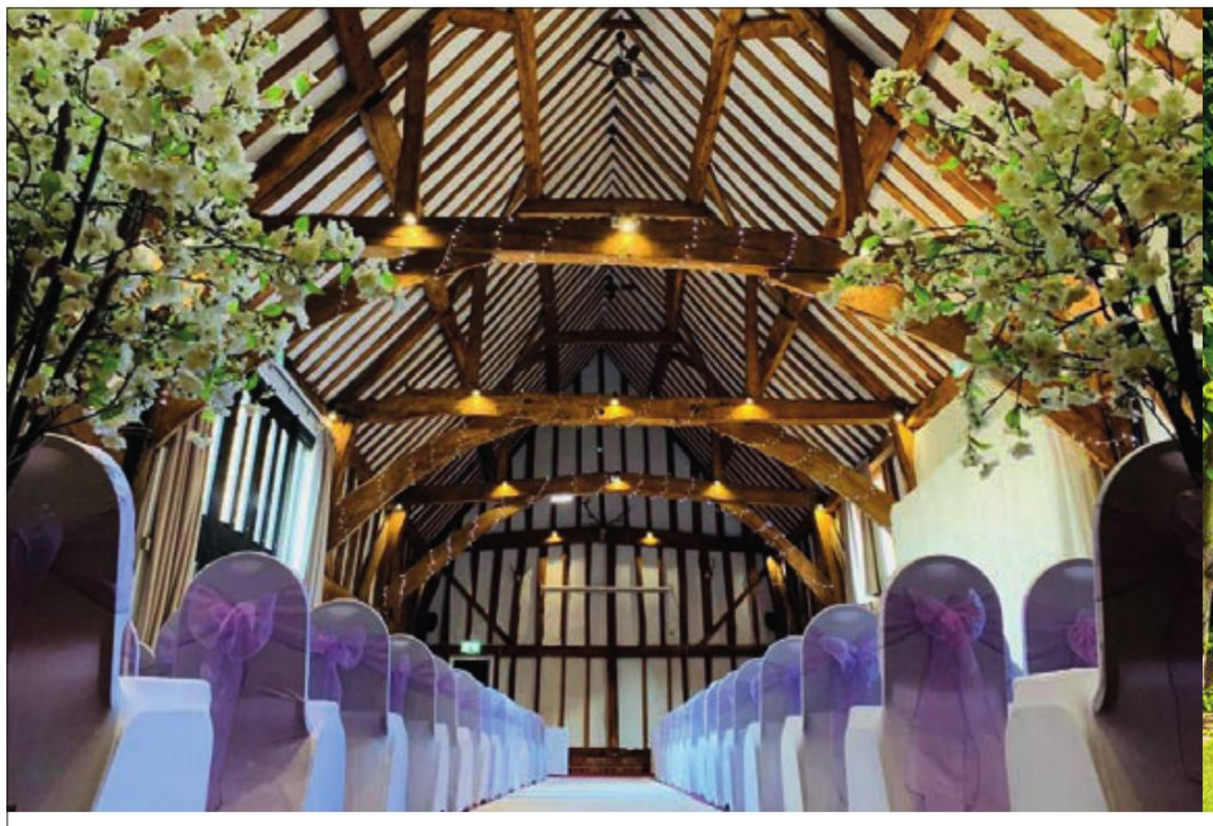






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SWEET CREATIONS

At Your Wish Cakes create bespoke wedding bakes designed specially to complement weddings. Why not give your guests sweet treats such as delicious cake pops coated in chocolate and dipped in sugar pearls, bagged and tied with coloured satin ribbon? Alternatively nearlyweds can pick macarons in a variety of flavours or personalised cookies and cupcakes. At Your Wish Cakes is offering couples 10 per cent off any favours when couples quote *'Your Herts & Beds Wedding.'* Please note this offer lasts until the 26th March.

For more information visit atyourwishcakes.co.uk

Freebies & OFFERS

Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers





In the modern world, it's hard to buy someone a gift no-one else will be able to. So why not try an experience that can't be replicated – a night at the theatre. But how does someone give that gift while making sure it's the right show and right time for the recipient? That's where Theatre Tokens come in.

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County Wedding Magazines has teamed up with Theatre Tokens to offer readers the chance to win a £50 gift card. For your chance to win enter via our website.

What's more, we also have a wonderful discount for readers: 10% off Theatre Tokens. To get 10% off, order a Gift Card, an eGift or a Top Up before midnight on 31st March 2020 and quote COUNTYWEDDING online at theatretokens.com





RING-A-DING-DING

Couples can design their bespoke wedding bands at The Goldsmithy and enjoy 10 per cent off when they quote *'Your Herts & Beds Wedding.'* The exchange of the rings is the centrepiece of the day and wedding bands represent a truly personal symbol of love and commitment, so should be designed to last a lifetime. Lovebirds can start their next chapter together by having their design created by the skilled team.

The Goldsmithy offers a rare opportunity to have a go at the bench too, creating an extra special experience. The best part of having a ring made is that couples can have what they want – from a simple plain band one created to complement an engagement ring. Prices start from £242 with a one to three-month lead time needed for simple designs.

Please note this offer lasts until the 26th March.

For more information call: 01908 565 200

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cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

Wedding Shows

At County Wedding Events our aim is to help you find the perfect venue and suppliers for your wedding day.

Each wedding show is hosted by a stunning venue and attended by a wide variety of quality exhibitors ready to offer help and advice in planning your day. All our events offer **free entry**, a complimentary **goody bag** with our latest **glossy magazine** as well as the opportunity to enter prize draw **competitions** and take advantage of **exclusive offers** and **discounts** on the day.

Our Signature events are held at prestigious exhibition venues and you can expect to see up to 200 wedding specialists exhibiting on the day. They are **the ultimate wedding shopping experience** and include fashion shows, demonstrations, entertainment, exclusive offers, competitions and much more!



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ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM
unless otherwise stated



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KENT

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SUN 1 MAR



ESSEX

GREENWOODS
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SUN 23 FEB



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Sevenoaks TN13 1SR
SUN 29 MAR



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Braintree CM77 8PD
SUN 15 MAR



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SUN 12 JAN (12PM - 4PM)



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As part of KD Events and Publishing Ltd, County Wedding Events (CWE) is ideally placed to offer you a wealth of experience organising events in the wedding industry.

If you would like more information about either holding a wedding show at your venue or exhibiting at any of our shows, please contact us at info@countyweddingevents.com, call 01376 514000 or visit countyweddingevents.com.

grimsdyke.com

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woburnsafari.co.uk/safari-lodge safarilodgeevents@woburn.co.uk

St Albans Museum + Gallery

Built in 1831 and lovingly restored to its former glory, this magnificent Georgian landmark is the perfect v enue for your wedding.

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St Albans, AL1 3DH

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stalbansmuseums.org.uk/venue-hire

For bookings and enquiries:
stalbans@leafi.co.uk

Historic VENUES

Venues with remarkable stories to tell



LUTON HOO HOTEL, GOLF & SPA

01582 698 889 | lutonhoo.co.uk

Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa is a treasure chest of scenery and the perfect place for creating special memories. Beyond the formal gardens, couples will find more than 1,000 acres of parkland, meadows, woodlands, lakes, rivers and nature trails. The numerous backdrops include the Rock Garden, Flower Garden, waterfall, fountain, weir and even a silver birch wood.

This venue's spectacular, which is perhaps why it has cast its spell on everyone from Queen Elizabeth II to Hollywood film directors. The Grade I listed mansion house is an impressive looking property, which offers the luxury of a five-star hotel and the surroundings of a stately home.

It's history, marble interiors and beautiful period rooms are enough to make any bride feel like a princess on her wedding day. With 12 luxury wedding suites licensed for civil ceremonies, as well as a former Russian orthodox chapel, the house offers a variety of beautiful settings.

Many couples love the grand staircase designed by architects Mewes & Davis, who also worked on the Ritz Hotel. Each ceremony space is beautiful – the Faberge has capacity for 120 guests and is located on the lower ground floor. It's named after the famous collection of Faberge eggs once housed at Luton Hoo. The Churchill room (40 people) boasts stunning views over the front lawn and got its name because of Winston Churchill. On 26th June, 1948, more than 110,000 people were addressed by Churchill in the grounds, thanking them for their support during the war.

Next, we have the Sitting Room, which has access to the terrace and views over the formal gardens and lake – one of the most popular ceremony rooms. Lastly, the Library has access to the terrace and offers views over the formal gardens and the front lawn, and houses the venue's original books and fireplace.

Each of these spaces can be used for the reception with the addition of the Romanov and the Grinling Gibbons.

The Romanov (160 people) is undoubtedly the most impressive room in the mansion house. Once the chapel of the house, this suite boasts original stain-glass windows and ornate ceilings. Grinling Gibbons (80) is a beautiful room located next to the Wernher Restaurant with breathtaking views over the back lawns to the lake and has ornate wood carvings, which add character to the room.

The venue has a variety of added extras in the wedding package, including complimentary menu tasting for two with wine and a suite on the wedding night.

THE CONSERVATORY AT THE LUTON HOO WALLED GARDEN

01582 459 216 | lutonhoo-walledgarden.co.uk



At the end of Lime Tree Avenue on the Luton Hoo Estate, nestled within the historic 18th-century walled garden, is the conservatory. Situated within a large private garden, the charming conservatory and private walled garden are idyllic settings for the couple's wedding reception and allows them to enjoy summer drinks on the patio whilst admiring the enchanting garden.

The stylish interior of the venue has glazed windows overlooking the gardens, a starlight ceiling, and atmospheric lighting that can be customised to any colour scheme. The property also includes club lighting over the dancefloor, stage and integrated PA system with microphones, which can be used for those all-important wedding speeches.

The luxury marquee is finished to the highest specification, which includes long windows that open out onto a private patio area.

The garden is laid to lawn, with beautiful flower beds, providing the perfect setting for drinks receptions and garden games. Ceremonies and receptions take place here with the ability to share the day with 400 guests.

ST MICHAEL'S MANOR HOTEL

01727 864 444 | stmichaelsmanor.com

St Michael's Manor Hotel is the perfect setting for any couple's special day. Set within five acres of beautiful private English country gardens with a stunning lake, this country house hotel in St Albans is only 20 minutes from London by train. The location's perfect as the venue's close to the city centre, which was formerly the ancient city of Verulamium, and near the famous Abbey Cathedral.

The original house dates back more than 500 years and was converted into a hotel in the early 1960s by the Newling Ward family. To this day the hotel remains privately owned and managed, which gives the hotel its distinctive appeal.

With fabulous views over the garden and lake, the venue's restaurant is perfectly suited for large functions, seating a maximum of 140 guests, with natural light and direct access to the terrace, lounge and bar.

The Cedar Suite is an elegant room with a high-ceiling, a chandelier, natural daylight, air-conditioning and access to the lounge and bar for 30 guests to enjoy – perfect for smaller ceremonies and intimate wedding breakfasts. The oldest room in the house is The Oak Lounge with oak-panelled walls and an ornate high stucco ceiling dating back to 1585, when the house was built. The Oak lounge holds up to 14 guests for a civil ceremony and a wedding breakfast.

A complimentary menu tasting is offered to the lovebirds when they book.











PUTTERIDGE BURY

01582 489 069 | putteridgebury.co.uk

Putteridge Bury is situated in picturesque parkland on the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire border. The spectacular grounds were designed by Edwin L Lutyens, the foremost architect of the era and planted by one of the finest female Victorian gardeners in 1911, Gertrude Jekyll. The reflective pool, yew hedges and clock tower are an important feature of the 33-acre site.

This Grade II listed manor house was built as a replica of Chequers, the country house of every Prime Minister since 1921.

Captain Thomas Clutterbuck lived at Chequers in Buckinghamshire for nine years and was so fond of the property that he decided to pull down the old building that once stood here and recreate his much-loved home in its place.

Fast forward a decade and in the roaring 20s, the house was owned by Sir Felix Cassel, a good friend of King George V and Queen Mary. Pheasant shoots and banquets were a regular occurrence and the oaktree opposite the clock tower is a fitting reminder of these times, planted by the king in 1926.

The interior of Putteridge Bury is full of charm, with ornate staircases, stunning chandeliers, floor-to-ceiling bay windows and intricate wood panelling.

Ceremonies take place in multiple spaces at this venue with different capacities including; Mountbatten Room (100 guests) Gentleman's room (60), Dining room (50) and Ladies Room (60), each are perfect for the couples special day.

Putteridge Bury has five special function rooms that can accommodate all aspects of the day to create a bespoke wedding to remember, with a capacity for 120 guests for the wedding breakfast and 160 for the reception.

Couples that book this venue will receive a menu tasting to find the perfect food for them.

ENGLISH HERITAGE

WREST PARK









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WEDDING SHOWCASE

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We invite you to join us for the day and explore our venue dressed for a wedding.
You'll be able to talk through your wedding plans with our hand-picked accredited suppliers and meet our team of experienced hospitality event co-ordinators, who will be on hand to show you how Wrest Park, with its elegant gilded rooms, centuries-old gardens and a 19th-century orangery, will make a unique and inspiring setting for your wedding day.

Book your **free** place at **www.english-heritage.org.uk/wrestweddings**

Step into England's story



HARROWDEN HALL

Harrowden Hall is the beautiful home of Wellingborough Golf Club situated within 160 acres of rolling countryside. Its stunning recently refurbished, classically modern stately rooms and landscaped gardens are the perfect setting for your special day.

Your entire day from ceremony to evening reception can all be held under one roof. From the moment of enquiry, through to your showround and the big day itself our Wedding Co-Ordinators are constantly on hand to help and guide you through the process.

Using locally sourced produce and on-site preparation our experienced in-house team of Chefs ensure all food served throughout the day is of top quality and excellent presentation all of which has been tailored to your personal taste. Our Front of House team and Co-Ordinators work tirelessly to ensure the most perfect and memorable day for you.

For further information or to book a viewing please contact: weddings@wellingboroughgolfclub.com



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DOWN HALL HOTEL & SPA

01279 731 441 | downhall.co.uk

Nestled in 110 acres of woodland, parkland and meticulously landscaped gardens is this grand Italian mansion. The grounds are full of picturesque spots, including a large water fountain sitting across from a quirky folly, as well as charles garden, which is an exclusive spot designed with al fresco celebrations in mind. There's also the new terrace with its outdoor gin bar – the perfect place to while away a summer's evening.

Dating back to 1322, the ivy-clad façade and stunning colonnades contain grand historical interiors, ornate ceilings and fireplaces alongside contemporary luxuries.

The whole of Down Hall Hotel & Spa is licensed for ceremonies for up to 180 loved ones but most couples opt to say their vows in the newly refurbished Oxford Suite. Seamlessly blending modern and traditional features, the room has plenty of natural daylight, pretty vistas and neutral décor to complement any wedding theme. Couples will love the long aisle for a grand entrance. For those who prefer the great outdoors, the wedding gazebo is tucked away behind a hedged wall with the mansion as a backdrop.

After the formalities, couples have the choice of several reception rooms for gatherings of up to 250 people. The largest is the Bridgeman Suite with its twinkling chandeliers. The Oxford Suite can also host receptions; adjacent to the West Wing Lounge it can be opened up allowing guests to make use of the whole space.

All couples will receive a free menu tasting, the services of a toastmaster and wedding-night accommodation in the master suite. The hotel can also hold pre-wedding dinners for guests who are travelling down the night before.



HOLMEWOOD HALL

01487 829 555 | holmewood-hall.co.uk

Holmewood Hall is a stunning 18th-century Tudor-style mansion that has the wow factor. The South-West aspect of the house is beautifully symmetrical with perfectly maintained ivy and a balcony set in between the two sides of the house, which is the perfect height for photographers to get the best images of guests outside.

The house is set in 10 acres of manicured grounds within the Cambridgeshire countryside, with a lake and a fountain. The hall offers croquet and garden games on the lawn while everyone can enjoy the outside terrace bar. For al fresco weddings, the premises offers ceremonies in the bandstand with a stunning gold carpet aisle.

The venue has a beautiful inside ceremony room called The Gold Room (77 guests), which has chandeliers and a spectacular 18-carat gold lead-ceiling. There's a wonderful wooden staircase, which is nearly as old as the house! Another ceremony space is The Bandstand (77 loved ones.)

There are 16 luxurious bedrooms, including the bridal suite, on-site at the venue which are exclusively reserved for guests.

Couples will have the use of the manor house where dinner is served in the dining room, with a maximum capacity of 80 guests, and the party carries on in the Vault Bar, which is the old main kitchen of the house, for 120 guests. Evening receptions take place in the old main kitchen, where the ovens are a feature in this room – couples can party with all of the history around them! To relax there's the beautiful, informal Library and Champagne bar where couples can sit back in the snug sofas and chairs.

After booking the venue, the lovebirds will receive a personal wedding manager included within the package who will guides and assists with plans. Dinner dates are held throughout the year, which allows couples to attend an evening at the house and try the food and service that the building offers.





“Nothing was too much trouble, the food was delicious, and the venue looked stunning.”
– The new Mr & Mrs Seymour

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Par 3

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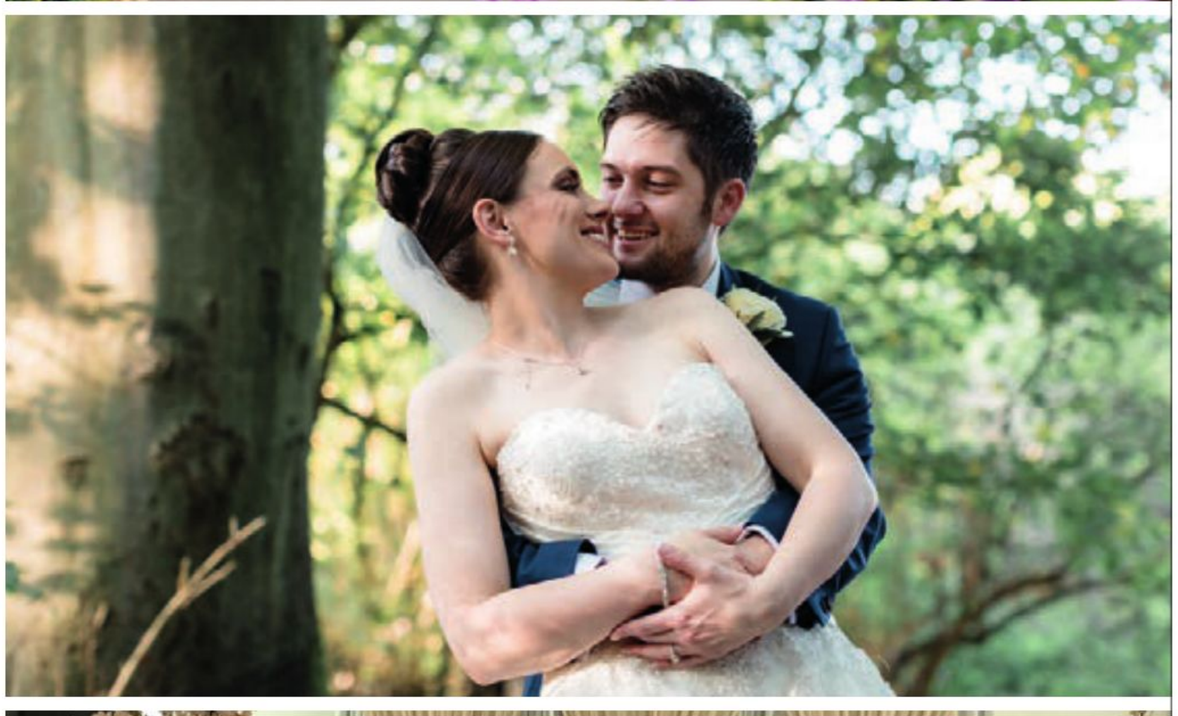
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GOING *local*

Where to say "I do" in West Herts



PENDLEY MANOR

01442 891 891 | pendley-manor.co.uk

Pendley Manor is a Grade II listed Victorian country house hotel set in 35 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and wooded surroundings. The traditional manor house boasts elegant individual period rooms and its grand staircase creates a special ambience of gracious living. The purpose-built banqueting suites seamlessly blend contemporary décor with the original features of the property.

The Verney Room's perfect for intimate ceremonies and wedding breakfast for up to 40 guests, this is a wood-panelled room with views of the fountain. Or why not opt for the Oak room? With its ornate ceiling and marble fireplaces it's an elegant backdrop for ceremonies up to 100 loved ones and wedding breakfast up to 70.

If couples are looking for a space with plenty of natural light, then the Simon Suite's perfect and even has doors that open to the patio terrace and landscaped gardens. This room can accommodate up to 160 party goers for a ceremony and up to 80 for an evening reception.

Harcourt Ballroom is a stylish room with stunning crystal chandeliers, a private bar and outstanding decorations, which creates an exclusive feel for wedding breakfasts of up to 200 nearest and dearest and evening receptions up to 250 guests.

Couples can choose a wedding package that includes complimentary menu tasting for the couple-to-be, an overnight stay in the Bridal Suite on the night of their wedding and two complimentary bedrooms.





AUBREY PARK HOTEL

01582 792 105 | aubreypark.co.uk

Aubrey Park Hotel is hidden among a beautiful woodland backdrop of the ancient Aubries Fort, in between St Albans and Hemel Hempstead. The hotel's situated in a six-acre historic meadow, which is perfect for tipi weddings.

The modern, contemporary style interior has 137 bedrooms designed with soft colourings and the exterior is part of an old farmstead, first built in the 13th-century.

Ceremonies take place in multiple spaces at this venue – the Oak Suite is licensed up to 150 guests and offers a blank canvas designed to allow couples to get creative. The company's experienced team will help turn any vision into a reality.

This suite was built in 2016 with feature lighting, air-conditioning and includes the latest audio-visual technology. The venue has a stunning floor-to-ceiling glass reception foyer featuring a fully-stocked bar and entrance to a private patio terrace.

Another option is the Beech for 140 attendees with access to the private terrace and a shared cloakroom. For smaller weddings, the Oak Suite can be halved into two to create a bright and fresh room called the Willow for 60 loved ones. This room has a wall-mounted 65" plasma TV suitable for all audio-visual requirements.

For a more private and idyllic setting, why not opt for the Garden Room, which faces the hotel's terrace and allows for 70 loved ones? It's equipped with a large screen and projector with blackout facilities, a private bar and toilets.

Lastly, the Brasserie is a bright space with a relaxing atmosphere with inspiration from nature for up to 100 loved ones to enjoy. Each of these great spaces are available for receptions.

Aubrey Park Hotel offers many packages for the bride and groom; the first is the Bronze Wedding Package and ranges up to the Platinum Wedding Package. Each include plenty of different perks for the couple to enjoy.

SHENDISH MANOR HOTEL & GOLF COURSE

01442 232 220 | shendish-manor.com

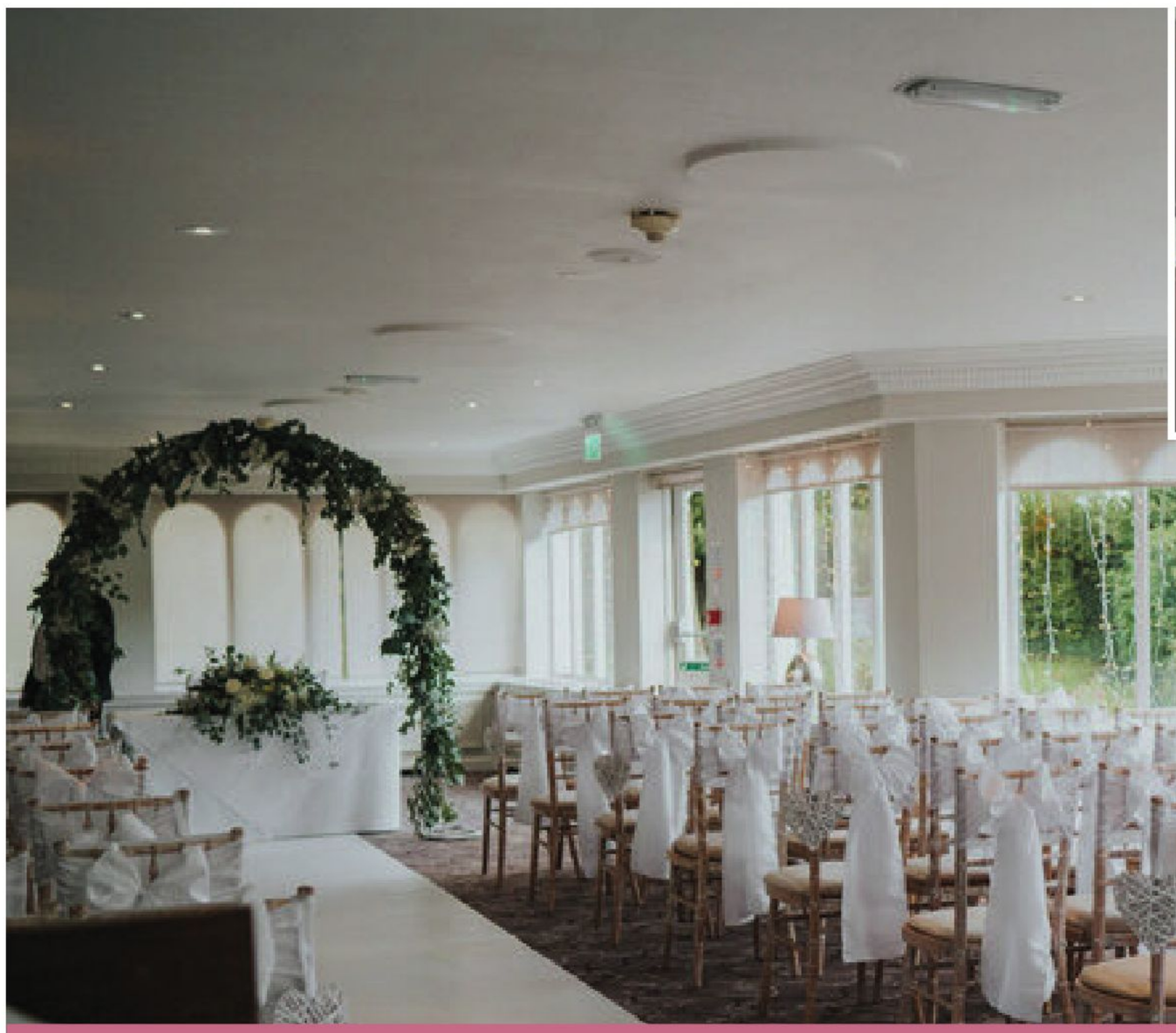
Set in 160 acres of idyllic countryside, Shendish Manor Hotel & Golf Course is now at the forefront of hospitality in Hertfordshire and offers couples a picture-perfect wedding. Providing an elegant focal point, this venue is great for weddings with a capacity of 10 up to 320 partygoers.

