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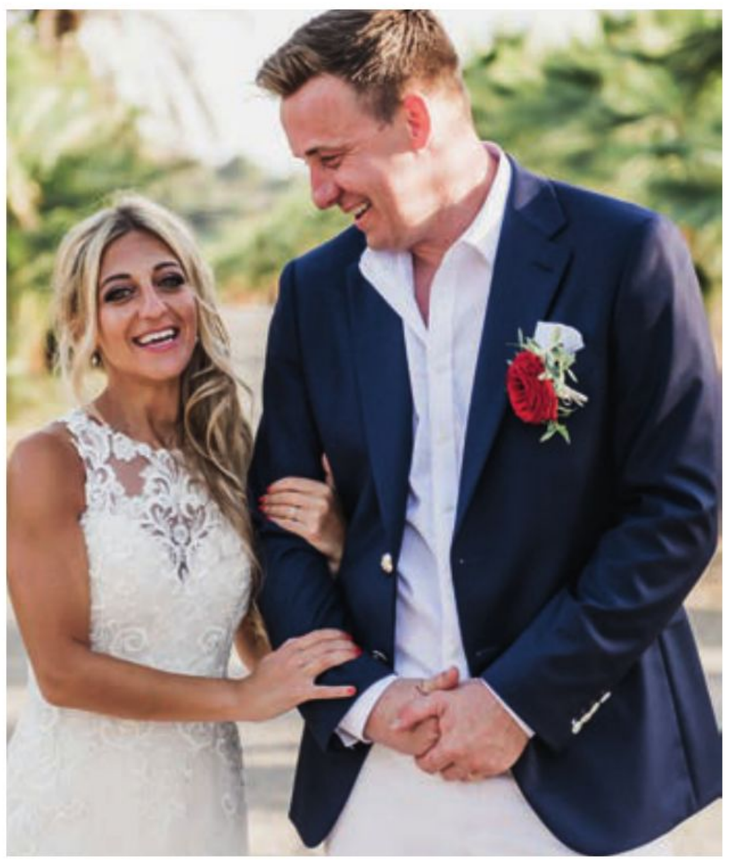




‘Don’t compromise’

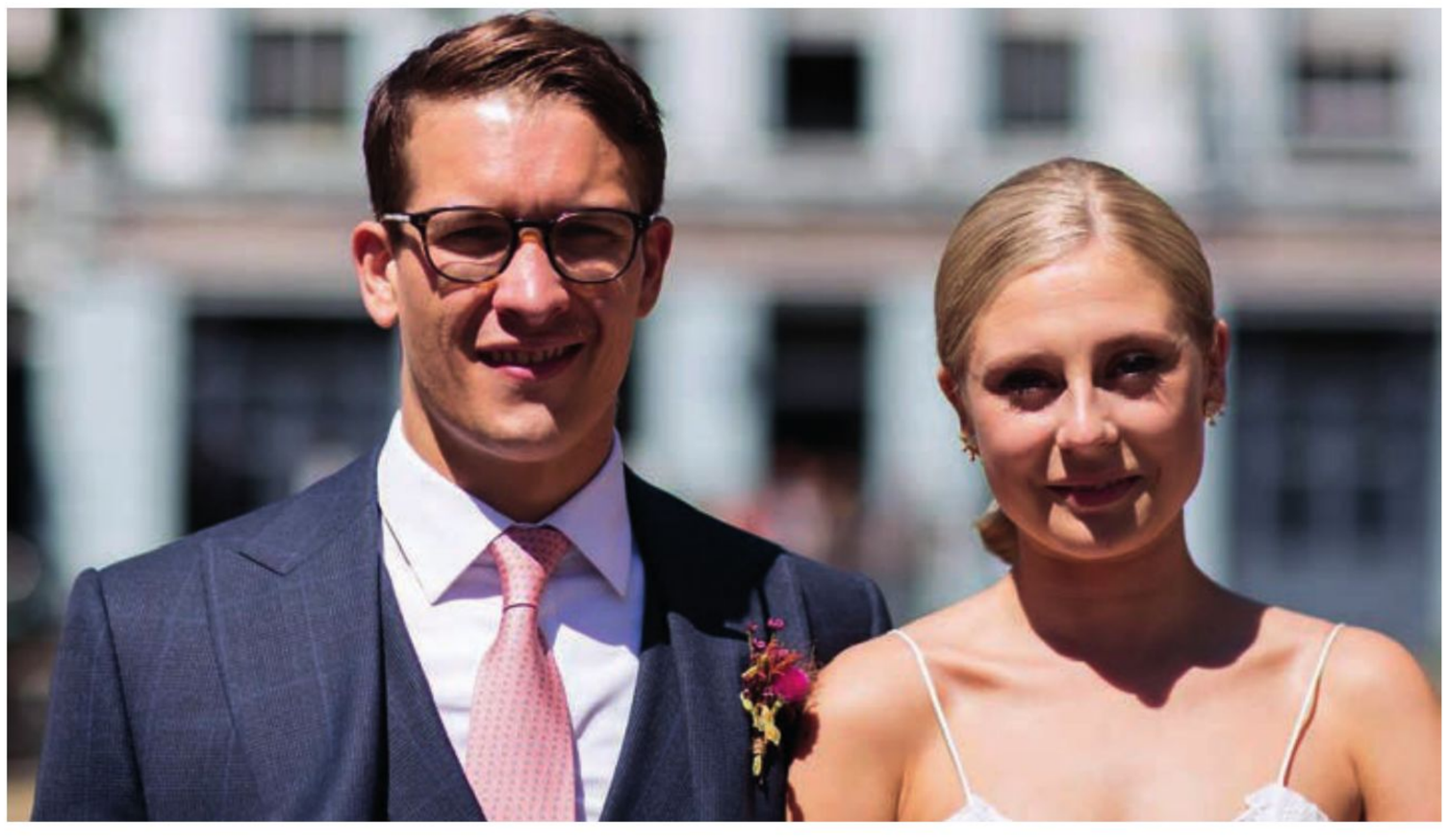
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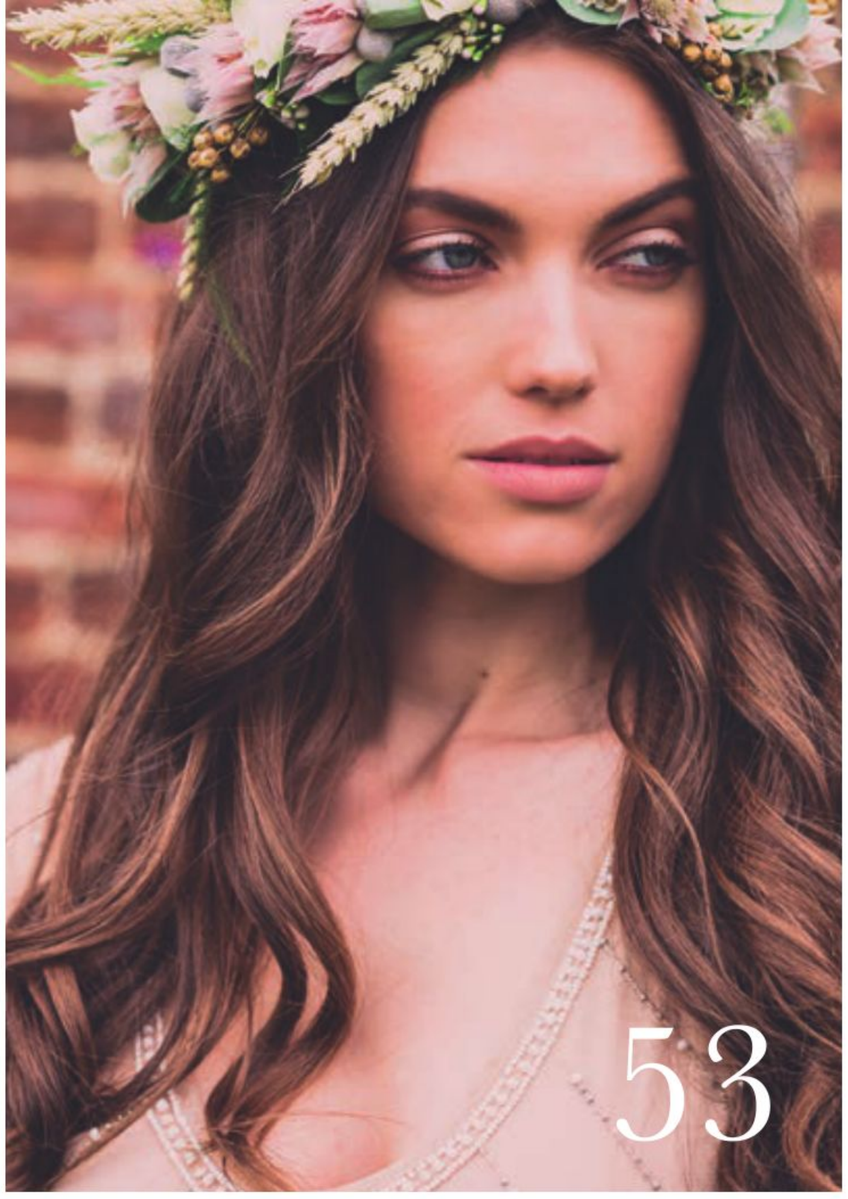
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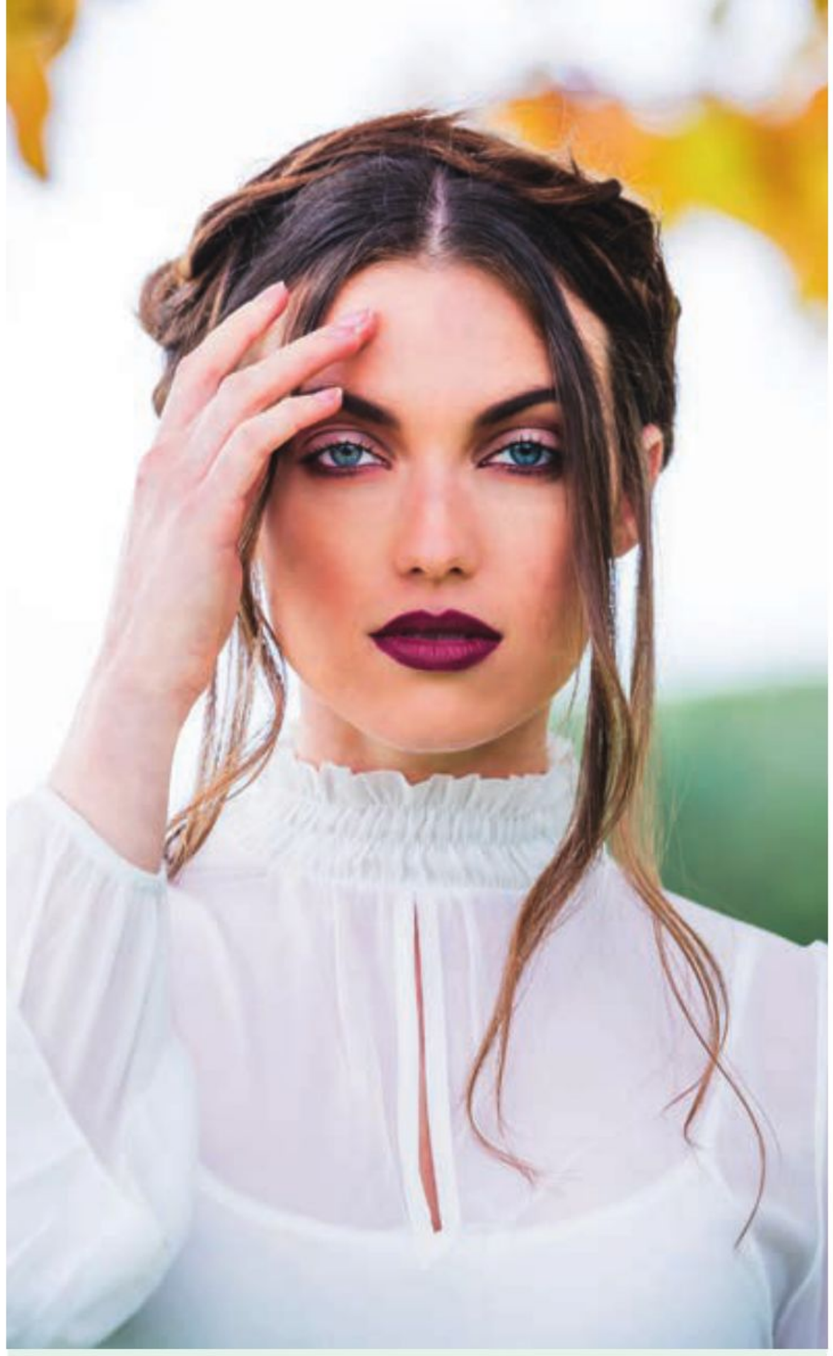
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Image courtesy of Clare Davis Photography, check out www.claredavisphotography.com

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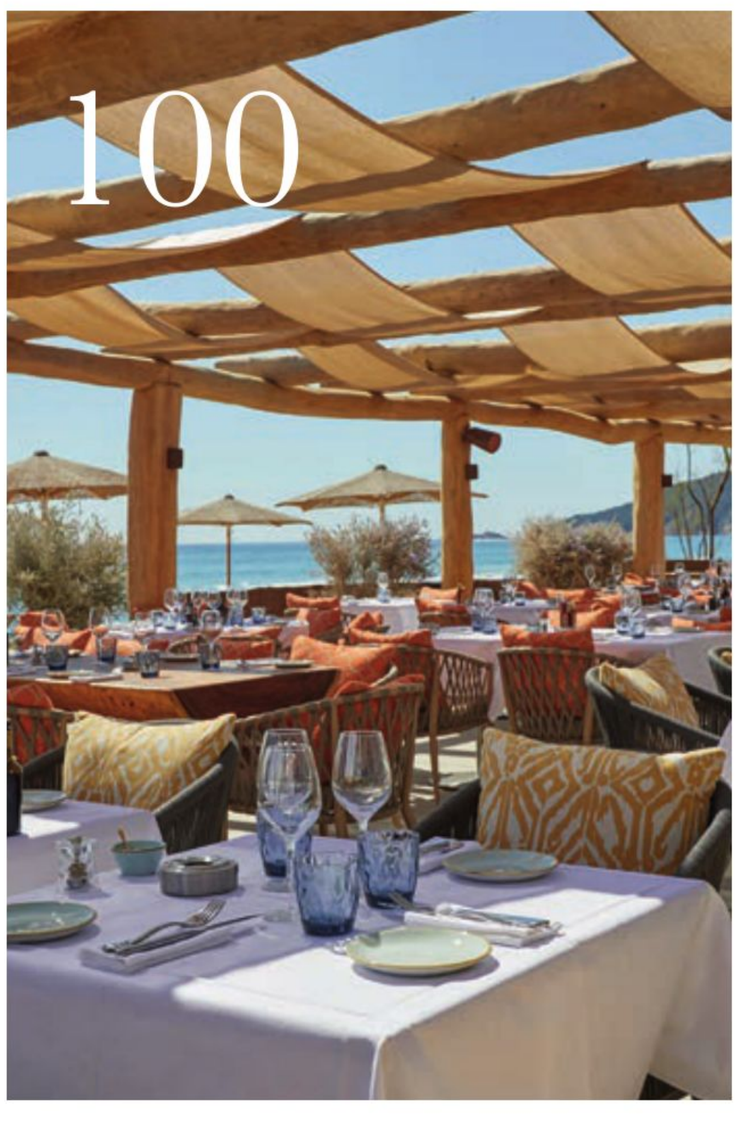
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ISSN 1753-0911

kd EVENTS & PUBLISHING
cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

LET THE PLANNING BEGIN!



The last few months have been hard for us all. The uncertainties and challenges we've had to face have been so unpredictable, and for anyone who's postponed their wedding – I'm sending you a virtual hug. I'm amazed how even in the hardest times, community spirit shines through and sheds some light on a very dark time. The positivity and support I've seen from couples and suppliers has been truly incredible and can be seen throughout this issue – I couldn't be prouder of us all.

Things are starting to look up, and for those planning your wedding, this issue is packed full of talented suppliers and big-day inspiration to make the planning process much more manageable.

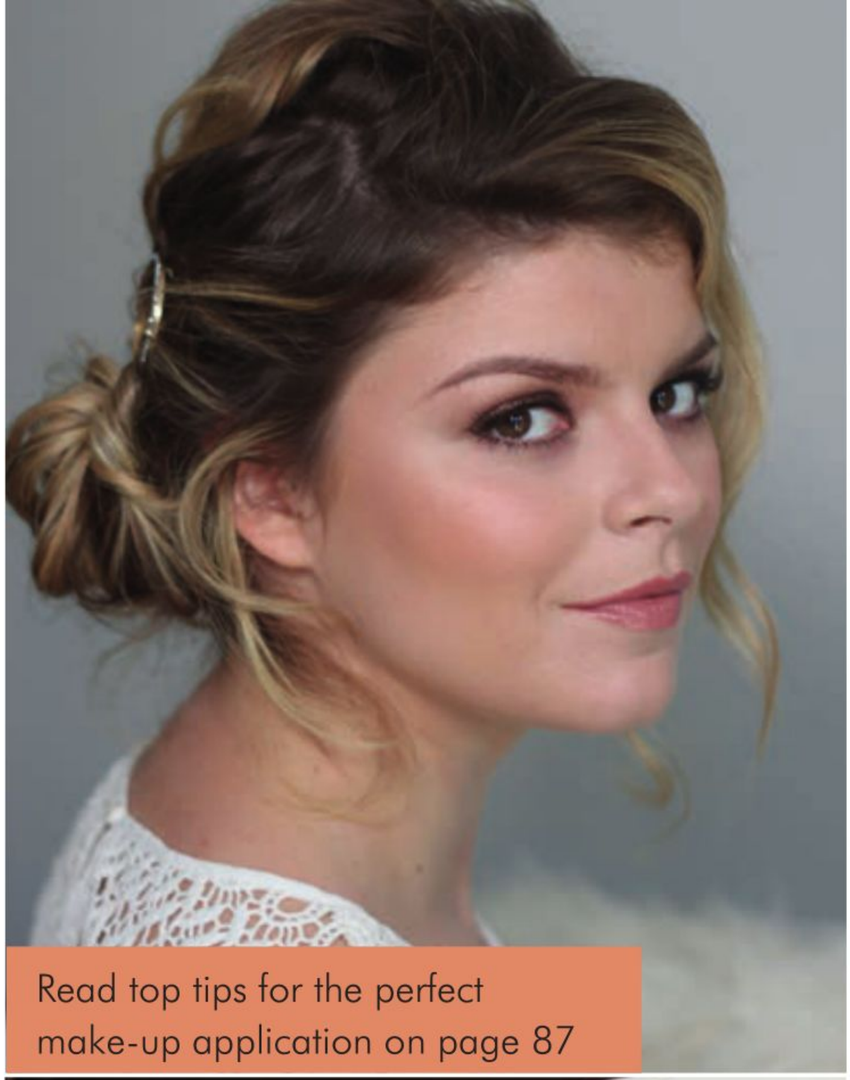
Don't forget to check out our jewellery and accessories feature where you will find all kinds of loveliness, or why not turn to the looking your best section to read top tips for the perfect make-up application.

We've searched high and low for the top venues throughout Herts and Beds, so if you're at the beginning of your wedding journey, make sure to check it out.

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

Olivia x

Olivia Gibson, Editor



Read top tips for the perfect make-up application on page 87



Turn to page 83 for some expert advice on how to find the perfect suit.



Discover about Micklefield Hall's virtual tours on page 9.

www.sarahleggephotography.co.uk



https://flatfrogfilms.com

Who doesn't love a good offer? And we have a few waiting for you on page 13!



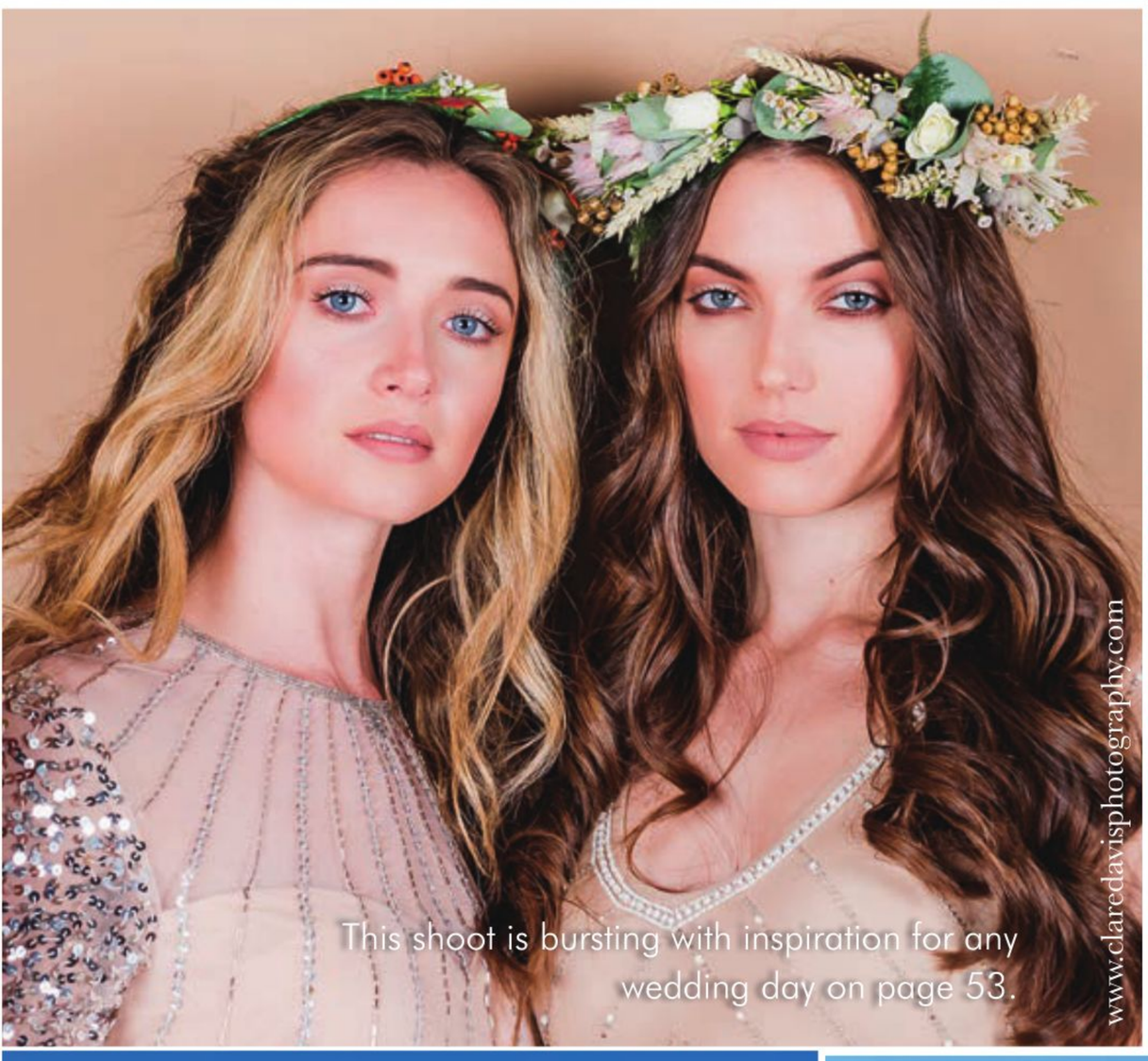
Check out some bridal bling on page 71.

EDITOR'S LETTER



This couple look so happy and in love on page 28!

www.rafeabrook.co.uk



This shoot is bursting with inspiration for any wedding day on page 53.

www.claredavisphotography.com



Discover how to get healthier hair on page 81.

www.nataliestevensonphotography.com



WIN!
A LUXURIOUS MINIMOON TO TUSCANY, ITALY WORTH £1,500 PAGE 99.

I'm obsessed with Cherelle and Steven's wedding on page 35, just look at that dress!



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A PERFECT DAY

Micklefield Hall knows how important a wedding venue's websites are as it's a digital shop window, and it needs to be as beautiful, gorgeous and inspiring as the venue. The hall decided to use the lockdown as the perfect opportunity to re-design its website, with the technological help of the team at Indigo Tree (www.indigotree.co.uk). Jennifer Grey Hewson, who works for the premises, says: "When you visit a venue's website, it gives you a glimpse into the soul of the venue. During the lockdown, couples have to find venues through their computers and phones, in the absence of physical visits. So, we decided to try and give them as much visual information as possible on our country barn venue, right from the homepage to the contact page, ensuring a glorious spread of Instagrammable photos, wedding inspiration and captivating blog articles. We wanted to get across the quality of our historic venue and what's offered. When couples were unable to visit the space, due to COVID-19, we wanted to give them a virtual experience using stunning drone footage of our extraordinary estate and detailed video tours by the owners, Jamie and Anna Rankin.

"We're totally in love with the results and hope our couples are too!"

For more information, visit www.micklefieldhall.com



STYLED TO PERFECTION

Design & Create Events is excited to announce some considerable changes to the business, and is now offering event styling service and products available to hire. The company's warehouse is open to the public on weekdays or for a private appointment available out of hours.

The business provides beautiful custom-made styling, décor and props that express individual personality.

Leanne Ramirez Dore says, "We can personalise any idea or design that you have or like and will work closely with you to get your visual event styling perfect. We really can make anything, so the sky's the limit."

Alternatively, why not choose from the broad range of existing products available for hire such as balloons, postboxes, light up letters, arches teepee and bell tent hire or graffiti, flower, glitter or party walls?

Find out more about the company here: www.dcevents.co.uk

Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the regions



IN THE WILD

Paradise Wildlife Park has just opened a new habitat called Land of the Tigers, which has a beautiful view of the majestic tiger sisters. With space overlooking the habitat, the venue could even organise the perfect space for welcome drinks and canapés to start the special day.

The park has a lovely marquee, which can accommodate up to 180 people for a sit-down meal and is licenced for civil ceremonies.

The marquee is located in a private area with a beautiful secret garden, pergola, stream and bridge, which is perfect for photos either before or after the ceremony. Complete with a fully licenced bar and resident DJ, the private marquee makes the ideal venue for any wedding ceremony and reception.

This stunning space is available for the wedding day or reception, with packages available including a personal wedding planner.

Find out more: www.pwpark.com



AMAZING OFFER

Carmela Weddings & Events has now moved to Welwyn Village in Hertfordshire after Tichea Brade, the new CEO, took over the company. In less than a year, Tichea found a new love in wedding planning and hasn't looked back. She created a marriage of her very own taking 20 years of graphic design and 15 years of event planning. To celebrate the new ownership, the business is currently offering lovebirds 50 per cent off two-hour inspiration sessions, which is valid until October, 2020. If couples quote Your Herts & Beds Wedding magazine, this offer will be extended to January.

The company is a well-known brand in the industry. It has been featured on the BBC, The Huffington Post, Daily Express as well as many more publications and it loves creating weddings, having the motto: "If you can think of it; we can create it!"

Find out more here: www.carmelaweddings.co.uk



A NEW DIRECTION

Just Happy Together wedding films has moved its video delivery completely digital. Now couple's films will be safe online forever in a private gallery. The team's mission is to capture the special day; the video will become a part of a family's history and be cherished by future generations. Due to the current global situation, and because the founders were effected personally, the team is 100 per cent flexible when securing the booking for the big day. The international crew is ready to accommodate a preferred date and are prepared to move it if needed. Also, online consultations and calls are welcome to get to know each other better and find out the details about the wedding.

Find out more: www.justhappytogether.com



SWEET TOOTH

Bon Bon Buffets has been providing sweet treats for weddings and events for nearly 10 years and to celebrate, the company is offering a 10 per cent discount on its sweetie buffets, carts and doughnut walls to the first 10 people who complete a booking with the business by 10th November, 2020! Simply email Bon Bon Buffets with the code 'celebrate10', along with the order to receive the discount.

Find out more: www.bonbonbuffets.co.uk

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Design & Create
EVENTS

Design & Create Events are excited to announce some huge changes to our business…

We now offer event styling service and products available to hire. Our warehouse is open to the public on weekdays or for a private appointment available out of hours.
Check out our new Events website www.dcevents.co.uk

Design & Create Events provide beautiful and elite custom-made styling, decor and props that express your individual personality in the most stylish and stunning way. We can personalise any idea or design that you have or like and will work closely with you to get your visual event styling absolutely perfect.

We really can make anything so the Skys the limit.
OR why not choose from our large range of existing products available for hire including Balloons, Teepee and Bell Tent hire, Graffiti walls, Flower Walls, Glitter Walls, Party Walls, Postboxes, Light up letters, Arches, and so so much more.

We really are the destination for all your events and look forward to seeing you soon!!!

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E: leanne@designandcreatesolutions.com





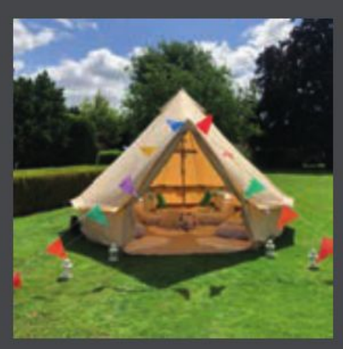




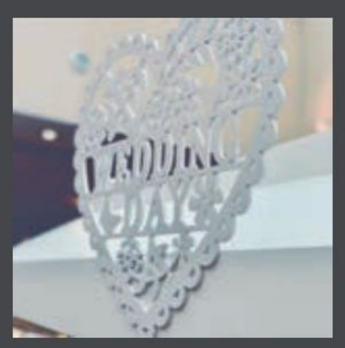




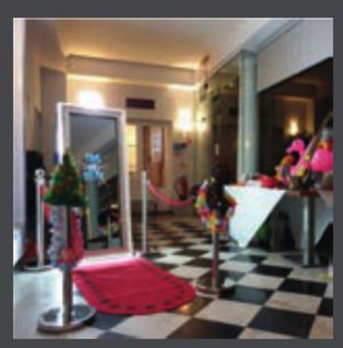












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Next Level Music

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Rhia & Will Hooker



http://nextlevelmusic.co.uk







BLING RING

Heulwen Lewis Bespoke specialises in designing and creating beautiful custom-made jewellery. The business is currently offering 10 per cent off each customer's first bespoke purchase when the nearlyweds quote *Your Herts and Beds Wedding magazine before September 24th*. With craftsmanship at the very heart, the company uses both the oldest bench skills and the newest technology to create fine bespoke jewellery. Each piece is lovingly designed with the individual in mind, taking them on a visual journey from the initial sketch to the final product. If lovebirds are searching for the perfect wedding band, bridal jewellery or bridesmaid and groomsmen gifts, Heulwen Lewis Bespoke is on hand to help design memoriesto last forever. Please turn to page 71 to discover more about the company or visit www.heulwenlewisbespoke.com

Freebies & OFFERS

Great giveaways and discounts up for grabs



PICTURE PERFECT

When it comes to capturing the perfect images, couples need a photographer they can trust and feel comfortable around. Based in Hertfordshire, Herts Wedding Photography is currently offering a free A3 sized framed print when lovebirds book the company's Silver Package or a higher one if they order by the end of September, 2020 and quote *Your Herts and Beds Wedding magazine*. Bookings made before the end of August will also receive an additional £70 discount against the full-priced packages.

The business offers incredible photography and videography including drone footage, as well as photo booths, magic mirrors and selfie pods. The super friendly and fun team ensure every aspect has been thought about and couples won't realise they're being photographed or filmed.

Get in touch for a free no-obligation chat via phone or Zoom and have a virtual coffee to make sure Herts Wedding Photography are a good fit for the wedding. Book an appointment by contacting 08008 527 741 or visit www.hertsphotography.co.uk

A PERFECT *pair*

Leading British watch label Tayroc present an elegant range of timepieces for today's discerning consumer. This stunning collection features quartz and chronograph watches that use Japanese Miyota movements, designed with high precision 316L stainless steel as standard throughout the range. Simple, modern and contemporary design is paramount within the collection and with meticulous horologist expertise, there is a style for every special occasion.

Highly established in the jewellery industry for its first-rate, premium mens, ladies and unisex timepieces. The collection also showcases sapphire coated lenses, hand-beaten leather interchangeable straps (which can be purchased separately), all complemented by Tayroc's dedicated attention to detail and cutting-edge designs.

Check out www.tayroc.com

County Wedding Magazines has teamed up with Tayroc to offer readers the chance to win a pair of beautifully designed watches for the nearlyweds worth approximately £200 – what's more, we have two sets up for grabs! Terms and conditions apply, for your chance to win enter via our website.



ENTER ONLINE AT ANESSEX.WEDDING

Closing date is 2nd October 2020., unless stated otherwise.

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** and a complimentary **goody bag** 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 which adhere to Covid-19 safety measures and you can expect to see plenty of wedding specialists exhibiting on the day.

Pre-registering for the event is strongly advised, a comprehensive showguide will be posted out before the event as a valuable resource of on-the-day exhibitors



THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE

Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, CM15 9NN

SUN 21 FEB 2021 | 11AM - 3:30PM

Follow us on social media

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Autumn Shows

ALL EVENTS 11AM - 3PM
unless otherwise stated



BERKS, BUCKS & OXON

CASTLE HOTEL - WINDSOR
18 High Street,
Windsor SL4 1LJ
SUN 11 OCT



HERTS & BEDS

THE BARN AT ALSWICK
Hare Street Road,
Buntingford SG9 0AA
SUN 1 NOV - 12PM - 4PM



SURREY

OATLANDS PARK HOTEL
Oatlands Drive,
Weybridge, KT13 9HB
SUN 11 OCT



CLOCK BARN HALL
Hambledon Road,
Godalming GU8 4AY
SUN 18 OCT



SUSSEX

CASTLE GORING
Arundel Road,
Worthing BN13 3UN
SUN 18 OCT



GHYLL MANOR
High Street,
Horsham RH12 4PX
SUN 1 NOV



ESSEX

HOUCHINS
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Colchester CO6 1RT
SUN 18 OCT (12PM-4PM)



KENT

WEST HEATH
Ashgrove Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1SR
SUN 15 NOV



EAST ANGLIA

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THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE

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SUN 21 FEB 2021 | 11AM - 3:30PM



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Information correct at time of print

WORK WITH US

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.

GOING *local*

Where to say 'I do' in North Herts



OFFLEY PLACE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

01462 768 787 | www.offleyplace.com

Surrounded by 27 acres of manicured lawns, Offley Place Country House Hotel is located within beautiful grounds that creates a picturesque backdrop to any wedding day. The sweeping drive creates a grand welcome, and the historic architecture boasts character and charm, which is echoed delicately throughout. The premises offers a variety of venues that each provide a different setting for the big day, be it a small and intimate wedding or a grand affair. The original 17th-century house is complemented with the modern glass additions, and the original brickwork adds a warm, authentic touch to the venue.

The surrounding glass elements allow floods of natural light where everyone can enjoy the views.

The elegant Rose Garden, which showcases the delicate shades of the fragrant roses, is the perfect backdrop for an outdoor ceremony and intimate photos for 120 people. Or, exchange vows in The Conservatory with 120 guests, which can be used for the wedding breakfast too. This space offers an elegant, bright setting and has rustic brickwork complemented by the sparkling chandeliers.

The Hester Ballroom is the newest addition to the venue and makes for a stunning, grand affair. Boasting a capacity of 250 people seated, every aspect has been designed to create a special experience where no detail has been overlooked – the perfect area for ceremonies and wedding breakfasts.

As a family-run business, the team has a passion for what they do and work hard to ensure that pairs receive that personalised touch.

WE LOVE…

Offley Place Country House Hotel offers a complimentary Honeymoon Suite for the bride and groom on the night of their wedding as well as a menu tasting for all exclusive weddings.





www.nickisheaphotography.co.uk



NEEDHAM HOUSE HOTEL

01462 417 240 | www.needhamhouse.co.uk

Nestled in the quaint Hertfordshire village of Little Wymondley, Needham House Hotel is a four-star boutique venue with two AA rosette brasserie. The décor of the private dining rooms, guest rooms, spa, fitness room, bar and restaurant captures the essence and history of the building but with a gorgeous, glamorous edge. There's a choice of several rooms for nuptials as well as the outside pagoda. The newly established marquee can hold large gatherings of up to 350 people and is also available on a dry-hire basis. Residential guests have access to the sauna, steam room and relaxation space while the ESPA spa offers a fantastic range of treatments. Couples get their very own exclusive woodland hideaway, which sleeps us to eight people, which is perfect for staying over the night before the wedding, ready for a morning of pampering.



THE PRIORY

01438 748 647 | www.thepriory.net

Steeped in history, The Priory is grand by anyone's standards. Built-in the 16th-century by the King's carpenter, the exposed oak structure of the spacious barn makes this venue a real stunner. The picturesque gardens and terrace provide the perfect backdrop for outdoor celebrations and the all-important big-day photos. The barn can accommodate up to 150 loved ones for the nuptials, wedding breakfast and evening celebrations. Summer ceremonies can also take place in the gazebo if couples are lucky enough to have sunshine on their special day.

WE LOVE...

The rural feel of this venue mixed with a contemporary edge creates that special something for the big day. Plus, the exclusive-use option makes the venue all the more personal.





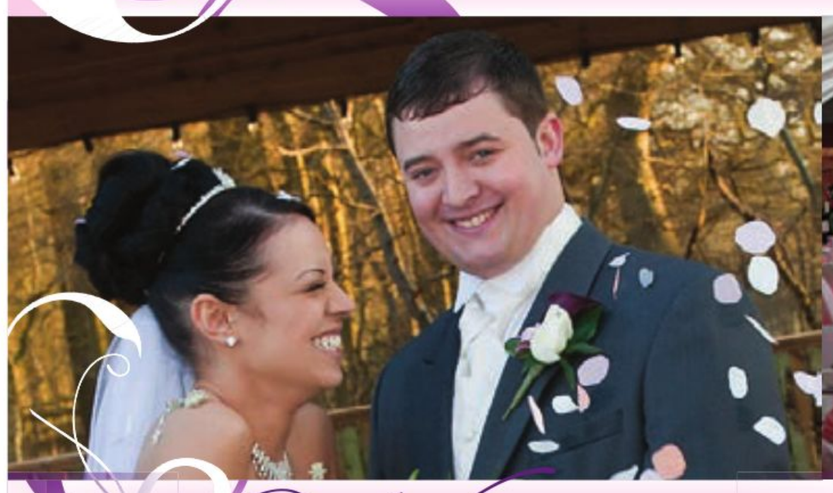
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We have put together a number of party packages to help you in the planning of your event. The packages have been tailored made from our wide range of experience in marquee events. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have please feel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

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Party Package 2 (50 guests) Only **£599**
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3x Round/Trestle Tables - 30x Chairs

Party Package 3 (80 guests) Only **£799**
1x 8.5m x 11.5m Marquee with Carpet
6x Up Lights - 1x Large Sound System
4x Round/Trestle Tables - 50x Chairs

Party Package 4 (110 guests) Only **£1399**
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THE CLOISTERS, LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY

01462 678 059 | www.thecloistersletchworth.co.uk

There's nowhere quite like The Cloisters, which is a fascinating venue that never fails to enchant visitors. Designed and built at the turn of the last century, this special space displays distinctive architecture featuring towers and turrets that are perfect for wedding photos – a truly hidden gem.

The premises is situated on private land with a car park capable of hosting 80 vehicles, an outdoor decking space perfect for barbecues or an outdoor bar and grassy bank.

Ceremonies take place in the Main Temple, under a domed ceiling and with seating for up to 120. It can be decorated to suit any theme and offers a distinctive atmosphere for the big day, not as formal as a church venue, yes still providing grandeur, history and spectacle.

Receptions can be held in the Dining Hall, suitable for up to 120 diners at round tables. It has a dancefloor and easy access to the nearby bar. The bar itself can be used as a reception area, with the separate Long Bar being available for a cocktail bar or celebratory drink.

WE LOVE...

Apart from the amazing architecture of the building's exterior, a feature that stands out is a large marble fountain that can be decorated and provides both a captivating first impression for guests and a lovely backdrop for photographs.





ROTHAMSTED MANOR

01582 938 500 | www.rothamstedenterprises.com/rothamsted-manor

Established in 1623, Rothamsted Manor is an impressive Grade 1 listed Manor house set in 12 acres of beautiful gardens surrounded by woodland in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. The manor's exterior offers impressive historical features including beautiful stained-glass family crests in the windows, a stunning clock tower and curved gables. The venue sits in the vast grounds of Rothamsted Research, the world's oldest agricultural research institute, which is home to some of the world's oldest science experiments. The 12 acres of landscaped gardens make the perfect backdrop for wedding photos, with statues, treelined walkways and a beautiful rose archway.

The Great Drawing Room was added to the manor by Sir John Lawes in 1863 and features an impressive fireplace dating from the early 1900s, original portraits dating back to the 1500s, as well as wood panelling. This is the largest space and is perfect for a ceremony of up to 115 guests and 76 for a seated wedding breakfast, or up to 120 for a standing buffet or drinks reception.

Other ceremony spaces include The Library for 55 people, this can be transformed into a receptions space with 44 seated or 76 standing people for the reception. The bookshelves are concealed but the highly decorative fireplace provides a perfect backdrop for a wedding ceremony. The floor has a cream carpet, wood-panelled walls and a stunning ceiling.

Say 'I do' in The Lounge which seats 75 loved ones for the ceremony and 50 seated to 90 standing for a reception. The Lounge walls are panelled, covering some extensive, rarely seen murals on the east wall. Alternatively, why not opt for The Orangery, a beautiful space with lots of natural light and large, arched windows with views over the gardens? Historically known as the Loggia, it features a wonderful marble and limestone chequerboard floor that lends itself perfectly as a bar area or drinks reception room. On a fine day, it's ideal for guests to spill out onto the outside veranda area to enjoy drinks and to appreciate the wonderful gardens and grounds.

One of the smallest rooms in the Manor is the Spanish Leather Room, ideal for more intimate gatherings. It can also be used as a room to meet with the registrar before the wedding ceremony.

Any event held at Rothamsted Manor will wow any guests and support the amazing agricultural research that takes place on the estate.

WE LOVE...

The venue can be hired exclusively if a couple wishes to do so, and a free tasting session is offered prior to the wedding.

Blissful Weddings





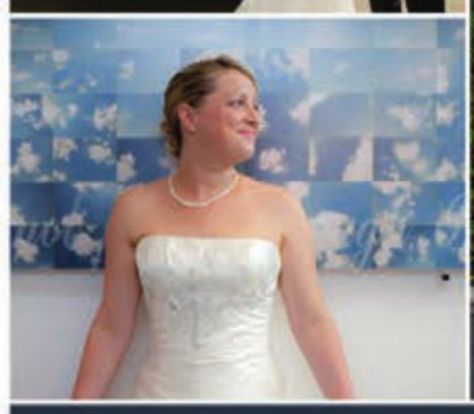


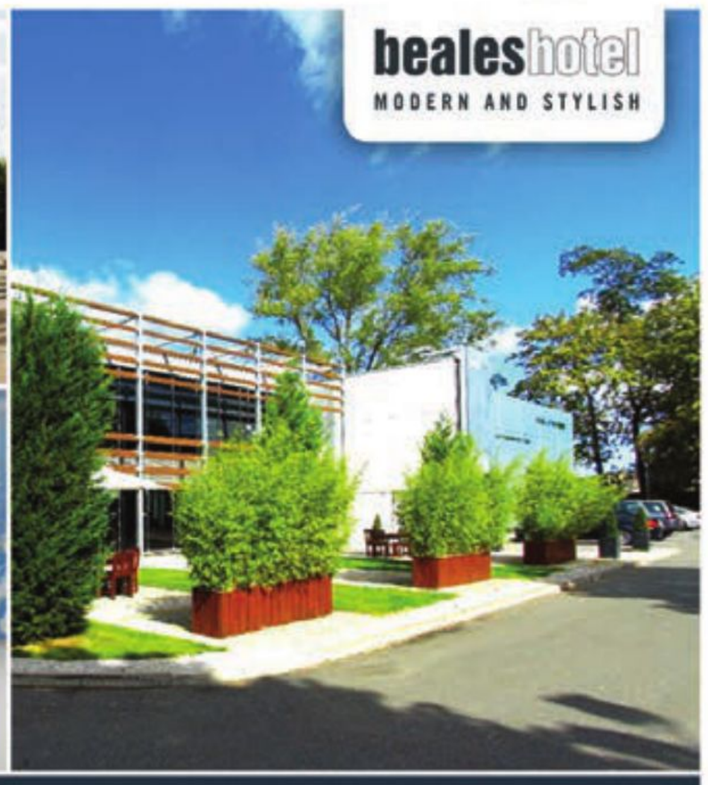
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DYRHAM PARK COUNTRY CLUB

02084 403 361 | www.dyrhampark.com

Set in 200 acres of a magnificent estate and 18-hole parkland golf course, Dyrham Park Country Club boasts outstanding views across the Hertfordshire countryside. The immaculate lawns, beautiful flowers, shimmering lakes and magnificent trees turn dream wedding photos into reality. With a history dating back to the 14th-century, the premises offers glimpses of a stately past and is ranked among the oldest and most handsome of wedding venues. Renowned for its timeless elegance and classic beauty, the venue's Grade II listed Palladian Clubhouse is surrounded by spectacular parkland.

The Grand Hall – with its sweeping staircase and Minstrel's Gallery – is the jewel at the heart of the mansion that boasts a picture-perfect staircase together with an exquisite marble Robert Adam fireplace.

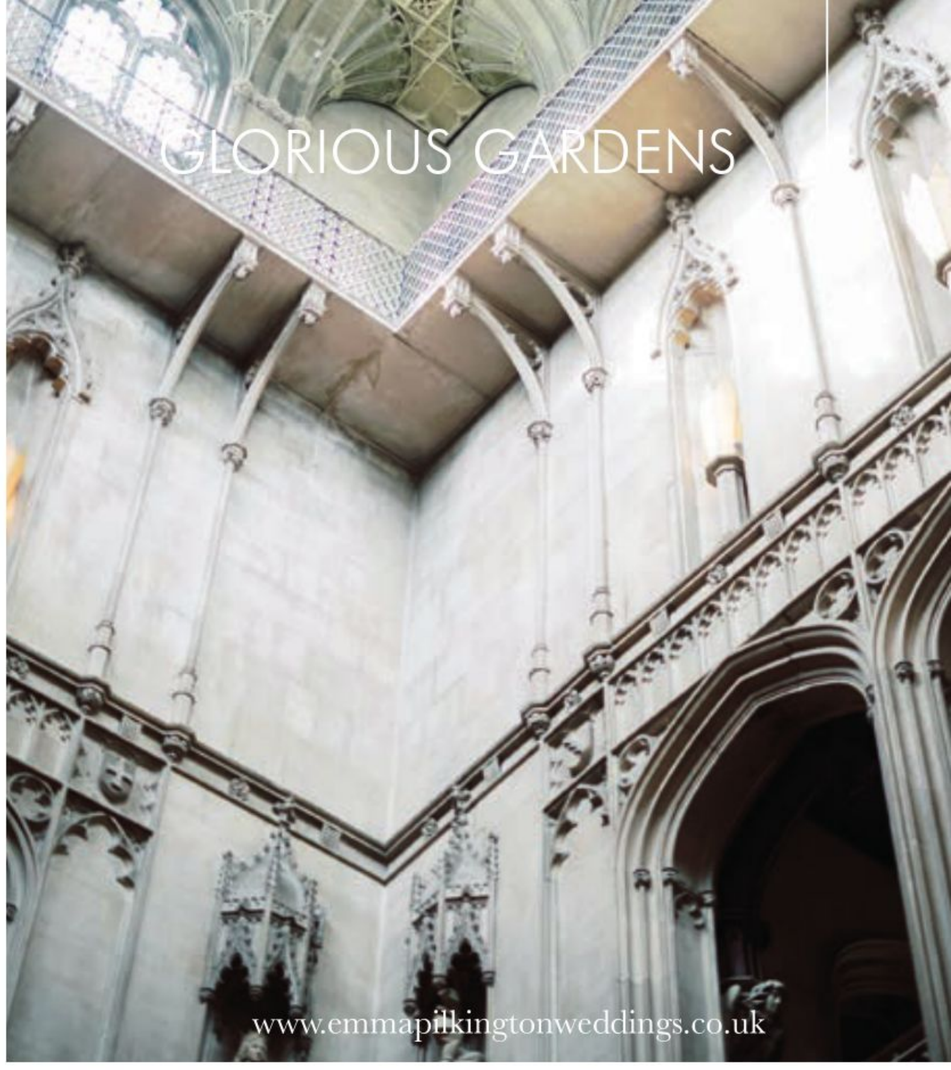
The function rooms overlooking the lawns are the perfect backdrop.

Ceremonies take place in the Terrace Room for 140 guests, overlooking the main clubhouse lawn with its glorious Cedar trees. Natural sunlight floods into the room through the French windows along the length of the room – the wedding breakfast itself takes place here. Drinks receptions take place either in the magnificent Grand Hall or outside on a section of the terrace, weather permitting.

WE LOVE...

Depending on weather and timing (early evening), the club can arrange for the bride and groom to have an intimate photo session on the estate by the seventh golf tee on a picturesque bridge overlooking the beautiful lake.





ASHRIDGE HOUSE

01442 841 027 | www.ashridgehouse.org.uk

With 700 years of fascinating history, there's a sense of royal heritage at the heart of Ashridge House. Originally a monastery, Ashridge became a royal residence for both Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, then later a private home to the Dukes and Earls of Bridgewater before becoming a military hospital during both world wars. Ashridge House is now a special wedding venue steeped in incredible history.

Located in 190 acres of private beautiful grounds and garden; visit the Italian Gardens with its beautiful fountain or the Rosary filled with 48 different varieties of roses which creates a romantic backdrop to any special day!

Ceremonies take place at multiple locations at this venue including, The Grand Hall (150 guests), The Lady Marian Alford (170), The Old Library (110), The Fernery (90), Ante Room (60) and The Terrace (170). Receptions are located in The Lady Marian Alford for up to 100 loved ones or the Repton Hall up to 200.

WE LOVE...

Couples are offered a complimentary one night's accommodation in the Brownlow Lodge.

ST MICHAELS MANOR HOTEL

01727 864 444 | www.stmichaelsmanor.com

St. Michael's Manor hotel is located close to the city centre of St Albans, Hertfordshire, formerly the ancient city of Verulamium and near the famous Abbey Cathedral.
The venue is the perfect romantic setting, with the orangery, two private function rooms, lounge, bar, terrace and magnificent gardens and lake combining to provide the ideal location for any special day.

The venue is ideally suited for large functions, seating a maximum of 140 guests, or 150 guests for an evening event with a buffet, dancefloor and entertainment. With fabulous views over the garden and lake, this hotel is licenced for civil ceremonies for up to 140 guests. Situated on the ground, the spaces have plenty of natural daylight and direct access to the outside terrace area next to the lounge and bar – perfect for greeting guests or pre-dinner drinks and canapés.

WE LOVE...

The country-style manor hotel set in five acres of private English country gardens designed by the Newling Ward family. Aged rose gardens are surrounded by a cared for lawn against a backdrop of trees that are hundreds of years old.



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*Conditions apply, contact us for more details.

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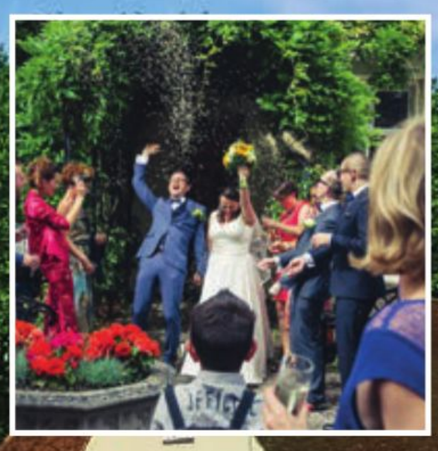
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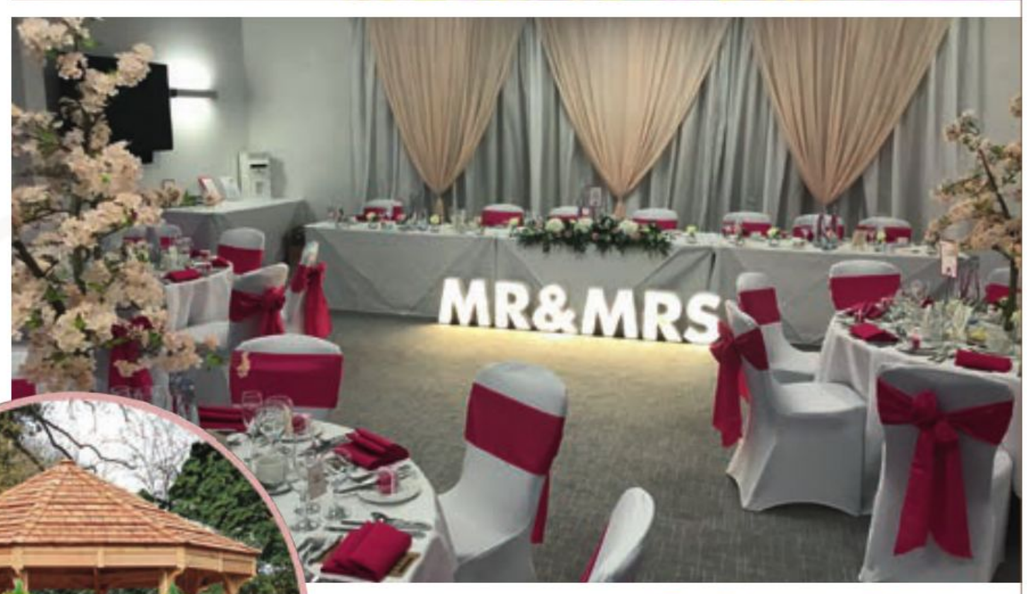
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PUTTERIDGE BURY

01582 489 069 | www.putteridgebury.co.uk

Putteridge Bury is well known for having stunning gardens that can be seen from anywhere, this Grade II listed Elizabethan manor house was built as a near replica of Chequers, the country house of every Prime Minister since 1921.

The spectacular grounds were designed by Edwin L Lutyens, the foremost architect of the era and planted by one of the most excellent female Victorian gardeners in 1911, Gertrude Jekyll. The reflective pool, yew hedges and clock tower are an essential feature of the 33-acre site.

Inside, guests can find beautiful chandeliers with moulded ceilings and a grand staircase, which is the perfect photo setting.

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) Room 7 (60) ant Room 6 (60).

For receptions, the dining room holds up to 160 guests and is fantastic for an evening reception. This spacious and airy function suite has its bar situated in the room with a beautiful patio leading out onto the gardens.

WE LOVE...

Couples that book this venue will receive a menu tasting session to find the perfect food for them and a dedicated wedding planner.





LUTON HOO HOTEL, GOLF & SPA

01582 734 437 | www.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. There are numerous backdrops include the Rock Garden, Flower Garden, a waterfall, fountain, weir and even a silver birch wood which are perfect for photography.

Couples looking for a grand and romantic setting with historic buildings and alluring architecture need look no further than this venue. With ornate ceilings, winding staircases, marble fireplaces, individual period rooms, beautiful chandeliers and lavish walls, the stunning interiors of Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa match the glorious façade of the Grade I listed mansion.

Originally built as a magnificent private house, Luton Hoo Hotel has a romantic royal pedigree as Queen Elizabeth, and the Duke of Edinburgh celebrated their wedding anniversaries at the venue in the early years of their marriage. Today, the bride and groom can stay in the lavish rooms they stayed in.

Beyond the magnificent facade of the 18th-century Mansion House, the historic influences continue in the Grade II listed Country Club. Also situated on the estate, the exclusive use venue Warren Weir is a hidden oasis that's perfect for those who want a little privacy. Each ceremony space is beautiful at the venue, and the stunning suites for weddings and receptions also include a former Orthodox Russian Chapel, which will make every bride feel like a princess.

WE LOVE...

A dedicated wedding team will be on hand to assist in the smooth running of your day. A complimentary menu tasting is also offered as well as a suite for the newlyweds on the wedding night.

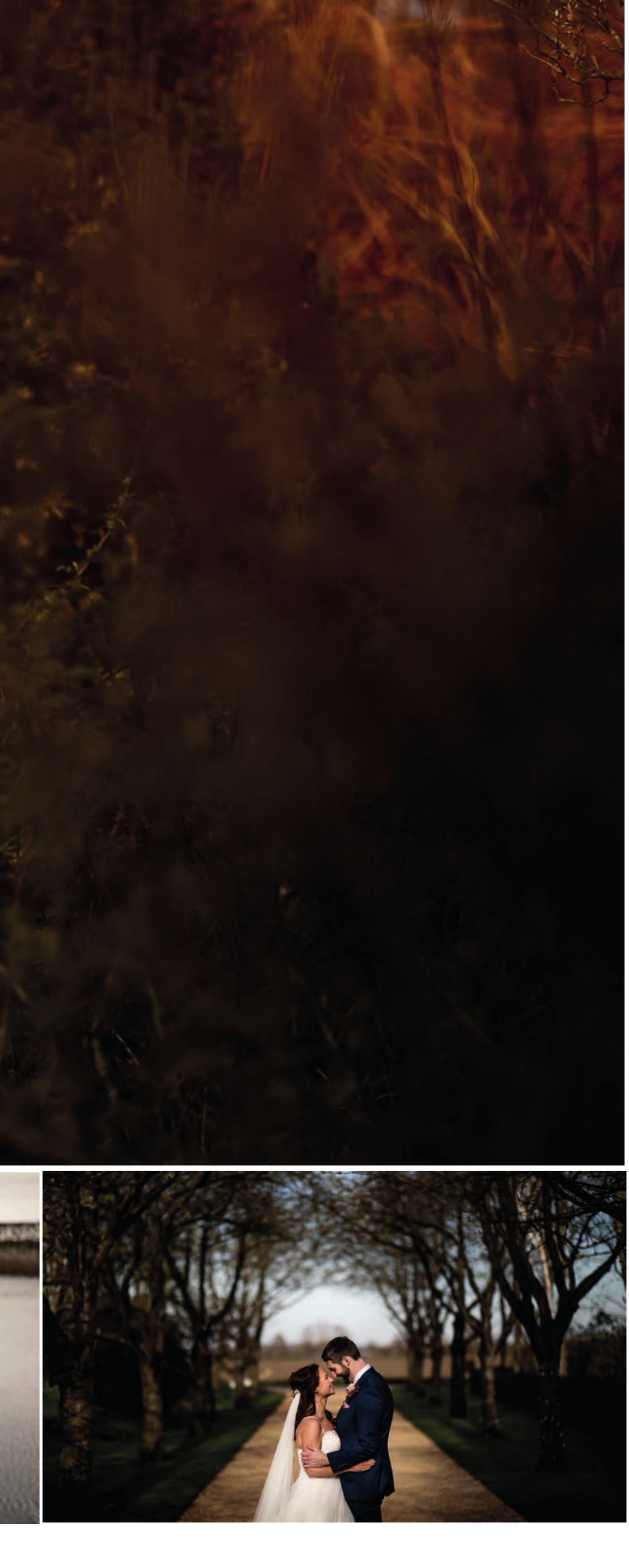
TRUE *love*

Claire and Stuart didn't let COVID-19 stop their emotional big-day

Images courtesy of Rafe Abrook Photography







When Claire and Stuart first met online, they shared a strong connection and clicked straight away. On their second date at Shepreth Wildlife Park, their personalities came out and they knew they had an exciting future ahead. Over time it became clear that they didn't want to be away from each other and spent as much time as possible together.

On Christmas Eve back in 2018, Stuart proposed Claire says: "It was a surprise Christmas present, I was just expecting to enjoy a gin and tonic that evening! We were lucky enough that my niece could be the flowergirl on the day."

SETTING THE SCENE

The couple fell in love with South Farm as soon as they set eyes on it, and the helpful staff made the whole process much easier. Claire says: "After looking around the venue, we just had a feeling it was right for us. The farmyard, grounds and animals all added to the feel we wanted for a venue, plus they stocked our favourite gin!"