One of the biggest ceremony and reception spaces is the Apsley Suite for 320 friends and family either inside one of the beautifully presented function rooms or striking gazebos outside complete with kitchen space to allow for external caterers.

The Manor House is another perfect space to hold a reception – the building itself dates back to 1853 and has room for 92 guests for the ceremony and wedding breakfast with 160 for the evening. The timeless manor has a private bar and still showcases many of its original features, such as high ornate ceilings and Jacobean fireplace and more! The venue runs several offers during the year at its wedding fayres – take a look at the company's website to find out more.









MERCURE ST ALBANS NOKE HOTEL

01727 883 281 | mercure.com

Mercure St Albans Noke Hotel is a traditional Victorian venue that boasts a cosy restaurant, making it perfect for an intimate ceremony and reception. With 110 bedrooms available on-site and its very own white starlit marquee seating a maximum of 230 guests, it's a great party venue designed specifically for weddings.

The hotel is beautifully traditional with gardens maintained by the same twin gardeners for more than 25 years – they pride themselves on the large hanging baskets and rose garden. Ceremonies take place in three different spaces at this hotel with the maximum capacity of 100 guests, while receptions are located in four spaces with up to 250 loved ones.

Upon booking, the venue will offer couples an anniversary stay with dinner, bed and breakfast, complimentary bridal suite for the night of the wedding, dedicated wedding coordinator and event manager, complimentary menu tasting and discounted accommodation rates.

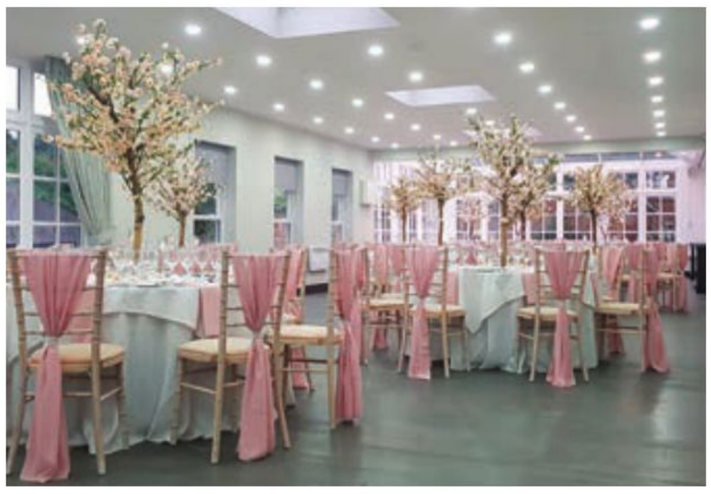


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*Terms and conditions apply. New Wedding bookings only, cannot have been held provisionally prior to the launch of the incentive. The value of the wedding must exceed £5000.00 of pre booked items and be booked before September 2020. Shoes available may vary and may not be the shoes pictured which are for illustration purposes only. †Available on available dates between 1st January - 31st December 2020 only. New Bookings only. Rates inclusive of VAT.



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*Based on 50 guests. Minimum of 15 bedrooms required.





BEAUMONT HALL

07811 338 313 | beaumonthall.co.uk

Beaumont Hall is a beautifully presented Georgian Grade II listed farmhouse that's surrounded by secluded grounds that are perfect for outdoor weddings.

Currently focusing on tipi style set-ups where couples get to dress the area however they choose, this space offers exclusivity for the nearlyweds and guests. Gatherings of up to 250 can be accommodated for and further bespoke options are available.

Receptions take place in secluded, private grounds. The tipis have a natural look with exposed wooden spruce poles seemingly rising like trees from the ground. They're a great blank canvas for lovebirds to personalise as they wish and offer a great setting for all themes, from festivals to opulence.

The premises is not licensed for ceremonies but does have plenty of spaces to host a blessing.





PAR 3 SUITE AT LITTLE HAY GOLF COMPLEX

01442 952 288 | littlehaygolf.co.uk

Par 3 Suite at Little Hay Golf Complex overlooks the beautiful grounds of the Little Hay countryside nestled in the tranquil surroundings of the Chiltern Hills.

The venue's spacious, full of natural light and can easily be customised for any big day, with space for elegant dining, dancefloors and a private bar. The team can cater for up to 160 seated or 220 buffet guests, they're passionate about all the little details and making couples' perfect day memorable.

The patio is the ideal place for outside dining and relaxing in fine weather. The venue boasts idyllic spots backed by rolling fields, green woodland and stunning skylines – a photographer's dream.

Ceremonies can take place in the suite itself or couples can have an outdoor wedding to make the most of the incredible surroundings. Receptions take place inside and there's a separate bar space provided for weddings to allow the team to transform the room for the reception.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

2019 has been quite a year for County Wedding Magazines and Events HQ, the launch of our Signature Wedding Shows were such a huge success that the 2020 dates are bigger and better than ever. Here's what to expect when attending one of our events...

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Our Signature Wedding Shows are held in some of the most recognised sporting and event venues in the UK. Brides- and grooms-to-be will be in awe of the sleek and stylish setting of Mercedes-Benz World, Surrey, sited on the famous Brooklands race circuit – you can even have an on-the-day driving experience should you wish!

Follow in the footsteps of royalty at Ascot Racecourse, Berkshire, situated on Crown Estate, it's the Royal Racecourse frequently visited by the Queen and hosts some of the biggest meets in the racing calendar; and, from one world-renowned location to another, why not attend our wedding show at Wembley Stadium, London, for a truly spectacular setting – from England to Brazil, all the greats have played here.

Finally, regular reality TV watchers will be familiar with The Brentwood Centre, Essex, a regular feature in Sam and Billie Faiers' *The Mummy Diaries* and the home of our very first Signature Wedding Show.

ON THE DAY DELIGHTS

When attending one of our Signature Wedding Shows couples and their entourages are in for a treat. Each event will boast up to 150 exhibitors comprising a huge range of specialists who will be on hand to talk through your planning ideas and requirements; venues, bridal boutiques, photographers, florists, cake makers and more, there's everything you could need under one roof.

On the day, visitors can enjoy fashion catwalks of the latest bridal, groom and mother-of-the-bride collections, partake in styling demonstrations and watch live entertainment, all whilst enjoying samples and tasters from our exhibitors. Refreshments are also available to purchase from each of the venue's on-site restaurants, bars and cafés.

What's more, by attending our exhibitions couples will benefit from free entry, will receive a goody bag including a copy of a County Wedding Magazine as well as be entered into a competition to win a honeymoon to a luxurious destination.

From sampling cocktails to tasting ice cream, listening to live musicians and watching the fashion shows, it's an exciting day for all who attend.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our Signature Wedding Shows!

Sarah x

Sarah Ellis, Sales and Events Director County Wedding Events.

Psst! The first 100 couples through the door will receive a free Wedding Journal Keepsake, and our pre-registered visitors will have the chance to win a £250 gift voucher courtesy of Spabreaks.com

SPABREAKS.COM

A date for your diary...

ASCOT RACECOURSE, 8TH MARCH, 2020
MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, 15TH MARCH, 2020
WEMBLEY STADIUM, 26TH APRIL, 2020
THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2020

Pre-register for all of our events at **countyweddingevents.com**

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- Goody bag for each couple
- First 100 couples attending receive a Wedding Journal Keepsake
- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Up to 200 stands
- Bridal fashion shows
- Demonstration areas
- Entertainment
- Refreshments

Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a £250 gift voucher courtesy of

SPABREAKS.COM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH cwm® COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

A date for your diary...

Sunday 13th September 2020, 11.00AM - 4.00PM

Hosted at The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9NN

Pre-register at **countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm**

Follow us on /CountyWeddingEvents @CountyWedEvent @countyweddingevents

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Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a £250 gift voucher courtesy of SPABREAKS.COM

SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2020, 11.00AM - 4.00PM
Hosted at Ascot Racecourse, High Street Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7JX

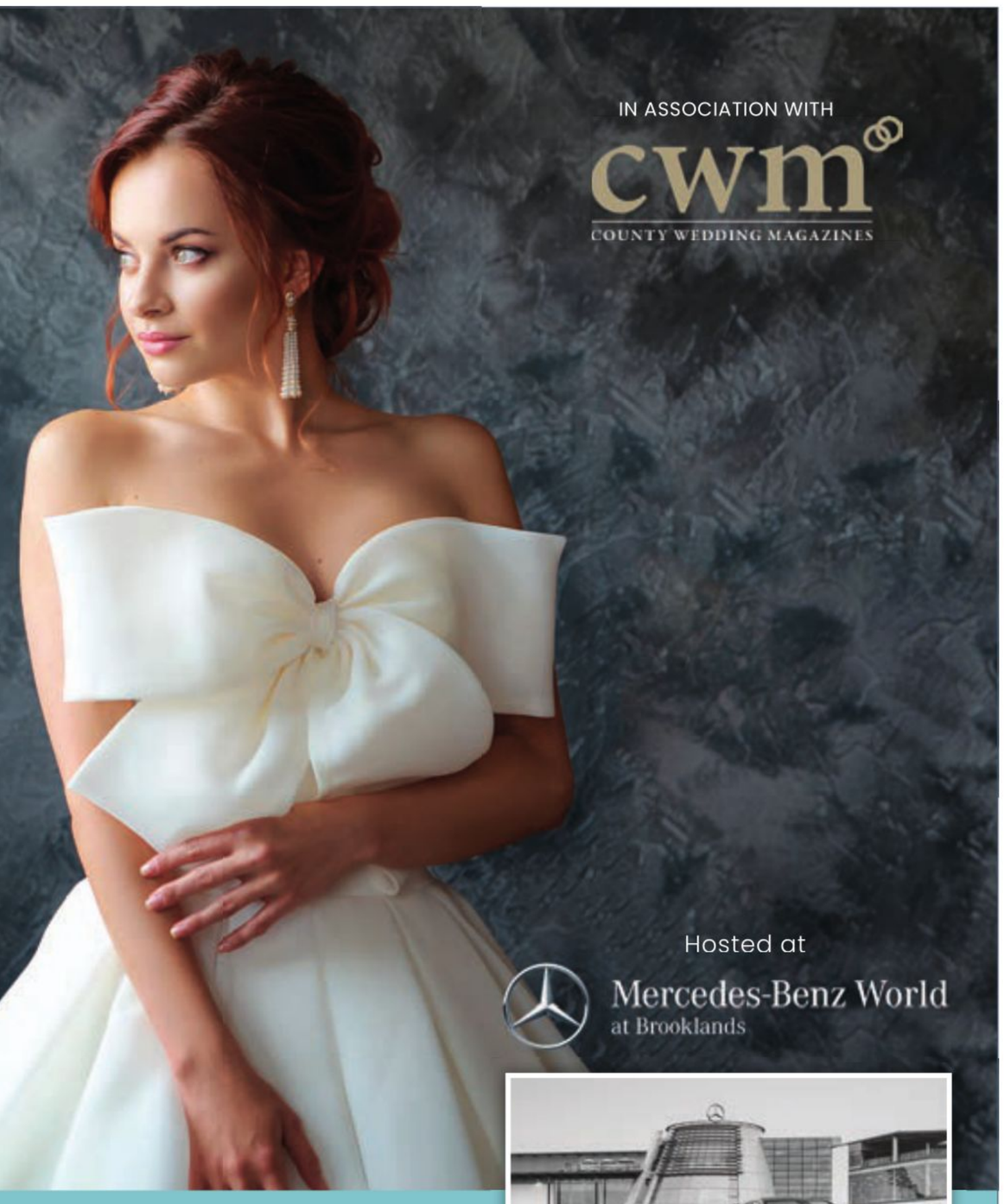
ASCOT Racecourse

Pre-register at **countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm**

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Hosted at
Mercedes-Benz World
at Brooklands



SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2020, 11.00AM - 4.00PM
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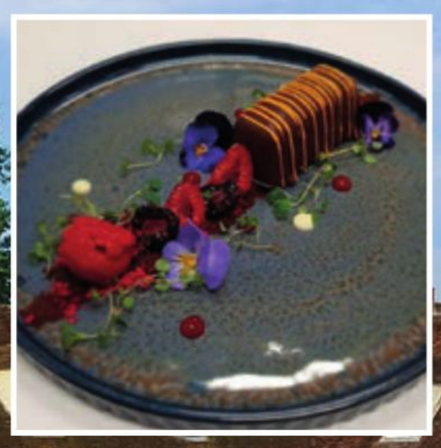
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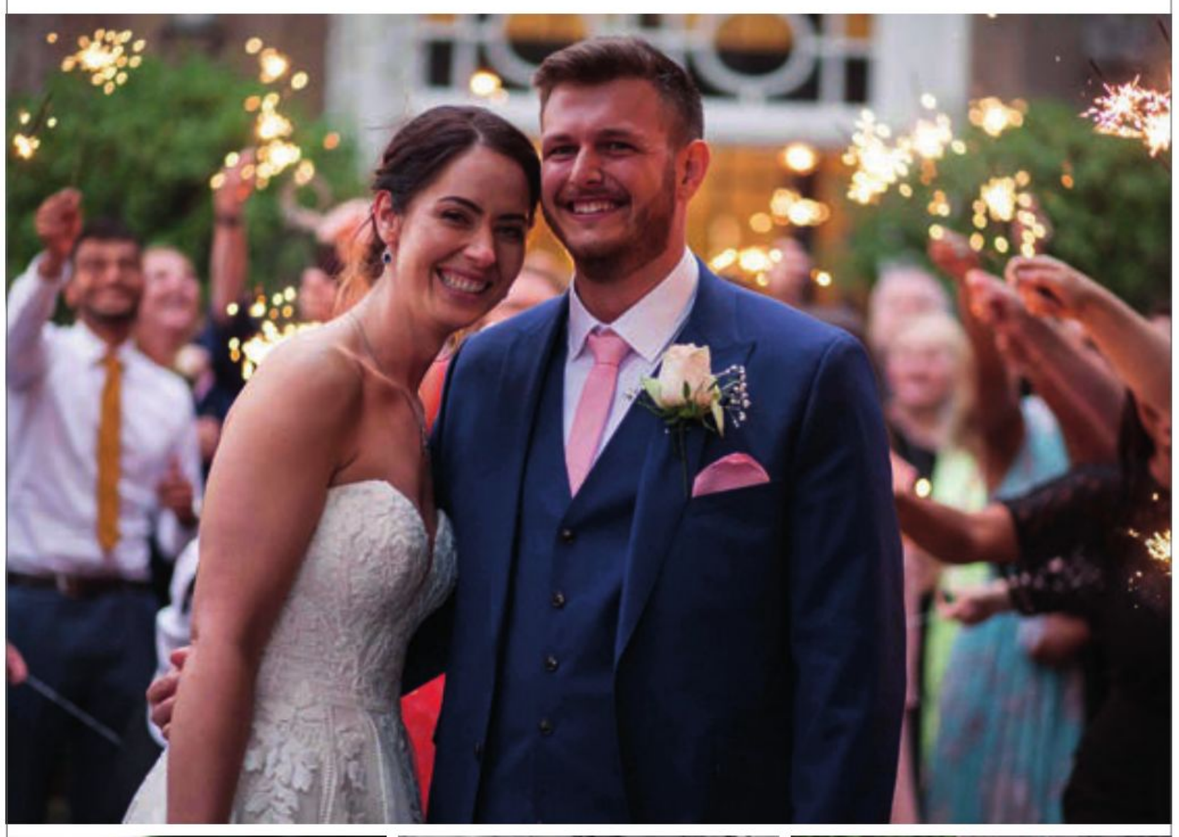


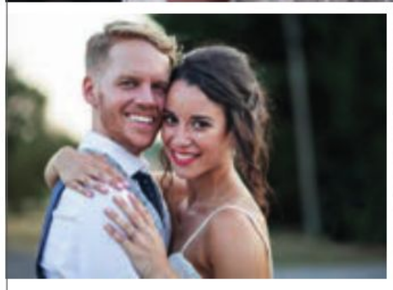
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Becky Kerr
PHOTOGRAPHY





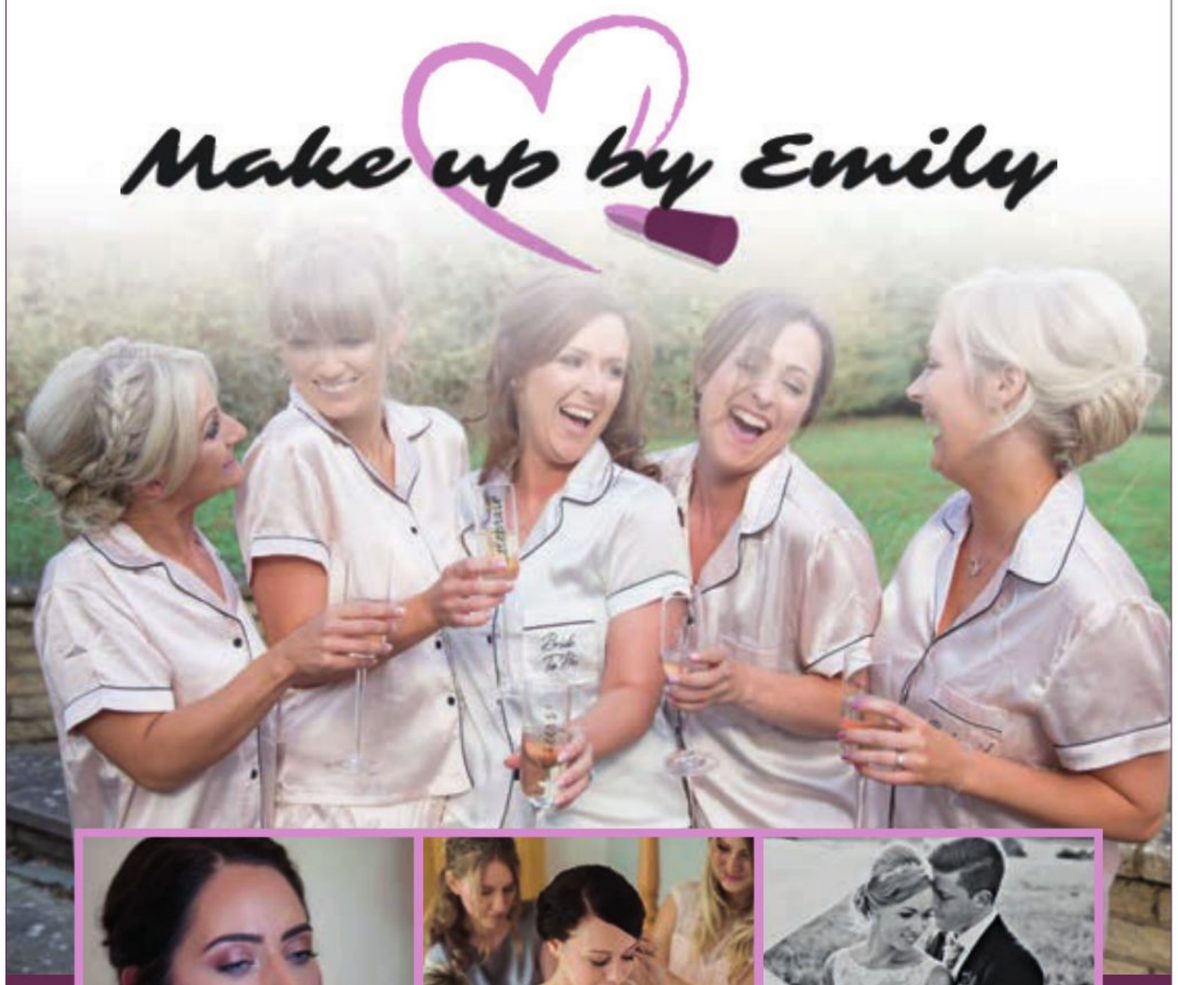




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A love STORY

Robbie and Joanne said "I do" at Offley Place Country House Hotel

Robbie and Joanne were both ready to start a new chapter in their lives and decided it was the perfect time to find love. The pair found each other on Tinder back in 2015 and found they instantly had a beautiful connection and bonded over their interests. Joanne says: "Our conversation flowed so easily, it was like we already knew each other. Robbie was attracted to my eyes while I was attracted to his height and arms. He's the most incredible man I've ever met – kind, caring, selfless and absolutely hilarious."

Fast forward three years at a beachfront restaurant in Thailand and Robbie surprised Joanne by asking her to marry him. Joanne says: "I hoped it would happen, as I knew he was the man I wanted to be with forever. The moment he got down on one knee I was in total shock and I don't remember saying yes!"

Here Joanne tells us more about their special day…

Images courtesy of Becky Kerr Photography



I heard someone mention Offley Place Country House Hotel and decided to look it up – I thought it was stunning, particularly the conservatory, and as we wanted a small wedding, it was perfect!



For favours we had mini-alcohol bottles, with flavoured vodka, liquors and boxes of chocolate goodies.



We didn't want the traditional top table so we could be surrounded by our closest friends.



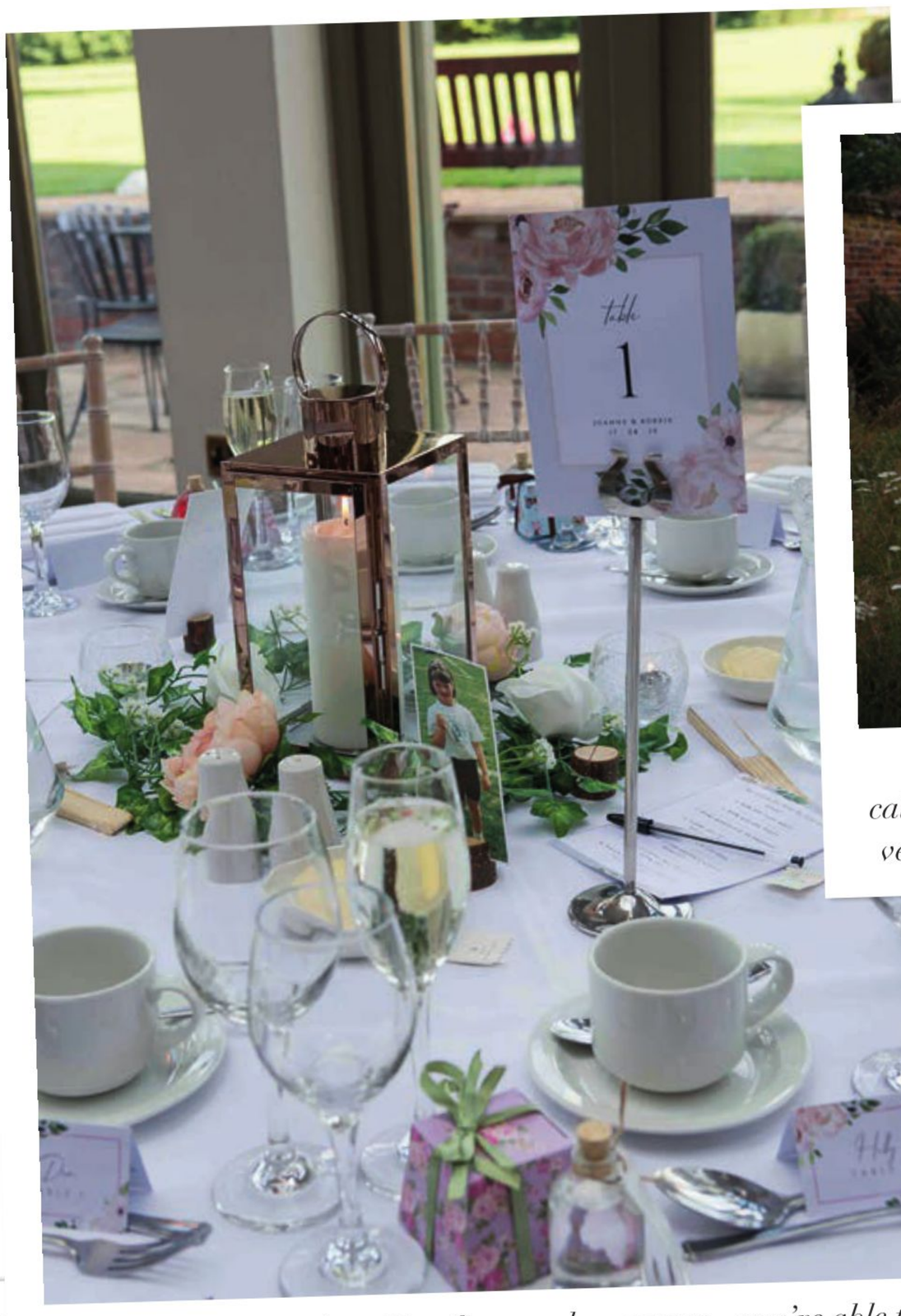
I opted for pink roses, gypsophila and green foliage tied with a pink ribbon for my bouquet, while my bridesmaids had ivory roses, gypsophila, green foliage and an ivory ribbon.



Instead of a traditional cake, we had chocolate, pistachio and salted-caramel cupcakes with a Victoria sponge top tier.



I had four bridesmaids in total; two had dusky pink gowns while the others wore silver in their choice of style and shoes to match.



We used a template from Etsy for our place names – you're able to choose the font and layout. We opted for a soft pink flower border.



I wore a strapless A-line dress by Essense of Australia called D2752, which was covered in lace. I bought a three-metre veil with a similar pattern to complemented the dress perfectly.



Robbie wore a royal blue tailored suit from Moss Bros with a pink tie and light grey shoes – his groomsmen and Dad wore the same.



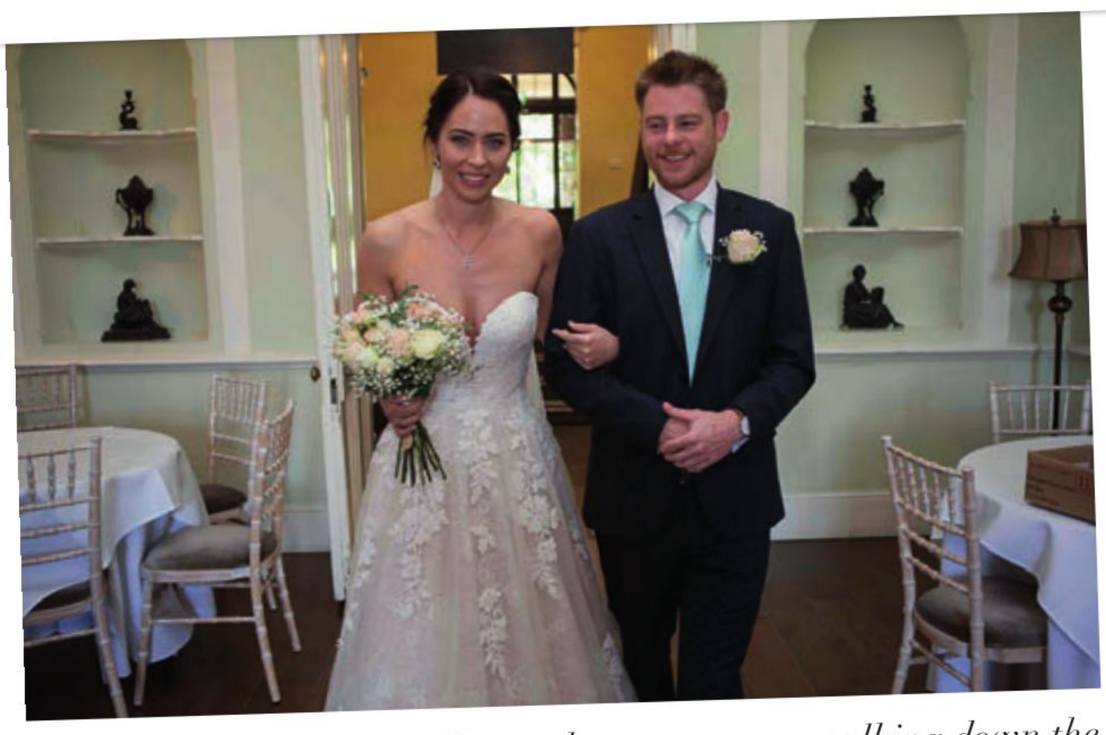
To finish off the look, I wore sapphire blue earrings, a necklace and a bracelet. The necklace was a gift from Robbie that he'd given to me at the top of the Eiffel Tower as he likes me in blue jewellery to match my eyes.



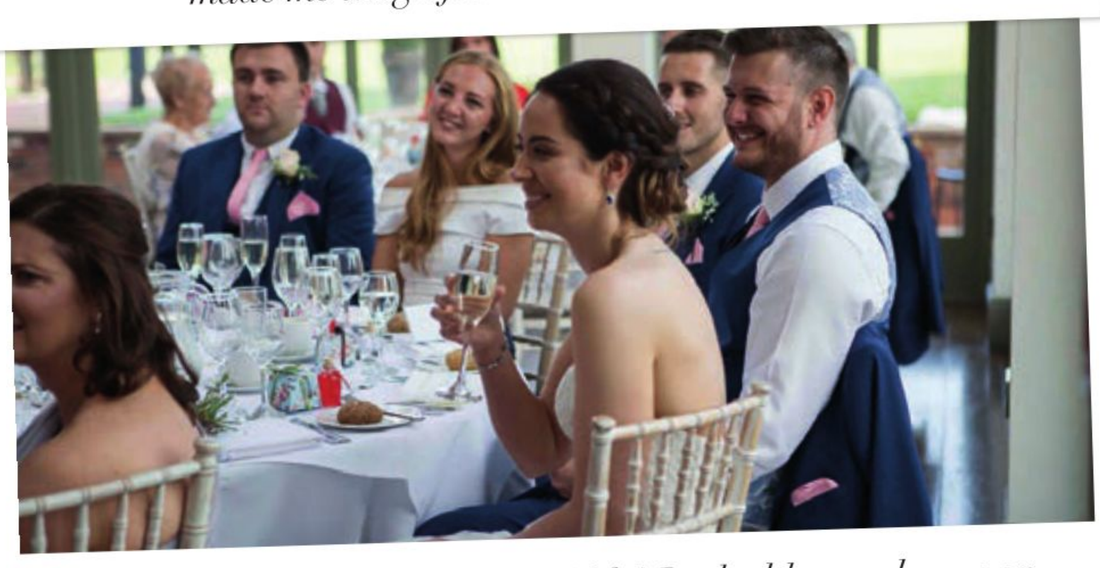
Other items of décor included ivory petals places down the aisle, lanterns filled with candles and a hanging wedding day sign.



I wanted to feature my Dad in the wedding somehow as he died when I was 13, so I ordered a bouquet charm and stuck a photo of him in it – he was with me all day.



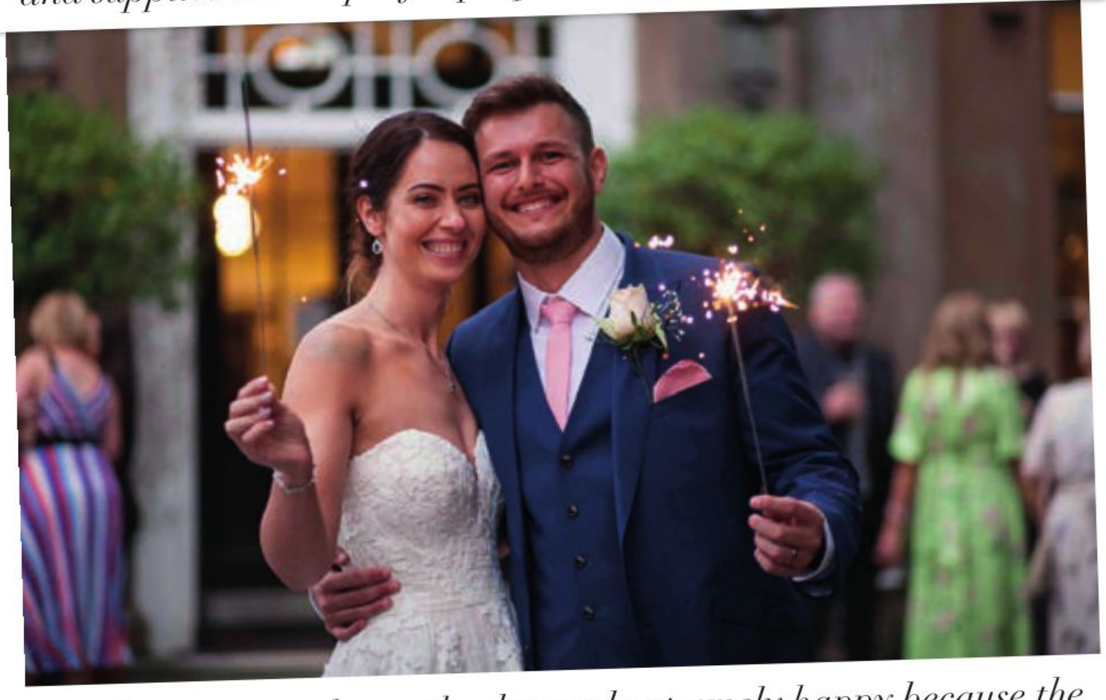
A part of the day that really stood out to me was walking down the aisle with my brother. He offered to walk me after finding out I was going to do it myself and I was so appreciative of him, he made me laugh just as I was about to cry!



My sister's speech was incredible! I asked her to do one on behalf of my Dad and she said the most beautiful words about mine and Robbie's relationship, including that my Dad would have been so proud that we chose each other – there wasn't a dry eye in the room.



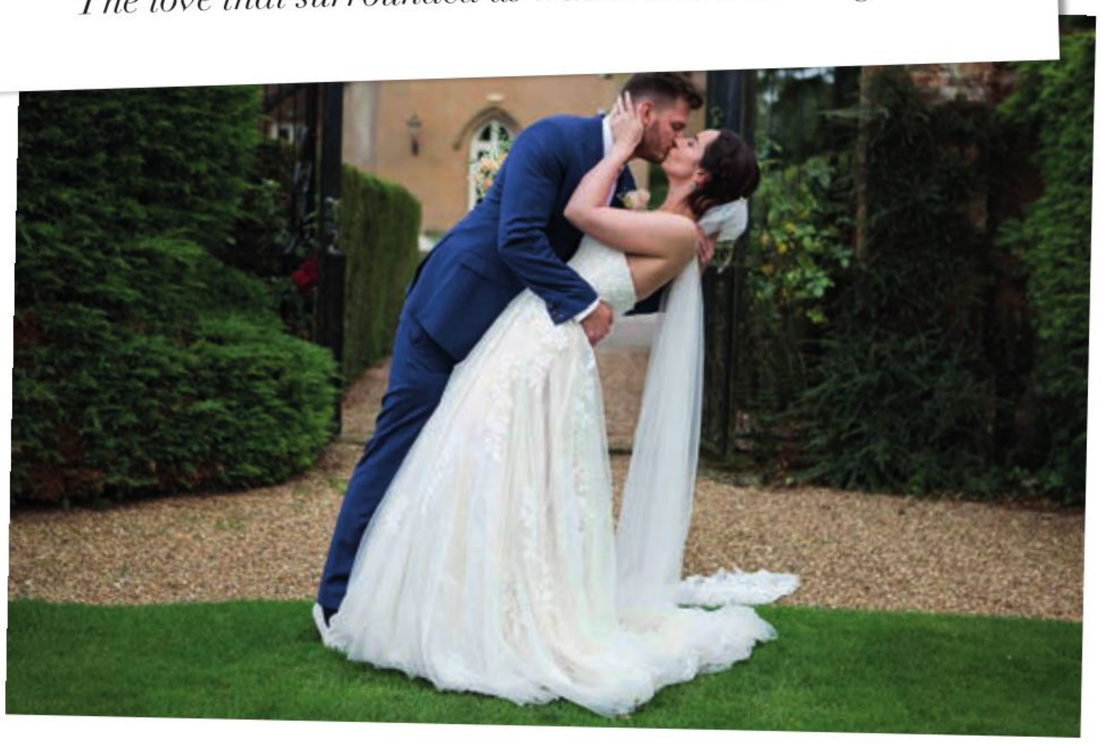
Our Tinder selfie frame was popular with guests. We decided to do our guest book a little differently – we put a photo of us in a frame and supplied a Sharpie for people to write messages around it.



I woke up very calm on the day and extremely happy because the sun was shining through the window and it was my birthday! Robbie was very nervous but managed to squeeze in a gym session with his best man, which I'm sure helped him burn off some nerves.



The love that surrounded us was so overwhelming.



My top tip for the day would be to make sure you're as organised as possible, make spread sheets and log everything! I found that I stressed about the little things a lot but didn't even notice them on the day.

ROBBIE AND JOANNE'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, offleyplace.com | **Photographer**, beckykerrphotography.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, foreverbridaluk.com | **Hair**, @annapanayshair | **Makeup**, make-upbyemily.wixsite.com/herts | **Groom's suit**, moss.co.uk | **Cake**, sugarbcakes.co.uk | **Flowers**, jonquil-flowers.co.uk | **Stationery**, etsy.com/uk/shop/BeyondParty | **Entertainment**, globalhire.com

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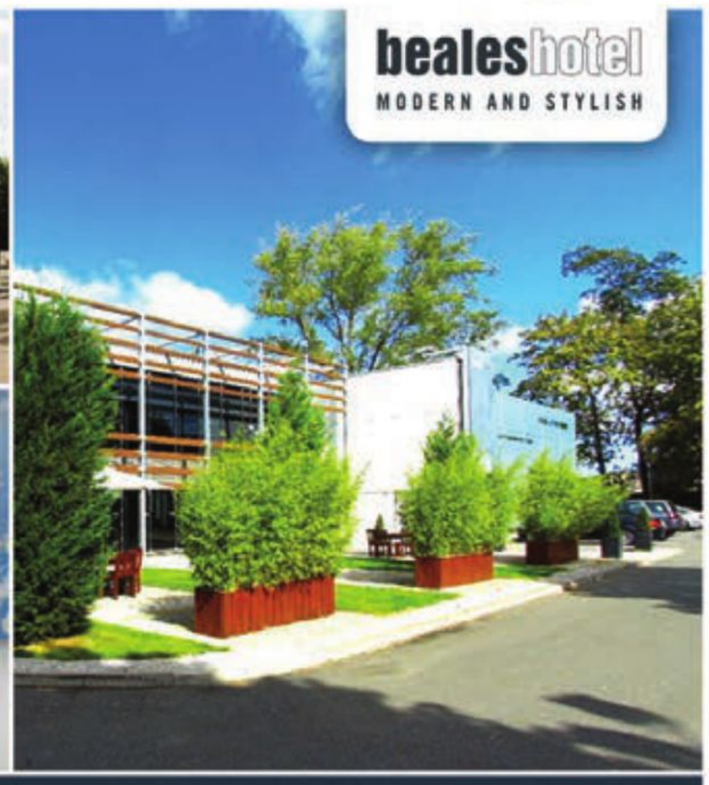
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Two hearts COMBINING INTO ONE

Daniella and Oliver's shared their glamourous big day with all their loved ones

Images courtesy of Rafe Abrook Photography







Oliver first crossed paths with Daniella at a friend's house when the pair were younger. They spoke for a while about their interests but the timing wasn't right, as the pair were both in relationships at the time. Fast forward the years and they occasionally crossing paths but didn't realise they both liked each other until they sat down and discussed how they felt. Turns out, they were both ready to give a relationship a go and the rest is history!

Throughout the years they shared beautiful moments and their love blossomed into something truly beautiful.

In 2016, Daniella plucked up the courage and proposed to Oliver minutes before the leap year on the 29th February and he said yes!

SETTING THE SCENE

After getting engaged, the wedding date was set for 22nd September, 2019, which was also Daniella's birthday. The next step was finding the perfect venue which was a clear choice. Throughout their younger years, Ashridge House played an important part in their lives. For Daniella, she had fond memories of walking through the forest with her parents and picking seasonal fruits and vegetables.

Oliver says, "For me, it was walking through seeing the bluebells with my family, watching the deers and climbing trees with my brother. I then did the same when my children were young." The pair adored the venue but never imagined that it would be their future wedding space.

Now the venue was picked, it was time to decide on the decoration and the colour scheme, which incorporated blush as the background colour with green, purple and yellow flowers. Silhouettes of the couple were distributed throughout the property, this included their lovely stationery, favours and cake.

LOOKING THE PART

Most brides dream about how they will look on their big day, trying to figure out what would look best on them. For Daniella, she couldn't have picked a more perfect gown. The beautiful bespoke blush pink gown was from designer Kashish who also created a small silk pouch bag. To finish off the look, a diamanté headpiece was added as well as rhinestone hairpins. In the evening, Daniella transformed into a white Grecian-style dress.

Oliver says: "I wore a white silk dinner jacket and waistcoat with a white T-shirt, black tie, braces, black trousers and black velvet shoes, which allowed me to stand out from the rest of the groomsmen." The bridesmaids looked perfect in all-black dresses and matching shoes.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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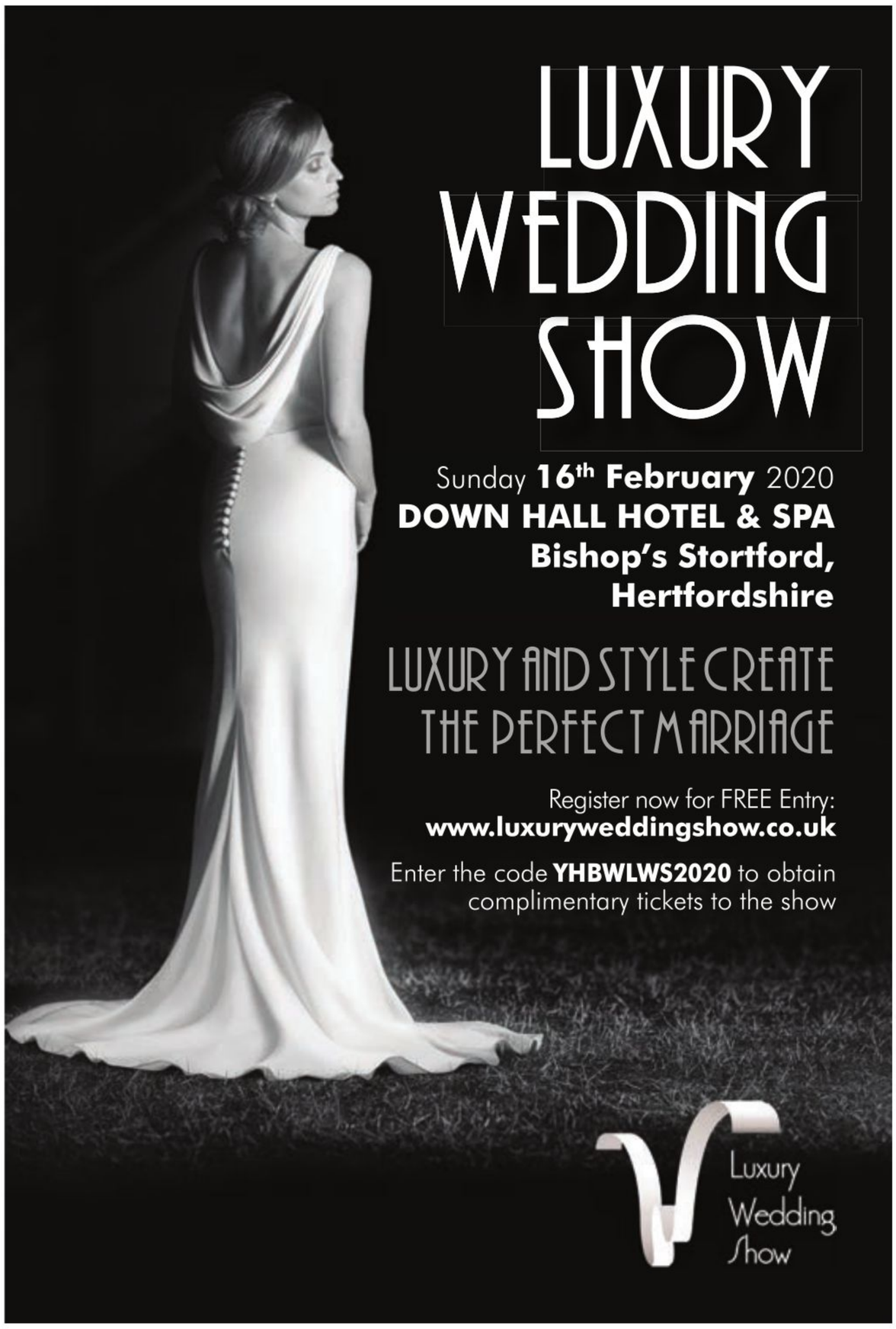
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TIME TO CELEBRATE

To keep guests entertained, a master of ceremony was hired who happened to be their dear friend and a fabulous entertainer with a great style and humour. On top of that, they had a four-piece string quartet during the drinks reception, which friends and families loved!

Oliver says, “We had a professional DJ Tony Lawrence, saxophonist Wendy Allen and percussionist William, and not forgetting the amazing firework display carried out by Pains Fireworks.”

Each entertainer interacted with attendees and made the whole experience extra fun and memorable.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Throughout the day the couple felt emotional, excited and happy to be surrounded by their loved ones. Oliver comments on a moment that stood out saying: “The bride-angels walked down the stairs one by one, leaving my bride-to-be, which made me fill up with excitement as she looked so stunning in her wedding dress."

Daniella also comments on her favourite part saying: “To walk down the long steps after being so lovingly prepared by my gorgeous stepdaughters and see my future husband beaming at me was so special and emotional.”

When it came to speeches, the best man, who’s also their nephew, shared beautiful words full of love and emotion, which got everyone up on their feet for a standing ovation.

According to the couple every supplier went above and beyond to ensure the day was perfect. Oliver says: “It feels like we have extended our family and friends, they’re no longer just suppliers!"

HONEYMOON

For Oliver and Daniella’s honeymoon, the pair jetted off to Iceland for five days with their friends who lived in Australia. The trip was packed full of beautiful moments and they were lucky enough to see the northern lights!

TOP TIP

The couple shares their top tip, saying: “Always make decisions together and spend your money on what you feel is most beneficial in the long run, for us this was the photographer and videographer to capture the whole day. It’s difficult to see everything going on around us and this captured any moments missed”.







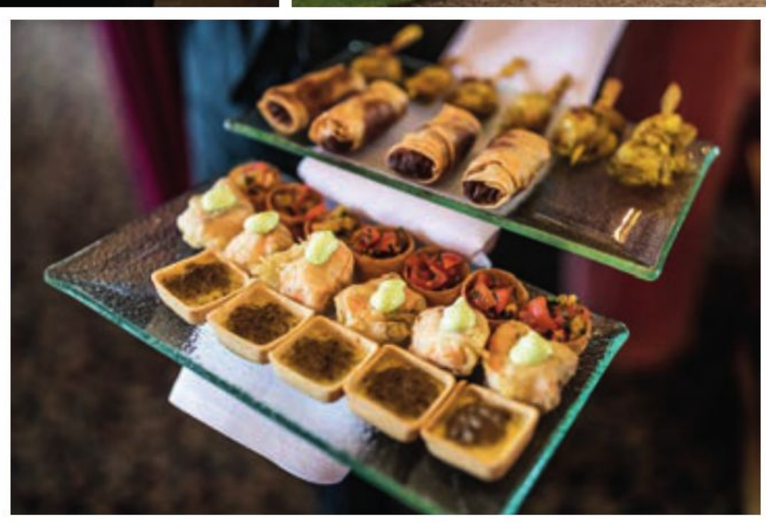






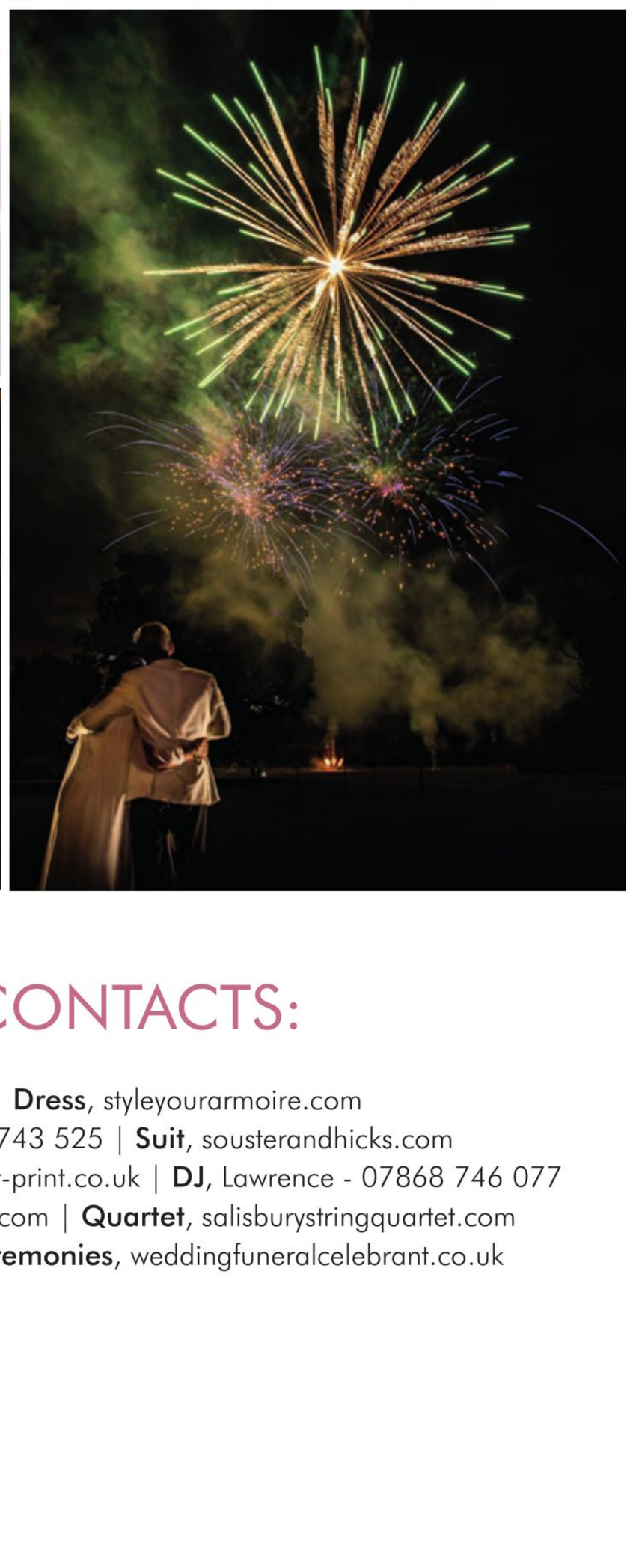


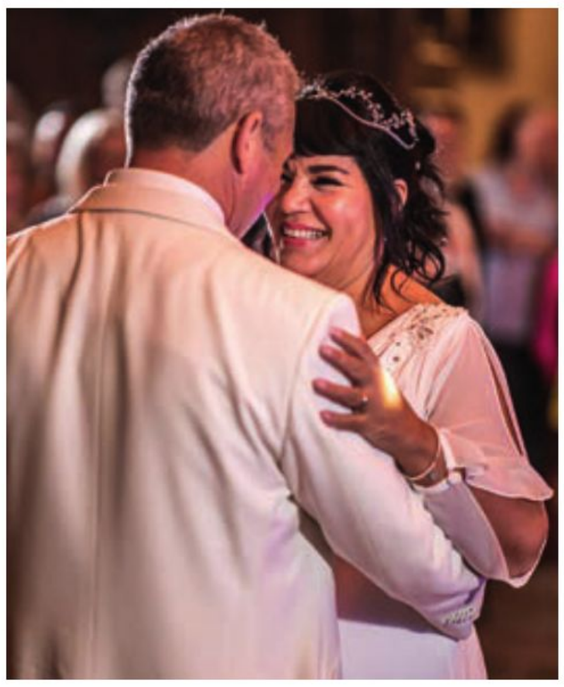














OLIVER AND DANIELLA'S CONTACTS:

Venue, ashridgehouse.org.uk | **Photographer**, rafeabrook.co.uk | **Dress**, styleyourarmoire.com
Hair, Kirsty Brewer - 07713 437 983 | **Make-up**, Chloe Russell - 07850 743 525 | **Suit**, sousterandhicks.com
Cake, atyourwishcakes.co.uk | **Flowers**, jonquil-flowers.co.uk | **Stationery**, perfect-print.co.uk | **DJ**, Lawrence - 07868 746 077
Saxophonist and percussionist, wendyallen.co.uk | **Silhouettes**, roving-artist.com | **Quartet**, salisburystringquartet.com
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TRULY romantic

At any moment in life, a person will walk through the door and change your life for the better. For Scott and Laura, that moment was at work where they discovered the bond they shared and passion for adventure – making them perfect soul mates. Laura says: "Since meeting we have made sure we never stand still and it's what we love about each other."