With help from a florist, the flowers on the day reflected their colour scheme, while the simple naked cake was just what the pair wanted. When their wedding day grew closer, the pair were so excited to share such an incredible and rememberable day with their friends and family. However, COVID-19 had other plans and hit the UK. Luckily, their wedding day was early on, and the pair got to tie the knot surrounded by their immediate family by their side. Claire says: "The overwhelming support from our family, friends and suppliers including South Farm and our photographer was amazing. They had changed their plans at a day's notice and made the most of the time, which has resulted in some amazing photos and videos."

LOOKING THE PART

When it came to finding the perfect dress, Claire had planned to visit several bridal boutiques but that all changed after she fell in love with a dress from Wed2B. Original, the plan was to get ready at the venue, but due to the circumstance, she had to get ready at her parent's house. She says: "It was all a bit of a relief that we were getting married, given the change of plans, but I still felt special and like a bride."

Emotions were flowing through the room when her dad saw her and he even sheded a tear. She was driven to the venue in her parent's car, which her dad decorated with ribbon.

The groom wore a navy blue suit from Moss Bros, with a matching waistcoat. His tie and pocket square were pink to match the bridesmaid's dress, while the groomsmen wore champagne ties and pocket squares. Claire originally had six bridesmaids, but due to the virus restrictions, she had to scale down, and asked their future sister-in-law, Emma, to step in at the last moment to be a bridesmaid.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

Claire says, "The government changed the coronavirus restrictions the evening before our wedding, meaning that bars and restaurants were forced to close. We had been pressing ahead all week, but we chose to make a last-minute decision on the morning before to scale down our wedding to immediate family only. Everyone rallied around, and within a few hours, our rearranged ceremony was set."

If the couple didn't change the plans, the special day wouldn't have gone ahead. Claire adds: "Looking back, we feel really lucky to get married, although we've had a different start to married life than we had planned."

In the evening, the lovebirds enjoyed a takeaway pizza and cake together.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

On the day itself, there was a massive sense of relief and excitement, all the planning and last-minute worries weren't important at this stage, all that mattered was two families coming together.

There were so many moments that stood out from the day. Claire comments: "A funny moment was cutting our four-tier wedding cake, made to serve over 200 people, in front of eight other people and having pizza in my wedding dress!" Their favourite part of the day was seeing each other at the end of the aisle.

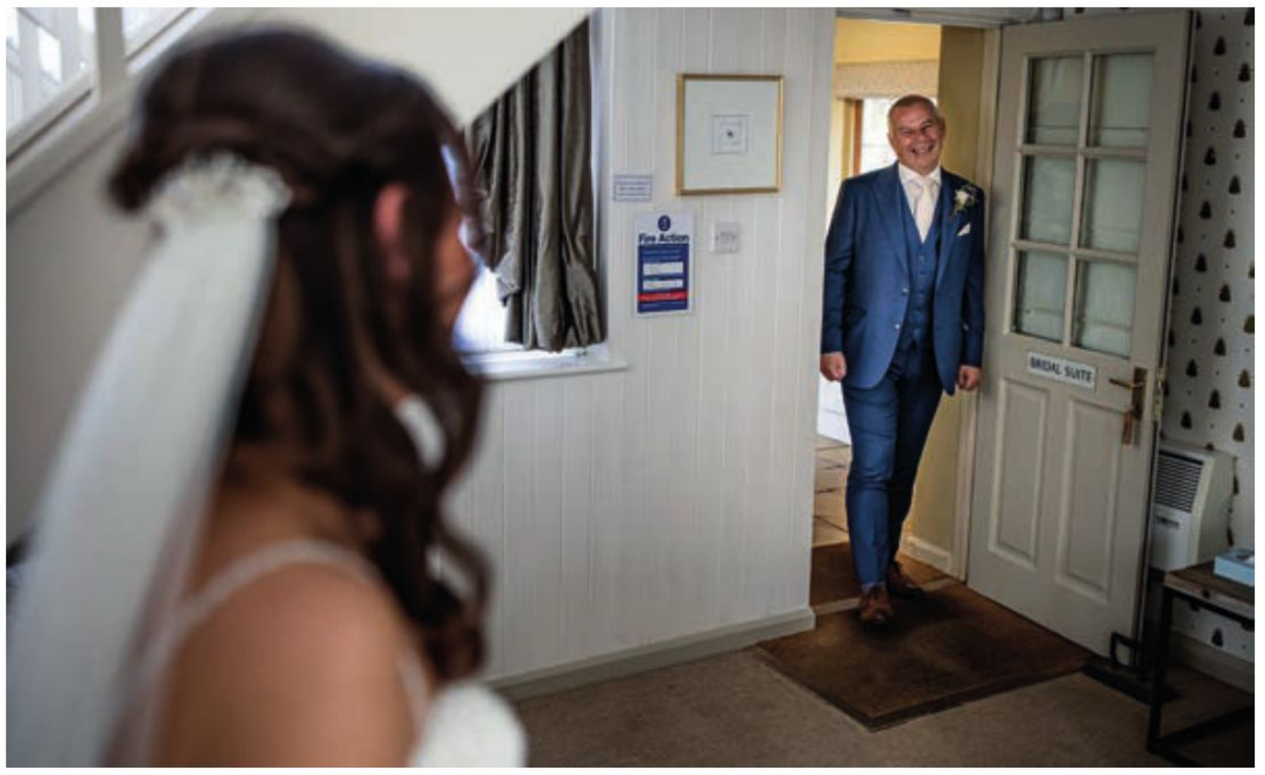
HONEYMOON

The pair had originally planned to go to Devon for a short trip, but due to the virus, this had to be postponed, and they're waiting to see what happens before booking it next year.

The newlyweds share their top tip form the day saying: "Don't be put off by an intimate ceremony, as it can be just as special and personal, regardless of the coronavirus situation! We now have our reception planned for Spring 2021, so we can have the best of both worlds!"













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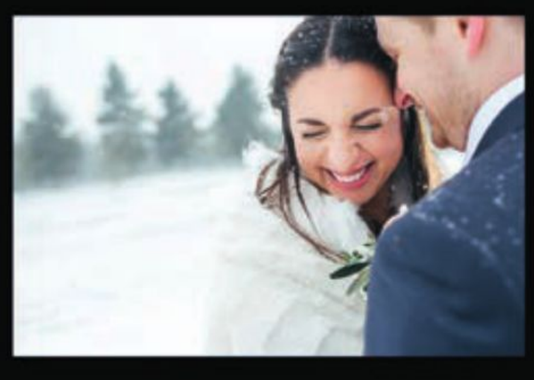
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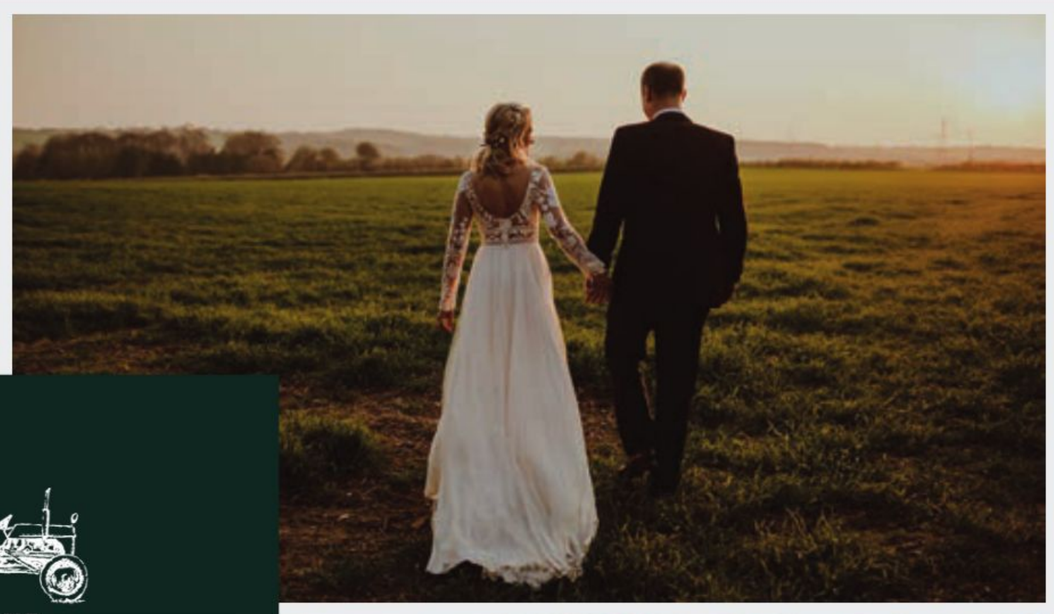
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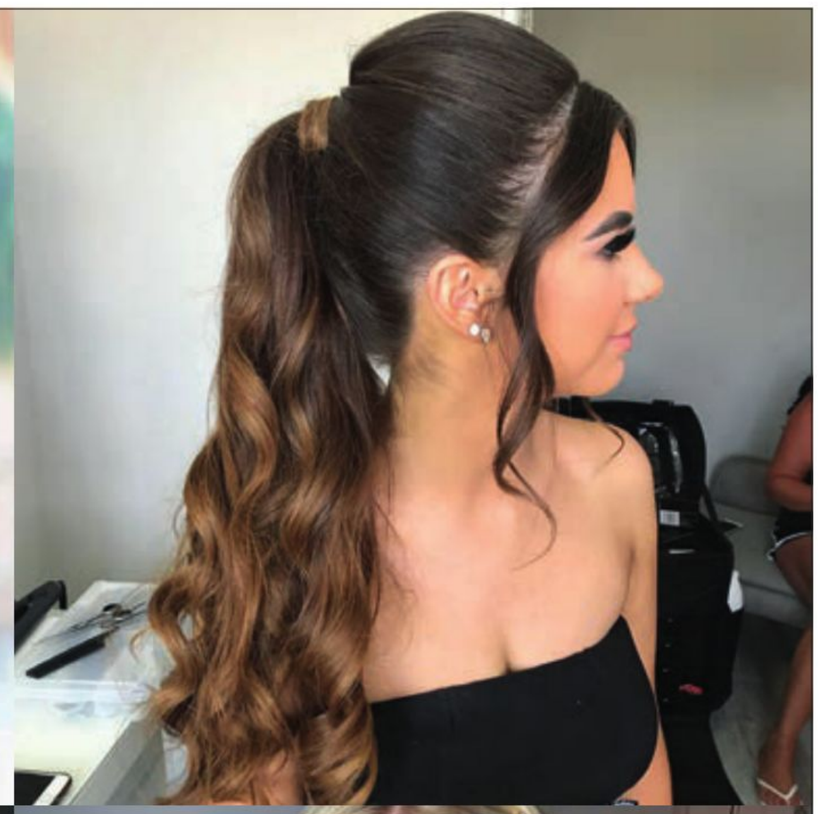
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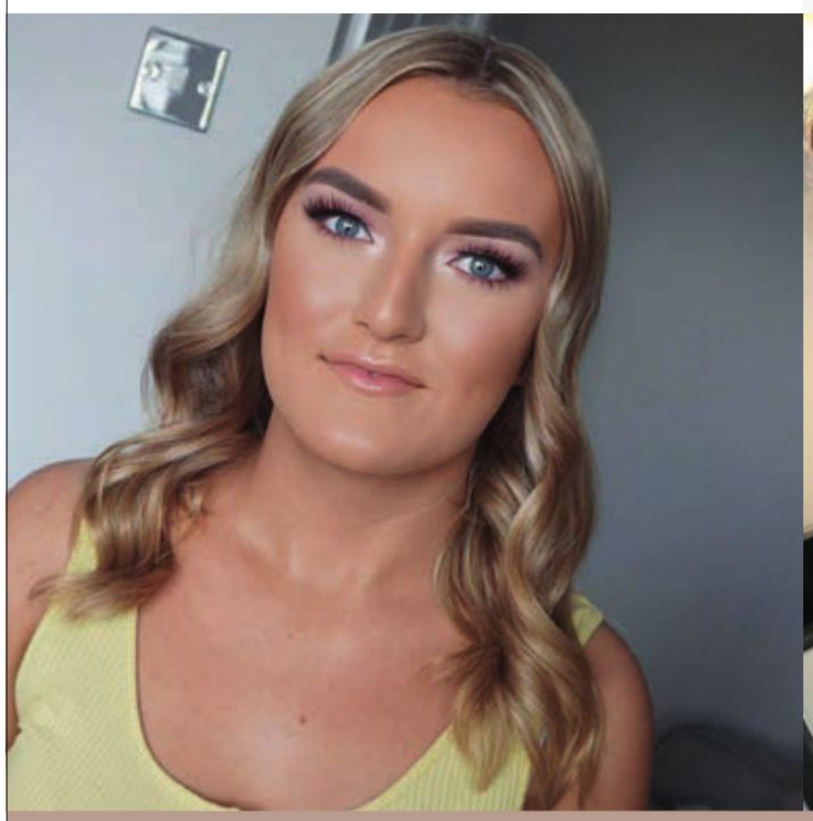
Venue, www.south-farm.co.uk | **Photographer**, www.rafeabrook.co.uk | **Bride's dress**, www.wed2b.co.uk
Hair, Lauren Burgess - 07909 091 452 | **Make-up**, Georgia Payne - 07701 061 937 | **Bridesmaid dress**, www.victorialou.co.uk
Groom's suit, www.moss.co.uk | **Cake**, Sabina Mussino - 07773 332 505 | **Flowers**, www.bloomsbycharlotte.co.uk
Stationery, Ellie Kemp - 07968 828 746

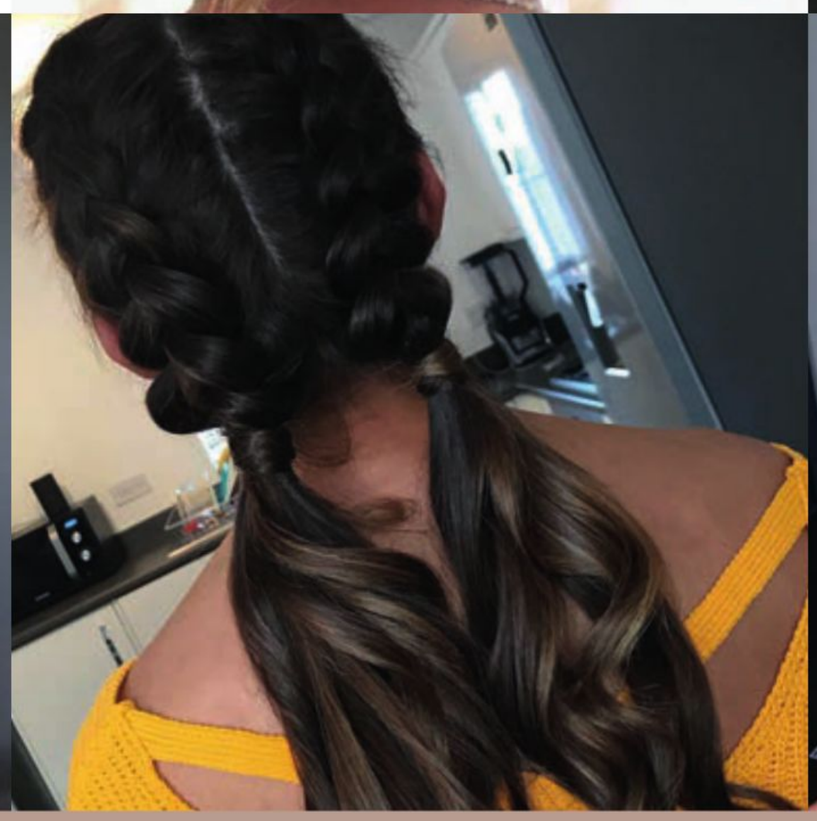
HD Hair
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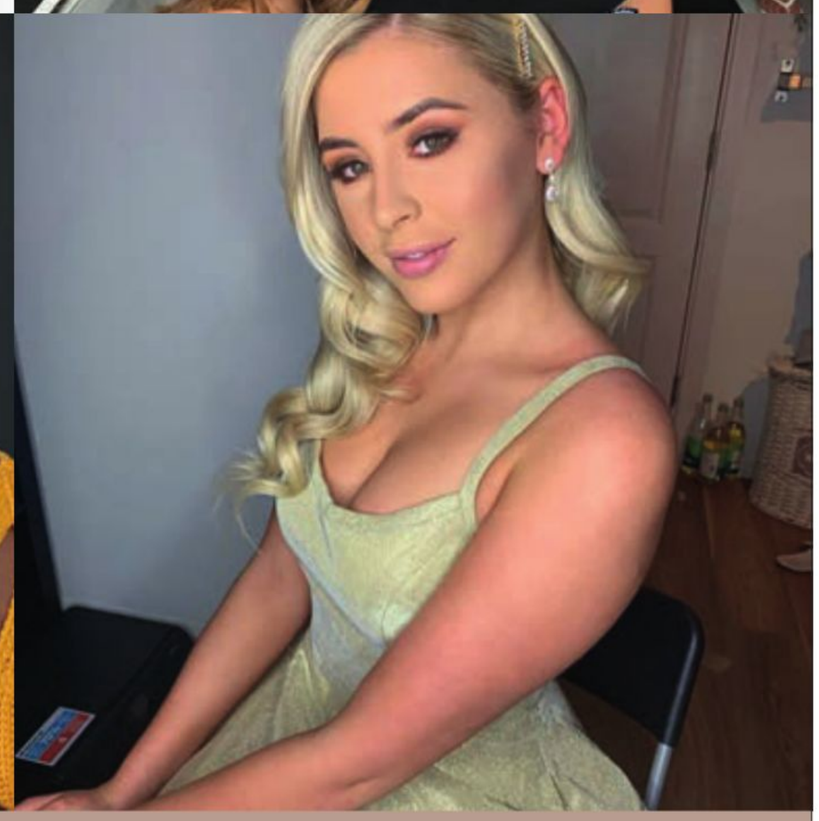
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A PERFECT *day*

Cherelle and Steven's wedding was located at The Barn at Alswick and featured shades of grey and white

Images courtesy of James Polley Photography

Cherelle and Steven first met through mutual friends, and at that moment, their journey began. Their shared sense of humour both attracted them to each other. Cherelle says: "He's tall, dark, handsome and I love his rapping. I knew he was the one when we went to Cambridge to drop off our friend to visit his mum in hospital, Steven came with me so I didn't have to wait alone – he brought snacks and he painted my nails!"

Steven adds, "I liked her good jokes and interpretation of words and phrases, they're not meant to be funny, but they are!"

Knowing Cherelle was the perfect person for him, Steven proposed at Carisbrooke Castle during a trip to the Isle of Wight – Cherelle's favourite childhood holiday destination. She says, "He'd organised everything down to a T; organised our cottage accommodation, bought and planned my outfits for each event, made sure I was pampered with my nails done, booked a restaurant and proposed on a stroll around the castle."

Here Cherelle shares details about their special day…

SETTING THE SCENE

The Barn at Alswick was the ideal big-day venue for the couple due to its intimate feel, Cherelle adds, "I loved how small it was and the style, the people that worked there were also very helpful. Overall I had very good vibes as soon as I walked in, we knew it was the one."

To bring both of their personalities into the wedding styling they opted for Krispy Kreme favours for the guests – Steven's favourite – and had a sweet corner for gussets to indulge in during the evening. Further decorative touches included a table plan designed to match the centrepieces, place names and invitations, photos of the couple, candles and lanterns dotted around the venue and the flowers were gorgeous displays used at both the ceremony and reception.

LOOKING THE PART

The bride wore a stunning Vera Wang gown, which she chose due to its showstopping style. "I wanted the biggest dress I could have," adds Cherelle. "The aisle had to be measured! The dress was the same width as I am in height!" Cherelle accessorised her look with a veil, tiara and three petticoats were added underneath to make sure it was even bigger.

Steven looked dapper in a Prince of Wales three-piece suit, top hat and a bow tie. He adds, "My bestmen, ushers and fathers-of-the-bride and -groom also wore three-piece dark grey suits with Prince of Wales coordinating accessories.

In keeping with the colour scheme the bridesmaids were dressed in matching grey gowns – also with added petticoats for extra volume – and accessorised with complementing grey shoes.













MEMORABLE MOMENTS

After the all-important vows Cherelle and Steven wanted to make sure their guests had a great time and hired a magician, DJ and had sparklers for later in the evening. "It all went down very well!" recalls Cherelle. "People had to be asked to get off of the dancefloor at the end of the night!"

On the day, Steven was excited more than nervous although they certainly kicked in when he was about to make his speech. "I felt like we were in a crazy bubble," adds Cherelle.

With so much to enjoy from the food to the sparkler tunnel it's hard to pick a specific memorable moment but for the groom: "It was when I saw Cherelle in the dress for the first time, that was a standout moment!" shares Steven. "The sparkler tunnel was a bit nerve-wracking, it took so long for them to light!"

Cherelle adds, "I remember holding Steven's hand as I got to the front, our first dance and Steven spinning me around so many times, the speeches from my mum and dad, best friend and Steven were incredibly touching."

Wedding days are long affairs where so much can happen, and a particularly funny story the pair share from their day came from their photographer James Polley. "James brought a Drake mask for Steven, he knew he loved him, and he had a photo shoot in the mask!"

"Everyone went above and beyond from friends and family to the caterers, the venue, the photographer and videographer," recalls Cherelle.



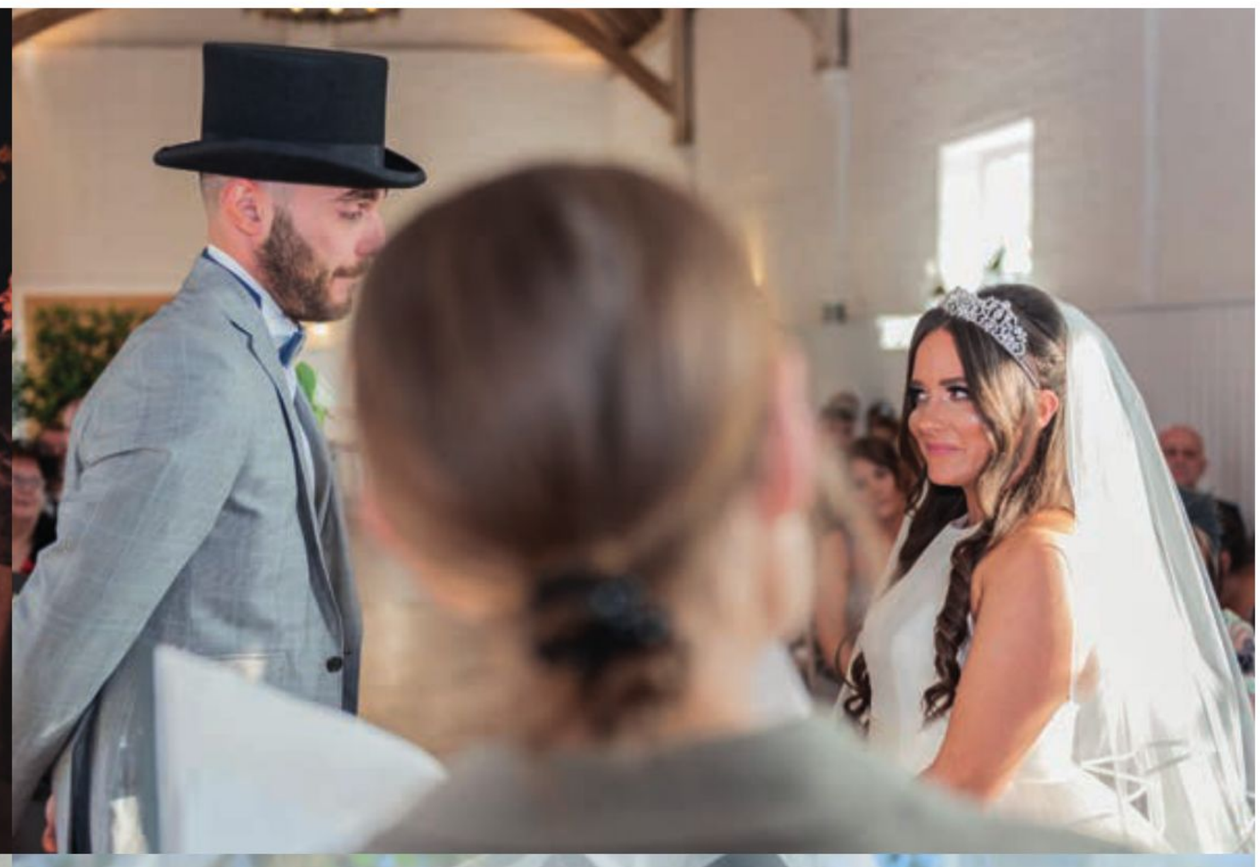






"Enjoy the planning, but enjoy the day even more because it only happens once and I wish I could do it every year." – Cherelle







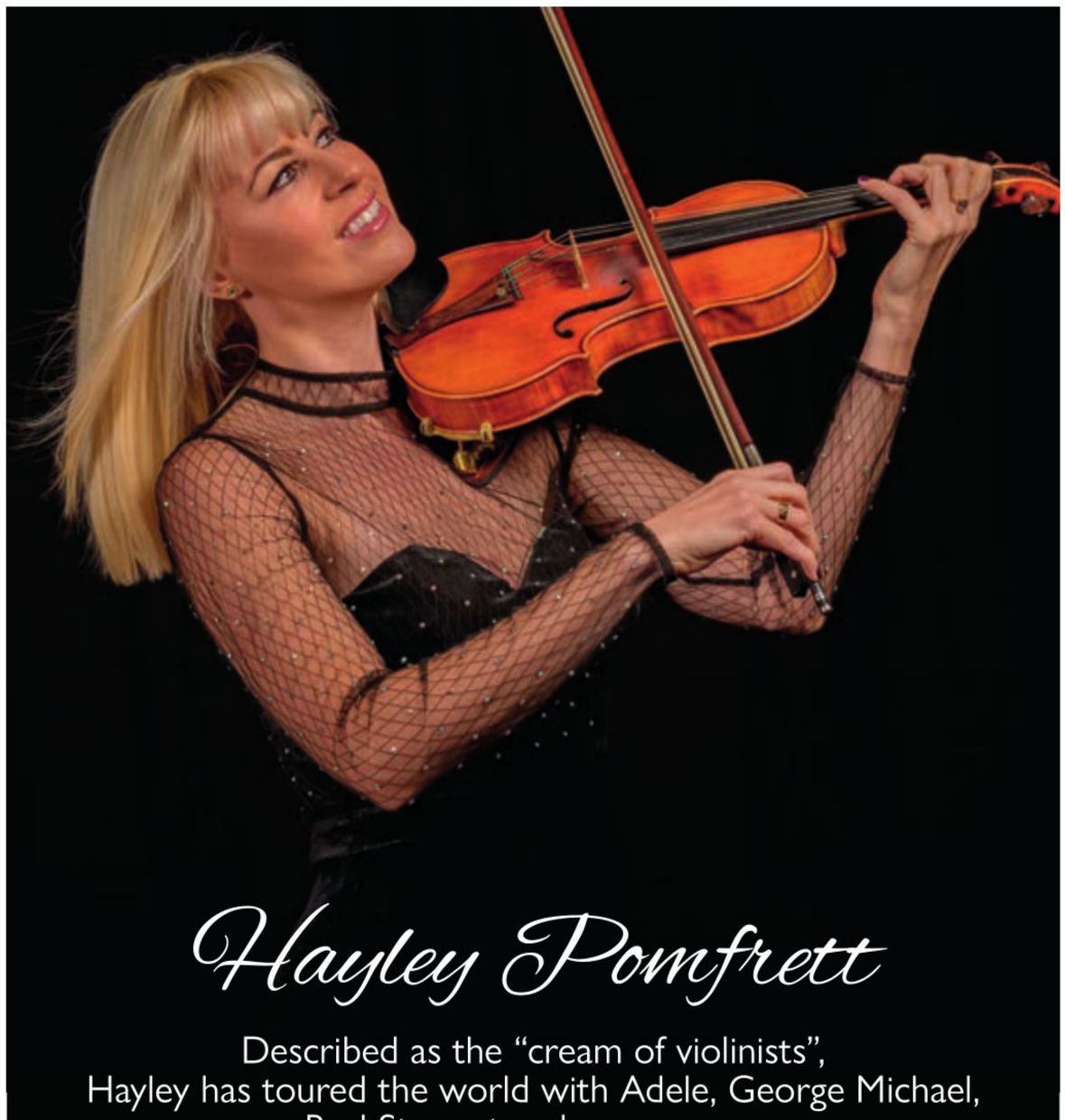


Top tip:

"Don't overthink things too much as on the day you'll not remember anything you were worried about before the wedding." – Steven

CHERELLE AND STEVEN'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, www.alswick.co.uk | **Photographer**, www.jamespolley-photography.co.uk | **Bride and bridesmaids' dresses**, Brides of Buntingford 0771 158 165 | **Grooms suit**, www.chimneymenswear.co.uk | **Brides accessories**, www.ivoryandcotiaras.co.uk | **Hair**, Hannah Dowie 07788 404 449 | **Make-up**, Localbella Make up 07775 673 768 | **Cake**, www.marksandspencer.com | **Flowers**, Carol Smith Creative Floral Designer 01438 361 361 | **Stationery**, www.follyandgander.co.uk | **DJ**, Robert Tukka Taylor 07411 468 323 | **Magician**, www.gregwilliamson.co.uk | **Catering**, www.toms-kitchen.com



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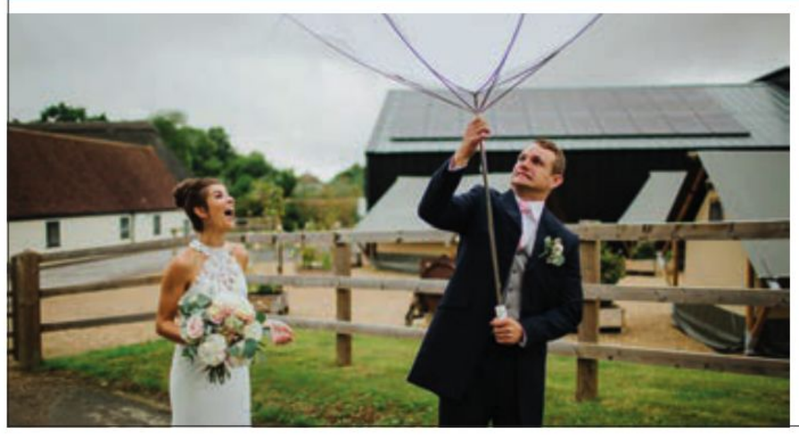


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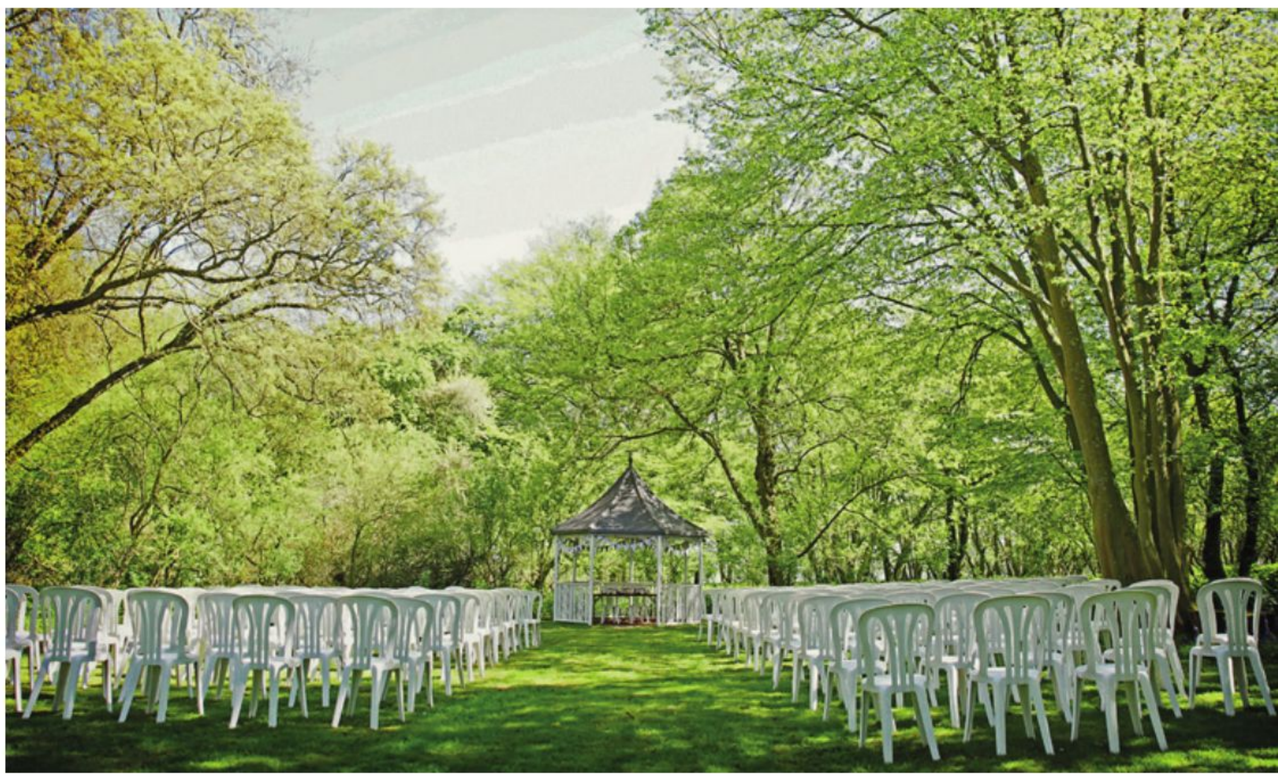
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Whimsical WOODLAND wedding

Love was all around at Nicky and Tim's big day, which featured hues of dusky pink

Images courtesy of Angels With Dirty Faces Photography

Nicky and Tim first met on a TV set where they both worked and was instantly attracted to each other. During a party, they got talking and Nicky immediately knew they shared a great connection after a romantic weekend in Henley-on-Thames.

During a dinner on Valentine's Day in 2015, she had a huge surprise waiting for Tim. She says: "It wasn't a leap year and I didn't want to wait any longer, I waited for dessert then presented him with a ring and a card with, 'Will you marry us?' on it and a picture of my son and me – he was very surprised."

The wedding date was set for May 12th, 2019, and the planning began.

Here Nicky tells us more about their special day…





We loved everything about The Bulstrode, the location of the hotel, the suite itself, beautiful grounds, the service and how flexible the events team were; they said yes to our every request! The food tasting was also just a pleasant experience, and the whole package they offered was also excellent value for money.



We had a beautiful blossom arch which made the room so much more decorative. I had a gorgeous bouquet with dusky pinks, and my little girl had a beautiful princess wand.

We had a three-course sit-down meal with vegan options followed by a buffet and open bar.



We had two varieties of centrepieces, one with a woodland-theme with a log, lamps, votives and scattered flowers – the other had elegant, floating candles.



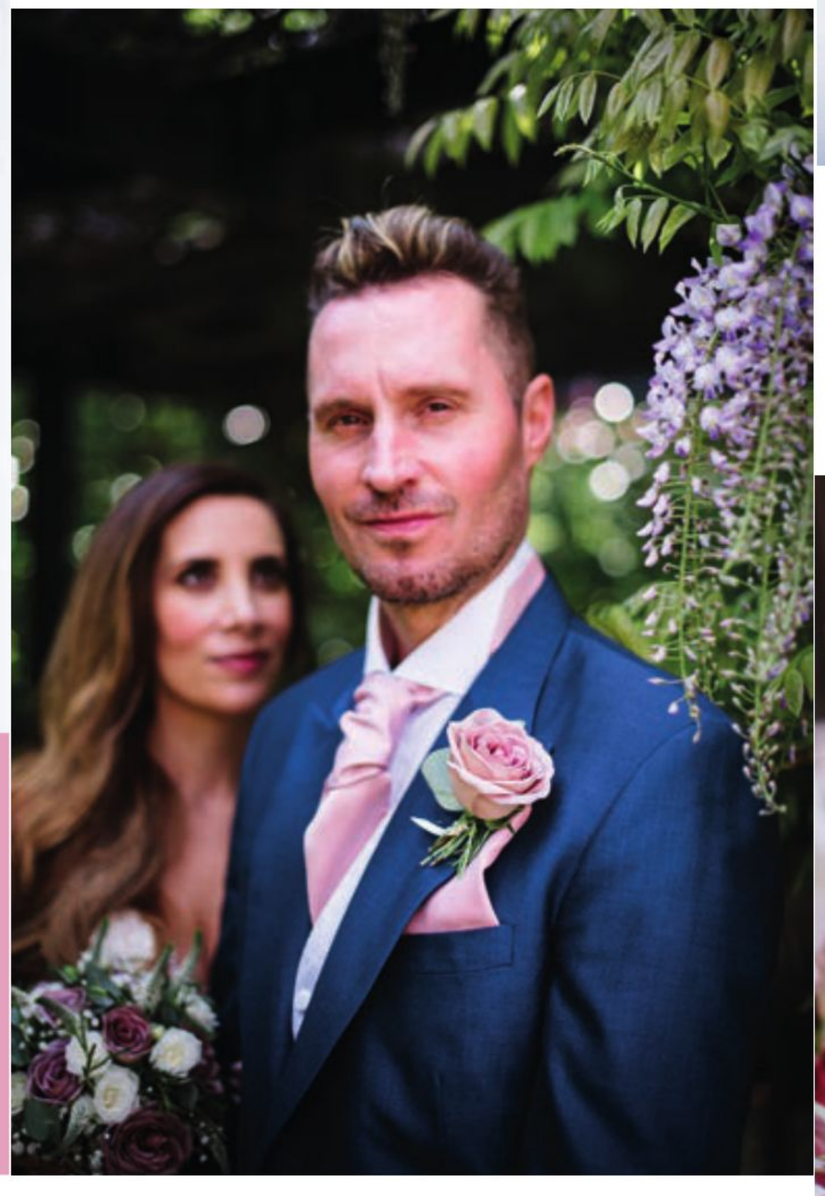


All the close males in the family had matching buttonholes, but we let them choose their own suits.



I wore a dress from The Wedding Gallery in St Albans where I live, it was just perfectly suited to me and as soon as I tried it on I knew I wanted it. I accessorised it with one simple diamante clip in my hair and an elbow-length veil – I looked so much better than I ever imagined.

Tim wore full tails in blue, a silver waistcoat and pink tie. He looked very handsome and really stood out.



My two-year-old wore a Monsoon dress and Skechers light-up shoes, which were a massive hit on the dancefloor.





We had beautiful three-tiered chocolate, and vanilla sponge cake, which had a white and cream buttercream. So many of my guests said it was the best cake they'd ever had and it was huge!



Table names were numbers, and the venue sorted the place names and the table plan.





We just had a fantastic DJ – he played excellent music that everyone loved, and people hit the dancefloor.



On the day we both felt nervous, excited, happy and ready for a great party.



The ceremony was my favourite part of the day. Seeing my kids walk down the aisle and then the ceremony itself was just so beautiful and romantic with 60 of the people we love most in the world.



One of my best friends surprised us by videoing the day – she bought a tripod and everything.



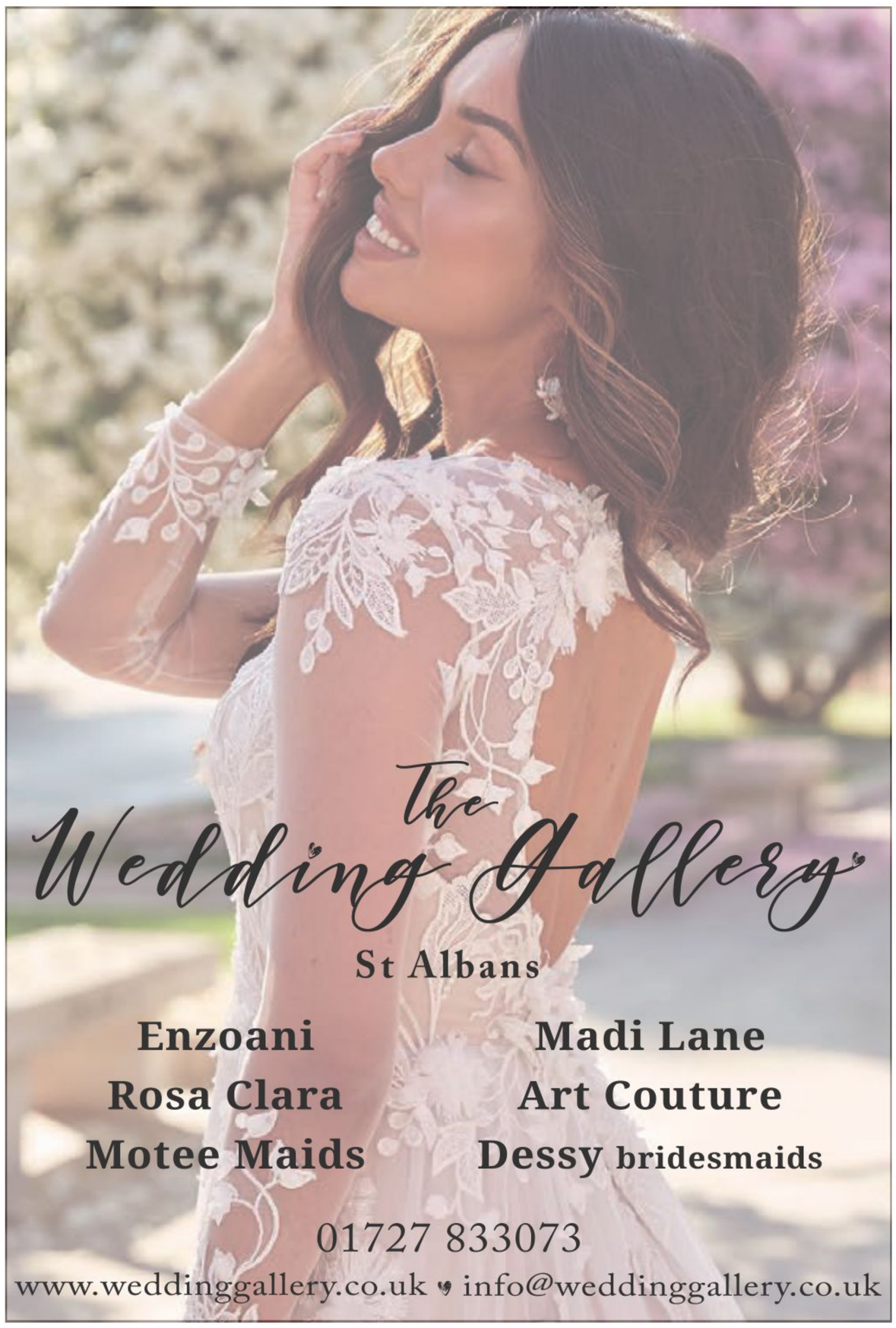
There was quite a bit of drunkenness towards the end of the night, but everyone behaved themselves.



Our top tip would be to not stress over choosing music for your ceremony, apart from your entrance song, no one can hear it anyway.

NICKY AND TIM'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Venue, www.sarova-bullhotel.com | **Photographer**, www.angelswithdirtyfacesphotography.com | **Bride's dress and accessories**, www.weddinggallery.co.uk | **Hair and make-up**, Sophie Roberts – 07782 187 581 | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, uk.monsoon.co.uk | **Groom's suit, Tux** n Tails, 01727 869 986 | **Cake**, www.facebook.com/pickamixbakesandcakes | **Flowers**, www.seventh-heaven-events.co.uk | **Entertainment**, www.wonderland-events.co.uk





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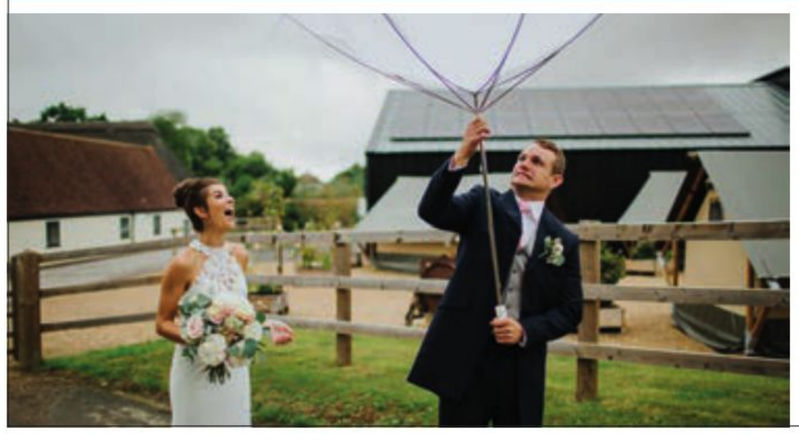


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Darling YOU LOOK wonderful TONIGHT

Neil and Lauren's intimate day was full of romantic and personal touches.

Images courtesy of Herts Wedding Photography

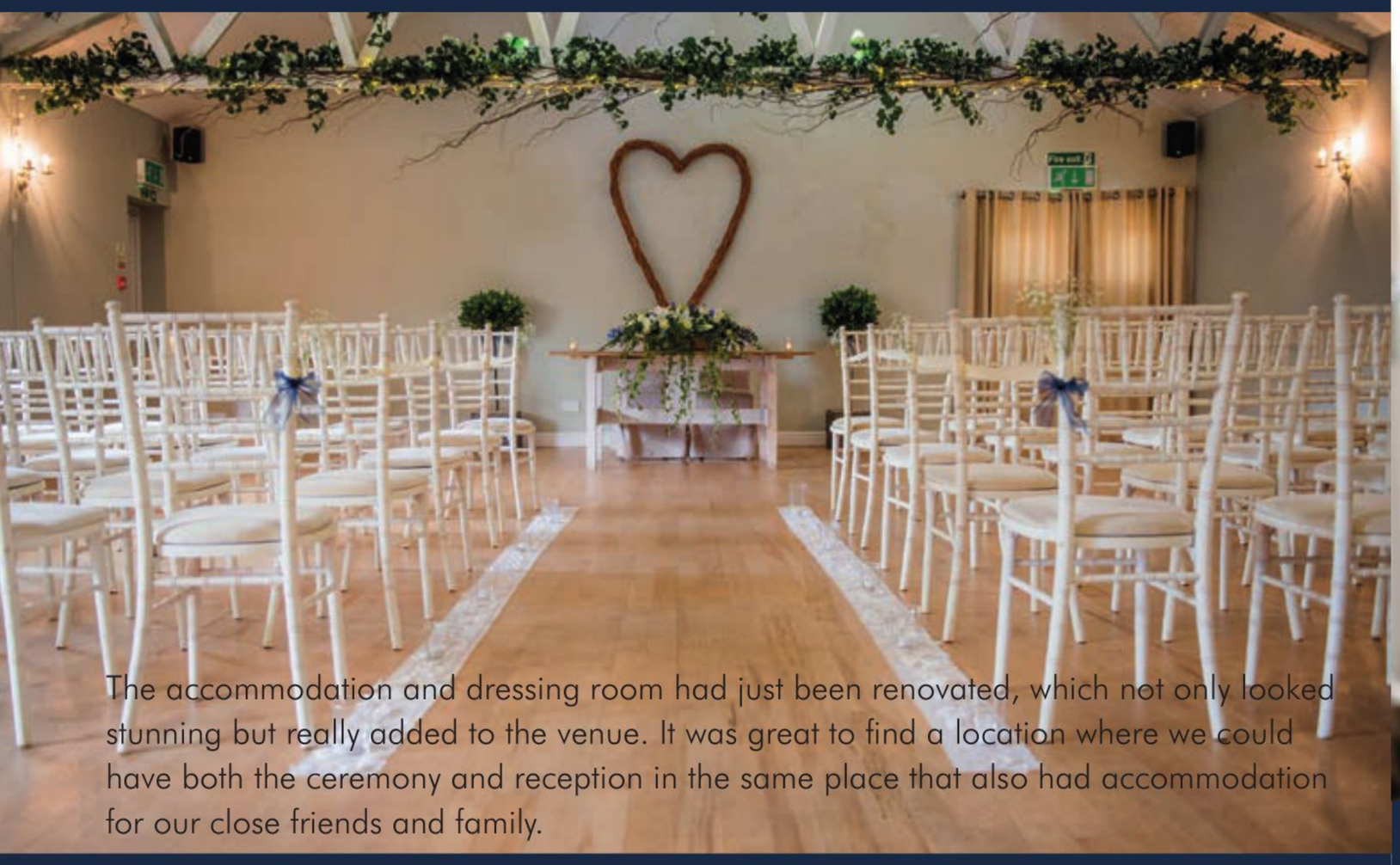
After both moving to the same area, Neil and Lauren first met online and instantly hit it off. Following messaging back and forth, it quickly became apparent that they had many things in common with each other such as their humour and a love for dogs. When the pair first met, it was Lauren's smile that caught Neil's attention. He says, "It is infectious, and I couldn't help but fall in love with it." The more he got to know Lauren, the more he fell head over heels for her. For Lauren, she was attracted to Neil's looks and bright blue eyes, which she found captivating.

Neil popped the question during a trip to New York in Central Park. Lauren says: "When we reached a secluded spot, he dropped down on one knee and popped the question. It was a complete surprise. We celebrated with lunch then headed to Tiffany's to pick out an engagement ring – it was so romantic! When we went to pick the ring up the next day, it even started snowing – a perfect New York moment!"

Here Lauren shares details about their special day…



We'd been looking for somewhere rustic with a relaxed feel, and when we saw Milling Barn online, it looked perfect. When we went to look around, we fell in love with the barn. The exposed beams and spacious feel was exactly what we were looking for.



The accommodation and dressing room had just been renovated, which not only looked stunning but really added to the venue. It was great to find a location where we could have both the ceremony and reception in the same place that also had accommodation for our close friends and family.

We wanted to make sure we stuck to planning the wedding we really wanted and to not get swept up into the stress. There can be so many external pressure but we wanted to plan a day that we would love and remember forever.





We gave guests wildflower seeds as favours so they could take them away to plant. We loved the idea that it would be leaving a lasting and beneficial memento of the wedding.



I found my dress very quickly, it immediately stood out to me and although I tried on others, they didn't compare. I loved the lace detailing, particularly at the back where it framed the opening. The style fitted in with the simple and grounded feel of the wedding but had the added lace detail to make it feel and look special.



We used two long tables off the head table to seat our guests – this way everyone was brought together and it added to the intimate feel.



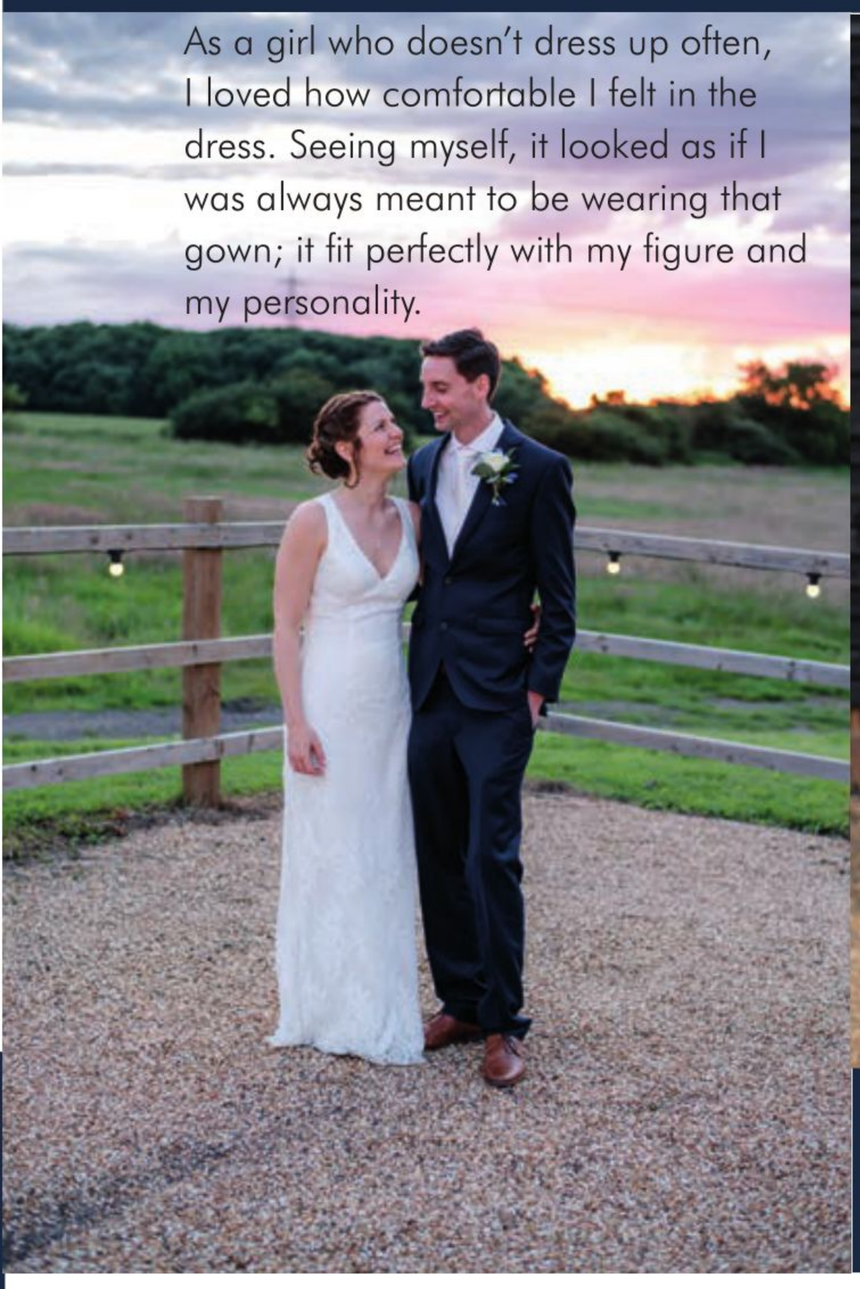
We used the flowers to tie in the colour themes by using various blue blooms within the bouquet, buttonholes and top table design to keep a splash of colour throughout.



Choosing to have a banquet feast for the wedding breakfast meant rustic boxes were already being used to present the food, then we added hessian and laced runners to bring it all together.



We used various small glass jars and vases to hold candles and flowers to add detail and keep the tone rustic and straightforward, but without overcrowding the tables. Wooden carved place settings were then used as a final detail.



As a girl who doesn't dress up often, I loved how comfortable I felt in the dress. Seeing myself, it looked as if I was always meant to be wearing that gown; it fit perfectly with my figure and my personality.



Neil wore a three-piece suit in navy with an ivory tie and waistcoat, while the groomsmen wore all navy.

The bridesmaid had a long flowing dress with lace detail to tie in with my dress.



We had our cake made by a very talented family member. Luckily, a naked-style cake fit in with our theme perfectly. We used an informal, hessian topper to then tie the cake in with the rest of the room.





To keep the guests entertained before the wedding breakfast was served, we had miniature golf on the lawns outside. It added a sense of fun, broke the ice and made for some good competition between guests.



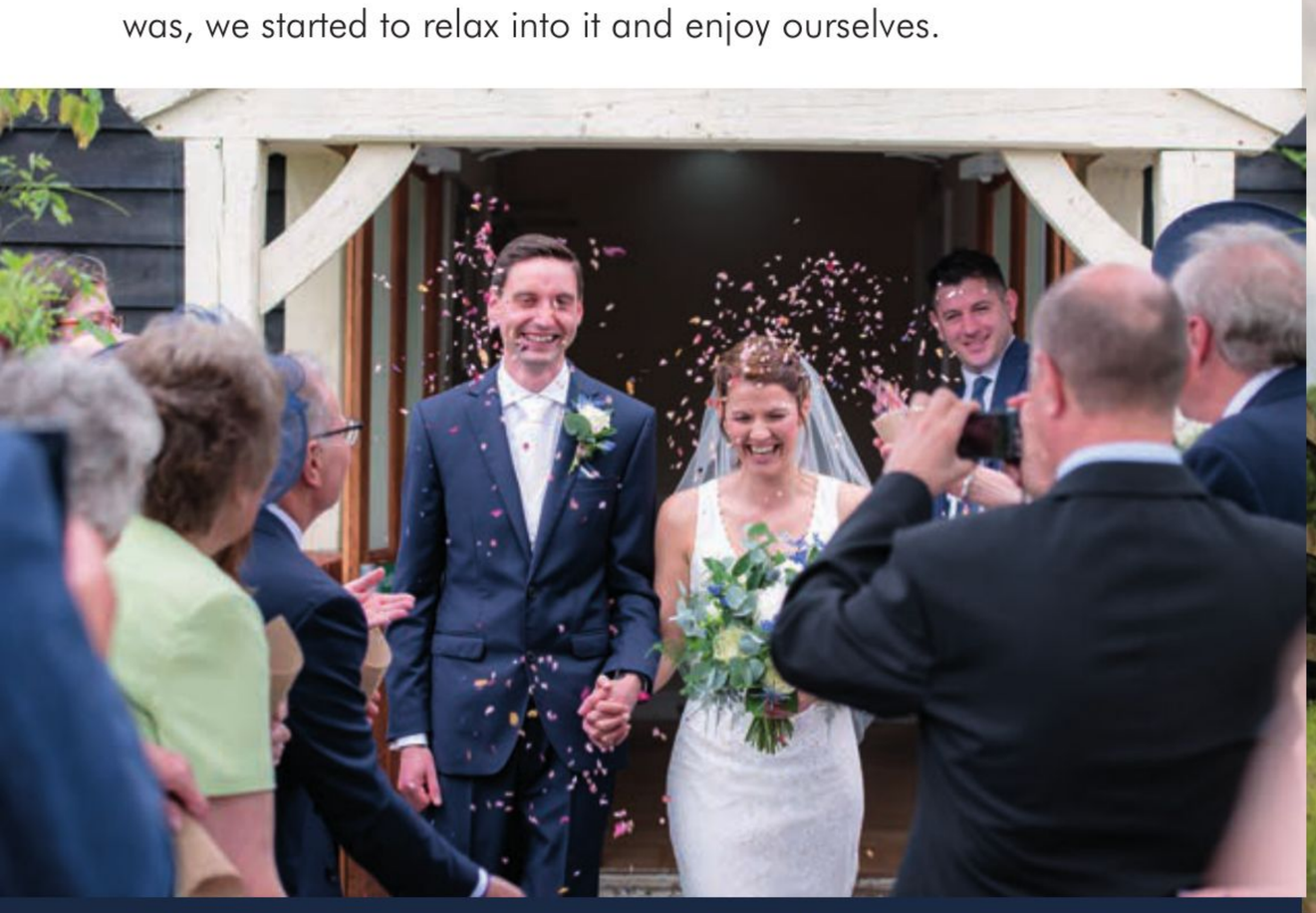
After the meal, we had a DJ who kept us dancing all night, even joining us on the dancefloor to lead us in group dances, which got everyone involved!



We were both so nervous early in the day as we're usually quite shy and not used to being the centre of attention. Once we saw all of our friends and family and how beautifully decorated the venue was, we started to relax into it and enjoy ourselves.



We had so much fun and made sure we had time to take it all in and relish each aspect of the day!



I loved being able to be in such a beautiful space to share the moment with our loved ones – it was just perfect. The team kept everything running smoothly allowing everyone to relax and enjoy the day – plus the food was amazing!



Steve, our photographer, made the day extra special. Not only did he manage to get us to relax and take some great photos, he went out of his way to help when things got a little chaotic. He went above and beyond what a typical photographer would do!