As time went on and their connection grew, Scott knew it was time to take their relationship to the next level and proposed to Laura by hiding a ring in her advent calendar on the first day of December. Laura recalls the moment, saying: "Christmas is extremely special to me, I absolutely love it and always get excited. I also got not one but two rings, which allowed me to choose the one I loved the most!"

Here Laura shares details about their special day…

Scott and Laura danced the night away with friends and family on their special day

Images courtesy of Mark Haysom Photography



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We wanted to make sure our day was a celebration of finding one another and combining two incredible families, who we had the best time with.





We kept the venue and flowers simple, rustic and beautiful with the help of incredible suppliers who are also great friends.



The tables were named after places that represented our favourite memories together.





Our day was about celebrating our fathers and the incredible influence they had on each of us. Unfortunately, they couldn't be with us but we knew they were there in spirit, smiling down on us – we call them our guardian angels.



We hired a vintage Morgan for the weekend to create a bit of fun, which turned out to be perfect for Scott who roared down the drive in it – it allowed for great pictures too!

I loved my dress, which was simple, sparkly and floaty!





We had corsages and buttonholes in our colour theme and I wore a sunflower wrist corsage.



Scott wore a grey suit with a contrasting waistcoat, which matched his groomsmen and our fabulous nephew who was our pageboy. Given it was the middle of summer we wanted outfits where the jackets could be removed and the guys would still look fab.



We had our three daughters as bridesmaids in lilac to match the lavender and thistle-theme, they also had heart wands and head dresses. Bella, our adult bridesmaid, wore a long, dusky pink dress.



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For entertainment we had the most incredible ceilidh band, which did covers of Irish and current pop songs. The company was so much fun and had everyone dancing – people who haven't been on a dancefloor in years were glued to it for the entire night.



We have to give a special thank you to Reverend Nicki of Great Staughton who made the ceremony truly perfect – we couldn't have asked for more.

We were incredibly lucky that our family each did their bit to make the day special. Kate did the best father-of-the-bride speech and both our mums gave beautiful speeches as part of the ceremony.





As Scott said in his speech, "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass it's about learning to dance in the rain" as Vivien Greene said and that's truly us.





SCOTT AND LAURA'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, eastfieldsfarmbarns.co.uk | **Photographer**, markhaysom.co.uk | **Hair and make-up**, alexanderweddingbelles.co.uk | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, chichiclothing.com | **Flowers**, pickalily.co.uk **Entertainment**, baltikceilidhband.com | **Catering**, stanleystreetfood.co.uk | **Marquee**, allstylemarquees.co.uk **Bar**, bellsandwhistles.co.uk | **Canvas**, mycanvasclub.co.uk

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THE *Italian* DREAM

Stef and Christopher's rustic Italian-inspired day was held at St Michael's Manor Hotel

Images courtesy of Image Bliss Photography

Stef and Christopher first met five years ago. Stef says, "I wasn't keen at first and then at someone's leaving drinks, I realised he wasn't that bad after all. Christopher's sense of humour was amazing, and he was short, dark and handsome – we're made for each other!"

After a few years, Christopher knew it was the perfect moment in their relationship to propose – he had found his missing piece and knew it was the perfect decision. So, on a trip to Italy, their favourite place, he did just that and she said "yes!"

HERE STEF SHARES DETAILS ABOUT THEIR SPECIAL DAY...

The location for the venue was perfect as it's close to our home! We loved the fact it's a classical looking setting; small and the grounds are beautiful – there was even accommodation for our guests.

We had a huge one-tier Millefoglio cake, which is such a delicate bake but one of our absolute favourites!

For favours, we picked neutral coloured sacks that we got from Italy.

We had beautiful long tables to match our rustic Italian theme

We had stationery that matched our save-the-dates and invites.

We decorated a beautiful fireplace on our wedding day.



We picked neutral flowers with lots of green and scented herbs in small jars going along the long tables.

We were hoping for good food, music and that our company was enough for our guests, and it was.





My dress was simple and fitted with straps. I wanted something light and delicate as I'm petite and didn't want anything too overpowering. I had only one maid-of-honour who wore a nude lace midi style dress and my flowergirl's dress was white.



I wore my mother-in-law's pearl earrings as my *something borrowed* and kept everything else very simple.

Christopher had a chino-type navy blue suit with shirt and tie, which was the same as what the groommen wore.





The flowers, food, music, weather and being surrounded by loved ones was my favourite part of the day.



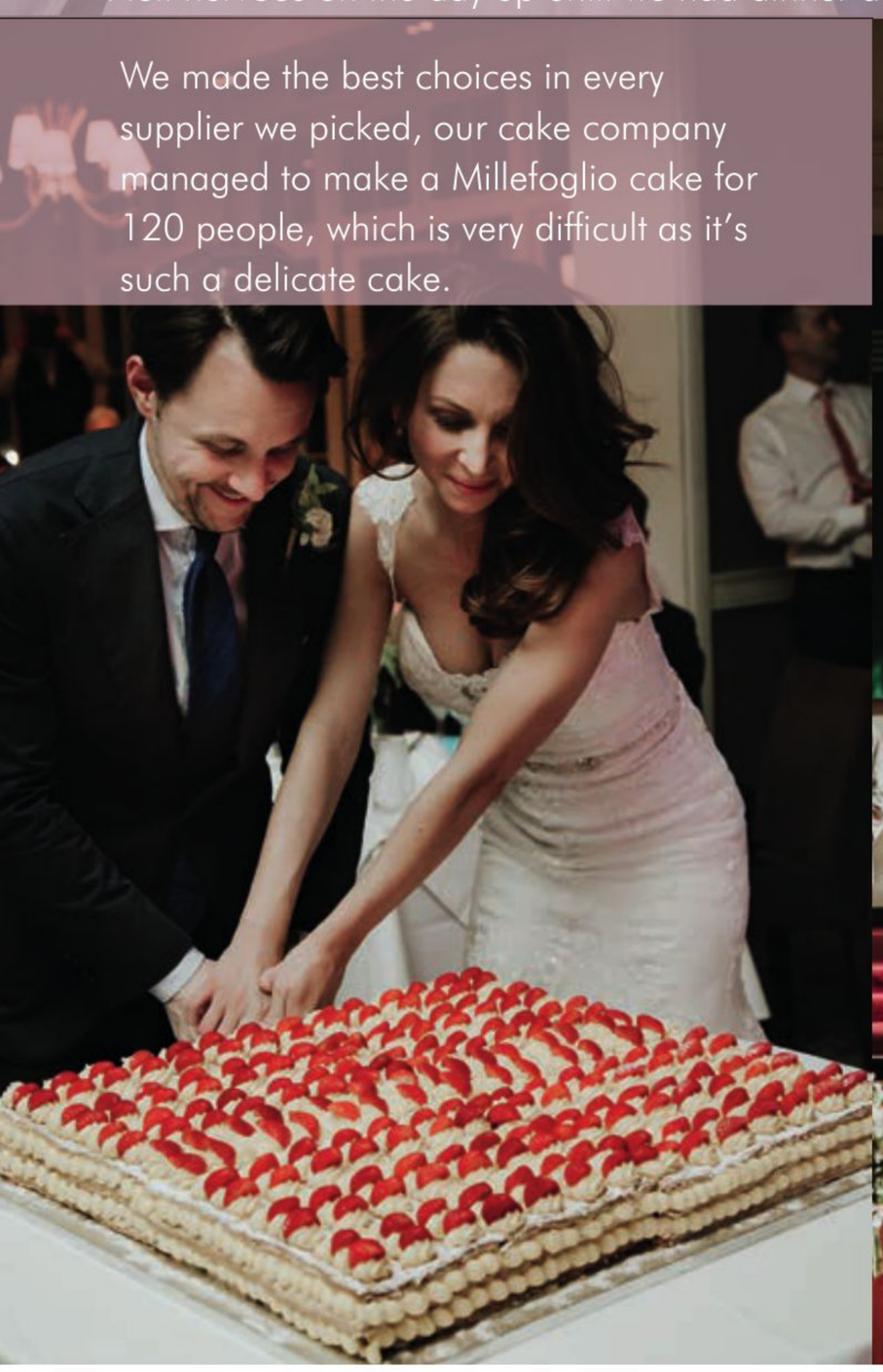


I felt nervous on the day up until we had dinner and then I calmed down.



We felt that all of our suppliers went above and beyond. Davina our photographer was with me from the morning and helped calm my nerves.

We made the best choices in every supplier we picked, our cake company managed to make a Millefoglio cake for 120 people, which is very difficult as it's such a delicate cake.







STEF AND CHRISTOPHER'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, stmichaelsmanor.com | **Photographer**, imagebliss.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, satinbow.co.uk | **Hair and make-up**, thornebrides.co.uk | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, zara.com, johnlewis.com | **Groom's suit**, eu.suitsupply.com **Cake**, 01234 910 100 | **Flowers**, urbanflowercompany.co.uk | **Stationery**, papier.com | **Entertainment**, passioneband.com

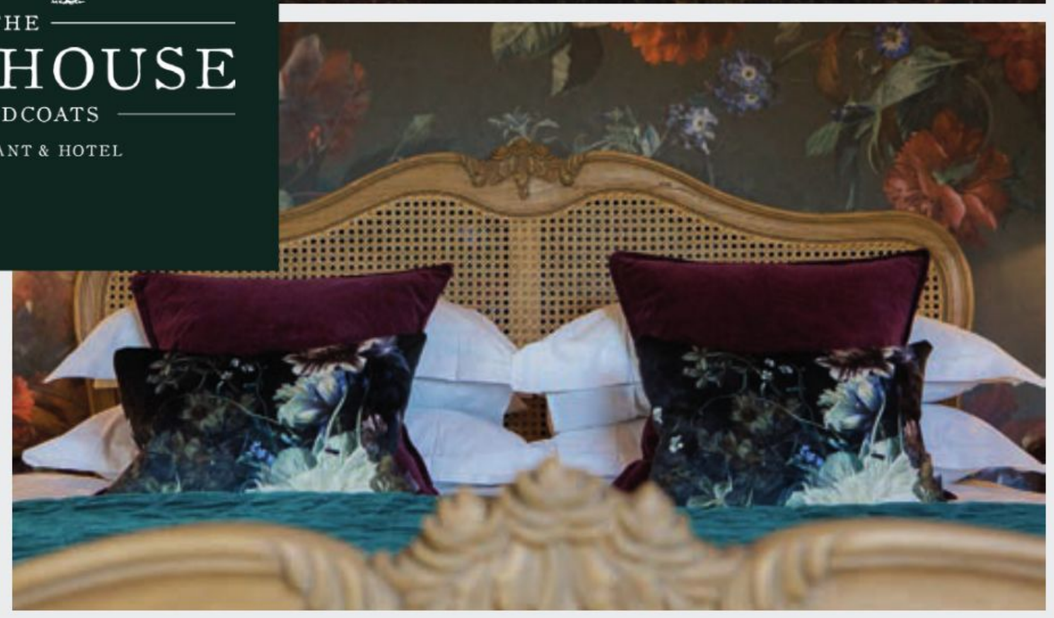






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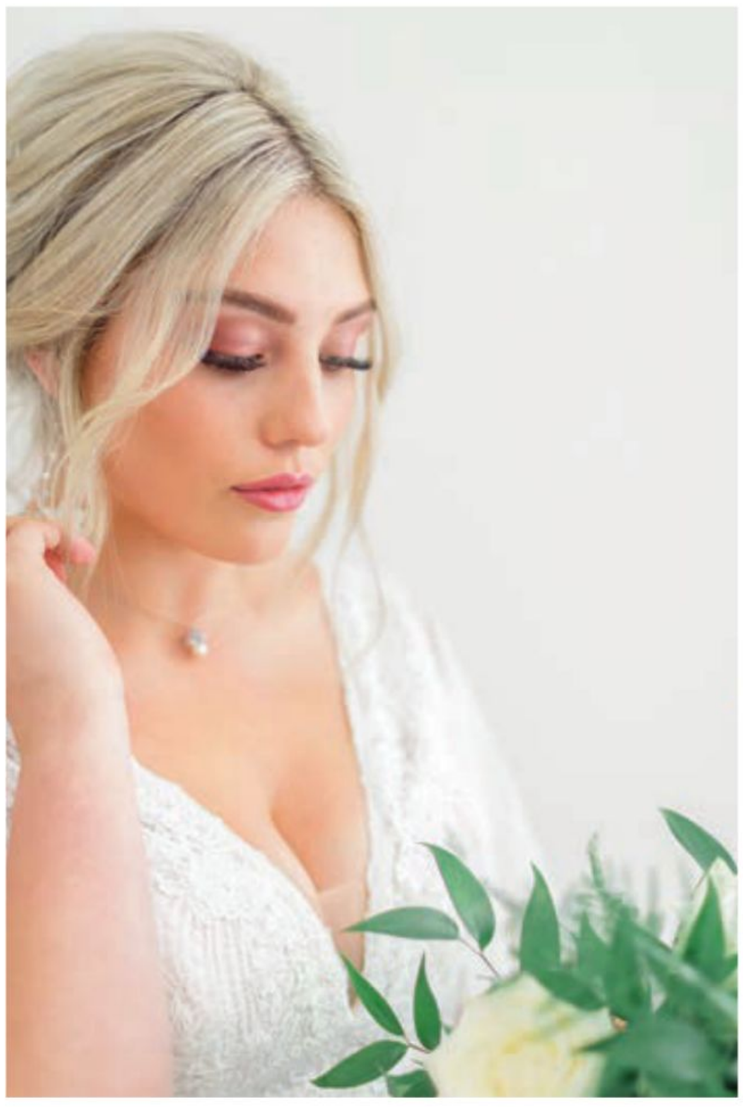
Local suppliers got together to create this beautiful shoot

Images courtesy of Natalie Stevenson Photography

Here at *Your Herts and Beds Wedding*, we're obsessed with this beautiful shoot, which has a neutral colour scheme and contrasting textures.

Kirsty Mcgilley, a florist at The Flower Mill says: "The shoot was inspired by the beautiful sage green ribbons provided by Silk & Purl. I wanted to capture elegance with simple details, so I used plenty of lush green ferns and trailing wild foliage to give the florals lots of texture and movement.

"The dress is from The White Wardrobe; its beautiful lace detailing complemented the handmade bridal accessories from Rachel Sokhal and the model's make-up was also really stunning!"















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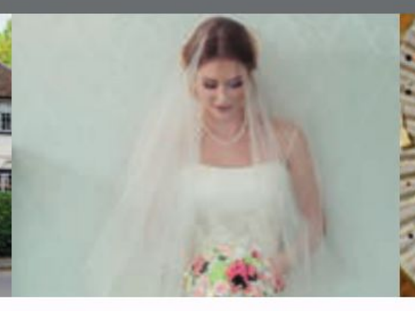
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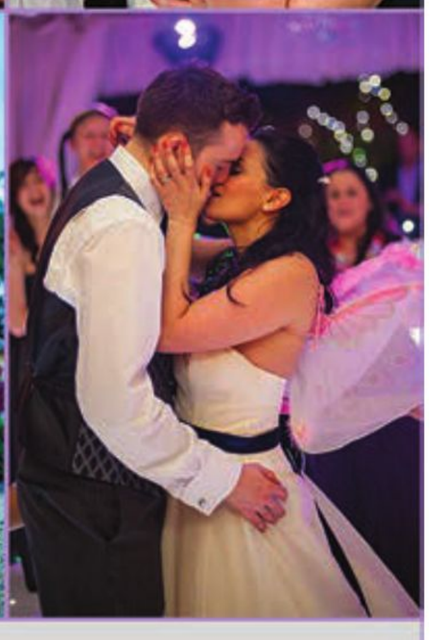
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Lee Walsh

WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY











SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT

Venue, nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate
Photographer, nataliestevensonphotography.com
Dresses, thewhitewardrobe.co.uk
Accessories, rachel@rachelsokhalbridal.com
Hair and make-up, bellesbeautymua.co.uk
Flowers, the-flower-mill.co.uk
Silk and purl ribbons, @silkandpurl
Model, Ruby Browning



Kelly Hawes

Celebrant

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HIDDEN *gem*

Discover this incredible shoot at Rushmere Country Park

Images courtesy of Perfect Timing Photography

It's always great when companies get together to bring a vision to life. In this case, a group of local suppliers showcased their incredible work and demonstrated how Rushmere can be used as a wedding venue.

Organised by Hayleigh Smith, event coordinator at Rushmere Country Park, and Kelly Simmons from Pink Peony Weddings, this shoot boasts multiple photography opportunities across 400 acres of woodland and lakes.

Celebrant Kelly Hawes was on-hand with advice as the venue is not yet registered for legal ceremonies, however, Kelly can perform a beautiful and special blessing.

An amazing tipi from The Natural Tent Company and a marquee from Strawberry Fieldz showcased the stunning reception spaces, each with completely different themes.

The bouquet created by Hayley at Bloomfield's included lovely roses and spray roses, astilbe, lisianthus, agapanthus, asparagus fern, ruscus and eucalyptus.


COCKTAILS




TABLE
One


happily ever after




DANIEL


Welcome
To The Wedding Of
Georgina & Jonny
30th July 2019
14.00 Ceremony
14.30 Speeches & Toasts
15.45 Arrival Drinks
16.30 Wedding Breakfast
19.30 Evening Guests
20.00 Cake
21.00 Last Dance
00.00 Hog Roast
00.00 Ice Cream


Beer


Top Table
One
Two
Three
Four
Five
Six

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SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT

Styling, pinkpeonyweddings.com | **Calligraphy stationery,** letteredbyannie.com | **Tipi**, thenaturaltentcompany.com
Dresses, theivorywardrobe.co.uk, bridesboutiquebuckingham.co.uk | **Photographer**, perfect-timing-photography.com
Cake, @minniescakesandcreations | **Balloons**, @oddartevents | **Marquee**, strawberryfieldz.com | **Flowers**, bloomfieldsflowers.co.uk | **Tables, linen and cutlery**, jaspershire.co.uk | **Venue coordinator**, greensandtrust.org | **Hair and make-up**, @emshepmua | **Chairs and props**, stardusteventsuk.co.uk | **Pianist**, clarelonsdalepianist.co.uk | **Denim jacket**, sylviesigns.com | **Macrame backdrop**, soiree-events.com
Cake hoop, brambleskyeventdecor.co.uk | **Suit**, fogarty-formalhire.co.uk | **Celebrant**, kellyhcelebrant.co.uk | **Sari hire**, mysareeshop.co.uk
Styling props, samsamays.co.uk **Female model**, @ginamaryrosemudd | **Male model**, @jonnymudd88

THAT *Amazing* PLACE

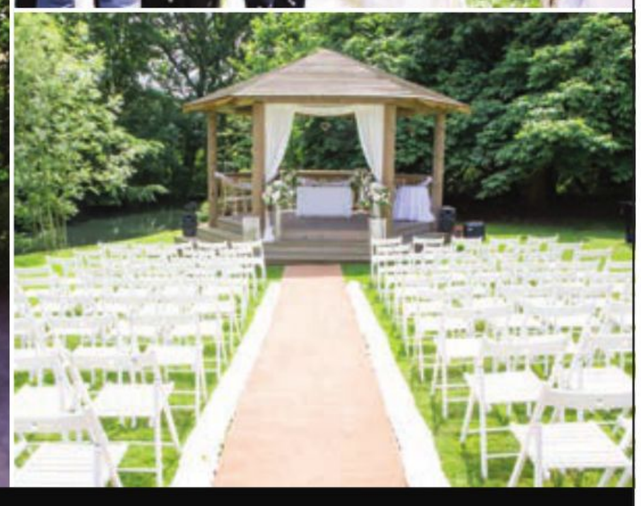
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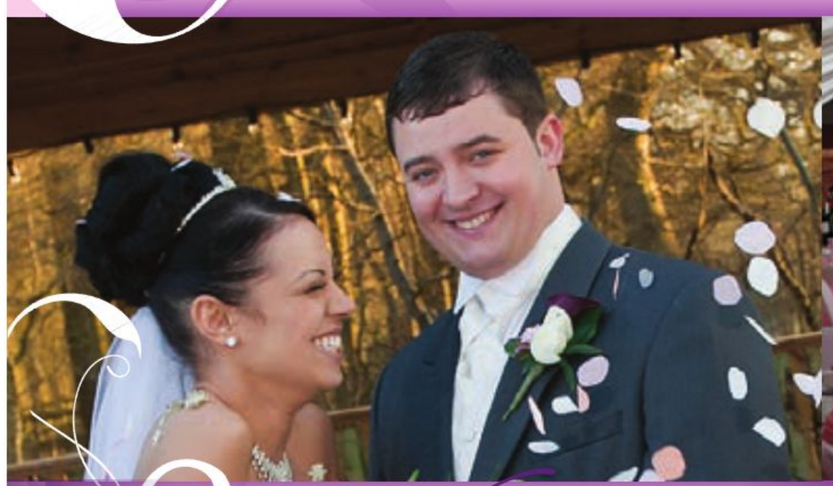
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RING-A-DING-DING

Looking for the perfect jewellery for your big day? Take our test to see which design best suits you

Here at County Wedding Magazines HQ, we understand how important it is that you look and feel fabulous on your big day. Jewellery and accessories are a key part in helping you achieve your desired look, so to help you find pieces that will complement your gown we've created the ultimate quiz. Simply tick the boxes that apply and turn over to see the results!

WHICH EARRINGS WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

1



2



3



4



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE NECKLACE?

1



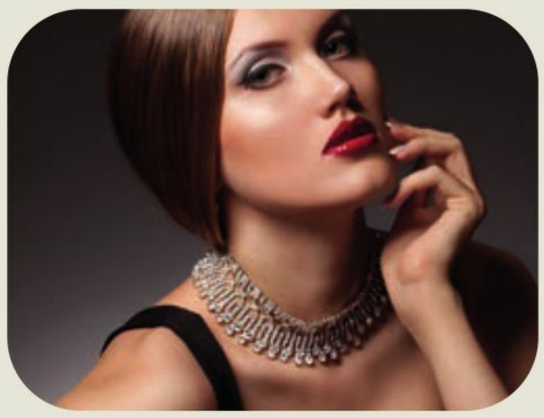
2



3



4



CHOOSE THE MOST APPEALING RING

1



2



3



4



WHICH BRACELET WOULD YOU WEAR?

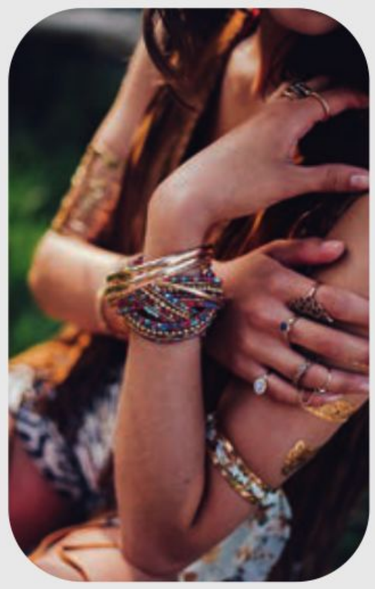
1



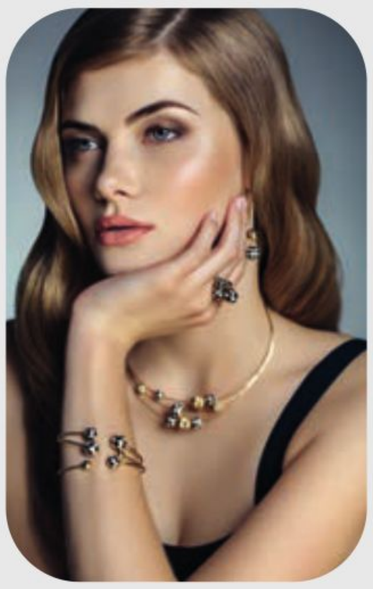
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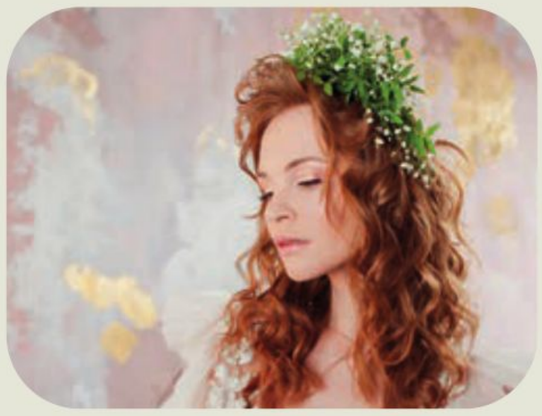


PICK YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGN

1



2



3



4



WHICH BAG DO YOU PREFER?