NEIL AND LAUREN'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

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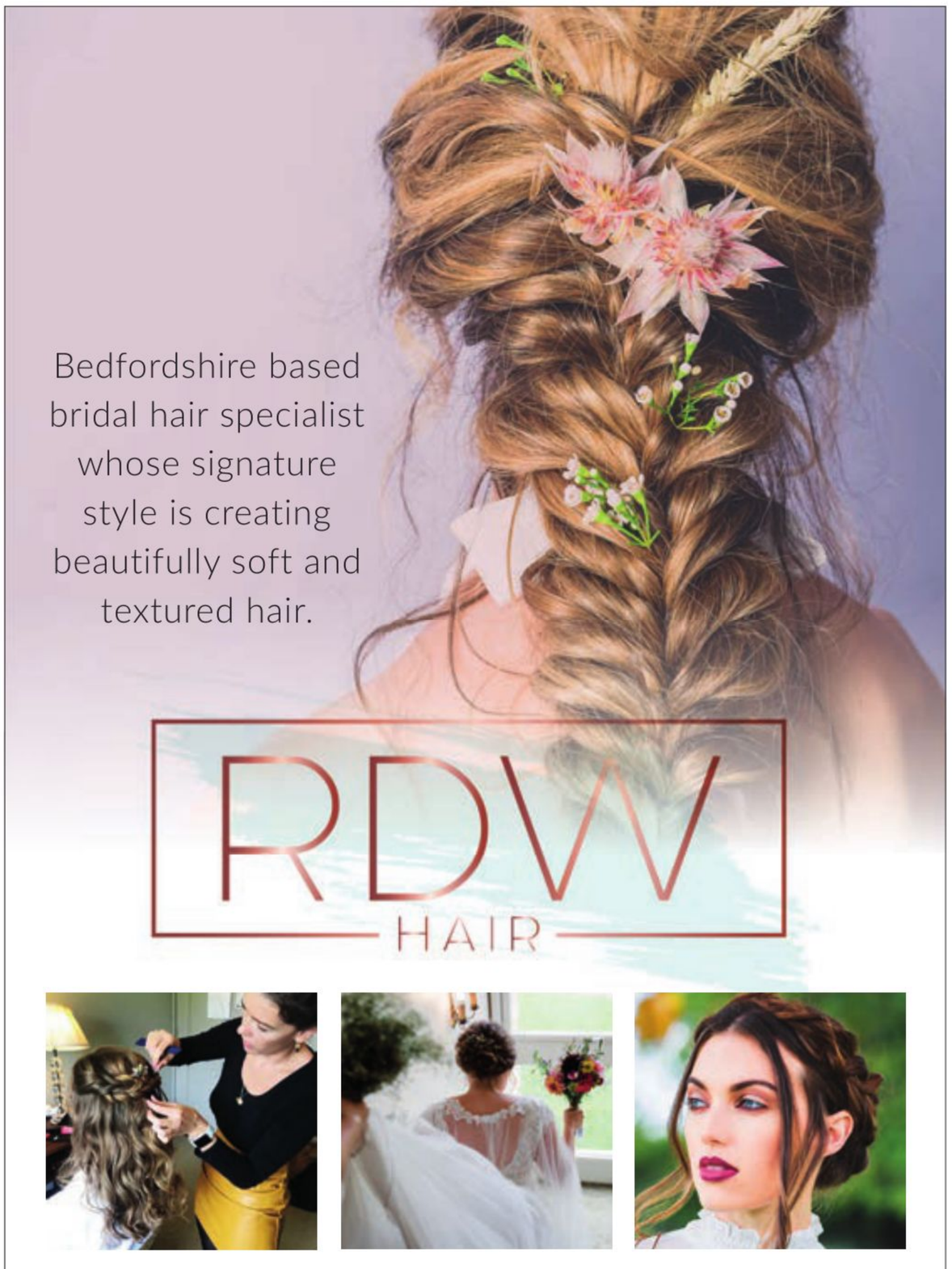
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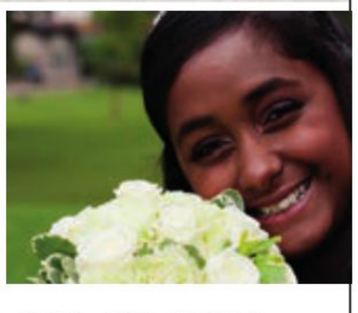
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Boho -BABE

We're obsessed with this beautiful shoot here at *Your Herts and Beds Wedding* magazine, which is packed full of inspiration. Shoot coordinator and make-up artist Sabina Ventriglia says, "I wanted to create an editorial-style bridal shoot on location, using all local suppliers and services so that we could all benefit from the feedback and interest from potential brides in the area. I've worked with both the photographer and hairstylist many times before and knew they'd help me create my vision. I pulled a mood board together and it was such a real team effort!

"Boho-style shoots are typically a summertime idea, but we wanted to try a more autumnal look. I have a real passion for putting a concept together and seeing it through to the end. I'm quite a perfectionist when it comes to my work, so get a real sense of achievement when we nail a shot!"

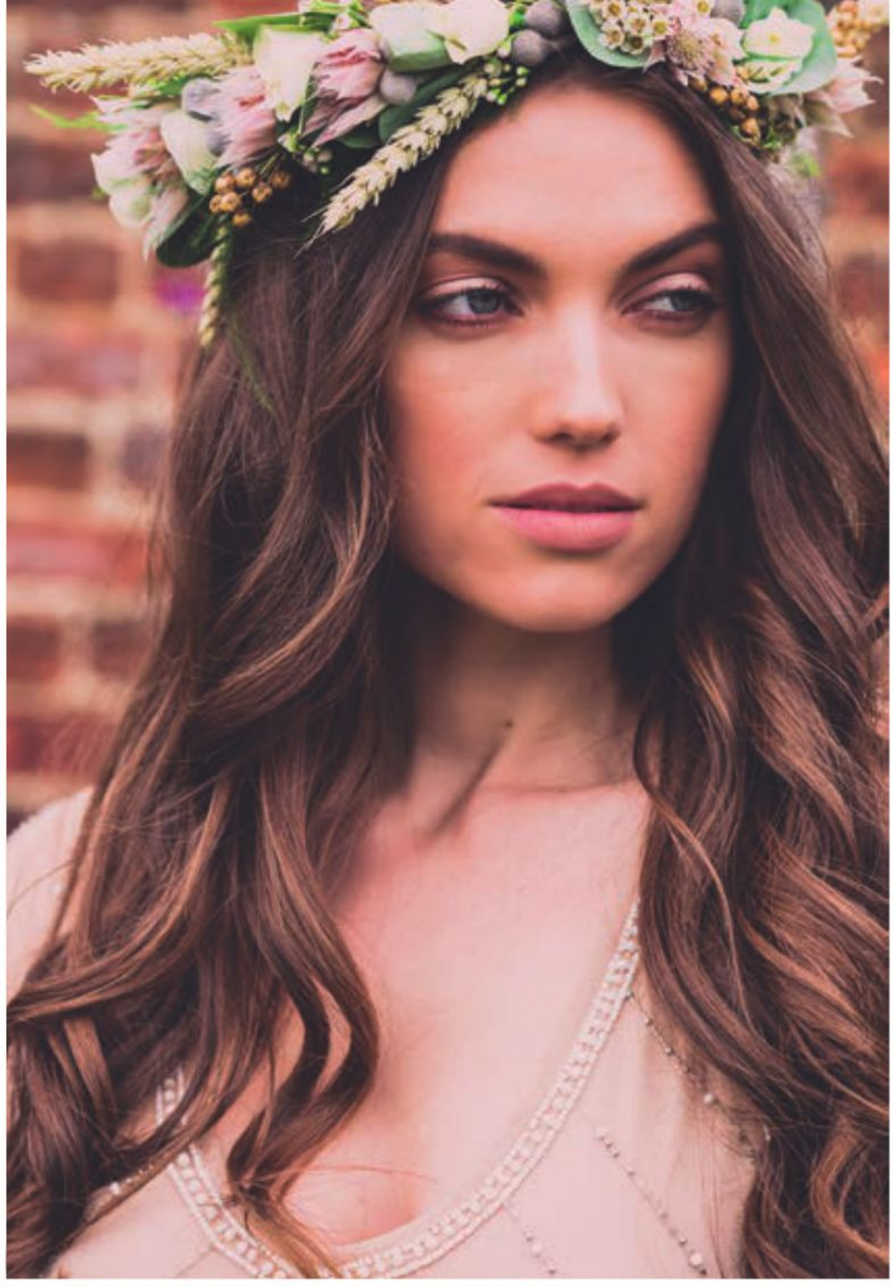
The images turned out beautifully and we hope you love them as much as we do!

Check out this autumnal shoot located at Moggerhanger Park

Image courtesy of Clare Davis Photography















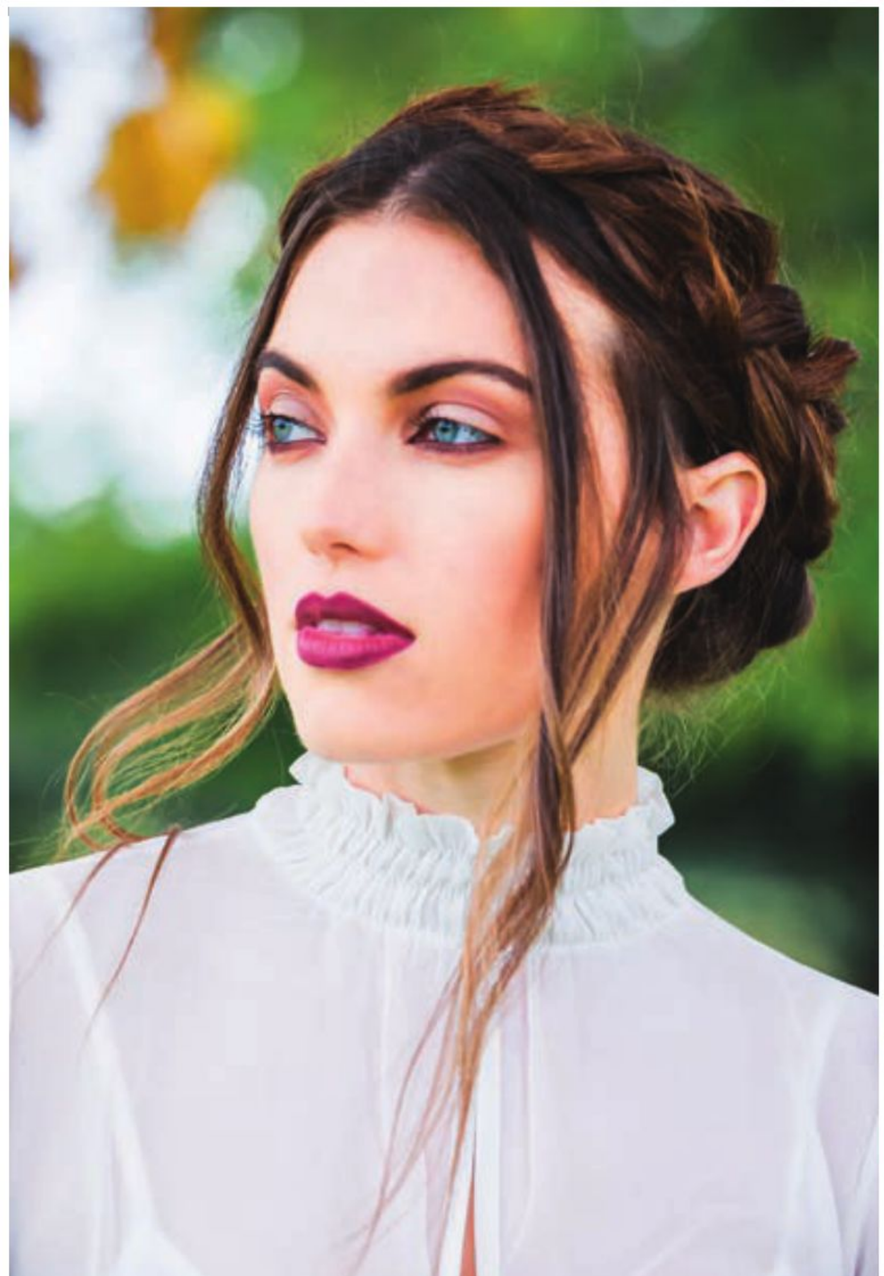
















SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT

Venue, www.moggerhangerpark.com | **Hair**, www.rdwhair.co.uk | **Photography**, www.claredavisphotography.com | **Dresses**, www.boohoo.com | **Flowers and flower crown**, www.preciouspetalsmobile.co.uk | **Make-up**, www.sabinaventriglia.co.uk

EXPECTATIONS GREAT EXHIBITIONS

2019 was quite a year for County Wedding Magazines and Events HQ, the launch of our Signature Wedding Shows were a huge success. We were eager to see what 2020 would bring, unfortunately no one could have predicted a world-wide pandemic or how it would affect us all. We're happy to announce our Signature Wedding Shows are back, and 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 can rest assured our venues are Covid-19 secure, and each event will boast 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, and 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, and be entered into a competition to win a honeymoon to a luxurious destination.

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! 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...

WEMBLEY STADIUM, 4TH OCTOBER, 2020
ASCOT RACECOURSE, 25TH OCTOBER, 2020
THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2021
MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, 21ST MARCH, 2021

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

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

cwm
COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

Signature WEDDING SHOW

cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

One of the largest wedding shows to be held in the South of England

- Free entry
- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Bridal fashion shows
- Entertainment
- Refreshments
- Covid-19 secure

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

SPABREAKS.COM

A date for your diary...

Sunday 4th October 2020, 11.00AM - 4.00PM

Hosted at Wembley Stadium London

WEMBLEY
CONNECTED BY EE

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

Follow us on: /CountyWeddingEvents @CountyWedEvent @countyweddingevents

Signature WEDDING SHOW

cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH cwm COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

ONE OF THE LARGEST WEDDING SHOWS TO BE HELD IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND



21ST MARCH, 2021, 11.00AM - 3.30PM
MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, SURREY

- Free entry
- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Bridal fashion shows
- Entertainment
- Refreshments
- Covid-19 secure

Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a fabulous spa break worth £250 courtesy of SPABREAKS.COM

Hosted at Mercedes-Benz World at Brooklands



Hosted at Mercedes-Benz World, Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0SL

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

Follow us on /CountyWeddingEvents @CountyWedEvent @countyweddingevents

Signature WEDDING SHOW

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ONE OF THE LARGEST WEDDING SHOWS TO BE HELD IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND



SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2020, 11AM TO 3:30PM
ASCOT RACECOURSE, BERKSHIRE

- Free entry
- Win a luxury honeymoon
- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Bridal fashion shows
- Entertainment
- Refreshments
- Covid-19 secure

Pre-register and attend the show to have a chance to win a fabulous spa break worth £250 courtesy of SPABREAKS.COM

ASCOT Racecourse

Hosted at Ascot Racecourse, High Street Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7JX

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

Follow us on /CountyWeddingEvents @CountyWedEvent @countyweddingevents

Signature WEDDING SHOW

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One of the largest wedding shows to be held in the South of England

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- Bridal fashion shows
- Entertainment
- Refreshments
- Covid-19 secure

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...

21st February, 2021, 11.00AM - 3.30PM

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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info@newbeginningsmk.co.uk





LITTLE GEM

Pandora has collaborated with Disney to unveil a collection of charms featuring iconic characters including Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Pluto and Nemo. The eight charms celebrate the most beloved stories from the film studio and each one is hand-finished in sterling silver with colourful hand-applied enamel. They make a great gift for bridesmaids and flowergirls with prices starting from £45. To shop, visit https://uk.pandora.net/en/

www.instagram.com/theofficialpandora

SUSTAINABLE STYLE

Award-winning bridal designer Sabina Motasem, who offered her help to the NHS during the pandemic by helping to make scrubs, has introduced a sustainable and vegan collection. It's a range of ultra-modern dresses not only kinder to the planet but on the pocket too, available to buy online with prices ranging from £900 to £1,400. The gowns are made from natural plant-based materials and each style is also available in 100% silk crepe if desired. To find out more, visit www.motasem.co.uk

www.instagram.com/sabinamotasem



Ethereal girl

In other bridal news, boho-inspired brand Bo & Luca has designed a diffusion TEMPLE collection offering luxury gowns at affordable prices. It's split into three categories – Temple Beaded, Temple Minimal and Temple Lace. Styles include this pretty *Tyde* design in Chantilly lace, as well as tops, skirts and even a structured bralette that can be worn in multiple ways, ideal for a beach wedding. To shop, visit www.boandluca.com

www.instagram.com/boandluca





Hats off

Award-winning milliner Beverley Edmondson is celebrating her 10-year anniversary after opening her first boutique in Farnham, Surrey in 2010. Her colourful collection of hats, fascinators and headbands are the ideal choice for bridesmaids and mothers, and her beautiful bridal range includes hair combs, pins and accessories. She also sells pretty fabric corsages, stylish clutch bags and offers a selection of Rainbow Club shoes and bags that can be dyed to match any outfit. To find out more, visit www.beverleyedmondsonmillinery.co.uk

www.instagram.com/beverleyedmondsonmillinery

Editor loves

The new needle & thread Kids collection features 25 ethereal dresses perfect for flowergirls aged three to 10 years. Designs include *Angelica* (pictured), a sequinned floral lace gown in meadow pink and *Dragonfly Garden,* an embroidered style in periwinkle purple. To shop, visit the website www.needleandthread.com

www.instagram.com/needleandthreadlondon





FASHION *focus*

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

Second time around

Luxury bridalwear brand Pronovias has partnered with Brides do Good to encourage brides to donate their pre-loved wedding gowns to their nearest Pronovias store where they will be delivered to Brides do Good to be re-sold and re-loved. Proceeds will be invested in international charity programmes aimed at empowering vulnerable women and girls to ensure they have access to the support and education they need and Pronovias will match every donation made with a dress from their dreamy collection of styles available in an array of fabrics.

To find out more, visit www.bridesdogood.com and www.pronovias.com

www.instagram.com/pronovias #MyDressXHerFuture





Thank you, NHS

British bridal designer Sassi Holford is offering a 15% discount on all wedding gowns to NHS staff who have had to postpone their wedding due to COVID-19, or who are planning their forthcoming wedding.

In appreciation of the fabulous NHS, Sassi wanted to offer her support to brides-to-be working for it. Her timeless wedding gowns are designed and made in the UK and prices start from £2,000. She will be offering the discount until December 31st 2020 and NHS staff should email Sassi Holford's stores directly from an NHS email address to book an appointment. They'll be asked to show their staff identification badge at the appointment:

❤ London - 82, Fulham Road, South Kensington, London, SW3 6HR, london@sassiholford.com

❤ Taunton, Somerset - 6, The Bridge, Taunton, TA1 1UG, taunton@sassiholford.com

To view her stunning bridal collection, visit https://sassiholford.com

www.instagram.com/sassiholford

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Thigh-high split

AS SEEN AT: *Charlotte* at www.elbethgillis.com

What's in store

We've had a sneak peak at the new season bridal dress collections to reveal the upcoming, Insta-worthy trends

18+

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal, providing you various content: brand new books, trending movies, fresh magazines, hot games, recent software, latest music releases.

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Cheap constant access to piping hot media
Protect your downloadings from Big brother
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AS SEEN AT: *Wright* jacket and trousers at Ashley Graham x Pronovias, www.pronovias.com



Walnut top with *Marlene* trousers at www.halfpennylondon.com



Tatum Jumpsuit at Justin Alexander Signature, www.justinalexander.com



AS SEEN AT: *Haden* dress at Justin Alexander Signature, www.justinalexander.com



Misty dress at www.katyakatya.co.uk



AS SEEN AT: *Hazel* dress at www.halfpennylondon.com



AS SEEN AT: *Ridley* bralette and *Cala* skirt at www.boandluca.com



Marlow at www.katyakatya.co.uk



Illiana and *Amy* at www.elbethgillis.com



AS SEEN AT: *Crystal* dress at www.elbethgillis.com



Rowan corset and *Ellies* skirt at www.halfpennylondon.com



Elsa at www.savannahmiller.com



Billie at Justin Alexander Signature, www.justinalexander.com



AS SEEN AT: *Sabrina* dress at www.elbethgillis.com



Cerise dress at www.savannahmiller.com



AS SEEN AT: *Elder* dress at www.halfpennylondon.com



AS SEEN AT: *Style no 2182-0134* at www.morilee.co.uk



Basie at Justin Alexander Signature, www.justinalexander.com



AS SEEN AT: *Style no 1049-0180* at www.madelinegardnernewyork.com/en



AS SEEN AT: *Andrea* gown from the Pure Collection by www.annageorgina.co.za



Style no 1046-0043 at www.madelinegardnernewyork.com/en



Alara at www.thandth.com



AS SEEN AT: *Kristen* dress at
www.alanhannah.co.uk



Manet cape and *Oliver* dress at
www.halfpennylondon.com



Petal dress at www.katyakatya.co.uk



Style no 2301b at
https://mikaellabridal.com

Hello petal

Printed florals in pastel shades are dressing bridesmaids and guests this summer



Floral-printed dresses, £225 each, www.ghost.co.uk



Flower necklace, £22, www.oliverbonas.com



Chiffon floral-printed dress, £195, https://kitristudio.com



Pink floral dress, £40, www.liena.co.uk



Printed floral halterneck dress, £70, www.chichiclothing.com



Rhodium-plated crystal ring and matching bracelet, £119 each, www.swarovski.com/en_GB-GB





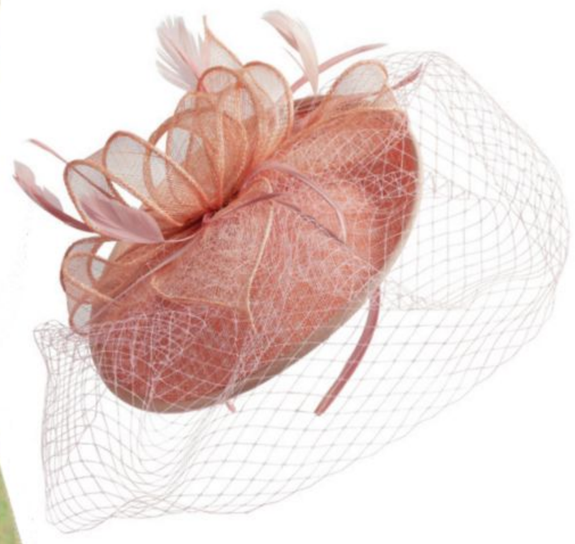
Tulle floral-printed flowergirl dress, £135, www.needleandthread.com

Silver crystal earrings, £149, www.thomassabo.com/GB/en_GB/home





Yellow georgette dress with floral print, £225, www.ghost.co.uk



Nude feather hatinator, £20.99, https://giftshop.bhf.org.uk

Mint suede sandals with flower detail, £278, www.chiemihara.com/en





Floral dress inspiration from www.dorothyperkins.com

Sunglasses pendant necklace, £28, https://lilycharmed.com

Silver palm tree stud earrings, £20, https://screampretty.com



'Mousehole' printed silk and cotton pocket square, £20, www.davidwatson.uk



'Mrs' bag, £35, https://uk.accessorize.com



Crystal iridescent bracelet watch, £219, Guess at www.hsamuel.co.uk



Sunglasses, £89, https://chimieyewear.com/en/



Red and pink multiway bikini, £95, https://tuccaswim.co.uk

Staycation in style

With honeymoons in the UK on the rise, pack quirky printed pieces teamed with colourful accessories





Gold-tone plated shell ring set, £79, www.swarovski.com/en_GB-GB

Sterling silver aeroplane charm, £45, www.thomassabo.com





Mules with tropical embroidery, £169, www.prettyballerinas.co.uk



Polka dot sunhat, £22, https://uk.accessorize.com



Sunshine espadrilles, £19.95, www.joules.com





Macramé bag, £49, www.bellandfox.com



Flamingo-print dress, £44, www.sugarhillbrighton.com



Pink and bronze earrings, £38, EMKa Jewellery at www.etsy.com/shop/eMKaHandMade



Yellow wedges, £29, www.shoeaholics.com



Palm tree-print flip flops, £22, https://ipanemaflipflops.co.uk

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www.kingshilljewellery.com
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THE FINISHING *touches*

From jewellery to accessories, we've got you covered

Shopping for big-day jewellery and accessories can feel like an impossible task, given the amount of options available, however, there's always that special something to make you stand out. Here are some ideas and tips to make the whole process easier.



HEULWEN LEWIS BESPOKE

Heulwen Lewis Bespoke specialises in designing and creating beautiful custom-made jewellery, whether this is developing a piece that couples have always dreamt of, remodelling a vintage keepsake or gifting a loved one with a sentimental treasure.

The pieces are designed and crafted to stand out with everlasting appeal and personality, capturing particular sentiments and gathering meaning for generations to come. The company's core mission is to design the most desirable special jewellery pieces with a welcoming and trusted service. At the beginning of any bespoke journey, the business offers a complimentary consultation – as each bespoke design is all about nearlyweds, and it's a wonderful opportunity to learn about each pair's needs and desires. Any questions will be answered and any diamonds, gemstones or heirlooms that a couple may want to incorporate will be discussed in depth. Heulwen Lewis Bespoke designs all types of jewellery and accessories, from engagement rings, wedding rings, wedding dress buttons, groomsman and bridesmaid gifts, tiaras and more!

Sarah Heulwen Lewis from Heulwen Lewis Bespoke says: "We see nothing as impossible and we also adore a challenge. The grander a piece gets, the more excited we are! All products are bespoke and made to order – your wishes are our desires.

"Once our fabulous workshop has crafted your piece, nothing makes us happier than presenting it and seeing your eager eyes widen and fall in love. Knowing it already means so much, and will mean more in the years to come, makes the whole journey worthwhile."

Find out more: www.heulwenlewisbespoke.com



www.fantonphotography.co.uk

KELLY SPENCE BRIDAL ACCESSORIES

Kelly Spence Bridal Accessories is a multi-award-winning bridal company specialising in luxury hair adornments, jewellery, vintage-style veils and luxury bridal knitwear for the discerning bride. Owner Kelly Spence lovingly and carefully designs and hand makes each piece to order in her Hertford studio. Her creations are sent all over the world but she is a British designer through and through, using UK suppliers and materials wherever possible. Known for her clean lines, attention to detail and personal service, she says: "My favourite part of my job is getting to create bespoke pieces for clients; the joy of designing something that's not only special but that incorporates elements of each bride's wedding story is an absolute privilege. I also enjoy receiving photos of my clients wearing their treasured pieces on their special day!"

The company offers private consultations in person, by Zoom or by email where brides can chat about their wedding-style and any ideas they have for their big-day look. Pieces can then be shown and tried on in person or on real-hair mannequins for virtual appointments, or images and sketches, until the right one is found. Each confirmed order is hand-crafted with pictures shared along the way. The final creation is then shipped in its own beautiful presentation box, ready to be worn on the day and cherished for years to come.

Find out more: www.kellyspence.com



KINGS HILL JEWELLERY

Kings Hill Jewellery is a third-generation family-run business which has been running for more than 60 years. It offers couples a large range of wedding jewellery, including wedding and engagement rings, alongside bridal jewellery. An in-house designer enables the team to create the perfect pieces that's special to each customer. In addition to vintage jewellery, pre-owned watches such as Rolex, Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet and more are sold which can make for the perfect wedding day gift!

The move to its current premises, The Corn Exchange in St Albans, has enabled the team to expand their offering. In 2010, the company opened its bespoke jewellery design studio, and then in 2015, expanded further to create a very own in-house jewellery workshop. In this workshop, repairs are carried out as well as the manufacture of bespoke pieces. The company's main focus is providing excellent customer service whilst offering a vast range of designs and ideas for bespoke rings and jewellery.

The business aims to make nearlyweds feel as relaxed as they can when choosing their wedding rings and can sit down with one of the experts over a cup of coffee or prosecco. This should be an enjoyable experience, as the company believe it's one of the most important parts of the wedding day!

Assistant manager Laura Kaser says: "My favourite part of my job is meeting all of our lovely customers and helping them pick their perfect engagement or wedding ring.

"Our commitment to our customers is making them feel relaxed when they come into the store by providing excellent customer service and an unrivalled selection of bridal designs."

Find out more: www.kingshilljewellery.com

GATWARDS OF HITCHIN

Gatwards of Hitchin is based in Hertfordshire and offers couples fine jewellery and watches as well as giftware. With the aim of putting the sparkle into buying jewellery, the team has the knowledge and expertise to help customers choose the perfect piece and they provide exceptional customer service to ensure that the experience of buying from Gatwards is one to remember.

The company is a family-run jewellers in the UK and believe product knowledge is vital in this business as customers are investing large sums of money in jewellery for very special occasions. Charlotte Gatward says: "My favourite part of the job is being there when our customers commemorate the special moments in their lives. Whatever the occasion, we're there to help make it special and we all enjoy a love story at Gatwards. We want pairs to go away with the items most suited to their needs, not necessarily the most expensive item in the shop."

When couples get engaged, they love to open the champagne and offer the lovebirds a free photoshoot with local photographers.

Everything offered to guests is hand-selected and quality checked by the experienced team before it is put into stock and displayed in the showroom. Charlotte adds: "If we do not think something is of a suitably high standard, we immediately send it back to our suppliers. We hope these items will be cherished for a lifetime and passed down through generations of the same family. We regularly serve several generations of the same family shopping."

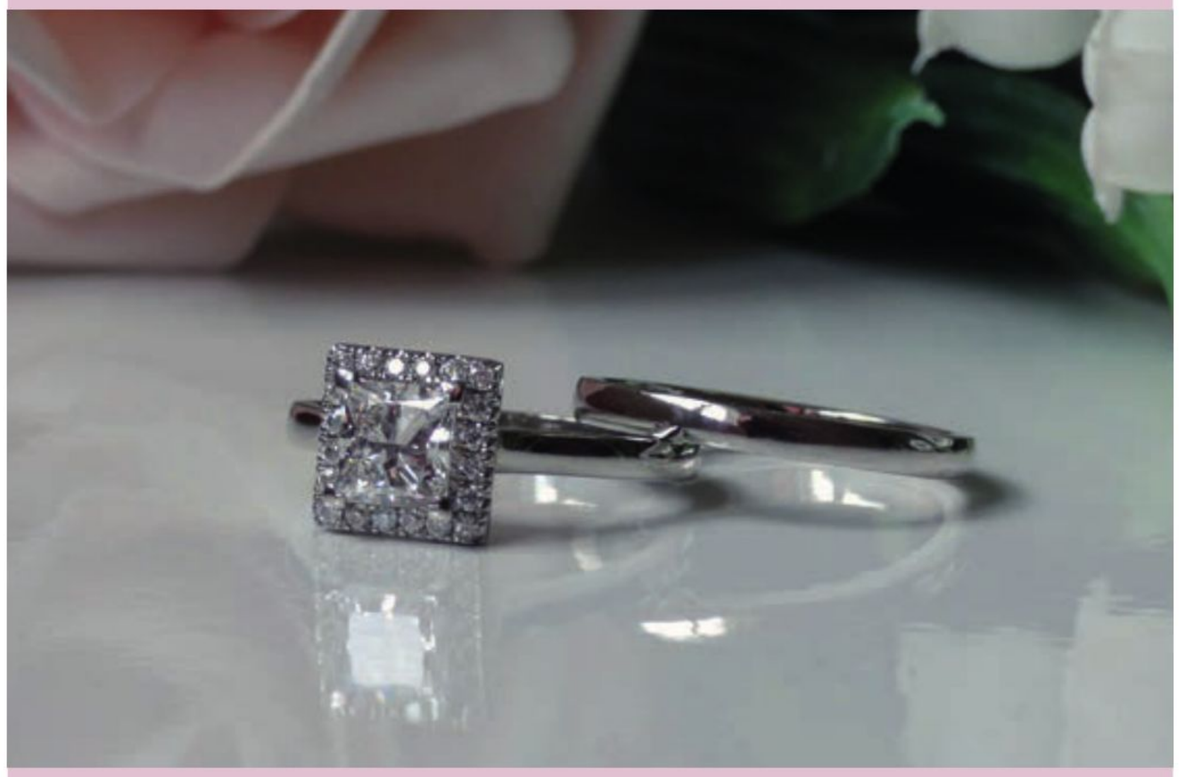
The company offers couples 20 per cent off their wedding rings if they purchased their engagement rings from the buisness.