1



2

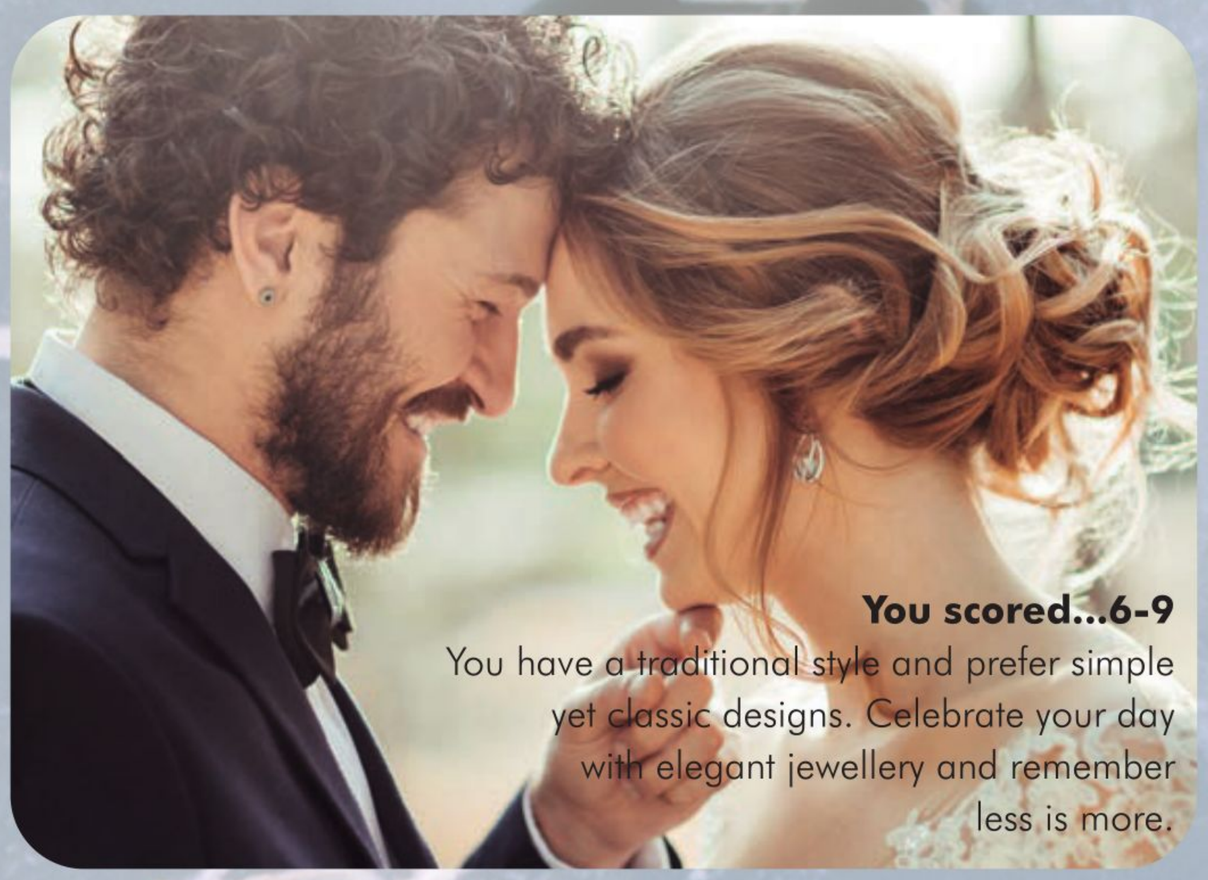


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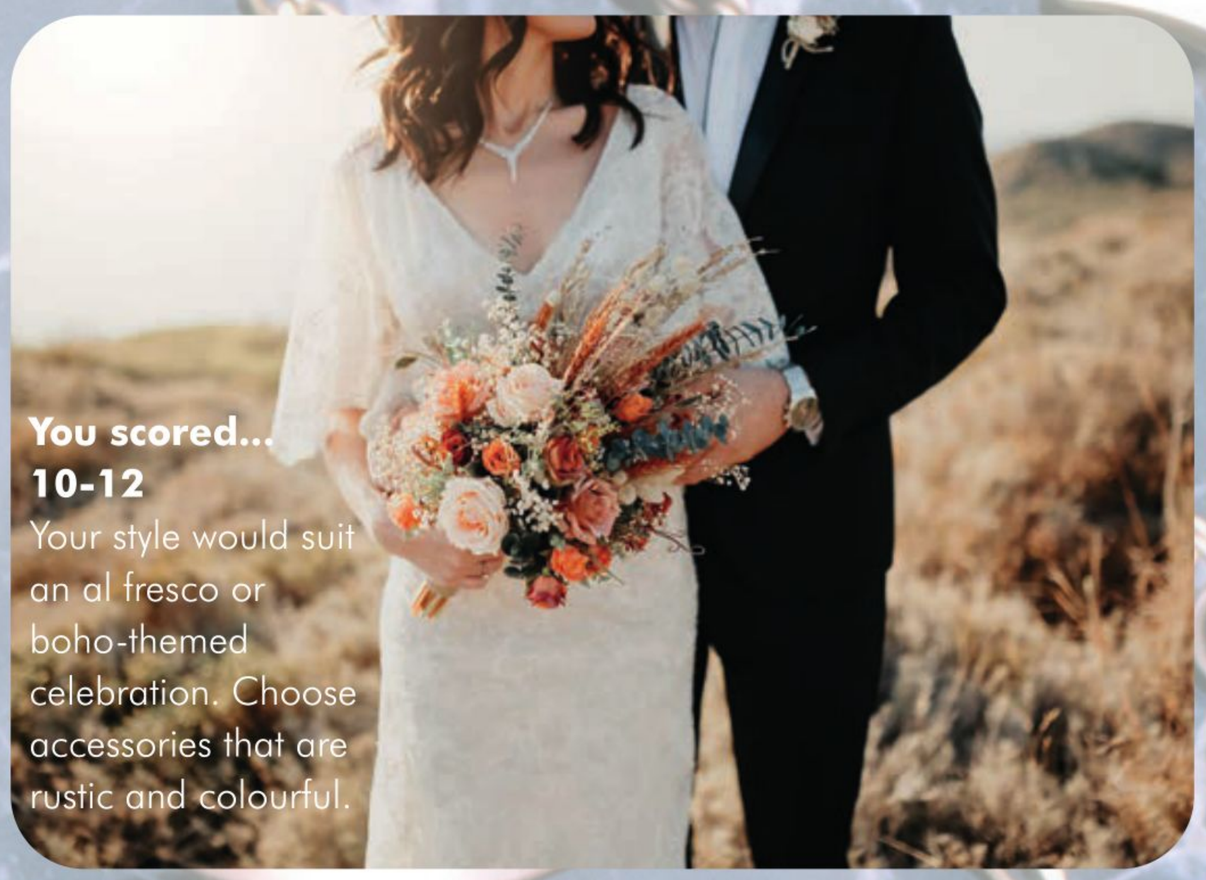


4





You scored...6-9
You have a traditional style and prefer simple yet classic designs. Celebrate your day with elegant jewellery and remember less is more.



You scored...10-12
Your style would suit an al fresco or boho-themed celebration. Choose accessories that are rustic and colourful.



You scored...13-15
Alternative weddings are ideal for those who want something a bit different. Opt for strong colours and quirky designs.



You scored...16-20
You're a sophisticated person who loves luxury. Look for grand creations with impressive embellishments and a gold or silver colour scheme.











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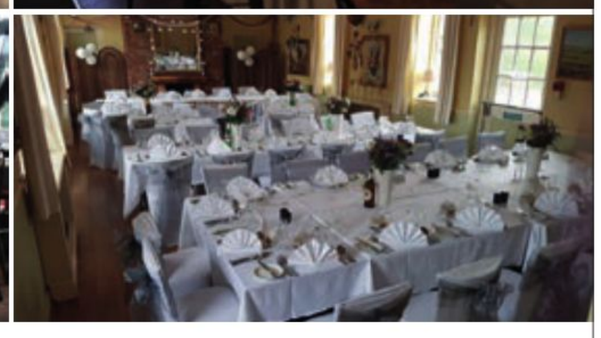
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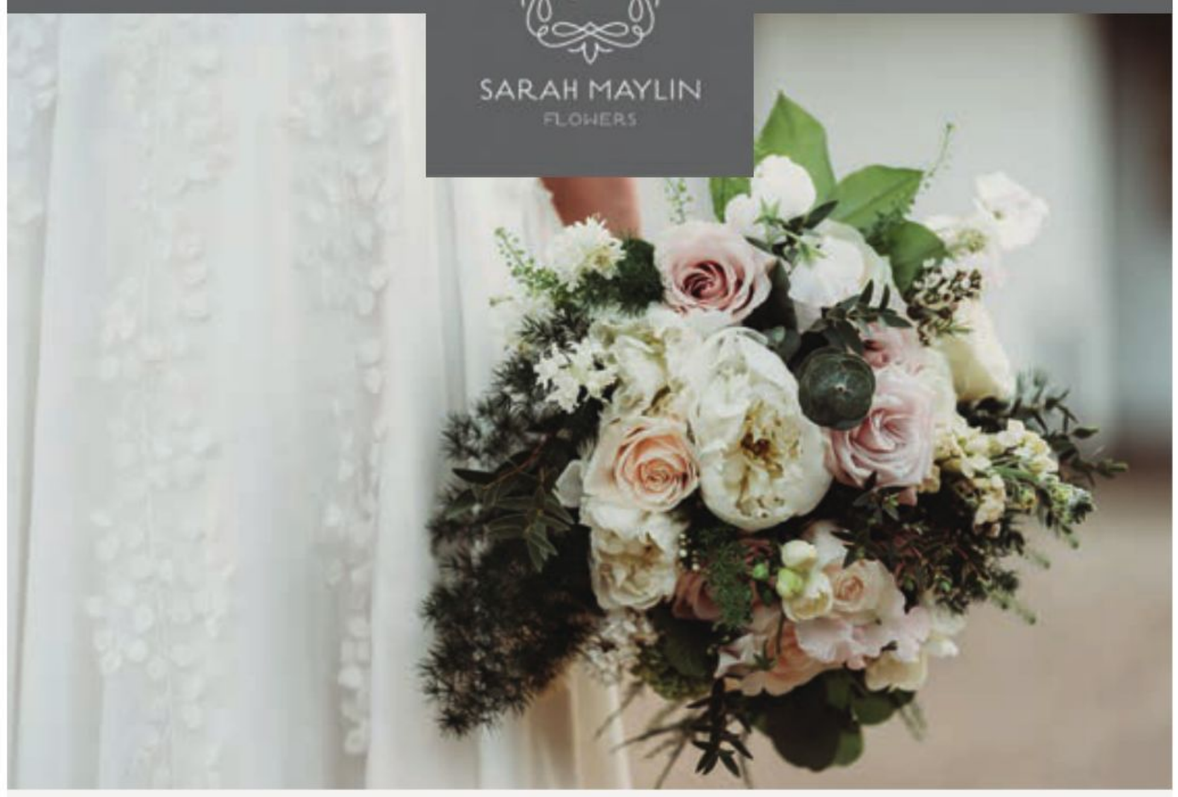
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SARAH MAYLIN
FLOWERS

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There are so many reasons why it feels impossible to imagine a wedding without flowers. However you want your wedding to be remembered, you can *leave all of the floral creative thinking to me.*

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We'll have fun before that, meeting up and talking about you and about every single thing that you are planning and hoping for. Then I will create a beautiful, sensory experience, with flowers you and your guests will never forget.

Everything I create for you will be unique, designed around you, your personal taste and the dreams you have for your wedding day.

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Floral delights

In 2020, we will be seeing paler hues, whites, blushes and corals along with the on-trend use of bleached foliage. There's a rise in using dried flowers and grass in bouquets and table arrangements such as pampas grass, dried lavender and roses.

Brides are thinking of sustainability and want to use seasonal British-grown florals to enhance their wedding decorations. The arrangements used at the ceremony can even be brought to the reception.

Expect to see the continued use of floral arches, moon gates and hanging installations, which always add a wow factor to any wedding. Couples seem to be steering away from the full foliage look with the addition of more flowers, dried or fresh, and again, different grasses and even feathers.

Low aisle decorations are popular and look stunning at the side of the aisle to give the impression of walking through a field of flowers.

On tables, tall arrangements on metallic stands will continue to be a feature mixed with increasingly popular low ones. These arrangements are composed of a selection of different containers bringing in a blend of textures such as glass, metallics and wood.

Denise Eagell | Lilac & Willow Flowers | lilacandwillowflowers.co.uk



nataliestevensonphotography.com

Spring fever



For me spring blooms are all about texture and fragrance. The season offers so much choice in colours and textures – it's always a feast for the eyes. Seasonal trends include overflowing bridal bouquets with contrasting textures, plenty of asparagus ferns paired with tulips, ranunculi and hyacinths for sweet scents, complemented with beautiful trailing ribbons.

This year we will see plenty of statement blooms but one of my favourite spring flowers is paper white – this delicate bloom's underrated and just beautiful in this particular season.

Kirsty Mcgilley | The Flower Mill the-flower-mill.co.uk



Blooming marvellous



nikkismoments.com

The flower trends for last year included a lot of greenery, foliage, natural blooms and a flowing look. This trend seems to be going into next year as well but adding in more flowers. A lot of foliage, with an airy and natural look for bridal bouquets and centrepieces will be ongoing for 2020.

Another trend for next year will be a foam-free arches and hanging installations that will use a lot of greenery. Couples are becoming more interested in sustainable businesses that will go foam-free, use British local suppliers and seasonal flowers. Couples will also request multi-use arrangements for a more eco-friendly wedding.

For aisle decoration with impact, trends happening this year will still be en vogue for 2021. The look of loose, wildflower-style arrangements placed all down the aisle looks incredible in photos and they can be reused in front of the top table.

Although we love the greenery trend, it's slowly giving way to the earthier, more neutral tones of dried flowers and grasses such as lovely pampas grass, dried hops and wheat sheaves.

Dried ones are winning more and more space on the market and the unexpected pairing between fresh flowers and dried is just amazing. We will still see a lot of pampas grass used in 2020 with a lot of bohemian style arrangements and installations, and the rustic look is still going to be on trend for next year.

In terms of colour for this year, we will still see a lot of white, blush pink, cream and coral shades, but we will also see a lot of natural tones such as a warm, neutral beige that will become more visible with white and greens dominating the scene.

Alina Mone | Sara's Events | sarasevents.co.uk



Freshly picked ideas

For me, spring is all about a mass of pastel flowers mixed with gorgeous flowing greenery to give that wild and natural look. It's a time to show off the florals that are coming into season, which usually have a lovely sweet scent – perfect for a bride to carry! It's a great idea to use delicate ones which can be used as a wand for the flowergirl or buttonhole for the groom. The handle of the bouquet is starting to be decorated with trailing ribbon in a complementing colour to the flowers. If you want to be daring, you could go for multiple colours which looks very effective. For centrepieces, a cluster of bottles with several stems in each gives a simple yet abundant look when they vary in height. To make it more romantic you could add candles or sweet little tea lights. Alternatively you could try a garland of mixed greenery to run along with your table while incorporating spring flowers weaving through it.

Another new trend is a lot more blooms are being entwined in a huge hanging macrome. It's made from cords such as cotton twine, jute or hemp and hung up either on the wall or on an arch and used as a photo backdrop. I would then add flowers in by weaving the stems through but still making sure they have a water source.

This would be a great statement piece to have at your wedding which you can enjoy at home afterwards.

Sophie Gibson-Lennon | Sophie May Floral | sophiemayfloral.wordpress.com

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Milton Keynes Wedding Show

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, MK1 1ST

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PICK OF THE BUNCH

Discover beautiful blooms that match your wedding theme

Roses

The captivating rose has always been a symbol of love. The Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite, wears them in paintings and from then it has become increasingly popular, with no sign of stopping. Red, yellow, pink, purple, orange and more colours can be found but white is a beautiful choice.

king protea

A flower growing in popularity is the king protea, which screams "bohemian beauty." These fascinating blooms offer couples the chance to wow their guests and make a huge statement. It's stunning by itself, with greenery or accompanied with other florals such as peonies and tillandsia.

sunflowers

Sunflowers are perfect for rustic-themed weddings and symbolise adoration, loyalty and longevity – ideal for weddings. There's three types of these blooms – the traditional sunflower, which we all know and love, the breathtaking teddy bear sunflower, and the sunsplash sunflower. Brighten up the big day by incorporating the flower throughout the venue.

Calla Lilies

If you're looking for a contemporary and modern flower to use in your bouquet then check out calla lillies, which has the meaning of purity, holiness, and faithfulness. Pick bold colours to pop against the wedding gown – our favourite colour at *Your Herts and Beds Wedding* is dark purple, which would work perfectly for autumnal nuptials.

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The Wedding Collection by Wanderlust Life is a new jewellery launch, brimming with handmade pieces featuring mother-of-pearl, semi-precious stones and freshwater pearls. We love these champagne quartz earrings, £44, wanderlustlife.co.uk wanderlustlifejewellery





Editor's favourite

Wedding Buttonique custom-makes button and brooch bouquets that will last a lifetime, etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique weddingbuttonique



Stylish maids

Grace Loves Lace has launched its new Silky Satin Bridesmaids Edit. This selection of luxurious hand-crafted pieces includes three versatile styles – a midi and mini dress, and a two-piece set available in olive, dusk, steel and moonshine shades. A range of accessories including satin hair buns and scarves has also been unveiled.

In other news, the company has launched their first pair of white leather wedding trainers, ideal for brides wanting comfort and fashion, graceloveslace.com grace_loves_lace

Fashion *focus*

Fashion editor Claire Ridley reveals the latest bridal news, buys and launches

BEST FOOT FORWARD

These ivory satin bridal peep toes adorned with a large chiffon bow at the back, £220, are the latest offering from shoe designer Harriet Wilde. Why not personalise the soles with a short message available in a variety of colours and a choice of fonts? harrietwilde.com harrietwildeshoes





NAME IT

This sterling silver name necklace, £40, is from the new personalised collection from jewellerybox.co.uk and makes the ideal big-day keepsake. jewelleryboxuk





PICK YOUR OWN

Jeweller Emily Mortimer has launched a bespoke service where couples can choose the stone, carat, metal, shape and colour of their engagement ring.

Emily discusses initial ideas and then produces a three-dimensional CAD design, along with a quote that's always within budget. Only the best quality gemstones and GIA-certified diamonds are sourced. Emily will also remodel heirloom pieces, emilymortimer.co.uk emilymortimerjewellery

EDITOR'S PICK

Thank your best girls with this gold-tone crystal bracelet, £89, from the new Tarot Magic collection by swarovski.com swarovski



What lies beneath

Lingerie, swimwear and nightwear brand Boux Avenue has released Bouxtique by Boux Avenue, a luxury new capsule collection inspired by traditional corsetry techniques and French lace fabrics. Bold red and black pieces feature supportive designs and are honeymoon lust-haves, bouxavenue.com bouxavenue



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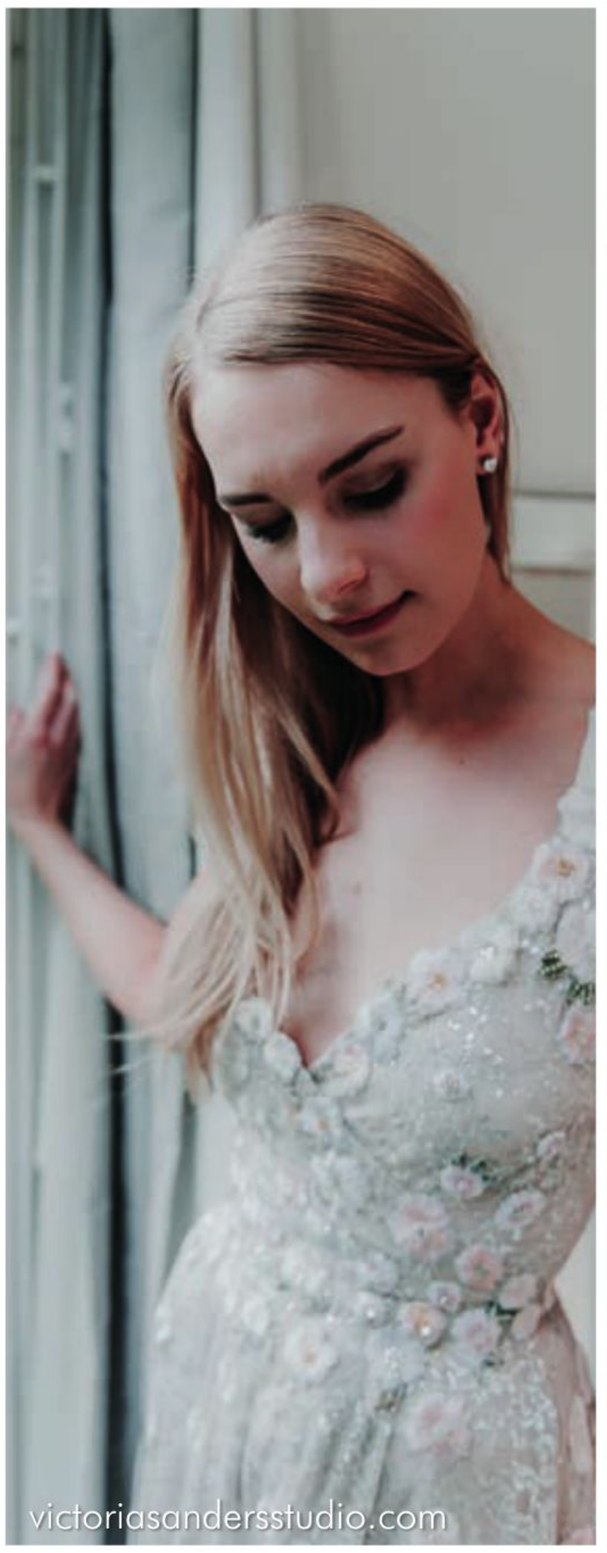

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madelinegardnernewyork.com


phillipalepley.com

kelseyrose.co.uk

rikidalal.co.uk

charlottebalbier.com

Pastel hues

Green amethyst pendant necklace, £135, monicavinader.com

Blue crystal stud earrings, £45, uk.pandora.net

Rainbow pastel clutch bag, £40, dunelondon.com

KissKiss Liquid in *Miss Glitter*, £29.50, feelunique.com

Pink scarf, £95, marc-cain.com

Blue headband with pearls and Swarovski crystals, £74, aliceandblair.co.uk

Pistachio full-length dress, £150, thandth.com

Wedding guests will love this season's sweet selection of ladylike pieces

Powder blue off-the-shoulder dress, £195, theprettydresscompany.com

Rainbow pastel court shoes, £75, dunelondon.com

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rainbowclub.co.uk



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bracelet, £70,
uk.pandora.net

Silver shimmer
necklace, £89, DKNY
at shadesoftime.co.uk





Silver crystal and
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BEAUTY BUZZ



10/10

It's always tricky to find the perfect shade, but that should be made simple with the new essential eye wardrobe from MUA. Featuring 10 beautifully buildable tones, six pearl and four matte varieties, they're just £1.50 each! With exceptional pigment to rival brands 10-times the price, can you really afford not to try them all! What's more they are 100% vegan and cruelty-free to boot! Check out muastore.co.uk



The key to being big-day ready is to start your beauty regime early! Here's a pick of the latest health and beauty essentials to help you look good and feel great from the inside out.

Danielle x

Danielle Harvey, beauty editor



Brush it off

The key to great make-up application is down to having the right tools, and that means high quality brushes; enter beauty and lifestyle brand, Lily England! The company's new brushes, in stylish black, gold and marble, are hand-finished, vegan-friendly and are not only affordable but are totally wedding-album-worthy! Luxurious and cruelty-free, the range boasts sets for the face, eyes or a full brush kit. Each synthetic brush is made with high-quality super-soft bristles designed to last – suitable for people with sensitive skin! The new range also includes chic marble make-up and travel bags, great for stylishly organising your toolkit. The set is £45 and is available at lilyengland.com



THE FACE HAS IT

Creating a tan-compatible, cosmeceutical, vegan skincare line was essential to the Amanda Harrington philosophy and tanning range. The just-launched New Skin Face are advanced glycolic facial pads designed specifically to promote rapid exfoliation and to create the perfect smooth base. These generously sized, ultra-soft and biodegradable cotton pads are soaked in a bespoke blended formula of glycolic, fruit acids and soothing aloe vera – to expertly polish, brighten and refresh the face.

A must-have multi-tasker, erasing unwanted tan or leftover traces of make-up, they are gentle enough to use 3-4 times a week within your usual skincare routine – brightening the skin and removing impurities, creating the perfect canvas for tanning. Priced £18 for 30 facial pads visit amandaharrington.com

HONEY, HONEY

French pharmacy brand Nuxe has just added two new products to its iconic collection. Perfect for creating that bridal glow, they soothe and nourish dry and sensitive skin.
The Nuxe Reve de Miel collection (literal translation Honey Dreams) is aimed at dry and sensitive skin, using honey and precious essential oils which will wrap the skin in softness. The Ultra-Comforting Face Balm uses nourishing, soothing and repairing active ingredients while the Melting Body Balm with honey, provides a sensory and effective response to dryness – exactly what parched, dry winter skin needs, a cocoon of argan, honey, mimosa, vanilla and botanical oils – hello beautiful! Face Balm,£27.50, Body Oil Balm, £22.50, Lip Balm, £10.50 at escentual.com





PERFECTLY BAKED

The B.Makeup collection at Superdrug boasts four new B.Baking Powders – a big-day essential for the bride and her girl squad. Finely milled for an effortless lightweight application, they instantly mattify, blur and help make-up stay in place all day.
Vegan-friendly and cruelty-free, there is a choice of four shades; translucent, light, medium and dark. Priced at just £6.99, they're available from superdrug.com/brandshop/B/makeup and stores nationwide.

MIGHTY MULTITASKING

Hydrating and oxygenating this AHA cleanser is mild, yet ultra-effective, with a beautiful and comforting texture. Priced £58, visit mzskin.com and Harrods and Harvey Nichols nationwide.





BE KIND

Reading the back of products can certainly lead to confusion with names and ingredients you don't recognise and then follows the worry of not knowing what you're truly putting on your skin! Step forward, Kind Natured, the skincare brand that believe in keeping it natural. There's three key ranges encompassing all your beauty needs, from facial oils to jelly masks, eye creams to moisturiser, each comes under one of the following:

❤ BRIGHTEN

Ginseng – helps to plump and firm skin which leads to a naturally radiant glow.

Grapefruit – Grapefruit helps even the complexion, delivering a natural luminosity.

❤ HYDRATE

Coconut milk – the natural fatty acids within coconut milk make it perfect for treating dry and irritated skin.

Cotton – rich in Vitamin E and fatty acids, which help to reduce inflammation, soothe skin and moisturise.

❤ CALM & SOOTHE

Shea – Shea has proven anti-inflammatory properties, helping to calm any redness and alleviate dryness caused by sensitive skin.

Aloe – Rich in vitamins and known for its soothing properties, Aloe helps to calm and soothe the skin.

Full skincare range available to purchase at Boots stores and boots.com



GOING GREEN

Greenpeople has some exciting new launches. Pure Luxe Body Oil (£25) is blended with plant botanicals for superior radiance and an unrivalled skin glow. Rich in pomegranate and phospholipids, this leaves the skin with a beautiful satin-soft finish. Next up the aptly named Ultimate Wonder Balm (£32); a richly rejuvenating multi-purpose beauty balm which can be used as a cleanser to effectively melt away make-up or utilise this SOS balm to soothe and protect sensitive lips, tame eyebrows, nourish cuticles or soothe dry skin anywhere. Available from greenpeople.co.uk, selected Holland & Barrett stores nationwide and online.



SAVING PLANET EARTH

Tisserand Aromatherapy collaborates with National Geographic so brides can rest assured they're buying their beauty products without damaging the planet!

The collaboration has been designed to protect and respect your wellbeing as well as the earth's and celebrates the power of nature from all over the world, with three new aromatherapy blends housed in fully recyclable packaging. Putting sustainability at the core of the collection, it's been created with 100% PCR (post-consumer recycled) plastic,100% natural ingredients and a dedication to giving back to those who work in conservation via the not-for-profit National Geographic Society. The three blends are available in six options priced from £9: Shower Wash, Bath Oil, Diffuser Oil, Roller Ball, Mood Mist, Travel Kit (compromising Bath Oil, Mood Mist, Roller Ball), packaged in a reusable vegan cosmetic bag (£20). Available from Boots and tisserand.com



DAY TO NIGHT

Introducing Babe Night, the new fragrance by Missguided adding to its award-winning collection.

The intoxicating new fragrance opens with citrus notes of lemon, orange and green apple and develops with heady accords of orange blossom, jasmine and spicy pink pepper. Base notes of musky vanilla, cedar and patchouli make Babe Night the ultimate scent to take you from day into the evening – perfect for the 'I dos' to the first dance!

Available in an 80ml Eau de parfum, Babe Night is vegan-friendly and cruelty-free. Priced £28, from missguided.com

BRONZED BEAUTY

Due to popular demand, the Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam from Coco & Eve is now back in stock after selling out over 190,000 units in just nine weeks!

Packed with key ingredients such as mango, guava, banana, linseed oil, there's definitely no biscuit smell here! This self-tan is the world's first tan with anti-cellulite technology to blur pigmentation and perfect skin for all occasions. With a lightweight and non-sticky formula, the tan is fast-drying and develops in just two-hours – perfect for hen dos, big-days and honeymoons!

100% vegan, natural DHA, and no nasties, this is certainly the self-tan you need. Priced £29.90, check out uk.cocoandeve.com



SEAL OF APPROVAL

We put to the test the latest vegan-friendly products



Nature's Kitchen Super Protein Skin Boosting Anti-Ageing Moisturiser, £26.99, Lovelula.com

"I have sensitive skin that gets easily irritated when trying new products, so I was a little apprehensive about testing this vegan-friendly moisturiser. After a few days of use, my skin felt hydrated and much to my surprise, it didn't feel irritated. The cream has a light consistency and soaks into your skin nicely. It provides moisture throughout the day but doesn't feel or look oily and smells divine. I'll definitely be buying it in the future." – **Melissa Barker**



Babe Night, £28, missguided.com

"I'm a fragrance fanatic and firmly believe you don't have to spend a fortune to get a great scent, from high-end to budget-friendly, I've tried all sorts. Babe Night had a gorgeous aroma from just opening the box! I was keen to have a spritz immediately, and adored the heady notes of orange blossom, jasmine and pink pepper – everyone in the office commented on it immediately and it lasted for my night out after work that evening too. This is now one of my go-to scents, and at only £28 for 80ml it's a bargain to boot!" – **Danielle Harvey**



Coco & Eve Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam, £29.90, from uk.cocoandeve.com

"I love Coco & Eve's iconic hair mask as it does wonders for my locks, so I was intrigued to see if my skin would get the same nourishing treatment with its new bronzing foam. It adheres to its vegan ideals and is packed with lovely natural ingredients. The foam is lightweight and easy to apply with the rather luxurious velvety mitt. It develops in two hours and leaves your skin with an almost airbrushed look thanks to its CellushapeTM formula, which promises to hydrate and firm the skin. The thing I don't like about normal fake tan is that tell-tale biscuity smell, but the summery mango and guava scent of this product means no one will know your secret." – **Hannah Faulder**

Marble Luxe 9-Piece Make-up Brush Set Black & Gold, £45, lilyengland.com

"I've tried so many different make-up brushes from the cheap to the expensive, but I can't say I've ever found any that'd I'd deem indispensable. Until now that is! My absolute favourite in this set is the F10 kabuki foundation brush. It gives my base a flawless finish and uses much less product than applying with fingers or a standard foundation brush. It's an expensive business gathering the perfect tool to build each element of your look, so it's well worth investing in a set like this, as it's great value for money." – **Kelly Andrews**



Kimberly Sayer Cellular Extract Eye Lift Gel, £31.70, Lovelula.com

"As a bit of a night owl, I regularly pay the price with puffy eyes, fine lines and dark circles. This handy gel tackles all of the above and is a real morning-after saviour. Light, non-greasy and easy to use, a little goes a long way. It gave the delicate skin around my eyes an instant lift, plus my concealer and foundation went on like a dream afterwards, with no caking – win, win!" – **Sarah Reeve**



MUA Essential Eyeshadow, Ember, £1.50, muastore.co.uk

"I have never used eyeshadow from this brand before and was eager to try it out for the first time and it didn't disappoint, especially because it's so affordable too! The colour is spot on for autumn with its stunning burgundy and shimmery finish that pops on the eye. I found it very easy to blend with no fall out which earns this brownie points for me. I have oily eyelids which I was worried about but after wearing this eyeshadow for a few hours it didn't budge. This single eyeshadow not only looks and feels great but is the perfect size to be able to slip it into your bag and apply more if desired. I will definitely be buying more!" – **Olivia Gibson**



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UP, UP *and away*



Multi-award-winning bridal and celebrity hair designer Vicki Lord talks to Kelly Andrews about creating the perfect up do silhouette, 2020 trends, and her top tips

"I used to do my own hair as a child, and have been creating my own up styles from the age of five," Vicky says. She left school before the age of 16, and went to work in a salon where she learned that Vidal Sassoon was interviewing for apprentices: "Everyone told me I should go, but I said 'I can't do that!' I was just working at a little salon in Allington at the time." Nevertheless, her friends and family were persistent in their encouragement and eventually Vicki caved! She remembers, "I gathered all of my nearest and dearest together to model every hair-up style in my arsenal, and create a portfolio. The interview panel was impressed with what I'd put together, and told me they'd never had an apprentice produce anything like it before. Out of 50 candidates I was one of only a handful to be given the opportunity to become an apprentice."

Following her time at Vidal Sassoon, Vicki became a freelance hairdresser, undertaking further specialist training as she worked. She explains: "I did a hair extension course with Balmain and became one of their trainers. Later, I went on to become a regular session stylist, but hair-up has always been with me – it's my passion."

THE SILHOUETTE IS EVERYTHING

With a vast knowledge and 30 years of experience when it comes to creating innovative looks, nothing excites Vicki more than advocating the silhouette as a planning tool. "Hairdressers should understand shapes," she explains, and continues, "We work with them all the time. When you're learning to cut hair you're taught how to consider face shapes, and I take the same ethos into my designs. I'm constantly thinking about the silhouette I'm creating. For example, those with a square jawline shouldn't have anything at the sides of the face, as it'll look wider than it is. Likewise, with oval face shapes wearing the hair high will overly elongate. So, the first thing I do with my brides is sit down and sketch out the dress with hair styles, thinking about the face shape and neckline."



Keen to share her knowledge on this subject, Vicki regularly heads out on the road to some of the country's biggest wedding fairs to talk to brides in person. She says, "So many brides have come to me with a Pinterest board of styles they like, and I have to say to them: 'Hang on, look at your face shape then look at that picture again. Do you still like the style?' I've been championing this idea for more than 20 years and I've tried to teach it to other hairdressers. It's really important. In fact, I actually think brides should think about their hair before they choose their dress – say 'yes' to the hair! Think about it, if you have your heart set on wearing your hair down and nothing will sway you, you should be looking for a figure hugging dress or a fishtail design."

LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!

"Fashion goes round and round in a circle. I look at the latest catwalk trends, but most of the time you become the trendsetter," Vicki says when asked about her inspirations. She continues, "My muse is the bride herself. Seeing her dress and her wedding set-up – is it boho, contemporary, vintage? That's what gives me my moodboard."

I asked Vicki to give us the inside track on the top wedding hair trend for 2020, something she'd already given a lot of thought to: "I'm noticing that dresses are becoming a lot sexier with a lot of deep V's and low backs. With that in mind, I want to bring back a Mediterranean high-gloss look. There are so many undone styles, so I'd love to see some structure and creativity. Think Kim Kardashian and Audrey Hepburn with those sharp centre partings. It's a timeless look that'll never date."

CAREER HIGHS

As a session stylist Vicki has worked with celebrities from Jodie Kidd to Tess Daly, but one in particular gets the award for creating her most surreal moment. She tells us more: "I loved working with Macy Gray's hair, it was so cool to make her look different, I did a mohawk on her. I had to stand in the wings while she was performing, ready to make any adjustments and as she came off stage she headed straight for me saying, 'Hey Vicki how ya doin'? I love the frizz, you've done a massive job on the frizz, but aw man can ya take the grips out?' So there I was, pulling out hair clips, when next thing I know, Macy Gray's head is in my lap and I'm giving her a scalp massage! Things don't get any weirder than that, but it was my best moment."

Vicki's favourite celeb client right now is Shona McGarty, otherwise known as *Eastenders'* Whitney Dean. "I love giving her a red carpet look that's the complete opposite to her on-screen character – something demure and classy," she explains. Her ultimate dream of a client though would be the incomparable Lady Gaga. Why? "She'd wear my crazy sculptural hairpieces! She needs me in her life! It will happen one day," she laughs.

TOP TIPS

If you're trying to grow your hair for the big day, you're not alone, but that doesn't mean you should neglect your locks. Vicki says, "Regular trims are paramount. If you're scared of having too much taken off, have your hair washed and straightened at the salon and just have the ends trimmed dry.

"Use regular conditioning treatments. I'd highly recommend using Amika's Soulfood once a week. Free of sulphates and parabens, it's also vegan and cruelty free. Olaplex is also a great product and will improve the structure of your hair. I couldn't live without my T3 heat styling products and Batiste Dry Shampoo either.

"You might also want to think about clip-ins or extensions. I'm Balmain's ambassador and love their products. I'd say 90 per cent of brides, models and celebrities will have hairpieces in. No one has that much hair! If you've got a big dress you need big hair or you're going to end up with a bridesmaid's do and you're the one who needs to stand out."

GIRL POWER

Vicki launched her own fresh and contemporary hair salon in Canterbury, Kent in the spring of 2019, where she and her talented team specialise in their own fields including cutting, styling, colouring, hair extensions, hair up and, of course, bridal. "We have the bridal suite and academy upstairs and the salon downstairs, as well as Kent's very first braiding bar."

The multi-award-winning hairdresser says she now wants to inspire others: "I really want to drive my academy forward. Plus, in the future I'd love to have my own chain of salons, and launch a range of hair extensions and products. Who knows what the future holds?"

A newly single mum of a 10-year-old and a 15-year-old Vicki is determined to be a positive role model for her children: "I've gone through an emotional rollercoaster and I've come out the other end thinking 'I *can* do this, and I *will* do this.' Women are stronger than we think we are. Work-life balance is hard, but there are more important things than dirty dishes. Life is for living!"



Find out more at vickilordhair.com

the DRESS HOUSE

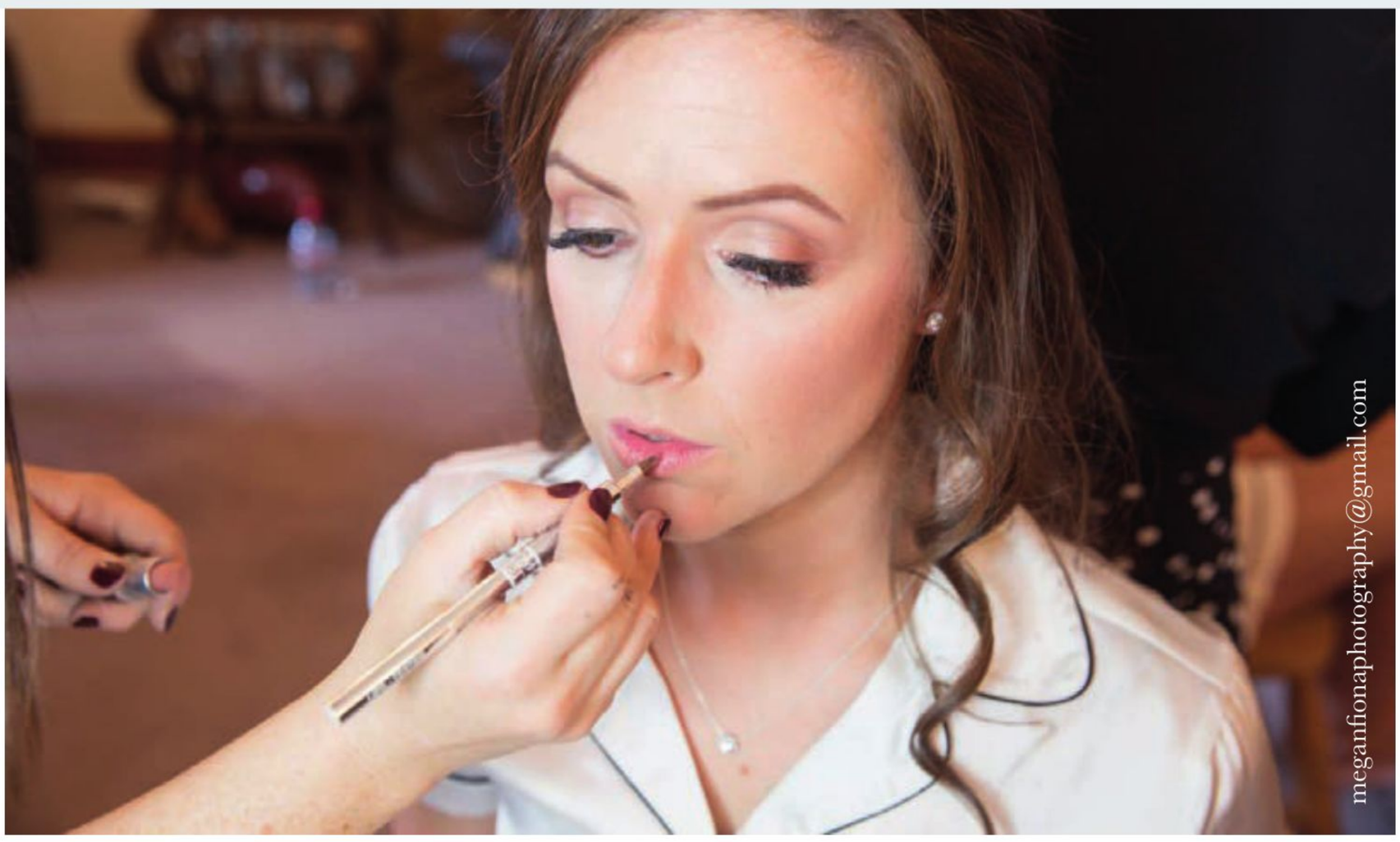
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Fashion & beauty Q&A

Local experts offer advice on how to look your big-day best



BRIGHTEN AND HYDRATE

Q: The cold weather has made my skin dehydrated and dull. How can I improve it ready for my big day?

Staying healthy, relaxed and drinking lots of water ahead of your wedding day is definitely key. In addition to this, the art of layering products can help to brighten and rehydrate. We use ESPA spa products at Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa and the Optimal Collection is perfect for this.

Cleansing is important for naturally bright skin while exfoliating is vital to help regenerate cells and remove dead ones. This will promote product absorption to give higher hydration levels. The ESPA Optimal Pro Cleanser is packed with jojoba beads and pumpkin enzymes, which naturally brightens the skin and helps create a flawless complexion.

Follow this with the ESPA Optimal Pro Serum, which is filled with omegas three, six and nine and vitamins A and E. This is like a superfood for feeding the deeper layers and rejuvenating the skin, which hasn't reached the surface.

Finish off with the ESPA Optimal Pro Moisturiser to lock in moisture on the surface and help fight against any environmental aggressors at all.

Emma Rees | Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa | lutonhoo.co.uk

EYE PERFECTION

Q: I'm a very emotional person and I know I will probably end up crying on our big day. How can I stop this ruining my make-up?

For long-lasting, tear-proof wedding make-up, I recommend three key items. Firstly, a waterproof eyeliner; I like to use a gel liner on my brides as you can create whatever look you desire – natural, defined or even a dramatic wing. All three will help the eyes pop and MAC gel liners are perfect at staying in place all day and not running!

Next, I recommend a waterproof mascara – my favourite is Maybelline Colossal Big Shot as it adds length and volume to the lashes and stays put throughout tears. Most of my brides often opt for semi-permanent lashes for their big day to avoid any chances of mascara streaks and to help the eyes really stand out.

A setting powder is the most important product to finish off any wedding look and Laura Mercier Loose Setting Powder is my go-to as it blends in with your natural tones! Just lightly dust the powder under your eyes with a blending sponge or a clean brush and this will help hold your make-up in place for hours and stop it from falling under your eyes!

My final tip is to ask your bridesmaids to keep some tissue on hand for you, and remember to blot instead of wiping tears to avoid smudging.

Emily Panteli | Makeup by Emily make-upbyemily.wixsite.com/herts

A Day Like No Other

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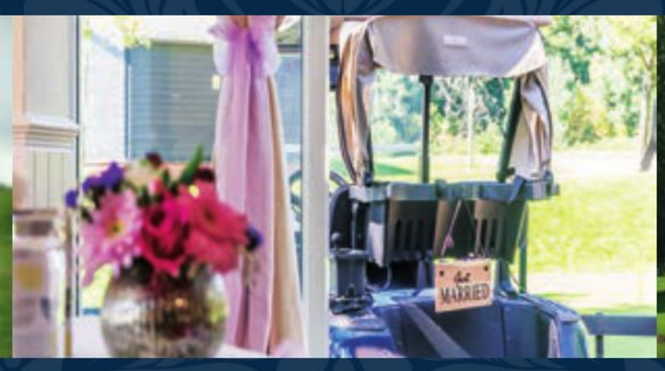
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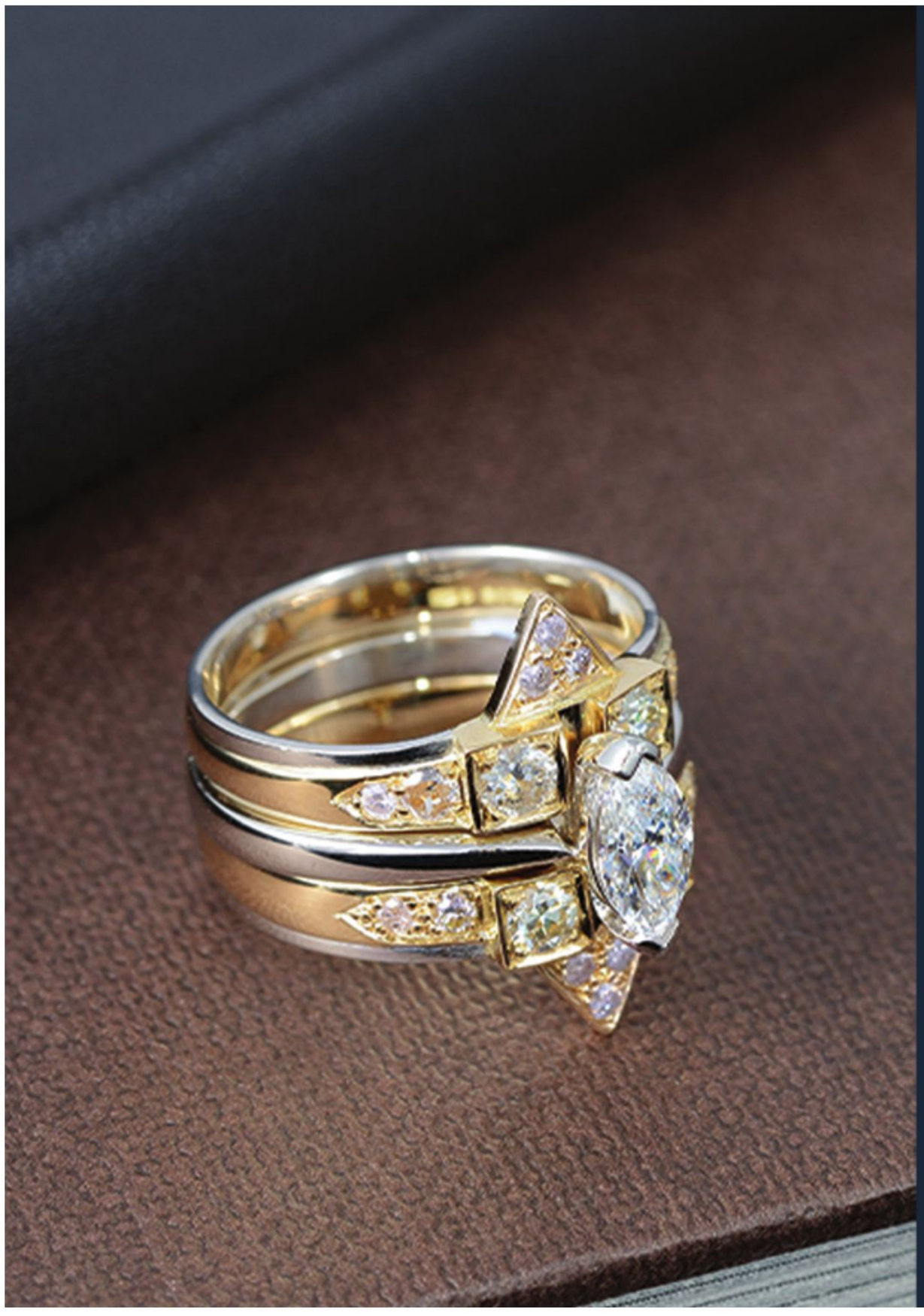
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HOT TOPIC

Enjoy your dream day with our expert advice

MOMENT FROZEN IN TIME

Q: I want romantic shots of my new wife but I'm very awkward when having my photo taken. How can I achieve a natural set of images?

My best advice is take a walk with your new wife and chat, this allows for a beautiful natural photo, no-one will be asking you to smile so you can relax and appear happy without prompting on your wedding day. Whilst I always take shots after the ceremony of you both, my favourite time is golden hour, which is the hour before the sun sets.

Julia West | Julia and You | juliaandyou.com

SAY 'I DO'

Q: We want a non-traditional wedding and my friend mentioned about a celebrant being a good idea, what are the pros to having one on our big day?

There are many pros to having a celebrant-led wedding, particularly if you're looking for something highly personal, different and with the wow factor. The reason being that there are simply no rules in place surrounding location or content.

This is because a celebrant in the UK is unable to perform the legal marriage part (declaratory and contractual words that must be said and the signing of the register). Take out the legal aspect and you're left with all the good stuff including the ceremony, the rituals and anything you want to add or take away.