Find out more:
www.gatwardsofhitchin.co.uk



HEULWEN LEWIS

- Bespoke Jewellery -



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Book your complimentary consultation with Sarah to start your bespoke jewellery design journey.

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www.heulwenlewisbespoke.com @heulwenlewisbespoke

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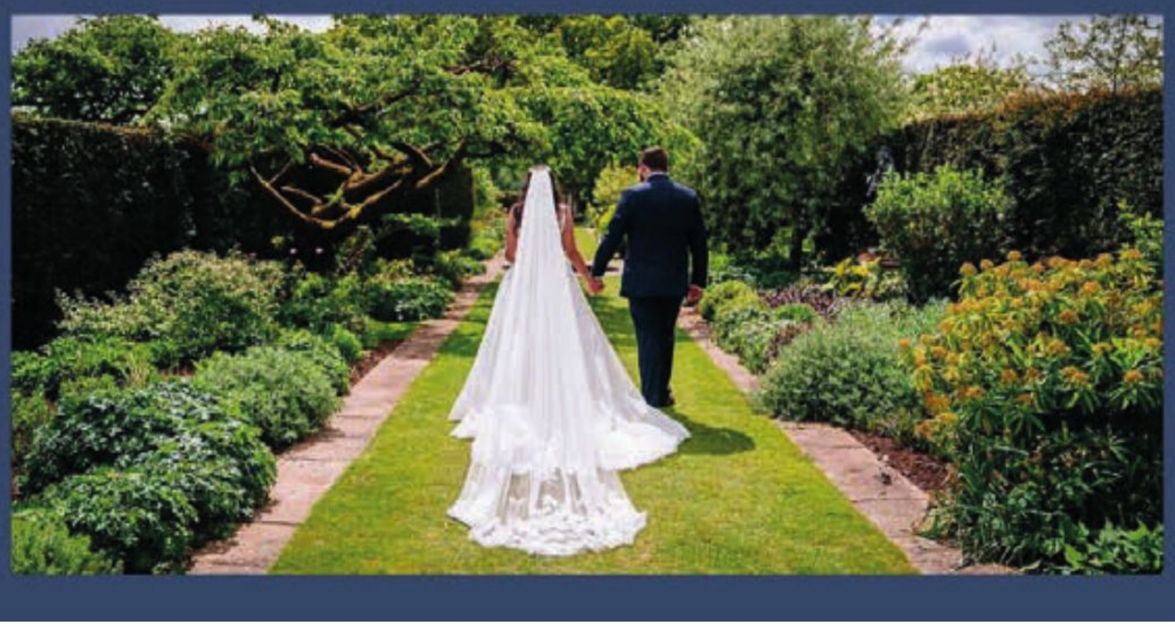
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For our full brochure or to arrange a viewing, please contact:

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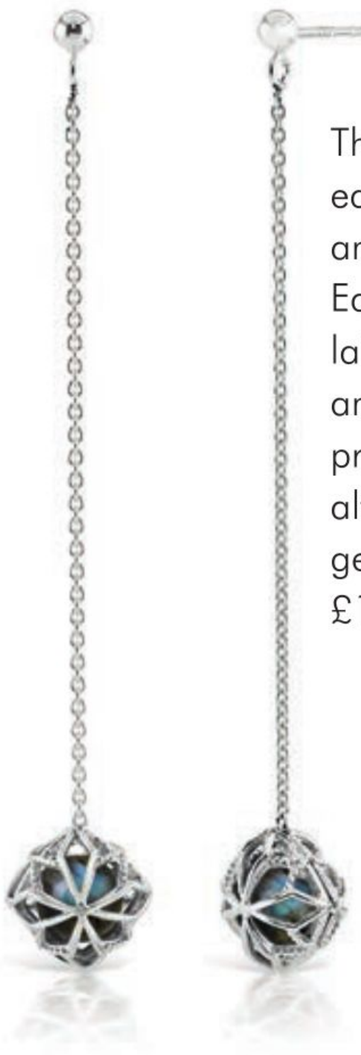
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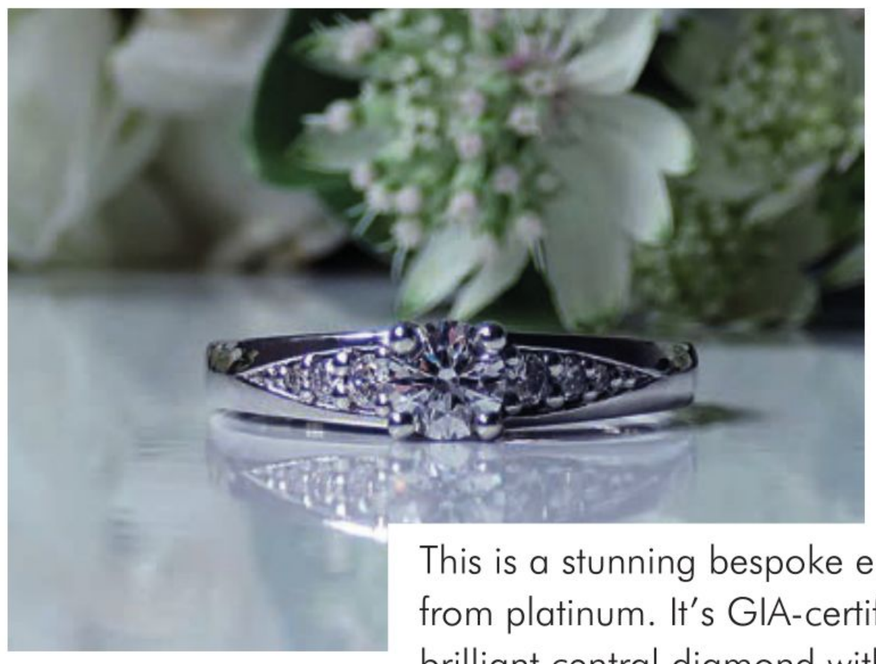
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LOCAL INSPIRATION



These exquisite vintage-inspired drop earrings are a perfect accompaniment to any wedding dress or bridesmaid gift. Each cut-out bead features a small labradorite hidden inside, which sparkles and glitters as it catches the light. This product is bespoke to order with alternative metals available and gemstones on request.
£100+ | www.heulwenlewisbespoke.com



This is a stunning bespoke engagement ring made from platinum. It's GIA-certified 30pt ESI1 round brilliant central diamond with 0.11ct shoulder diamonds with a total carat weight 0.41ct.
£1,800 | www.heulwenlewisbespoke.com



This is a circular piece, which provides interest from all angles, it's very light and easy to wear with many hairstyles, but works particularly well in low updos. Its leafy branches are plated in either gold, rose gold or silver and adorned with tiny buds of freshwater pearl or delicate twinkling crystal.
£380 | www.kellyspence.com



Hairpins are a versatile favourite and offer the bride numerous styling options. The Triere Pins are comprised of swirls of freshwater pearls with tiny Swarovski crystal centres wired with gold, rose gold or silver. They're available in sets of three or five and are suitable for brides or bridesmaids.
£160
www.kellyspence.com



This stunning three-stone diamond ring featuring a 1.00ct emerald-cut diamond and two further claw-set 0.50ct. This 18ct white gold ring is certificated, F colour, VS2 clarity with a total weight of 2.00ct.
£9,500
www.kingshilljewellery.com



This popular engagement ring style is a pear cut diamond and diamond cluster surrounded by smaller round brilliant cut diamonds on a platinum diamond band. It's set in a classic scalloped Skye Pear setting.
£2,800+ | www.gatwardsofhitchin.co.uk



These stunning oval Opals have been set in platinum and are surrounded by diamonds in a teardrop shape. The necklace sits beautifully on an 18" platinum diamond cut trace chain and the drop earrings feature an articulated drop with a screw post and scroll fitting.
Necklace: £4,250 and Earrings: £5,500
www.kingshilljewellery.com



The perfect complement to the Skye Pear engagement ring is this diamond set wedding band, which combines understated elegance with a special design.
£1,275
www.gatwardsofhitchin.co.uk



SPRITZ AND SMILE

Citrus fragrances are known for uplifting the mood and reducing stress levels. Plus, the scents of orange, lime and grapefruit are recognised for boosting energy levels, triggering endorphins and serotonin. Enter Atelier Cologne's new range of fragrances, featuring Bergamote Soleil, described as the perfumier's "happiest fragrance." It's characterised by a blend of floral aromas including bergamot and lavender from Italy, and the Mediterreanean Sea.

Along with the other fragrances in the collection – Pacific Lime and Orange Sanguine – Bergamote Soleil, priced at £55, is available at www.feelunique.com

Going smoothly

Banoagi – one of South Korea's most trusted brands, has announced the launch of its innovative Milk Thistle Repair Mask. Developed by a team of 30 medical professionals and based on 20 years of clinical experience and thesis, the mask contains a cocktail of ingredients, which are said to leave the skin smoother and more youthful looking after just one application, even for the most sensitive skin.

The embossed sheet has a soothing ampoule to richly soak it with active ingredients including milk thistle, burdock root, niacinamide and centella asiatica.

Just £3.20 from www.glamtouch.co.uk



UPGRADE YOUR SHOWER

Whether it's your morning shower setting you up for the day, or a long soak to help you unwind before bed, Roger&Gallet 2-in-1 Bath and Shower Gel is all you need. New to the brand's Extrait de Cologne Collection, Gingembre Exquis is a sensual scent, which will transform your daily routine to a moment of pure indulgence, providing the ideal pick-me-up.

Priced at £9.50 it's available at www.lookfantastic.com





Beauty BUZZ

Beauty editor Kelly Andrews shares her latest beauty must-haves for the bride-to-be



RELAX AND UNWIND

Whether you've had a stressful day or simply need a slice of tranquility BEYOU has the bath bomb for you. Handmade in the UK they're all-natural, vegan, and have been created with sustainable ingredients, which are kind both to your skin and the environment. Created for the richest and most indulgent bath time, BEYOU has doubled the dose of its oils and botanicals to ensure the ultimate experience.

Choose from orange leaf and grapefruit, chamomile and jasmine, lemon and neroli, and peppermint and eucalyptus.

Priced at £5.99 from www.beyouonline.co.uk



DARE TO BARE

Stressful times can bring on stressed skin. So, if you're suffering from dryness, redness and unusual sensitivities at the moment, this could well be the cause. Rosalique 3 in 1 Anti-Redness Miracle Formula SPF50 contains alpha-bisabolol, extracted from the German chamomile plant – a clinically proven anti-inflammatory. It reduces redness by calming and soothing irritated skin. Plus, the SPF 50 means your face is protected when you venture outside. You can even go make-up free and wear this skincare hero alone to conceal, treat and protect.

Priced at £29.99, it's available at www.rosalique.co.uk

QUALITY H2O

Face mists are more than just a refreshing fix for hot summer skin, they deliver added beauty benefits all year round. With a breakthrough formula dedicated to respecting the skin's ecosystem, Institut Esthederm's Cellular Water Mist has a patented hydra-booster, antioxidant and an energizing composition providing a daily source of rejuvenation.

Designed to keep the skin looking younger, it cleverly boosts the hydration capacity of all skincare routines. Cellular water empowers your other products, allowing everything to work together to enhance the skin's treatment and leave you with a youthful hydrated glow.

Priced at £18, check out www.esthederm.com/en





Little wonders

Oio Lab's lovely range of four natural and organic facial serums all target different skin concerns. Harmony First is a great base for make-up and helps the skin's regeneration process, balancing moisture. Future Bright contains vitamin C and is a great brightener. 7 Wonders contains seven botanical oils, which smooth the skin, and last, but not least, Sleep Tight is a fab anti-aging product, working as you snooze.

Find out more at www.oiolab.co/en. Available at www.wolfandbadger.com/uk

Editor loves

CV Age Defy+ Pure Luxe Body Oil from the clever folk at Green People is a divine body oil blended with plant botanicals for superior radiance and an incredible skin glow. Rich in pomegranate and phospholipids, this perfecting formula envelops the skin, giving a beautiful satin-soft finish. Safflower, rich in linoleic acid, promotes elasticity and regenerates skin texture. Neroli revives the skin at a cellular level, boosting elasticity to smooth and tone.

With skin in dire need of some pampering, this oil was an absolute delight to apply and smells heavenly. For silky soft and touchably smooth wedding-day skin, this is a must.

Priced at £25, it's available from www.greenpeople.co.uk





BACK TO BLACK

Powered by a soothing combination of shea butter and other natural, African ingredients, R&R Luxury Liquid Black Soap deeply cleanses your face and body without stripping moisture. This luxurious soap is 100 per cent natural and sourced from Ghana, the home of shea. Simply use within your daily routine to reap the benefits of clean, fresh, healthy, moisturised skin.

What's more it can help to treat conditions such as eczema, acne and psoriasis, so if you're faced with skin woes in the run up to W-day, it's worth giving Black Soap a try.

Priced at £12, it's available at www.randrluxury.co.uk

GIVE ROOTS THE BOOT

Given none of us have been able to get to the hairdressers for goodness knows how long, this product could be the answer to at least one of our problems. This breakthrough root touch-up spray instantly covers regrowth and greys in between colour appointments, with no stickiness, dustiness, or transfer. The multi-dimensional shades provide coverage that lasts until the next shampoo, and its vegan and cruelty-free formula, rich in minerals and amino acids, helps regenerate and moisturise hair with shine. I'm in!

Priced at £25. Find out more at www.beautyrebel.store/rco



Pamper package

ishga, partner to some of the UK's leading spas, has curated a Spa at Home collection featuring some of its hero products to help create a wellness experience in the comfort of your own home. With uplifting and soothing essential oils infused into each product, the range is certified organic by the Soil Association, and includes ishga's Invigorating Organic Body Oil, Hebridean Sea Salt Scrub, Hebridean Dreams Candle and Relaxing Bath Salts.

It's priced at £39, head over to www.ishga.com to discover more.

BEAUTY IS *skin-deep*

Kelly Andrews talks to Caroline Hirons about pre-wedding skin prep, and her debut book, *Skincare*



Nicky Johnston

A 35-year veteran of the beauty industry, skincare expert Caroline Hirons began her career on the shop floor before progressing to the level of qualified facialist. Despite an appreciation of make-up, her biggest passion has always been skincare, claiming it as her obsession. A decade ago, she set up her own blog – www.carolinehirons.com – a place where she could discuss her greatest love. "There was no plan, I just thought I'd have a go," she says, and 125 million page views later, her debut book *Skincare* is about to be released.

Our beauty editor, Kelly Andrews, caught up with Caroline to get the lowdown on her no-nonsense guide to everything you need to know when it comes to taking care of your skin.

Where did your interest in skincare begin?

Watching how obsessively my grandmother and mother took care of their skin. They both worked in the industry on counters. When I worked in store, I was all too frequently met with people who wanted a really heavy foundation to hide their skin, and my first question was always "why what's wrong with it?" Good skincare *is* the foundation!

Your blogs and YouTube videos have a huge and loyal following. To what do you attribute this success?

Being honest, being responsible, and putting the reader first above brands and PRs.

What's your daily skincare routine?

You should adapt your routine every day depending on your skin's needs. Today I've cleansed with REN Clean Jelly Oil Cleanser, and used La Roche-Posay Toleriane Mist. This was followed by Sunday Riley Autocorrect Brightening and Depuffing Eye Contour Cream, Oskia Super-C Smart Nutrient Capsules, and Allies of Skin Molecular Multi-Nutrient Day Cream. I finished with Zelens Daily Defence Sunscreen SPF 30.

In the evening, I cleansed with my Pixi Double Cleanse, then applied 0.5% tretinoin from Dermatica, and waited 10-15 minutes. Next was Kate Somerville Line Release Under Eye Repair Cream, followed by another sprtiz of La Roche-Posay Toleriane Mist, and finally Kate Somerville Peptide K8 Power Cream Advanced Anti-Aging Moisturizer.

What's your top skincare buy recommendation for brides?

Don't have any mad facials in the months leading up to your wedding. Have your skincare taken care of way in advance. Don't use any new products in the week of the big day. Remember, your partner doesn't care about your pores and if they do, consider cancelling!

Is there a one-routine-fits-all, or should skincare regimes be tailored to the individual?

It would make it so much easier if there was, but that's not the case. My new book carries on from the blog, and has every possible skin type and condition covered, so you can create a routine from scratch, tailor-made for you.

What product have you tried recently that you can't wait to tell your followers about?

My followers are always the first to hear about everything. But I've recently been loving Oskia's Super-C capsules and Dermatica's online service.

Tell us about your new book.

It's called *Skincare* and is published on June 25th. It's a no-nonsense guide to everything you need to know. I've taken everything I've learned from my years in the industry and my time on the blog to help you navigate the world of skincare, simply and succinctly. I tell you what you do, and don't need, and where not to waste your time and energy. If I rave about a product or an ingredient, it's because I know it genuinely works. Plus, it's bright yellow and covered in camouflage. What's not to love?

SKINCARE WHEN GETTING MARRIED

You don't want to walk down the aisle on the biggest day of your life with a beetroot face or spots. If you want to gear up for your wedding and your skin needs a little help...

- Try to start around 4 months before – 6 if you can afford it.
- Have a couple of maintenance facials 6 weeks apart, then a pampering facial a couple of days before the big day itself.
- Avoid invasive machinery, extractions and anything you haven't had before on the last facial before the wedding. No 'last-minute' peels!

If the dress of your dreams is backless or low on the back and you're worried about spots on your back, speak to your facialist – they can treat it.

WHAT FACIAL?

Despite their popularity and the continued growth of spas and salons, the average woman in the UK has a facial as a 'treat' on only three occasions in their lifetime: a birthday, Christmastime/celebration, or their wedding.

There is nothing more frustrating than looking forward to something, paying out good money and coming away feeling dissatisfied. Here's a general guide of what's out there and when it might prove useful.

There are lots of different types of facials, yet most involve the following steps:

- Cleanse
- Exfoliation (sometimes with steam)
- Extraction
- Massage
- Mask
- Application of product

TYPES OF FACIALS

MAINTENANCE: Will include massage, extractions, steam and possibly machinery
PAMPERING: Lots of massage, possible steam and lots of masks or serums
CLEANSING: Massage, clay masks, steam, and usually extractions
ANTI-AGEING: Machinery such as FRAXEL, fractional laser (all lasers), light therapy, galvanic, Caci, microneedling and serums/massage
ACNE: Deep cleanse, exfoliation, extraction, masks, high-frequency treatment

Extract: *Skincare* by Caroline Hirons is out 25th June (HQ, HarperCollins).



Rosie
TREDGETT
MAKEUP







Rosie has over 11 years experience within the Beauty industry and now specialises in Bridal Make up working across the country. She has a very personal approach and can help with all beauty aspects for your special day

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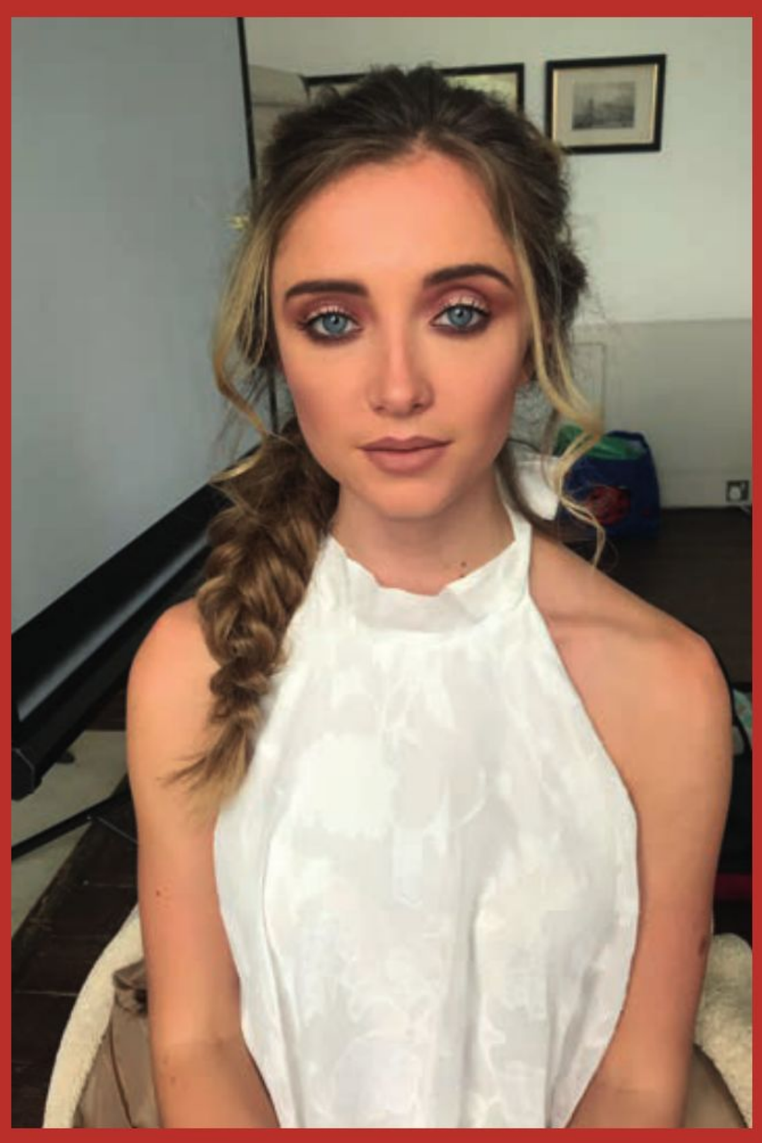
Fashion & beauty Q&A

Experts offer advice on how to look your big-day best



www.nataliestevensonphotography.com

AUTUMNAL BEAUTY



I can't wait for my autumnal wedding and would love a make-up look to reflect this. What would you suggest?

Autumn is a beautiful time of year to get married and is undoubtedly becoming one of the most popular seasons for my brides. If you'd like your make-up to reflect the beautiful season, I'd certainly suggest using warm neutral shades and nothing too dark or wintery. Try a softly blended smoky eye using natural tones, complemented by a blush lip and a subtle contour or hint of colour on the apples of your cheeks. The change of season from summer to autumn means toning down the dewy highlighter and thinking about more of a matte finish.

Alternatively, if you're not comfortable wearing much eye make-up, try adding some length to your lashes by wearing some falsies; there are some really pretty natural options out there that will help frame your eyes. You can then focus on more of a statement lip. Take the colour up a notch and sweep your lips with a shade of red or pink that carries an undertone of brown – this will keep your look seasonal.

The key is to avoid caked-on colour with harsh lines; make sure the blend is soft, and the shades are neutral and timeless.

Sabina Ventriglia | Sabina Ventriglia Makeup Artist
www.sabinaventriglia.co.uk

SAY GOODBYE TO BREAKAGE

My hair is suffering from breakage due to heat damage, and I'd love to get my healthy locks back. What would you suggest?

Breakage from heat damage is quite a common problem; it's caused by over styling with blow-drying on a high heat and overusing appliances like straighteners and curling irons. The breakage is caused by the outer layer (known as the cuticle) developing cracks that create weakness in the hair, causing the hair to snap.

Recovering hair from heat damage can take anything up to a few months, and the most effective way to solve this issue would be to have a good haircut! However, if this is not an option, there's some ways to help your hair.

- ❤ It sounds obvious, but reduce the temperature on your appliances and try to reduce the time you use them.
- ❤ Use heat protection sprays before styling.
- ❤ Stop towel drying as this can cause further damage.
- ❤ Try weekly hair conditioning treatments, my most favourite is natural coconut oil – Lucy Bee is my go-to as it's the most natural product you can put on your hair. Use a teaspoon on wet or dry hair (more if your hair is thick) and leave for up to 30 minutes.

Emma Horsley | Emma Kim Hairdressing
www.emmakimhairdressing.com

SUN'S OUT

Get summer-ready skin with our scorching hot best buys

Bioderma Atoderm Shower Oil
200ml £9, www.feelunique.com



"My skin is definitely not summer ready. I suffer with very dry, borderline scaly, shins and nothing makes a difference. Plus, I'm not a fan of mucking about with lotions straight out of the shower – I know, I don't help myself! The good news for me is that this oil works as a shower soap, cleansing the skin with a gentle foam before rinsing away, and it really did go a long way towards solving my woes. What's more it's ideal to use when shaving your legs. Maybe a skirt won't be out of the question this year!" – ***Kelly Andrews***

Sugar Coated Leg Hair Removal Kit
£9.99,
www.sugarcoatedhairremoval.com



"Waxing at home isn't something I'd normally consider, but being in lockdown it was the perfect time to give it a whirl. The 100 per cent natural wax, the only one to be certified by The Vegan Society, is made from sugar and water. It also comes with reusable, washable strips so it's great for the planet. It's smooth to apply as it's not super-sticky, and has a sweet caramel smell. After bracing myself for the pain of removal, there really wasn't any. It doesn't tug at the skin and the rosehip essential oil soothes as it goes."
– ***Hannah Faulder***



Amanda Harrington New Skin Body Advanced Glycolic Body Scrub
180ml £22,
www.amandaharrington.com

"Prepare yourself for a treat. This scrub leaves your skin feeling wonderfully soft and renewed; great for tackling dry patches, especially around the knees and elbows before self-tanning. The exfoliating beads are biodegradable and it has a lovely subtle fragrance too – a pre-honeymoon must-have!"
– ***Sarah Reeve***

Yardley London Flowerazzi Magnolia & Pink Orchid Exfoliating Body Scrub
200ml £6, www.yardleylondon.co.uk



"The first thing I noticed was the gorgeous summery scent that filled the room, making me feel instantly relaxed. The lightly foaming gel is made using 95 per cent naturally-derived vegan and cruelty-free ingredients to leave your skin feeling softer and smoother. It felt luxurious on my sensitive skin and worked like magic. After just two uses, I noticed a real difference and have since incorporated it into my daily routine. A small amount goes a long way, so the bottle size is well worth the budget-friendly price tag." – ***Melissa Barker***



Green People Scent Free SPF30 Facial Suncream
50ml £19 or 200ml £24,
www.greenpeople.co.uk

"I love the sun and will happily sit out in it all day, however, suffering from prickly heat and eczema I can't say the sun loves me! So, I jumped at the chance to test this organic suncream. Thick to apply, which helps to see the coverage, it seeps into skin leaving it silky smooth. I was able to dress straight away afterwards and didn't experience any of the usual skin sensitivity as a result of being in the sun. I love the all-natural ingredients and brand ethos; I'd use this for the whole family." – ***Danielle Harvey***

St. Moriz Advanced Pro Formula Radiant Glow Face Mist
150ml £9.99,
www.superdrug.com



"I tested this product in the morning after I'd cleansed and moisturised. The lightweight spray felt nice to apply, and it has a pleasant, sweet fragrance. I didn't wear make-up or wash my face for the rest of the day, leaving it to gradually develop, and after a second application the next morning, I started to notice a subtle glow to my skin - nothing drastic, just what I wanted. Perfect for a big-day glow and a honeymoon suitcase essential." – ***Claire Ridley***

HOT TOPIC

Plan your dream day with our expert advice

TREND SETTERS

Q: I'm looking for the perfect suit for my wedding day, what is currently on-trend?

Grooms are becoming a little more adventurous and demanding a stand-out suit for their special day. Here at national award-winning Chimney Formal Menswear, we find our grooms are also looking for a distinctive waistcoat to keep them as the focus, even when they have removed their jacket.

Checks are a popular trend for the discerning grooms for both the suit and the waistcoat. It can be worn successfully together, so long as one of the checks is more subtle than the other. Blue is still the most requested hue as it can work with almost any colour scheme, looking perfect with burgundy, tones of pink, blue and botanical shades.

Floral ties remain as popular as ever and, by choosing a design which contains one of the colours of the suit in the pattern, it will provide the perfect accessory to a check suit.

Tweed is still a style and texture on a groom's radar, but what seems more important is finding a style which allow him to be as much the focus of attention as the bride.

Sharon Cousans
Chimney Formal Menswear
www.chimneymenswear.co.uk



MADE WITH LOVE

Q: I want my invitations to wow my guests and match my spring wedding. How can I achieve this?

All invitations and stationery can be personalised and tailored to your wedding theme and colours, for example spring flowers can be added to create a spring theme. Even if you have particular blooms in mind, I can create that for you at no extra cost. I can also change the colours on any of my designs to suit.

I recently had a bespoke request for a wedding in Scotland taking place next April, where the couple chose my bestselling Blooming Barn range and replaced the floral design with thistles and stags, along with some flag bunting to celebrate the Scottish and English wedding.

Another good example is a save-the-date card where lovely bride Laura requested extra gypsophila added with the foliage on the design.

My most popular invites are the twice folding format, they have the wow factor when guests open them up, and with plenty of text space to play with you can include as much information as you need. This format is also really practical as it's all in one piece of card, so there's no risk of individual or separate cards falling out or being lost. You want your guests to have all the important information in one place!

All invitations and stationery are fully personalised and lovingly created with attention to detail from my home studio in Hertford, Hertfordshire. I work closely with professional printers to ensure a high-quality print finish on luxury card and paper.

Michelle Fiedler | Michelle Fiedler Design Ltd
www.michellefiedler.com



TIERS OF JOY

We have a tight budget for our wedding but still want a beautiful cake. What would you suggest?

Budgeting for your wedding is a delicate balance for all couples. As newlyweds, you're the centrepiece – with all eyes on you! Your first traditional joint task is to cut your cake, a wedding treat full of memories! Cake designers will always work with your budget, but here are a few tips to consider.

- ❤ Don't assume everyone likes cake, consider catering for 80 per cent of your guests.
- ❤ Cut your cake and have stunning pictures taken before the wedding breakfast. Slices can be served as your wedding breakfast dessert cutting down on the cost of the meal.
- ❤ Pick stunning sparkly tier, flowers (fresh, silk or sugar) or a splash of colour to reflect your colour theme and add that wow factor.
- ❤ The more intricate the design, decoration and handmade elements, the higher the cost will be.
- ❤ Consider a dessert table with a smaller tiered cake, beautifully decorated biscuits (favours for your guests) and maybe some cupcakes!
- ❤ A cutting cake hidden in the kitchen provides additional portions minus elaborate decoration.
- ❤ Lemon, chocolate and vanilla sponges are delicious, and although fruit cake is more expensive, it's a smaller portion which allows for better costs.

Angela Hodson | CakesByAngela
www.instagram.com/angelahodsonjones

THE PERFECT DAY

I'm trying to plan our wedding, but I'm finding it overwhelming. How can you help?

A wedding planner will help cure that feeling of being overwhelmed as we can take on any of the more difficult tasks. Divide and conquer is how I work, so you get to keep doing the bits that give you the most joy, and I do the dull, hard and more tedious bits, and it doesn't just have to be the admin. Just think of us as your fairy godmother, the friend you can rely on whatever the task – we don't have to cost the earth either.

Vikki Richman | Your Wedding Friend | www.facebook.com/YourWeddingFriend





YOUR TYPE ON PAPER

I want our wedding stationery to reflect our big day, what would your top advice be for this?

Don't be afraid to have stationery that breaks from the norm; you don't have to have lovely pastel colours and flowers – if you want bright and bold colours, just go for it. Why not have a tropical, geometric, nautical, polka dot, vintage, art deco, or even a superhero theme? There are some fantastic elements that can be added to your stationery to make it stand out, such as foiling, laser pattern cutting, personalised wax seals, embossing and debossing – the possibilities are limitless. Beautiful stationery can set the tone for your wedding, any on the day stationery such as table plans and menus can be a fantastic part of your wedding décor and a great way to start creating a theme for the venue.

Francesca Norton | Francesca Norton Wedding Stationery
www.francescawedding.co.uk

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Email: enquiries@nelvanhuyssteen.co.uk

LOOKING YOUR BEST

Discover top hair and beauty advice

While couples inevitably want to look their ultimate big-day best, worries will inevitably surface in the run up to the wedding. Our beauty experts help alleviate those fears and share their top advice!



THE ONE

Polly Waghorn says: "An important part of achieving the perfect bridal look is choosing a hairstyle that complements the neckline of your wedding dress. A strapless neckline looks stunning with loose flowing locks or Hollywood waves. Curls are so versatile and can be worn soft around the face in a centre parting or a deep side parting with glamorous waves.

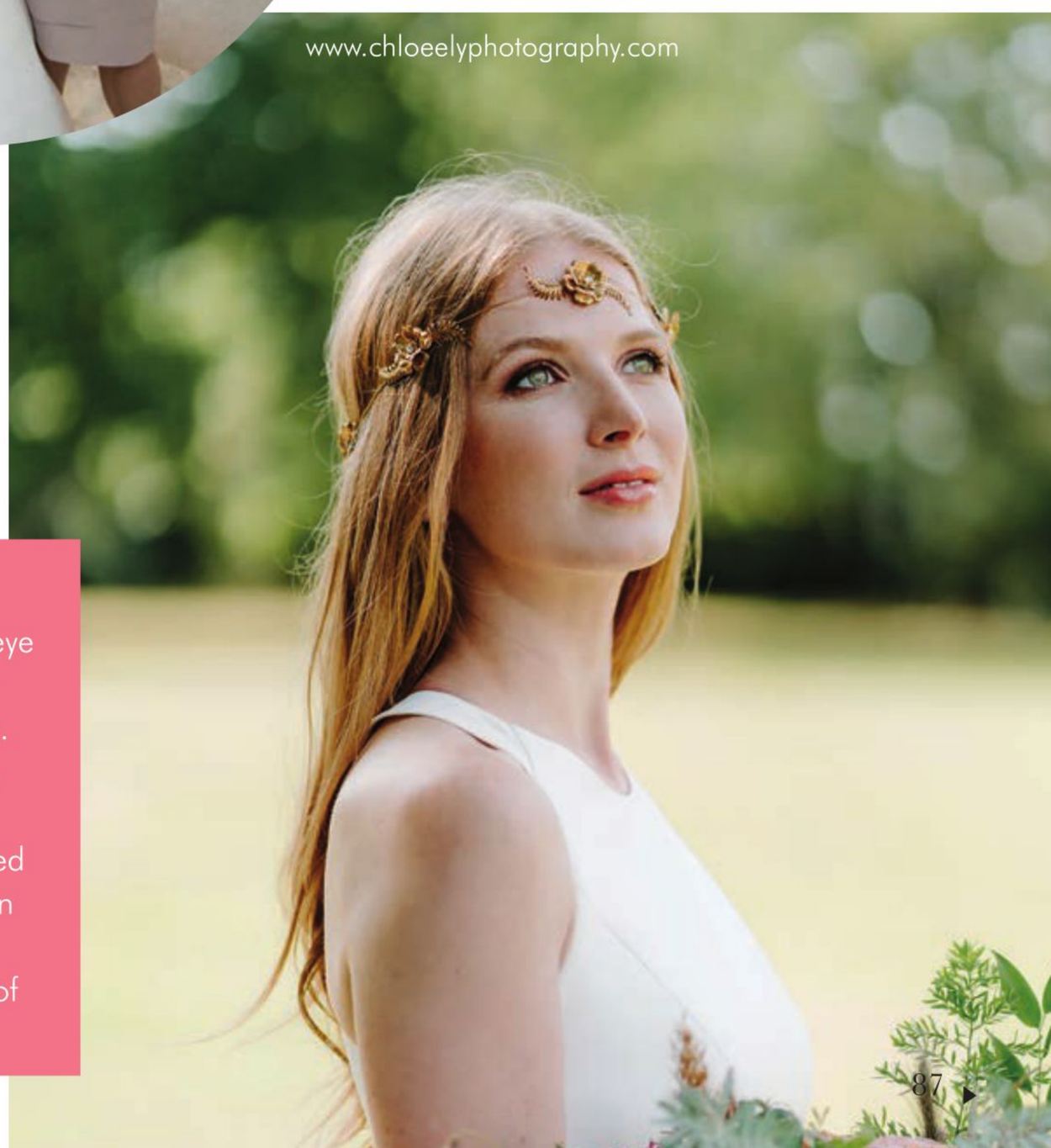
"A boat neck is best paired with an updo with soft tresses around the face – this could be a textured bun or a classic chignon. For a high-neckline, the best option would be an updo. This could be a textured bun or soft curls loosely pinned up. The neckline is a prominent part of the design, so you want to make sure it's visible. Whatever you do, always have a trial to make sure you choose the style that's best for you and complements your dress."



Affection weddings

ENHANCE

Katy Angelidi says: "Less is more when it comes to highlighting, you want to catch the light and placement is key. This product brings the area of the face forward, so add the highlighter to the tops of the cheekbones and use a gentle touch on your Cupid's bow. Steer away from the centre of the face to avoid the greasy look on camera. I like to layer a subtle soft cream under foundation first and finish off buffing in a highlight with lustre, rather than shimmer or glitter."



www.chloeelyphotography.com

THE PERFECT SHADE

Katy Angelidi says: "I love using eyeshadow shades to make your eye colour pop. The one thing I try never to do is a match. If you were trying to sell a blue vase, you wouldn't photograph it on blue cloth. For blue eyes, try warm champagne shades as well as dusky pinks, plums, bronzes and golds.

"Green eyes work well with burgundy, purple and warm red-toned brown hues. If you've got brown eyes and think they're boring, then look closer – you'll see flecks of gold, amber, grey and green in there too. I love to use a rich navy shade with brown eyes instead of black or brown for an elegant and chic look."





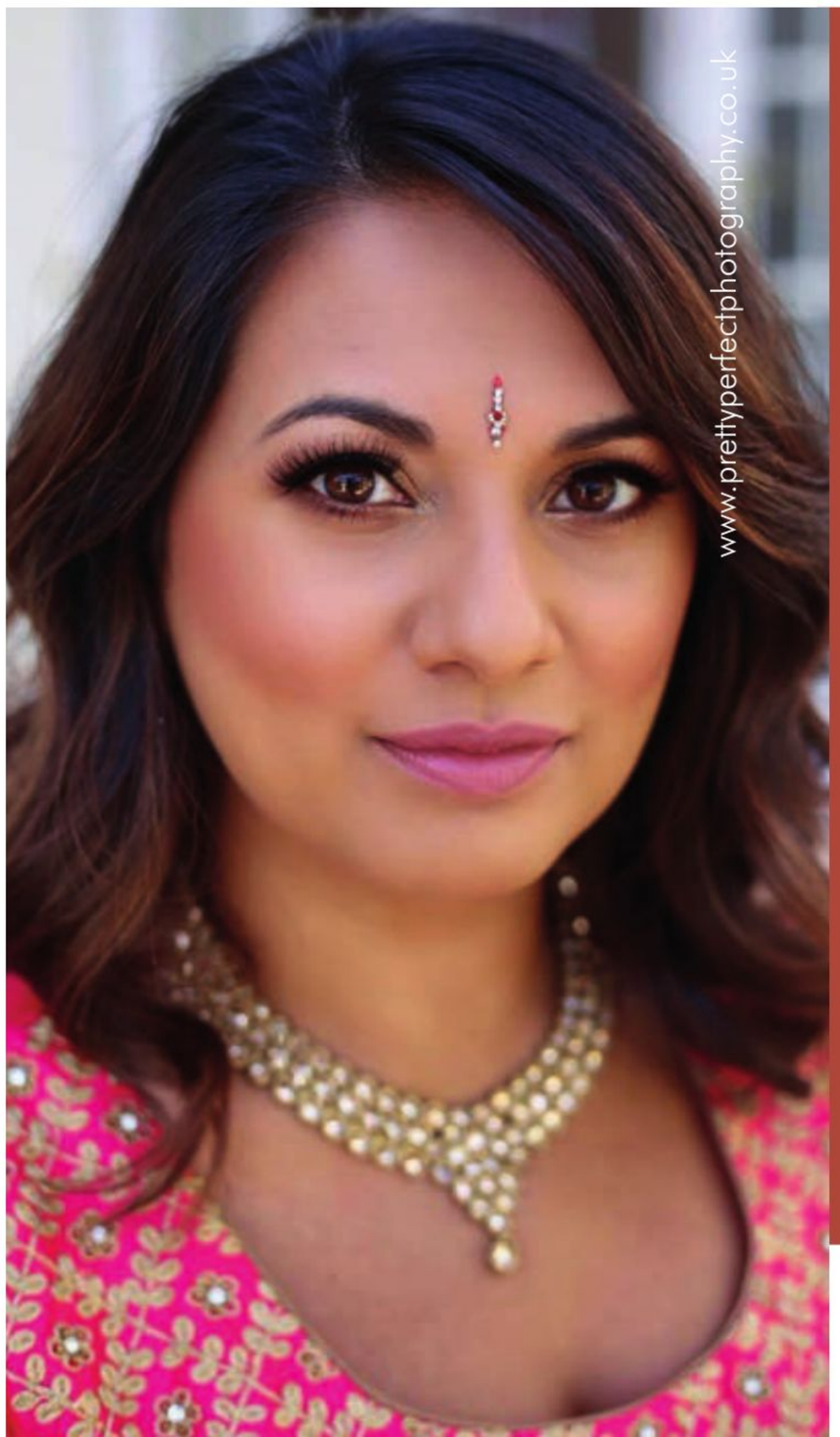
ON TREND

Shahnnaz Walford says: "Bridal eye make-up has changed so much in the 14 years I have been in the bridal industry. Once it was a natural make-up that was preferred by brides, now you can pretty much get away with most styles of eye make-up from the smokey, cut crease and even a colour block. The trick is to choose a style that suits your eye shape. For a foolproof summery trend, apply a shimmery tone and colour-wash the entire lid. Apply a soft kohl pencil to the outer corner above the eyelid and blend inwards and upwards, this is an easy and soft bridal eye."

TRANSFORM YOUR HAIR

Emma Horsley says: "When it comes to split ends, here are my top tips and advice on how to help tackle the issue.

- ❤ Reduce damage by not towel drying your hair; it causes a lot more harm than you think!
- ❤ Invest in a good hairdryer and round brush. Always use the nozzle to direct the heat properly and always point it down the cuticle. Reduce the heat on your styling tools as well.
- ❤ After washing your hair, you should be using a comb, not a brush! Brushes are too harsh and cause the hair to stretch then break.
- ❤ Adapt your shampoo and conditioners, try more moisturising ones and use weekly conditioning treatments – Lucy Bee Coconut oil is my go-to!"



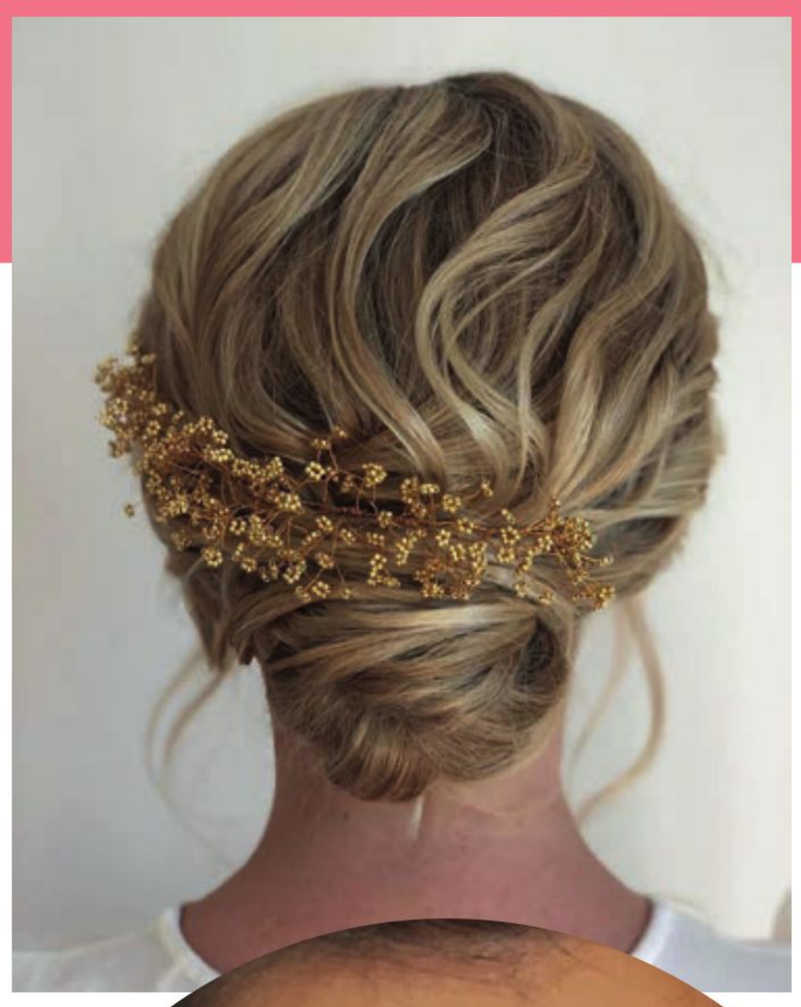
BLUSHING BRIDE

Shahnnaz Walford says: "Blusher can transform your make-up from dull to radiant. Always remember to apply the correct amount and shade to suit your lipstick and overall make-up tones. Pink lipstick warrants a pink shade and coral shades suit a peachy or nude blush tone. Apply the product on the apples of your cheek gently, build gradually but do not overload the brush with the product as you can end up looking dated. Blend the blush out with a large blender brush with upward strokes."

FABULOUS CREATIONS

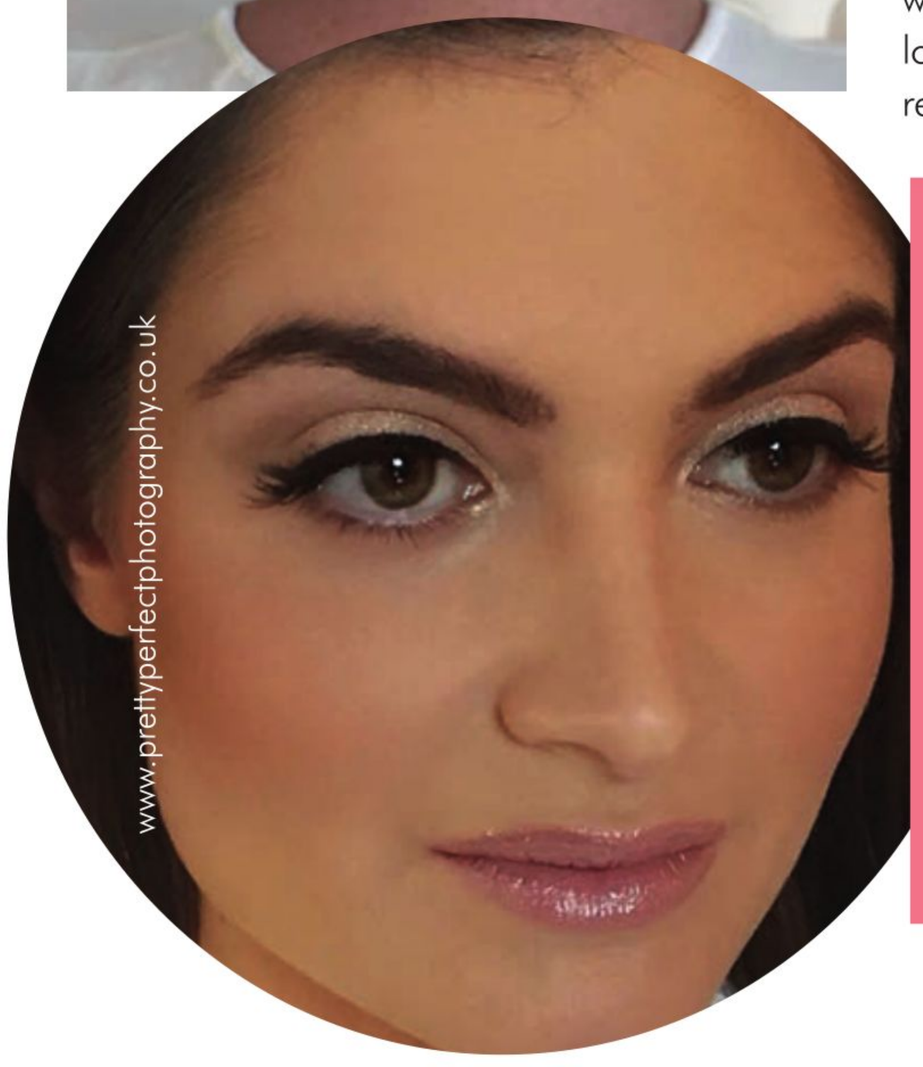
Polly Waghorn says: "I adore a half-up half-down-style because of its versatility. You can create a beautiful boho-style with zigzagged waves or go for more glamorous Hollywood waves. These styles are so popular with both brides and bridesmaids and can be differentiated by incorporating different plaits or hair accessories. It's much easier to achieve this gorgeous look to last on the wedding day by using clip-in extensions. They can add both length and texture to a hairstyle, and it's something I do recommend to all of my brides."





Emma Horsley says: "My favourite creation, has to be the logo image that I have used on most of my marketing material. A low textured bun with lots of movement with an added accessory from EdenB Studio. It is a style that I created when I had a day with Victoria Ralph back in 2018. From that moment, I have been working as part of Victoria's wedding hair gang. She is a London based bridal hairstylist who is extremely talented. I think the look sells my style of bridal hair, very relaxed and effortless."

Katy Angelidi says: "I created this bridal look to show that there's a middle ground between barely-there make-up and full-glam. Skin can be given good coverage with sculpting and highlight while still looking like skin, eyes can be smoky without being too dark, and when everything is balanced and harmonised, it looks timeless yet modern. This look photographs beautifully but also looks fresh and subtle in person and lasts until you take it off after your last dance."



Shahnnaz Walford says: "This bridal make-up look is one of my favourites because it's flawless, timeless and elegant while complimenting almost every bridal-style. This make-up photographs well and also looks great in natural light during the day in either the summer months or winter as well. It's just the right amount to enhance your natural beauty.

MEET THE SUPPLIERS

Katy Angelidi | Make-Up By Katy
www.makeupbykaty.com
Polly Waghorn | RDWhair
www.rdwhair.co.uk
Shahnnaz Walford | The Makeup Girl
www.themakeupgirl.co.uk
Emma Horsley | Emma Kim Hairdressing
www.emmakimhairdressing.com

HERE COME THE GIRLS

Looking for the perfect bridesmaids' dresses? Take our test to see which style best suits your big day

You've found the dress of your dreams and accessorised it like a pro, but don't forget you're not the only one who wants to look and feel their best for your nuptials. To help you find the perfect look for your bridesmaids, we've created the ultimate quiz. Simply tick the boxes that apply and turn over to see the results!

WHICH NECKLINE DO YOU PREFER?

1



2



3



4



WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE COLOUR?

1



2



3



4



CHOOSE THE MOST APPEALING LENGTH

1



2



3



4



WHICH EMBELLISHMENT DO YOU LIKE BEST?

1



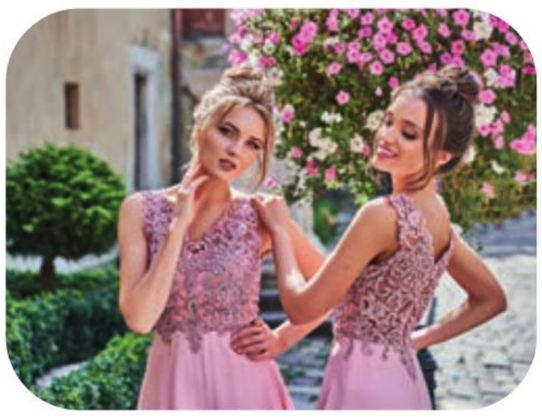
2



3



4



PICK YOUR FAVOURITE SLEEVES

1



2



3

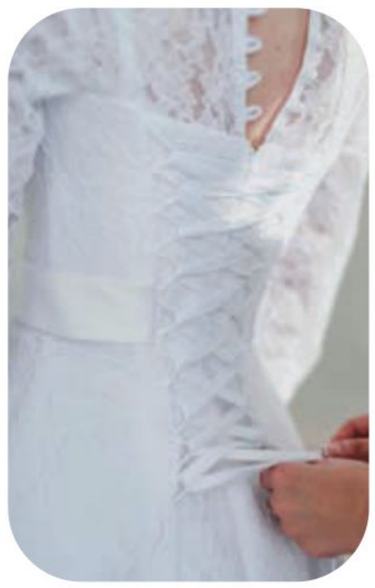


4

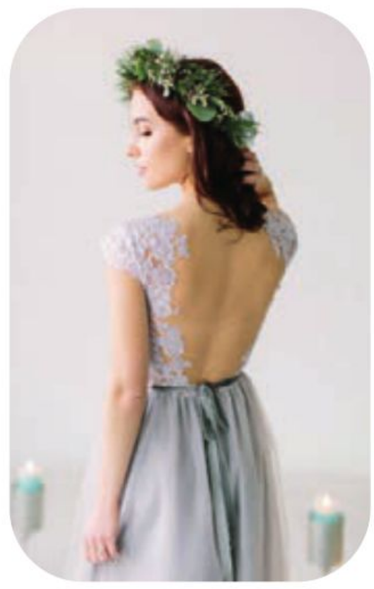


WHICH BACK WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

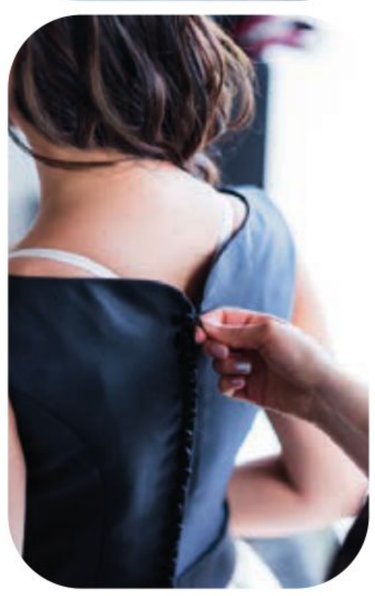
1



2



3



4



You scored...6-11
You have a traditional style and prefer simple yet classic designs. Dress your girls in elegant jewellery and remember less is more.



You scored...12-17
Your style would suit an al fresco or boho-themed celebration. Look for dresses that are rustic and colourful.



You scored...18-20
Stand out from the crowd with an alternative wedding. Opt for strong hues, quirky designs and don't be afraid to let your personality shine through.



You scored...21-24
You're an on-trend bride-to-be who loves luxury. Look for grand embellishments and opt for a gold or silver colour scheme.



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county.wedding



A CLICK AWAY FROM YOUR PERFECT DAY

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Get your mood-board in the mood with some picture-perfect inspiration

@CountyWeddings

County Wedding Magazines

CWM_WEDDING

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



David Watson, a silk accessories brand, has launched a line of alphabet-inspired designs. The collection includes pocket squares, hair bows and neckties, all personalised with the letter of your choice.

I was lucky enough to try one of the hair bows. Not only is it excellent quality, but it looks fabulous with any outfit and would make a lovely gift for brides- or grooms-to-be.

Starting from £45, the products are made in England using the finest silks. Visit www.davidwatson.uk for more.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY



I love this leather wallet from Ekster. It's the world's first voice-activated, trackable smart wallet. The worldwide tracking feature uses Bluetooth and Crowd-GPS to locate and ring your wallet, no matter where you go.

To make things more convenient when paying, all Ekster wallets come with a pop-up mechanism, giving you instant access to all your cards. It offers storage for up to 10 cards, leaving enough space for cash and other essentials.

Check out www.ekster.com





Read all ABOUT IT!

Grooms editor Melissa Barker shares the latest best buys and product launches

COMFORT AND STYLE

Men's underwear brand, Hamilton and Hare has created a new product called The Wedding Boxer. This special pair of signature boxer shorts are made from premium grade pinpoint weave cotton for a subtle, luxurious texture and extra level of comfort. It comes in a crisp, clean white that matches a formal shirt perfectly and has a slimline tailored cut so it won't ruin the line of a suit when worn underneath. Featuring a mother-of-pearl button and complimentary monogramming, the boxers can also be purchased as a gift in a special wrapping.

A pair costs £45 and is available at www.hamiltonandhare.com

Suited and booted

Fairfax & Favor is helping gents look dapper on their wedding day with the release of its 2020 collection. The company design versatile footwear and accessories that intertwine classic country style with a modern city aesthetic. The collection features refined shapes, elevated style and improved comfort and fit.

Our favourite is The Bedingfeld II. It has a leather raised sole, tassels and can be dressed up or down to suit all occasions.

Head over to www.fairfaxandfavor.com to see more.



A SMOOTH FINISH



L'OCCITANE has launched a new shaving and skincare collection. The Homme Cade Collection is made using natural ingredients, including cade essential oil which contains protective and soothing compounds – making it the perfect ingredient for men's skin.

Choose from the Daily Exfoliating Cleanser, Energizing Face Fluid, Purifying Charcoal Mask, Shaving Soap, Cream or Gel. All of which are designed to leave you with soft and glowing skin for the big day.

To find out more, visit www.loccitane.com

Time's up



If you're looking for the perfect watch for your nuptials, then look no further than the re-designed Q Timex Falcon Eye. Every detail of the original watch has been re-created and updated. It now has a woven stainless-steel bracelet, functional battery hatch, two-tone case, luminescent paint and a striated electric-blue dial.

It's priced at £159 and can be purchased from www.timex.co.uk

£150, www.whitestuff.com

LUSH IN *BLUSH*

Step out of your comfort zone with these dashing pink items



£70, www.riverisland.com



£80, www.riverisland.com



£45, www.davidwatson.uk



£35, www.joebrowns.co.uk



£22.99, www.mandco.com



£36, www.remusuomo.com



£35, www.burton.co.uk

£12, www.riverisland.com



£64.99, www.baselondon.com

A CLOSE SHAVE

Melissa Barker chats to Graham Fish, the director of men-ü, about the brand and how grooms-to-be can look their big day best

Tell us more about your company and what you offer customers?

At men-ü, we offer a range of quality grooming products that are different from anything else on the market. We recently celebrated our 20th year of business and are trying to minimise our impact on the environment by using up to 90 per cent less packaging, ultra-concentrated items, re-fill packs and reusable pumps.

How do you suggest grooms-to-be prepare their skin before shaving?

We recommended going to the salon or barbers just before the big day, but if that's not possible, make sure the skin is soaked with warm water before shaving to help soften the beard. Next, apply shave cream and move the razor in line with the hair growth.

What are your top tips for getting a smooth finish?

Ideally, go to a professional and ask for advice. We provide our clients with growth maps with our wet cuts that can be taken home. This is useful as without knowing which way the hair grows, it's easy to go against the grain, which can lead to irritation and in many cases, highlights why men think they have sensitive skin.

Don't rush! Enjoy the process and repeat it. The reason professionals shave their clients twice isn't to waste time, it's because they can't get all of it the first time around. A great example of an ultra-concentrated and high-performance product is men-ü Shave Crème. A 100ml bottle can provide up to 165 shaves which is the equivalent of approximately three 200ml aerosol gels. By applying the crème by hand, it will become clear if there's any leftover hair.

Always use a high-quality shaving product with a good razor and remember it's only what comes

into contact with the skin and blade that matters. The benefits of using quality products aren't just a smooth finish but also healthier skin. Exfoliating and having a deep cleanse using our Healthy Facial Wash will create wonderful results.

For those that suffer from sensitive skin; how do you get great results without irritation?

In many cases, skin becomes sensitive as a result of bad shaving. Men that suffer from this may struggle to get a smooth finish, but having a deep cleanse will help. Make sure the blade is sharp, use the right shave cream and ensure the skin is well covered. Afterwards, use men-ü Matt Moisturiser, which is oil-free, fragrance-free with sebum absorbers, to help prevent greasy skin.