You can pick any location, time, content and structure to suit your dream wedding – however that may be! The legal bit is done on a separate day at the registry office with just you two, your witnesses and the registrar, it's simply a formality to register your marriage.


johnwoodwardphotography.co.uk

As a celebrant I write every wedding ceremony from scratch after meeting each couple and getting to know them and their needs. We will be in frequent contact throughout the process and you couldn't ask for a more personal way to show your love and declaration to each other for the rest of your lives.

Kelly Hawes | Kelly Hawes Celebrant | kellyhcelebrant.co.uk

THE BLING RING

Q: I want to buy my wife-to-be a ring that's really personal and shows just how much I love her. Do you have any tips or advice when it comes to choosing the right one when there's so many on the market?

We always say the best way to guarantee your wife-to-be gets a ring she will treasure for a lifetime is to get her involved with the design from the very start by creating the engagement ring together.

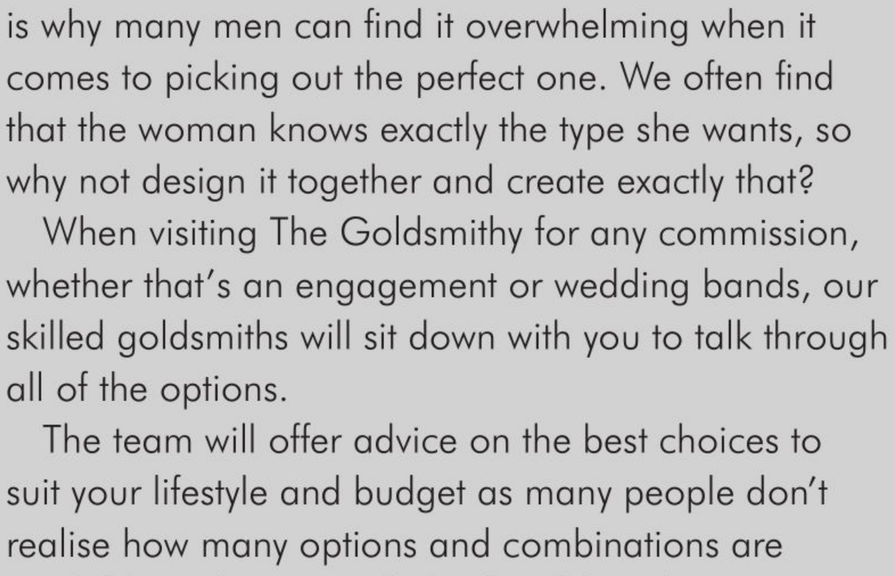
We know there's many options out there with various metals, shapes, stone colours and sizes, which is why many men can find it overwhelming when it comes to picking out the perfect one. We often find that the woman knows exactly the type she wants, so why not design it together and create exactly that?

When visiting The Goldsmithy for any commission, whether that's an engagement or wedding bands, our skilled goldsmiths will sit down with you to talk through all of the options.

The team will offer advice on the best choices to suit your lifestyle and budget as many people don't realise how many options and combinations are available to them! You'll also be able to have a go at our workbench guided by Cartier trained, Glenn Chapman and his son Paul Chapman.

This allows for an extra special and personal experience as you'll be putting your own mark on the ring for a loved one to cherish forever.

Glenn Chapman | The Goldsmithy Ltd thegoldsmithy.com







ARRIVE IN STYLE

Q: I am trying to find transport for our wedding that will fit our romantic theme and it would be great to get some advice for the special day.

Your wedding starts the moment you wake-up and everything is set, such as the beautiful hair and make-up, the fabulous dress and all that's left to do is get there. At this stage does it feel right to call an Uber or have uncle Derek drive you in his Ford Granada? If not, then why not hire a professional wedding car company to transport you and your bridal party? It will arrive early and is ready when you are. Feel like a star from the golden age of Hollywood being taken care of with a glass of prosecco for the bride and groom after the ceremony to enjoy on your way to the reception. It'll also help capture amazing memories and photographs to cherish.

Trust me, you'll be glad you decided to hire a professional company!

Jonathan Snowdon | Wedding Cars of Herts | weddingcarsofherts.co.uk



YOUR DAY, YOUR WAY

Q: My wife-to-be and I are looking for the perfect romantic venue for our wedding day but we're not sure where to start. What questions should we ask venues to see if they're right for us?

Everything about your wedding venue needs to be absolutely perfect both inside and out – especially if you're thinking about getting married in the summer! You need to ensure the following when selecting the property: that the views and the gardens are beautiful and well maintained, and that the ceremony and wedding breakfast areas are both stunning and romantic. Make sure you check if there's an opportunity to decorate the buliding to match your chosen theme and think about if there's a nice dancefloor and stage for your DJ or band. The most important part is do the staff at the venue really care? Will they listen to you and what you want – not just doing what's easiest for them?

You do not want to be just another bride and groom, it's important to remember that you don't get a second chance with your wedding!

Anna and Jamie Rankin | Micklefield Hall | micklefieldhall.com

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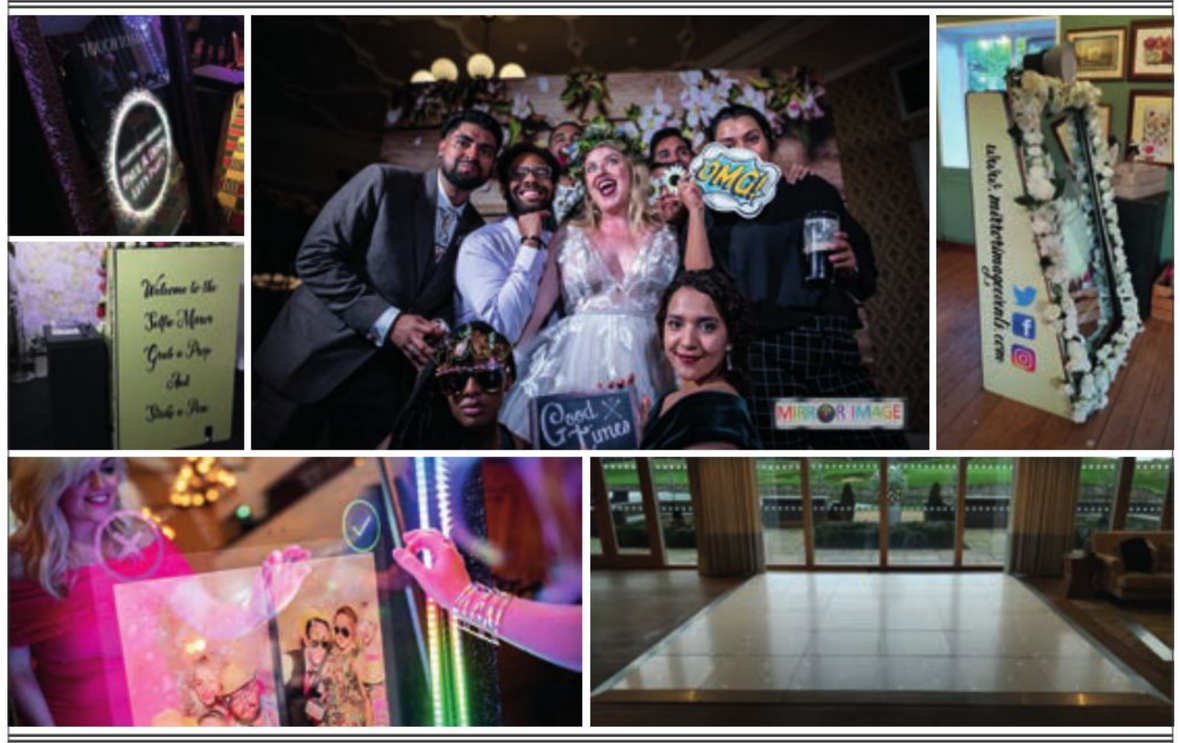
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ALL DOVED UP

There has been a recurring theme lately with couples wanting their wedding to be different and standout from others. But in an fast moving industry, how can this be achieved? Introducing Angel Wings Dove Release, a company who offer a beautiful dove release for the newly married couple after their ceremony.

Every wedding's slightly different, which is why the company teams up with couples to decide what works best and how they can receive the most out of this incredible experience. Everything is planned from where the release takes place, how the cages are decorated to how the photographer can get the best shots.

Two doves will be released at the same time as they circle together in the sky before heading off into the distance – symbolizing the new beginning as a married pair. It also represents the joining of the two families, love, luck and hope.

If the lovebirds are on a tight budget they may think this service isn't for them, but the company has made sure that no extra cost is added just because it's a wedding. Instead it's an affordable extra to have to help celebrate their wedding day with added wow factor!

Angel Wings Dove Release are based in Stevenage and cover Hertfordshire and the surrounding area. The doves used are highly trained to fly to a specially designed loft where they live and raise their own families. Each one's a pet with a name, personalities and are adored by their owners.

A free trial release is offered to couples who wish to hand-release the doves and see how well each one is looked after.

For more information visit the website angelwingsdoverelease.co.uk

A touch of sparkle

We all need some added sparkle in life which is why Glamavan has created an eco-friendly glitter bar hire for weddings, parties and events. In 2019, the company launched a biodegradable cosmetic glitter which degrades in as little as four weeks in a natural environment and has been tested and certified.

The director at Glamavan, Toni Cassidy says: "I'm so pleased to be able to offer our own brand of sustainable sparkles - it really does make it an interesting and fun added extra to a wedding."

The aloe vera based gel is great to use even on sensitive skin while the High Shine range is perfect for vegan's and is cruelty-free.

There's two types of glitter bar set-ups to suit any big day. The first is a rustic-style one, made from stacked-up authentic apple crates and the sparkle bar is decorated with bright sequin table clothes to let everyone know glitter has arrived!

The perfect time to book the team is either straight after the ceremony where the guests can be entertained whilst couples get their photos taken, or in the evening when the band or DJ arrive. The service isn't just for kids, they're great for any glitter lover and even the men – there's always one who want a glitter beard! Alternatively, lovebirds can pick the DIY ultimate party to use the products theirselves.

For more information visit: glamavan.com



purplerosephotography.co.uk

MAGICAL MYSTERY

Looking for a company that can offer an unforgettable time where loved ones of all ages can come together? Then witness the pure talent of Steve Rowe The Lovable Trickster, a member of The Magic Circle who's performed professional magic at 100's of weddings over the last 10 years. Guests will fall in love with this company who will shock, amaze and leave behind beautiful memories.

The business offer different packages designed and tailored to suit any day. The drinks reception is the essential time to have entertainment, for that reason it's the most popular package. During this time a magicians presence is not only welcomed, but the time will fly by with gasps, laughter and applause echoing around the room.

Steve says: "I absolutely love weddings! Family and friends celebrating the coming together of two people is such an amazing occasion and I'm blessed to help make this the most unforgettable day ever.

"I want your day to be as special as possible and I'm in regular contact all the way up to the day to check how plans are going and if there's anything else I can help with."

With only one wedding per day, nearlyweds will get more freedom if times or plans change for any reason. For couples considering booking this fabulous entertainment choice, pop to see one of the company's public shows and see the effect on the people watching.

For more information visit: steverowemagic.co.uk







All fun and games

Classic and fun games create the perfect ice breaker for friends and family who are meeting for the first time as everyone can get involved and work together.

Herts Vintage Hire offers handmade vintage fete and lawn games to add that perfect entertainment area to any wedding day – not to mention the opportunities to receive priceless photo moments! Keep the party and fun going throughout the drinks reception or whilst the couples whisked off for photographs where everyone will end up in fits of laughter no matter the age.

Some of the garden games are instantly recognisable, such as Croquet, Splat the Rat and Hook a Duck, or take a trip down memory lane and enjoy the nostalgia of old-school sport's day activities! Any space can be utilized with most garden games available for a self-service collection or delivery.

Kids love to get creative, so a mini-area with pots of crayons, craft supplies, reading books, old fashioned and modern day toys will go down a treat.

If couples can't see something they fancy, Herts Vintage Hire should be able to assist!

For more information visit: hertsvintagechina.co.uk



FUN FOR ALL

When most brides plan their wedding, the top priority is the date, venue and dress but an important part is keeping guests busy throughout the day. The trends for entertainment is constantly changing, so using a wedding hire company is definitely an option to consider. At Moonlite Entertainments, there's multiple choices to pick from, making the whole planning process a lot easier and more cost effective too.

The company first started back in 1980 as a mobile DJ service with a team who will work with couples to choose the perfect playlist to keep all the family happy.

Get the party started by hiring a dancefloor and mood-lighting to complement any colour-scheme.

All ages can have a blast of a time by using fun props in the photo booths which makes a brilliant memento of the day and couples will receive a USB of all the images and a photo-album. As well as the standard sized photo booth, smaller selfie pods can be used either indoors or outdoors as they fit most spaces.

Fancy something a bit different, why not hire a rodeo bull; it's perfect for a big outdoor wedding and because English weather can be unpredictable, a rain cover is offered.

For more information visit: moonliteentertainments.co.uk



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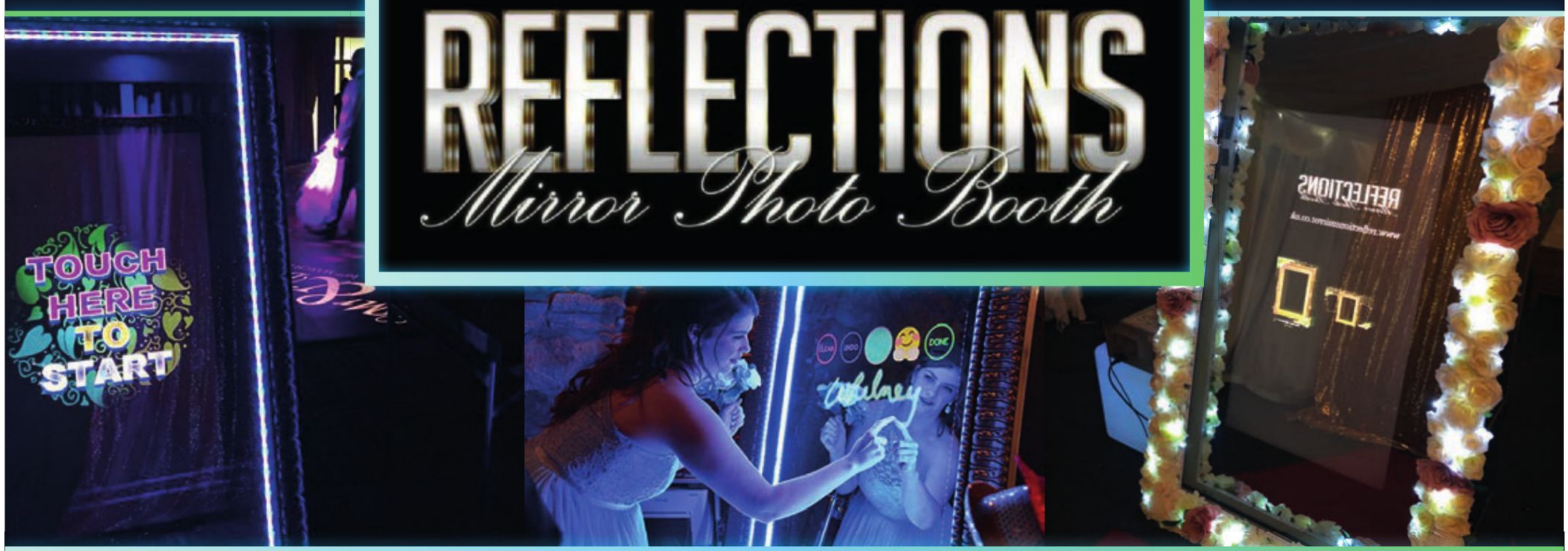
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Did someone say entertainment?

Classical Crossover Artist Gemma Turner has been performing at weddings and special events for more than 15 years. Her wealth of knowledge and experience not only in singing but in understanding the importance of every event has led Gemma to be one of the leading performers in the country.

Her professional career has included West End performances at The London Palladium and The Royal Albert Hall along with a Nationwide Theatre Tour performing in some of the country's finest theatres churches and concert halls.

With singing styles including classical and opera arias to popular love ballads, her extensive repertoire list ranges from Schubert's beautiful *Ave Maria* to Luciano Pavarotti's *Nessun Dorma* to timeless love classics such as Eva Cassidy's *Songbird* to Ed Sheeran's latest hits.

Gemma says, "During your wedding ceremony, I can sing as your guests are arriving and taking their seats, during the signing of the register and for the bridal entrance and exit. Your wedding ceremony is usually between 30 and 45 minutes long and I am happy to sing as many or as few songs as you would like during this time all included in the price. If you're having a church wedding I can also lead the hymns for you throughout the service."

The company is fully self-contained with a sound system and orchestral backing tracks all included with the price. During the drinks reception a mixture of classical to contemporary as background music can be played whilst the photographs are being taken right up until the wedding breakfast.

If couples are looking for something more for the wedding day, Bel Canto singing waiters can be provided to perform every style of music. Each member has had West End theatre experience and take pride on the ability to not only entertain guests but to put on a show that everyone will be talking about on their way home!

For more information visit: gemmaturner.co.uk



JAZZ IT UP

Annelise Molloy is a Hertfordshire based professional jazz and swing singer with more than 20 years, experience performing live music. She sings along to high-quality, sophisticated backing tracks which include professional piano or full band recordings. With her incredible voice, a touch of class is given to every special occasion including weddings. Her music pays homage to the first ladies and gentlemen of jazz performing all the classics by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Billie Holiday and Nina Simone. A range of services are offered and can be tailored to suit the occasion. Music sets are ideally suited to the ambience of the wedding breakfast, arrival of guests, cocktails and canapés and during photographs. Annelise can also perform later at the wedding reception with a more upbeat swing and Rat Pack style in addition to or if preferred.

Annelise says: "Jazz music creates a classy, stylish atmosphere on a wedding day. From soft and romantic jazz songs to accompany the ceremony, to upbeat swing songs that will get people's toes tapping and feet moving – there's something for everyone. I can help couples think about music sets, timings and can move locations during the day as I have portable equipment."

After booking Annelise, she will send along her repertoire so that couples can choose any songs they would particularly like. The musician is also happy to sing one song out of genre for the first dance with prior notice.

Recent wedding couple Bridie and Peter Masterson from Ashford who booked Annelise says: "Thank you for singing at our wedding on Saturday...our guests absolutely loved it! Would highly recommend"

If couples wish to booked directly, a 10 per cent discount is given and early booking is advisable, especially for weekend weddings in June, July and August.

For more contact info@annelisemolloy.com or visit: www.annelisemolloy.com



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Outfits are available to buy or hire.

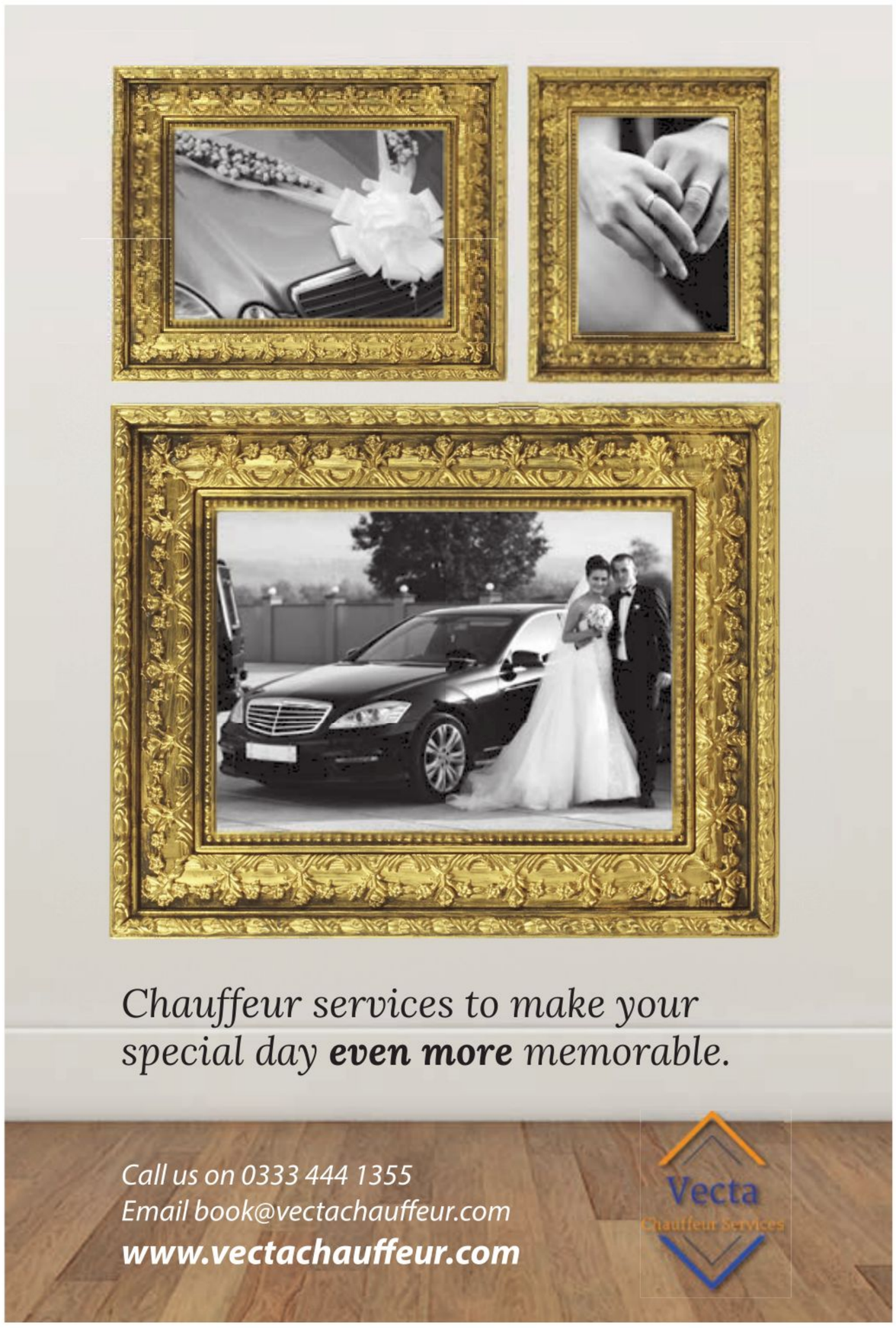
As an exclusive menswear retailer, we at Chimney recognise that it's your wedding and, being renowned for offering a variety of styles, supportive Chimney staff strive to create your individual look.

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THEOBALDS ESTATE

Historic setting, new beginning

Once the home of Lady Meux, a playful socialite, the Theobalds Estate of 2020 comprises of a beautiful, historic centerpiece surrounded by nature and wilderness. The estate brings together nature and history with immersive, sensory experiences and provides a fun and elegant setting for a socialable wedding.

Tel: 01992 667662

theobaldsweddings@theobaldsestate.com

www.theobaldsestate.com

Theobalds Estate, Lieutenant Ellis Way,
Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN7 5HW

KEEPING WATCH

The new Areo Collection from BOSS Watches (Hugo Boss) boasts masculine chronographs impeccably crafted from stainless steel with a choice of Italian leather strap, matte and polished black bracelet styles.

The pilot-inspired functionalities of this watch include a slide-rule bezel and two matching logarithmic scales – one stationary, the other rotating – to make a host of multiplication, division and conversion calculations possible. A retrograde chronograph movement including a date display defines the bold design.

Priced £499 from hourtime.co.uk



FROM THE WAIST UP

The new Butler Stewart Christopher Waistcoat is a beautifully tailored addition to the big-day wardrobe!

Waistcoats are as popular as ever with grooms, and this instant outfit upgrade comes in five tweeds and all feature a solid coloured satin back with a cinch buckle. Notch lapel and two welt pockets are just some of the attention to detail given to this classic garment. Colours include Oxford Blue, Dark Brown, Heather, Harvest Brown, and Pear Green, all priced £225 from butlerstewart.co.uk





Read all ABOUT IT!

Danielle Harvey shares her latest news and product launches for the man of the moment



Showers forecast

This travel-size shower trio is perfect for any budding groom offering one for each big event; the stag do, wedding day and honeymoon!

From The Groomsmith collection these mini shower gels are certain to refresh and revive you, priced at £5, from marksandspencer.com



BEST FOOT FORWARD

New online store Quarter & Last offers high-end footwear at the click of a button. From the finest selection of Derby brogues to Chelsea boots there's something for every style of groom – handpicked from a curated selection of luxury brands! This range is supported by a high level of customer service, including free UK next day delivery and free UK returns.

Northampton plays a big part in Quarter & Last's collection with several of its stocked brands born in the area including Barker Shoes, Joseph Cheaney & Sons and Tricker's England, alongside popular names such as Loake and Jeffery West.

Australia's well-known heritage boot brand, R.M Williams, is also available including its iconic Craftsman boots and Chelsea styling.

Leather and rich shades of suede lead the collections in both tailored and casual footwear with prices from £140 to £445. Quarter & Last is available online now at quarterandlast.com

Super hero

We love the new Jimmy Choo fragrance Urban Hero the perfect big-day scent! For this new addition, the brand chose to celebrate the intensity and contrasts of modern masculinity, this woody aromatic eau de parfum is inspired by the urban environment.

On top, the freshness of precious lemon caviar with its vibrant undertones combines with the warmth of black pepper. Its heart opens onto the sensuality of rosewood and the sophistication of vetiver. The dry down combines the urban elegance of grey amber with a note of leather for just a hint of rebellion. Priced from £33 to £70 from theperfumeshop.com



matalan.co.uk

CHECK MATE

Rock this perfectly patterned look



£14, mandco.com



£130, joebrowns.co.uk



POA, atelier412newyork.etsy.com



£429, tedbaker.com



£225, chesterbarrie.co.uk



£25, farrar-tanner.co.uk



£60, simoncarter.net



£70, riverisland.com



£69.99, Maestro Brown, baselondon.com

BEST FOOT FORWARD

Start your wedding off on the right foot with advice from Percy Stride



Choosing the right shoes for the groom and his groomsmen is an investment they'll love and cherish forever.

When it comes to tying the knot, there's an awful lot to think about. From choosing the perfect wedding dress and sending out the invites, to cake sampling and finding the ideal venue. However, one thing that often slips down the priority list is the groom's footwear.

This is quite surprising when you consider how many hours the groom, the groomsmen and the father-of-the-bride spend on their feet on a wedding day. Especially when the infamous dad dancing moves come out in the evening.

As well as the comfort factor, opting for quality footwear is a sign of style as well. Men's fashion is no longer deemed as an additional "nice to have", it's an integral way of life.

How the groom and his groomsmen dress on the day says a lot about your wedding. It's an opportunity to showcase both of your personalities, add an extra layer of sophistication to the occasion and make the important men rightfully stand out from the other guests.

Every step should be calculated and considered. When the guests arrive at the wedding venue, the first people they'll see is the groom and his groomsmen. How they look will instantly set the tone for the whole day and the way guests perceive your big day.

It will have a detrimental effect on your wedding photos too. So, if the groom and his groomsmen's shoes are scruffy, the wrong style or in a ghastly colour, there's no filter or editing tool in the world able to make them disappear.

Unlike a bride's wedding dress, choosing quality footwear for the groom and his groomsmen doesn't have to be a one day only purchase – although I'm sure there are some brides out there who secretly wear it around the house – you know who you are!

One British independent footwear company who have covered quality, style and comfort all in one are Percy Stride.

However, one of the most notable reasons to invest in a quality pair of shoes like these is that you'll be giving the groom and his groomsmen something they can cherish forever.

The versatility of the Percy Stride Oxfords and their premium construction gives them life after your big wedding day, allowing all of the special men involved to combine them with jeans and chinos for a smart/casual appearance at work or on a date night.

Every time they reuse their special pair of Percy Stride Oxford shoes, the groom and his groomsmen will be transported back to the special wedding day. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

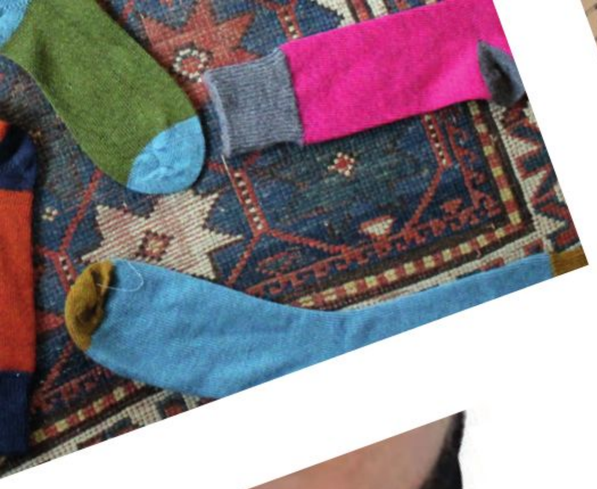
To find out more about the hassle-free Percy Stride wedding packages, email info@percystride.com or visit percystride.com





SOCK IT to me!

Keep it classic on your big day or show your fun side? Check out this selection of socks



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WIN!

A LUXURIOUS THREE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO TUSCANY

Enter now for your chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the incredible Fonteverde resort in Italy

WORTH £1,500

County Wedding Magazines has partnered with the stunning resort of Fonteverde to offer one lucky reader the chance of winning a three-night stay on a half-board basis to the luxurious hotel, plus spa treatments.

Fonteverde Tuscany is located in the stunning Medici Palace of San Casciano dei Bagni, the historic former property of Ferdinando de' Medici. The Renaissance Palace is renowned for its position set upon a natural thermal spring, overlooking the hills of the Val d'Orcia Valle, cypress groves and small churches.

Hotel of the 'Worldwide Health & Wellness Destination of the Year' is credit to its natural thermal spa and large spring water pools from which to soak up the panoramic views of the hills beyond. Honeymooners can enjoy a range of indulgent beauty and massage treatments, from nourishing clay facial masks to invigorating thermal massages, and choose to participate in the brand's award-winning Equilibrium programme, designed to reduce internal inflammation and rebalance the body and immune system – the perfect antidote to post-wedding indulgence!

Fonteverde's rooms and suites pay tribute to the Italian Renaissance, showcasing exquisite art and stunning décor.

Find out more at fonteverdespa.com





THE PRIZE

- ❤ Three-night stay
- ❤ Half-board basis
- ❤ One spa treatment per person

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

In which region in Italy is Fonteverde located?

Enter online at yourhertsbeds.wedding

The closing date is 3rd April, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.

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SHORT-HAUL SUNSHINE

The stunning Greek island of Rhodes is perfect for newlyweds seeking a relaxing getaway.

A destination famous for its serene sunsets and breathtaking beauty, the recently renovated five-star, adults-only Lindos Village Resort & Spa is perfectly located between mountain and sea.

For a truly romantic experience, couples can visit Lindos' most picturesque beaches including St Paul's Bay, which is naturally formed in the shape of a heart. Dramatically overlooked by the town's historic acropolis, honeymooners can spend an evening under the stars while enjoying Greek and Mediterranean delicacies paired with traditional Rhodian wine – all to the backdrop of a candlelit beach.

Couples wanting to explore further afield should head for the nearby island of Symi – famously known for its delectable shrimps – where a sprinkling of colourful neoclassical houses and harbourside eateries glisten along the Aegean Sea.

For further details about Lindos Village Resort & Spa, visit lindos-village.gr

YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS

For a mini-moon to remember, how about staying in Sprat & Winkle, a newly refurbished converted Victorian train carriage?

The London and South Western iron clad corridor coach has been fully converted into a cosy holiday let, complete with light fittings from the Orient Express and vintage luggage racks.

Newlyweds can sit back and relax with a barbecue on Platform 1 at Horsebridge railway station in Hampshire, or set out for a stroll along one of the many country footpaths nearby.

Sprat & Winkle is priced from £425 for three nights. To book, visit mulberrycottages.com

HONEYMOON *News*



From a five-star adults-only resort in Greece to a converted railway carriage in the UK, Demelza Rayner showcases a selection of the latest honeymoon hotspots

BEACHSIDE BLISS IN ST LUCIA

One of the island's best-loved adults-only resorts – Rendezvous – is now offering a wider range of complimentary romantic experiences including 'bubbles and sand', 'stars and a movie' and 'wine 101'.

For 'bubbles and sand', a picnic rug is set up on the beach just before sunset with a bottle of champagne. 'Stars and a movie' describes a film screening on the beach, with comfy seats set up on the sand, and popcorn and drinks served. Finally, 'wine 101' is a fun, informal tasting session.

In addition, there are two experiences available at an extra charge; a couple's cookery class and a massage lesson at The Spa in the Water Garden.

Visit theromanticholiday.com to find out more





Bright ideas

Have some fun with your honeymoon luggage. Available in bright red, lime, sea green and stone grey, these brilliant bold cases are ideal for standing out on the carousel. Visit tumi.com to find out more.



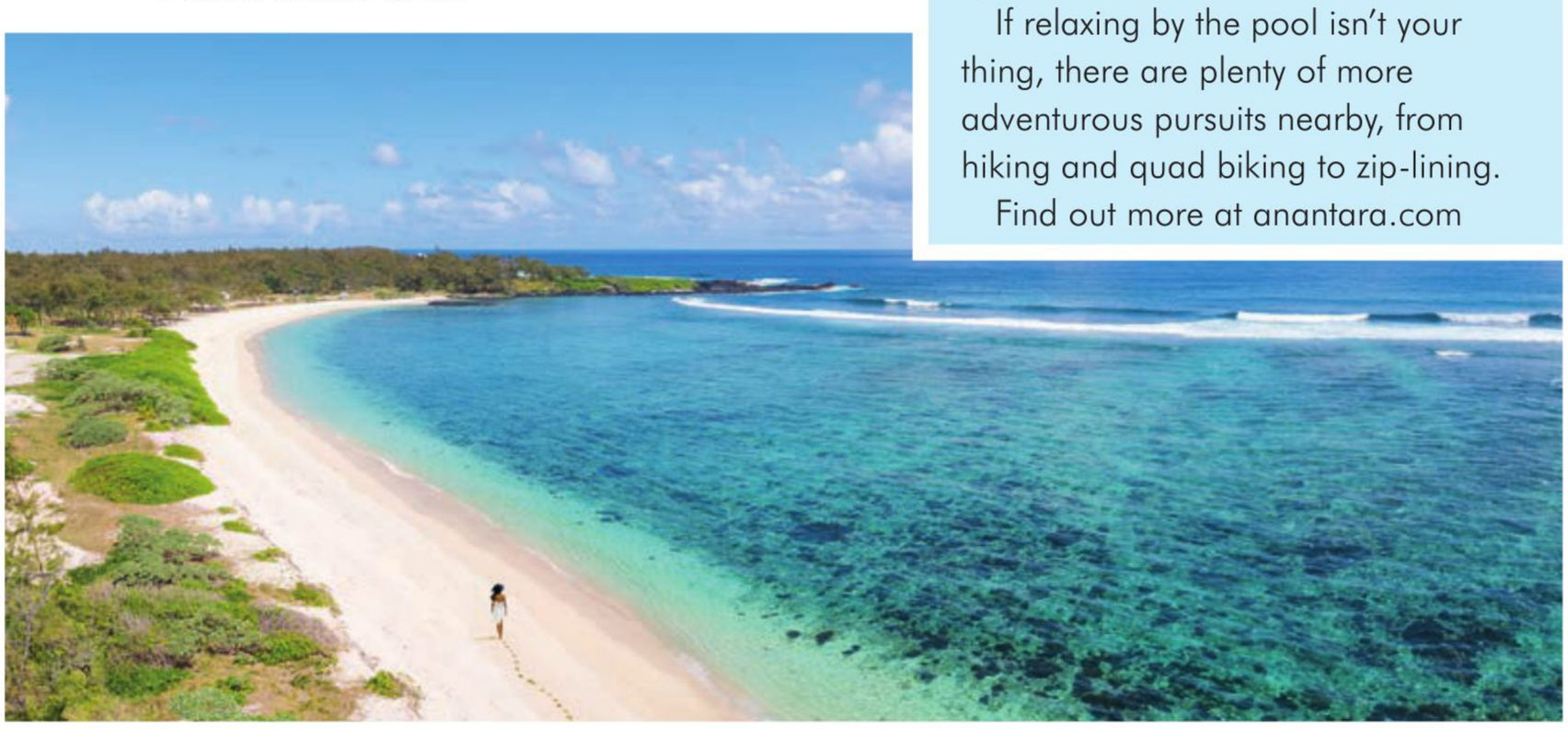
BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

If the darker evenings and cold mornings just make you want to hibernate, then the decadent 'Behind Closed Doors' winter honeymoon package from Blakes Hotel London will help you to hibernate in style!

Upon entering one of Blakes' beautifully designed suites, couples can abandon their layers, slip on Kiki De Montparnasse silk pyjamas and jump into the king-sized bed.

For the ultimate 'do not disturb' experience, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in-room, with unlimited room service. This includes oysters – a known aphrodisiac – along with chocolate pastries and a Laurent Perrier Champagne Jereboam that can be enjoyed in the room or in a luxurious bathtub.

Find out more at blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors



TREAT YOURSELF

Discover the stunning south coast of Mauritius on your honeymoon while staying at one of the island's newest luxury hotel openings – the Anantara Iko Mauritius Resort and Villas.

Fringed by acres of sugarcane and the crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean, the resort is ideal for newlyweds, boasting the signature Anantara Spa, an array of exotic dining options and numerous stylish suites.

If relaxing by the pool isn't your thing, there are plenty of more adventurous pursuits nearby, from hiking and quad biking to zip-lining.

Find out more at anantara.com



EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA

What could be more romantic than viewing the solar eclipse in Argentina and Chile in December 2020? Luxury travel firm Hayes & Jarvis invites couples to explore these captivating countries with its Patagonia discovery tour. Beginning in the Argentinian capital of Buenos Aires, the tour will continue on a magical journey including hiking on the still-growing Perito Moreno Glacier, a catamaran cruise across the Biosphere Reserve of Tierra del Guero, a whale-watching cruise, seeing Magellan penguins and unbelievable scenery along the way.

For further details visit hayesandjarvis.co.uk



KUONI'S TOP 10

Top luxury travel firm Kuoni has recently released its 2020 travel hotlist, providing plenty of new destination inspiration for soon-to-be-weds.

Exploring countries beyond the well-trodden tourist trails is a key theme for the year ahead, so Kuoni has created more travel options to places including India, Africa, Canada, the USA and Italy for couples who want to see the world's natural wonders in lesser-known regions, national parks and states. Destinations tipped for increased bookings in 2020 include:

1. India, beyond the Golden Triangle
2. Zimbabwe, back after years of political instability
3. USA, direct flight to Charleston and Portland increase demand for fly-drives
4. Indian Ocean, 16 new hotels added for 2020
5. Greece, luxury credentials on the up
6. Colombia, added to its escorted touring programme
7. Japan, the buzz continues for the Olympic Year
8. The Caribbean, new hotel openings
9. Canada, escape the crowds in winter
10. Italy, slow travel in the regions of Puglia and Basilicata

Colombia features for the first time in Kuoni's escorted touring collection, with a 12-night tour taking in the country's coffee-growing region and UNESCO-listed old town of Cartagena.

Hotel openings in Antigua raise the bar for luxury with Hammock Cove and its collection of ultra-modern pool villas due to open in December, while in Mauritius the new adults-only Lagoon Attitude has a strong sustainable ethos.

Luxury credentials in Greece are on the up for 2020 with the Angsana in Corfu a notable addition – an offshoot of the Banyan Tree brand, it is cool and contemporary and mimics a classic Greek hilltop village.

Find out more at kuoni.co.uk

ME, YOU AND THE FAMILY TOO

It is possible to balance romance and family thanks to Zafiro Hotels' family-friendly facilities, finds Georgina Cassels



As every parent knows, holidays take on a whole different meaning once you've had kids – and that's OK, I mean, who doesn't enjoy getting up at 6am to smear sun cream on a reluctant toddler? But when it comes to your honeymoon, you're probably thinking more indulgent couples' massages and lounging on a chic day bed, less constructing 17 sandcastles before noon. As I was to discover on a recent trip to Zafiro Hotels in Mallorca, you can have the best of both worlds – this family-friendly hotel chain balances the needs of the whole family with something for everyone.

Indeed, as we drove up to Zafiro Palace Alcudia – our first port of call for this dual-destination trip – its soaring lobby and magnificent views through floor-to-ceiling windows certainly suggested the former over the latter, as did the glass of fizz we were offered to ease the already seamless check in. It was only as we crossed the central pool area that I began to suspect that this is not just paradise for loved up newlyweds but their children too because there, nestled among the – count 'em – nine different outdoor swimming pools, including six swim-ups accessed directly from the ground floor suites and an adults-only area – was a pirate ship, complete with slides. If my five-year-old had been with me, she would have lost her tiny mind at that alone, never mind the playground, which boasts a bouncy castle, climbing frame and table tennis.

Reaching our elegant Penthouse Suite, we were swiftly transported back into adult-land: think rooftop terrace complete with Jacuzzi and Bali bed, not to mention a room with space enough for a family of four. The Londoner in me couldn't resist mentally scrolling through every flat I've ever lived in and comparing square footage. No prizes for guessing the victor. There's also facilities designed to make a parent's life all the easier: in my case, tea and coffee facilities and a microwave but rooms with a more extensive kitchenette are available too – not that you'd need it as the feast on offer at the hotel's Market Buffet Restaurant is impressive, with something to please even the fussiest of eaters while catering to the more discerning gourmands out there too with local specialties on tap.







There's three further à la carte restaurants to boot and, strictly in the interests of research, you understand, I sampled them all over the course of the trip, from the Asian delights at Tastes & Sushi and pasta at El Portico to the traditional Mallorcan fare at El Olivo. Book the hotel's babysitting service now; you're in for a treat (although all the restaurants welcome mini diners too).

Indeed, food is a central part of Mallorcan life and the island's many specialties are not to be missed. From the homemade sobrassada (a type of cured sausage) we nibbled as we drifted on the turquoise sea aboard an idyllic traditional laut (boat) one afternoon, to the pa amb oli (bread with oil), rubbed with a native tomato expertly prepared for us by Zafiro Alcudia's head chef, we were never knowingly underfed.

I'm ashamed to say that on our two previous family holidays to Mallorca, we didn't venture much further than the beach so it was a delight and pleasure to discover more of this beautiful island. Alcudia's charming old town, for one, with its beautifully preserved walls and Roman ruins is a must for even the most reluctant tourist. But it was Palma that captured my heart and imagination – from the stalls piled high with fresh produce at Mercat de l'Olivar to the distinctive octagonal ensaimada boxes stacked in Horno San Cristo's window, it's not only a foodie paradise but also a delight for fans of art and architecture thanks to its abundant galleries, impressive cathedral refurbished by both Gaudi and Barcelo in its time and several well preserved Art Nouveau façades dotted throughout.

Luckily, Zafiro Palace Palmanova is perfectly placed for those who wish to explore further. And I certainly did; with our tastebuds well and truly set alight by a wander around the market, we headed to La Rosa Vermuteria & Colmado to sample ALL the local specialities over a leisurely lunch – made all the more appealing thanks to the convivial atmosphere and industrial-vintage décor. We may have slightly over-indulged (I'm assured that's the Mallorcan way or, at least, that's my excuse), which made the prospect of a post-prandial stroll through the cobbled streets to Es Baluard Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art all the more appealing but not before ducking in to the Caixa Forum to check out works by local artist H. Anglada Camarasa. While it's no surprise that the stunning Mallorcan light has lured many an artist to its shores, this small island certainly boasts more than its fair share of notable painter alumni – Miro among them. Es Baluard's permanent collection boasts works by him as well as Picasso, Sorolla and Barcelo not to mention sweeping views over the city, marina and sea beyond.

And if that's all a little erudite, rest assured that I also spotted former Love Island contestant Georgia at the airport as we waited to board our evening flight. After all, it's all about balance, right?

MY HIGHLIGHTS

❤ **A private boat charter**
llautsanfrancisco.com
If there's a more charming boat in existence than Llaut San Francisco then I'll eat my (sobrassada-covered) hat. Setting sail from Alcúdia port, we cruised along the coastline parallel to Cala Poncet to the Isla de Alcanada where we dropped anchor in full view of the island's lighthouse. Despite the somewhat 'fresh' temperature of the sea in May, I couldn't resist jumping into those turquoise waters for a leisurely snorkel before a feast of homemade and local specialties including local wines, tumbet (a tumble of cooked Mediterranean vegetables) and ensaimada (a sweet pastry dish), laid on by our charming captain Miguel.

❤ **Open-air yoga at Zen, Body & Mind**
zafirohotels.com
Zafiro Palace Hotel Alcudia offers a wide range of wellness programmes through its Zen, Body & Mind space, not to mention the full gamut of spa facilities, but being led through a series of poses from the basic to advanced (I very nearly did a headstand) on the rooftop terrace has to be up there with one of the best ways to start the day.

❤ **Wine tasting at Bodega Ribas**
bodegaribas.com
This family winery dates back some 300 years, making it the third oldest winery in Spain. Tastings take place inside the 18th-century family house, which is a sight to behold in itself thanks to the traditional tiled kitchen and idyllic terrace. The bodega's wines, made from native Mantonegro and Prensal grapes, are truly local, and excellent, especially when paired with regional cured meats and cheese.

Georgina Cassels was hosted by Zafiro Hotels and stayed in Zafiro Palace Hotel Alcúdia and Zafiro Palace Hotel Palmanova. For more information, visit zafirohotels.com

NEXT ISSUE

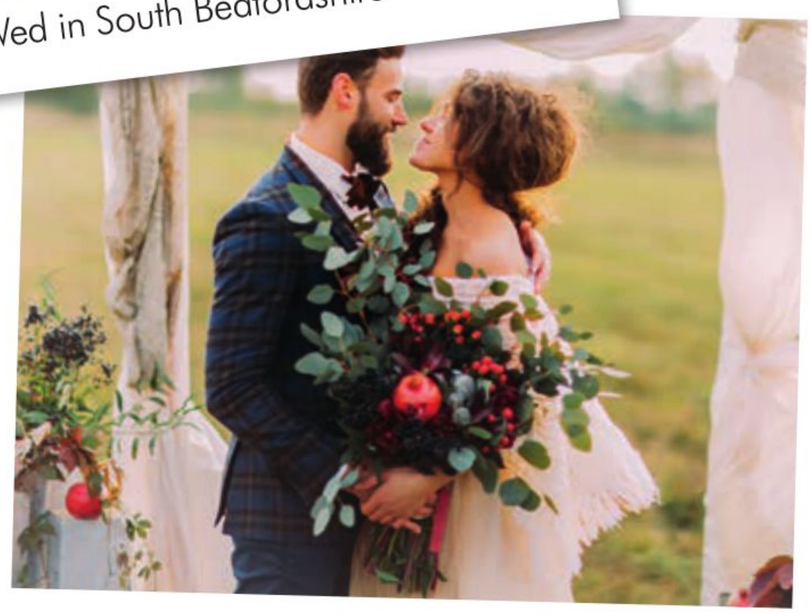
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Sign up for a year's subscription to *Your Herts & Beds Wedding* and not only will you save money on the cover price, you'll also receive a votive candle set worth £15*.

We've teamed up with Shearer Candles to give County Wedding Magazine readers the chance to claim a Mr&Mrs votive candle set – worth £15 – when you take out a year's subscription.

Shearer Candles is a leading creator and purveyor of artisan candles and scented products. Established in 1897, the company is the UK's longest established lifestyle candle manufacturer, working with only the purest ingredients and inspired by the business's beautiful surroundings in Scotland.

Shearer Candles' new Alphabet Collection of scented votive candles features each letter of the alphabet, plus a heart and ampersand. Candle lovers can spell out their initials or whatever special message takes their fancy, including Mr&Mrs for newlyweds or individual initials for guest favours and table place settings.

The candles carry the firm's popular Egyptian Cotton scent, loved for its delicate fresh linen-style fragrance. Each votive candle will burn for approximately 20 hours.

The Alphabet Collection is exclusively available to purchase in Shearer Candles stores including its website shearer-candles.com All you need to do to claim your gift is take out a year's subscription to *Your Herts & Beds Wedding*.*

*Subject to availability.

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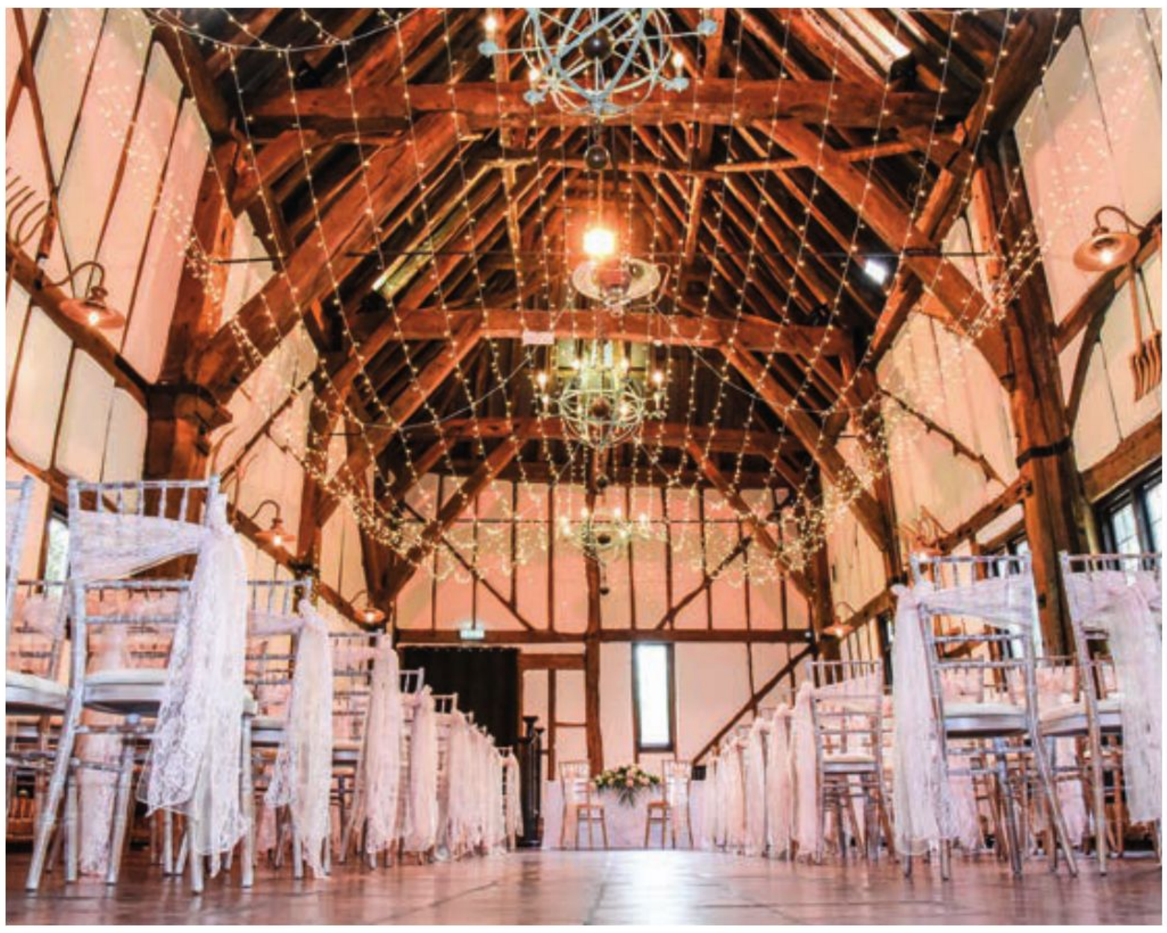
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