For gents with a beard, how can they smarten this look for the big day?

The most important thing to remember is that the beard should look even, neat and in good condition. If the opportunity presents itself, go to a salon or barber and ask them to create a clean look. Men-ü's ultra-concentrated shampoos and conditioners will also work wonders on beards.

It's not just brides that can get pre-wedding salon treatments, what do you suggest for the grooms?

Pre-wedding services are a great way to bring the male members of the wedding party together and ensure they look their big day best. At our men-ü salon in Southampton, we offer tailor-made wedding packages that not only include haircuts and shaves but also facials and clay mask treatments.

What are your must-have products for even the most novice of groomers?

Creating a smooth surface and shaving well is the foundation for healthy-looking skin. A must-have product for wet shavers is men-ü Shave Crème.

Our products are particularly popular through the likes of Mankind (www.mankind.co.uk) and our website (www.men-u.com).





TOP PRODUCTS

- ❤ Men on the go can purchase a 15ml buddy tube of men-ü Shave Crème that provides up to 20 trims for as little as £3.50.
- ❤ The Year of Shaving Box includes a 100ml bottle with a pump and 100ml refill bottle for £19.95.
- ❤ The Healthy Facial Wash is formulated especially for men who have more active sebaceous glands, and as a result, greasier skin.
- ❤ Our Matt Moisturiser is oil-free, fragrance-free and formulated with sebum absorbers.
- ❤ The Healthy Hair & Scalp Shampoo is great for flaky and itchy scalps.
- ❤ We also offer Styling Clay. This is our biggest seller and provides a great matt finish and adds volume to the hair.
- ❤ Grooms with thin locks should try men-ü Liquifflex. This is lightweight and changes from a cream into a liquid between the palms to ensure it spreads evenly throughout and is great for blow-drying.



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MEN-Ü, VISIT WWW.MEN-U.COM



BESPOKE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2019/20

I make it my mission to capture the personalities and mutual passions of each bride and groom I photograph in order to tell a story and create unique memories. Acknowledging that no two wedding are the same which is why I specialise in offering a bespoke and personalised wedding photography service.

I believe that the key to capturing the perfect wedding photography is ensuring the bride and groom feel comfortable enough to show their true nature. Which I succeed in achieving this by arranging to meet each bride and groom for food or coffee (and cake) before the big day. I also help take the stress out of the occasion by ensuring the couple are in the right place at the right time on the day itself.

Fancy a chat? Drop me an email or pick up the phone, I would love to hear your plans for the big day. Scan the qr code for my full contact detials.

JAMESPOLLEY-PHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK
078911 10028

JAMES POLLEY
PHOTOGRAPHY

100 Best Wedding Photographers 2020

LTG WEDDING AWARDS 2019/20

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WINNER

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WIN!

A LUXURIOUS MINIMOON IN TUSCANY

Enter now for your chance to win a minimoon at the enchanting Grotta Giusti in Tuscany

County Wedding Magazines has partnered with Grotta Giusti to offer readers the chance to win a three-night minimoon. The 19th-century villa, once owned by the poet Giuseppe Giusti, is surrounded by picturesque parks, and guards what he regarded as the eighth wonder of the world: an ancient thermal cave. Now a prestigious hotel, Grotta Giusti is renowned for its historical charm, making it the perfect romantic escape.

The enchanting setting boasts the largest thermal grotto in Europe. Guests can bathe in the magical underground hot spring lake inside the thermal cave, which also acts as a natural steam room. Couples can enjoy scuba diving, hot yoga and floating therapy for a truly memorable experience. The hotel's spa is the jewel in the crown, tantalising spa-lovers with its 750-square-metre thermal open-air pool with underwater hydro massages.

Grotta Giusti has maintained its natural beauty, and offers 64 luxurious rooms with marble bathrooms and a backdrop of antique furnishings and paintings throughout.

THE PRIZE

- One double room for two people
- Three nights on a half-board basis
- One spa treatment per person

WORTH £1,500







HOW TO ENTER

Simply answer the following question… **In which Italian region is Grotta Giusti located?**

Enter online at wwww.yourhertsbeds.wedding. The closing date is 2nd October, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. Please see our website for details.



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

We all need something to look forward to right now, which is why Aardvark Safaris is encouraging couples to postpone – rather than cancel – planned safari honeymoons. Now more than ever, it's vital to support the African camps and lodges that are reliant on tourism to fund conservation and community projects across sub-Saharan Africa.

With postponements just one element, continuing to organise future trips is also important. "This enforced lull in travel presents an opportunity to plan ahead with our experienced experts at your disposal," co-owner Alice Gully says. "We've found FaceTime calls are perfect for bringing to life the joys of a safari." Visit www.aardvarksafaris.co.uk

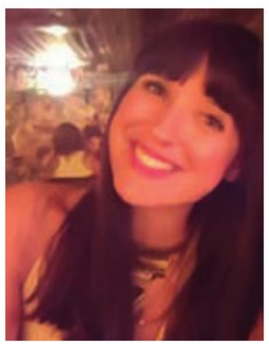


'MOONS LIKE JAGGER

After a recent renovation, the new 750-square-metre Presidential Suite at Tivoli Mofarrej São Paulo in Brazil has been named the largest suite in Latin America – making it the ideal choice for newlyweds looking to go all out. The ultimate brag-worthy destination, guests here will be following in the footsteps of royalty and celebrities such as Donatella Versace, Justin Bieber, Mick Jagger and Lady Gaga.

Found on the 22nd floor, the suite boasts panoramic views of Sao Paulo city centre and is decorated in contemporary Brazilian style. Stay here, and you can look forward to VIP treatment, massages at the Anantara Spa, and a concierge butler service on-call 24 hours a day. Head to www.tivolihotels.com

HONEYMOON *News*



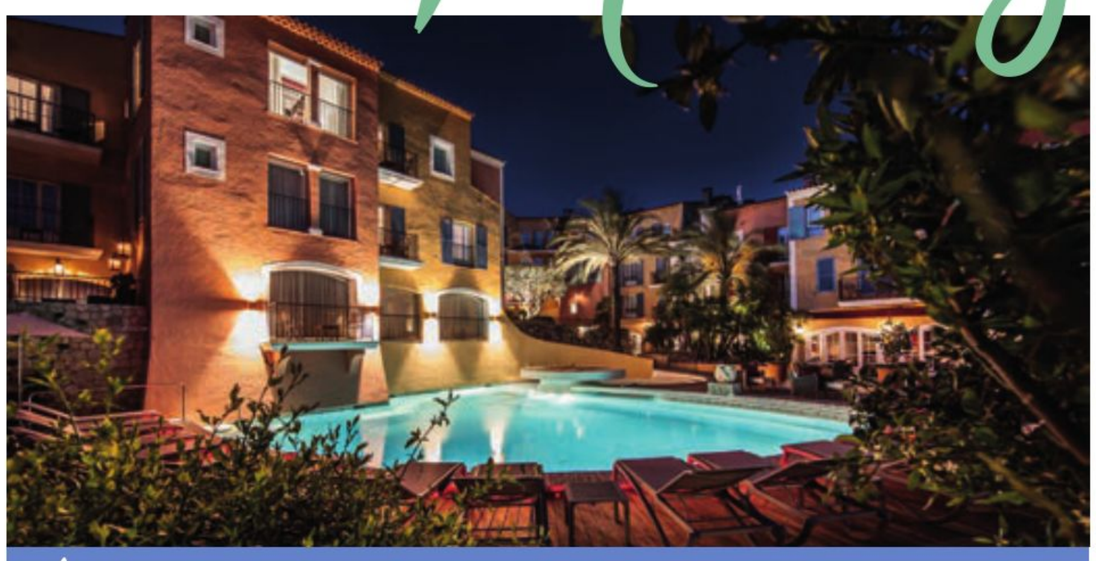
We all need a little escapism at the moment, so let Hannah Faulder help you plan your dream honeymoon for when travel restrictions are lifted

STAY-CAY

With so much uncertainty around travel, finding the perfect spot for a UK minimoon has never been so appealing. Fritton Lake is an exclusive new holiday club on the Norfolk-Suffolk border. Set within Somerleyton Estate's 1,000-acre wildland project, guests can lose themselves in spectacular natural scenery and catch sight of the grazing animals that are leading the way in the estate's eco-restoration programme.

Minimooners can choose from luxury accommodation across the resort, including farm cottages and cabin retreats, each with wood-burning stoves, private hot tubs and a lake- or forest-side terrace. For total privacy, there's even a food-delivery service, which includes delicious locally sourced produce. Feeling a bit more adventurous? Take advantage of the activities on offer from sailing and horse-riding to swimming and yoga. Find out more at www.frittonlake.co.uk





La vie en rosé

When it reopens, Hotel Byblos in St Tropez will be revealing a wonderful new restaurant, Arcadia, and a fabulous new package for wine-loving honeymooners. Inspired by the popularity of rosé wine from the South of France, the package will offer the chance to taste some of the best wines in the region in a relaxed yet luxurious environment. You can also visit Byblos Beach Ramatuelle, the hotel's beach club, which opened last year on Pampelonne beach.

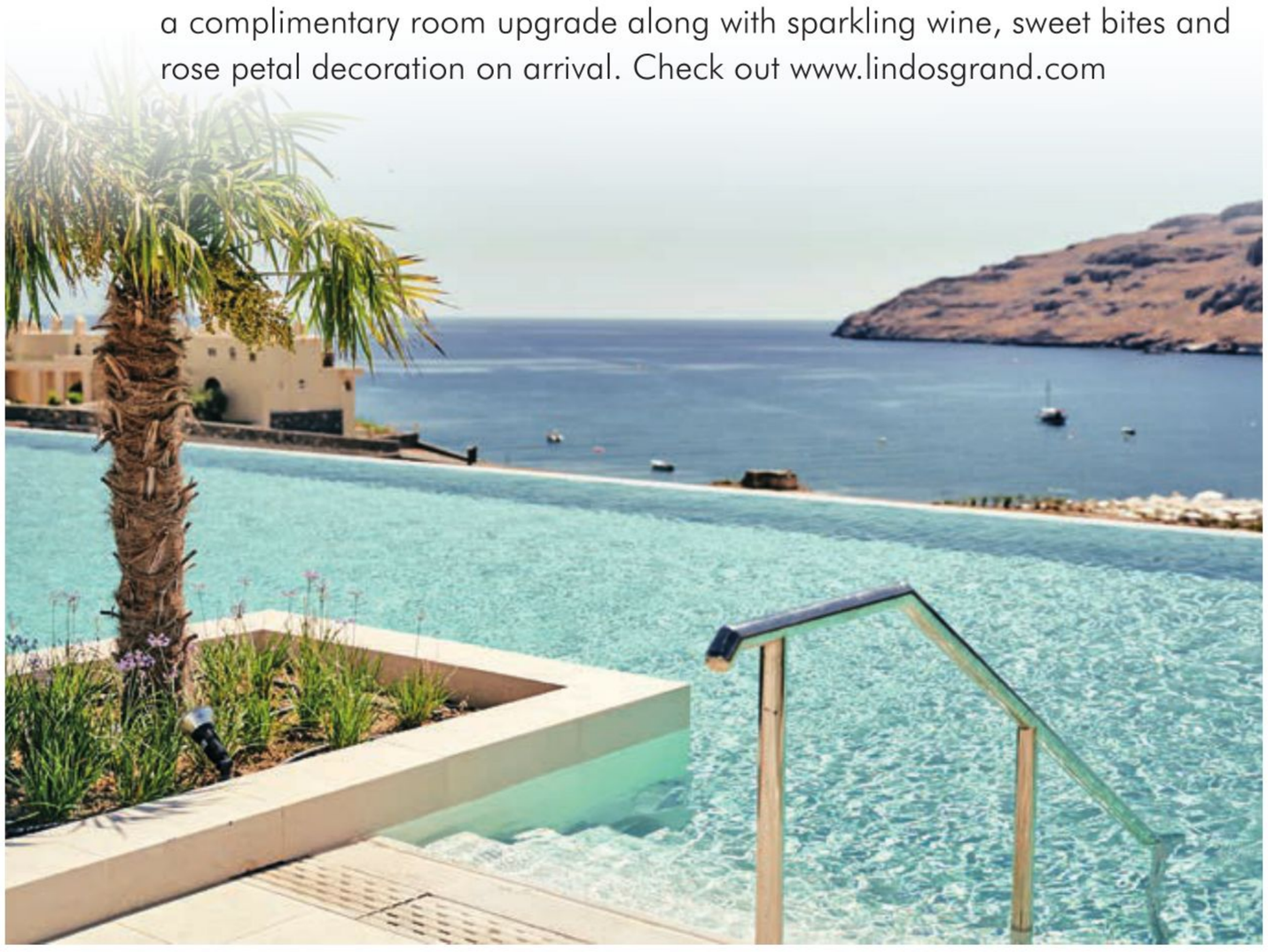
The hotel was originally built for film star Brigitte Bardot in 1967 by a Lebanese businessman who was in love with her. The same year, he sold it to a French businessman and four generations later it's still in the same family. Over the years, it has welcomed celebrities such as Elton John, Jack Nicholson and Cher. Head to www.byblos.com/en

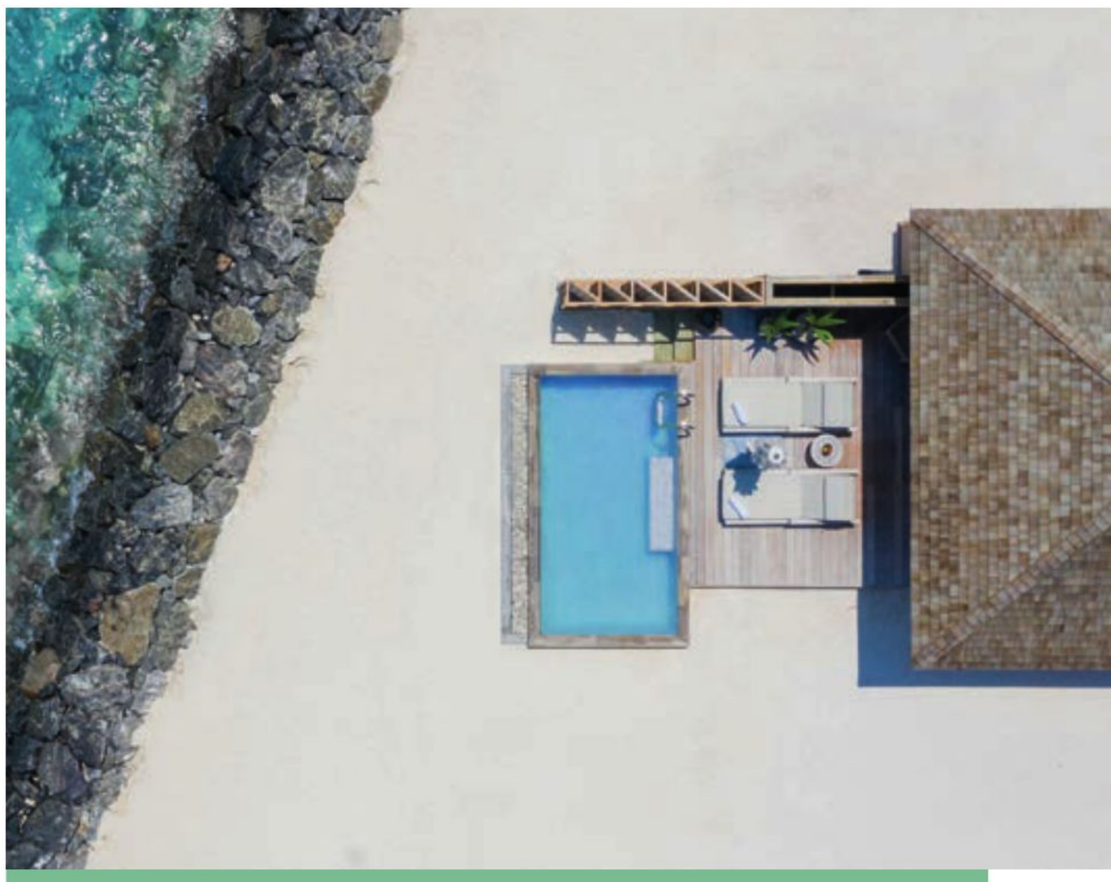
THE RHODES TO ROMANCE

Found moments from Lindos Old Town, the new five-star adults-only Lindos Grand Resort & Spa will open in summer this year. You'll find an array of fine-dining options, uninterrupted views of the shimmering Aegean Sea and jaw-dropping infinity pools cascading from the cliff edge. The idyllic setting combined with a personalised service will make this a truly romantic beachside honeymoon.

The resort will also launch the ThalassoSpa in collaboration with the Natural Spa Factory. Here, you can indulge in private spa treatments, a selection of facials and tailored massages – all designed to promote wellbeing. There will be a luxurious range of vegan-friendly treatments. What's more, newlyweds can take advantage of the natural surroundings with beach-front yoga, horse-riding or hiking in the Greek mountains. There's also an intimate wine-tasting experience in central Rhodes.

The majority of rooms benefit from their own balcony and wrap-around infinity pool with incredible vistas of the crystal-clear waters below. All accommodation boasts an e-concierge, and honeymooners are treated to a complimentary room upgrade along with sparkling wine, sweet bites and rose petal decoration on arrival. Check out www.lindosgrand.com





RELAX IN PARADISE

The five-star Kagi Maldives Spa Island will launch in the Maldives' North Male Atoll in September 2020. The 50-villa property promises to provide a wellness experience like no other, and all just a 15-minute seaplane or 60-minute speedboat ride from Velana International Airport.

At the heart of the island will sit the 1,500-square-metre Baani Spa and wellness hub, along with a state-of-the-art gym, a dive centre and a house reef. Honeymooners can find total relaxation with a range of wellness offerings from reiki and crystal-healing to holistic health coaching and yoga.

There will be two restaurants and three bars, and the resort's fusion cuisine will take inspiration from the Maldives' surrounding countries – from the highly fragranced food of South East Asia to the fiery flavours of South America and Oceania. Find out more at www.kagimaldives.com

Treat yourself to these travel picks…



I struggle to find sun cream that doesn't irritate my skin – particularly on my face. But the new range from ethical brand Green People promises to be kind on your complexion and the planet. Visit www.greenpeople.co.uk



These cute flip flops from Ipanema are the ideal holiday companion, and the ivory colour goes with everything. Check out https://ipanemaflipflops.co.uk



I'm loving these sunnies from Swedish brand CHIMI. The range of colours are to die for. Check out https://chimieyewear.com

Road Trippin'

Ocean to outback in South Australia

If you're looking to book an epic honeymoon for 2021, then look no further than an Australian road trip for some serious wow factor. This itinerary will tempt you with white sandy beaches, incredible food and wine, wide open spaces, the majestic outback and friendly locals. It's the perfect alternative if lounging in the sun for two weeks isn't your bag.

This ocean-to-outback route can be scaled up or down to suit your budget, and extending the trip with a few days in Sydney makes the perfect ending. So if you want a post-wedding adventure that leaves you with incredible memories to last a lifetime, this one's for you…



DAYS ONE AND TWO

Land in Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, and one of the world's best small cities. Spend a couple of days here enjoying brilliant laneway dining, a vibrant arts scene, gorgeous beaches, its rich sporting heritage and get chatting to the lovely locals.

MUST-DOS:

- ❤ Indulge in a long lunch at Penfolds Magill Estate, a winery that produces the world-famous Penfolds Grange.
- ❤ Tour the Adelaide Central Market for tempting foodie options.
- ❤ Relax after the long flight on the city's white-sand beaches.



DAYS THREE AND FOUR

Pick up the hire car and drive thirty minutes to the Adelaide Hills, which is home to hipster wine-makers, exceptional regional restaurants and the glorious Morialta Conservation Park. Enjoy bush-walking as koalas snooze in the trees overhead and kangaroos hop around against a backdrop of stunning gullies and waterfalls.

MUST-DOS:

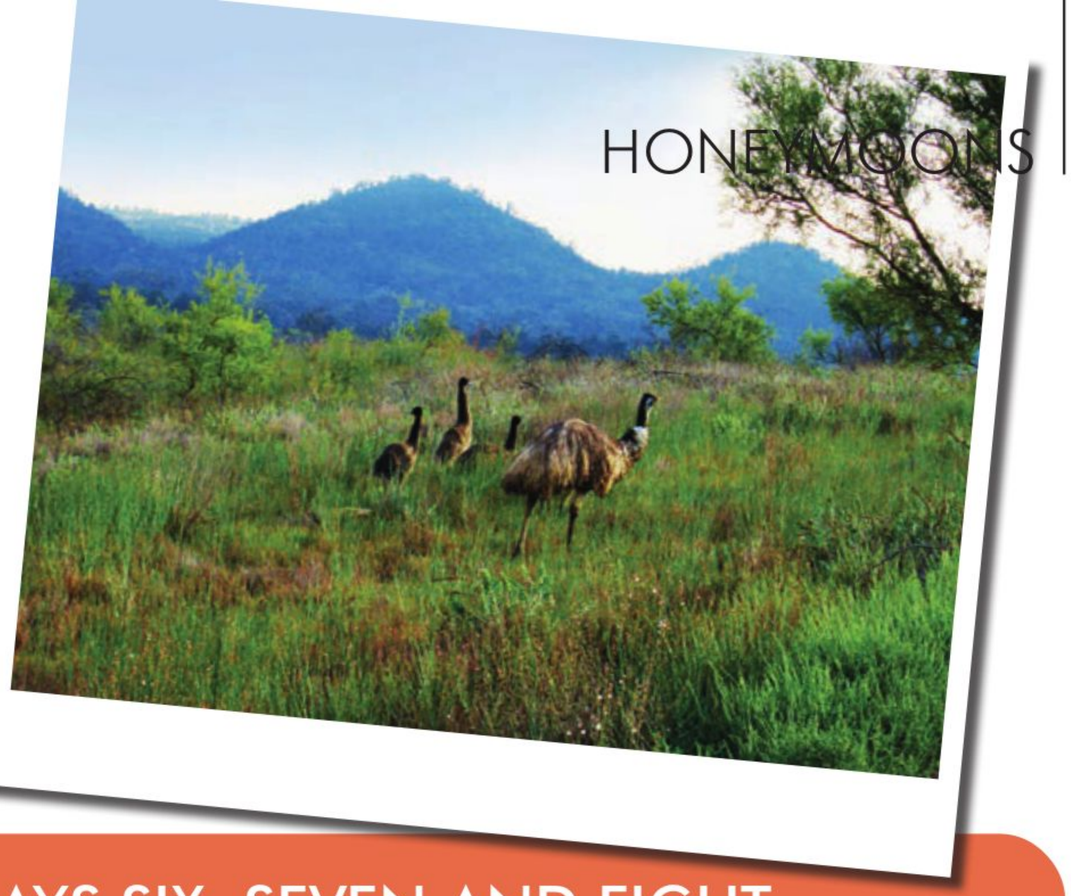
- ❤ Plan a romantic picnic in the conservation area with a hamper full of local goodies.
- ❤ Stay at the enchanting Mount Lofty House heritage property or in its new Sequoia Villa.





DAY FIVE

Drive north to the beautiful Barossa wine region. Book into a cosy cottage situated on a vineyard and make the most of the opportunity to taste the wine while overlooking the vines. Another stop-over option is the wonderful Clare Valley, which is also on the way to the outback.





DAYS SIX, SEVEN AND EIGHT

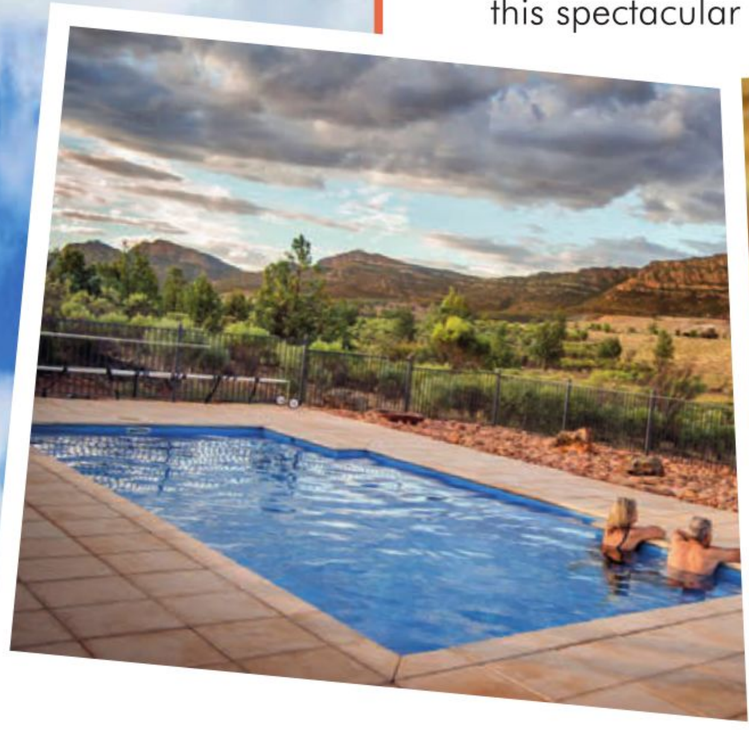
Drive approximately four hours north to the majestic Flinders Ranges. Think red-sand earth, huge blue skies and rich Aboriginal history. Check into a property with a relaxing swimming pool like the Eco Villas at Rawnsley Park Station. Spend two or three days exploring the rugged mountain ranges, gorges and magical wildlife in the 95,000-hectare Ikara-Flinders Ranges National Park.

MUST-DOS:

- ❤ Hike, mountain bike or join a four-wheel drive tour to appreciate this special corner of Oz.
- ❤ Take a helicopter or scenic flight for the most incredible vistas.
- ❤ At sunset, raise a glass of bubbly to toast your honeymoon in this spectacular setting.

DAYS NINE TO 13

Drive the five hours back to Adelaide, leave the car at the airport and fly to Sydney. Spend your last five days exploring the delights of this iconic harbour city. From here, you can either fly straight back to the UK or ask your travel agent to arrange a stop-over in Asia or the Middle East to extend your trip.





This two-week honeymoon including international flights, domestic flight, car hire, and accommodation is priced from approximately £1,900, and can be booked with Trailfinders (www.trailfinders.com), subject to availability.
For more information on Adelaide and South Australia, visit https://southaustralia.com

Tales FROM THE Cornish coast

Hannah Faulder experiences The Idle Rocks in St Mawes, a romantic UK bolthole complete with fresh sea air, incredible dining and picturesque surroundings

Drew Gibson

Nestled in the heart of the pretty seaside village of St Mawes on the Roseland Peninsula in South Cornwall, The Idle Rocks cuts a striking focal point on the harbour-front. Perched above the water, the tide seems to lap against the hotel making it very much at one with its environment. A long sun terrace hugs the front of the building, offering a gorgeous spot to while away an afternoon.

With no-fly honeymoons increasingly popular, this Relais & Chateaux property set in an idyllic fishing port offers the perfect alternative to an overseas trip. When the sun's shining, there's nowhere quite as beautiful as the Cornish coast. For an unforgettable arrival, you can catch the sleeper train from London Paddington, evoking some real old-time romance.

STAY

My husband, Cal, and I stepped inside to find the kind of warm and friendly welcome you come to expect in Cornwall. Walking to our room (one of 19 in the property), we pass playful objects and quirky artwork adorning the walls. These items are balanced so perfectly with the decor it creates a homely yet luxurious feel, with more than a nod to its nautical setting.

We know it's our room thanks to the slate sign with "Hannah & Cal" chalked













on it – cute touch! Through the door we're met with stylish, fresh interiors, a huge marshmallowy bed and a fabulous free-standing rolltop bath in the room. Sunlight streams through the sash windows, and as my eyes adjust, they reveal incredible views across the harbour and the little fishing boats lazily bobbing on the water. It was truly quite breath-taking.

Once our bags were unpacked and we sat on the sofa with a cup of tea, our ears tuned in to the sound of waves rolling onto the shore and we began to slow down to Cornish time; we soon realised this was a place of simple pleasures and relaxed luxury.

EXPERIENCE

Say "Cornwall" and most people think of surfing, pasties and Poldark. From The Idle Rocks you can explore all these things and more. The Roseland Peninsula where the hotel sits is a paradise for walkers with craggy clifftops, light-dapped woodland and rugged coastlines to tempt you. You can even borrow a walking guide and wellies from the hotel. One afternoon we took a stroll out to St Mawes Castle, which is just around the other side of the village and as far as we fancied walking on a wet and blustery day. I loved this compact, clover-leaf shaped castle – it's one of my must-dos along with catching the ferry across to Falmouth.

Walking through St Mawes, we dipped in and out of little art galleries and indie shops. There's also plenty of places to sample a cream tea (jam followed by cream in Cornwall, please) and delicious local pasties and seafood. The harbour was quiet on a wet day in early March, but it's normally bustling with people taking to the water on boats, paddleboards, canoes and windsurfers. What better way to blow away the cobwebs?

One of my highlights of the trip was the Hidden Cinema experience at The Idle Rocks' sister property St Mawes Hotel (www.stmaweshotel.com). Located just around the harbour, the husband and I got dressed up for date night and wandered around to the hotel for a delicious dinner followed by a private screening. The two of us got cosy in the 25-seat state-of-the-art cinema under a fluffy blanket with a big bowl of popcorn and a glass of wine. The cinema normally shows a mix of films, sporting events and screenings of theatre productions, but we were treated to a private viewing of our wedding photos – what an experience!

We didn't want to leave so the staff put on our favourite film, *L.A. Confidential,* and we settled in for the night while our wine glasses and popcorn bucket were never left to go empty.

DINE

The Idle Rocks has an ethos of sustainability, which means food is sourced locally to keep its carbon footprint down. Luckily for guests, it's situated in one of the best places for regional produce. New head chef Dorian Janmaat has returned to his native Cornwall after eight years at Raymond Blanc's two Michelin-starred Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons. Expect exciting and aesthetically pleasing dishes, which champion the freshest local ingredients.

Dinner in the Idle Rocks is a memorable affair. With attentive, knowledgeable staff and an incredible menu. Cal devoured fresh oysters, while I absolutely loved the foraged wild garlic soup. The brassica and coconut dhal was a divine veggie option for me, and Cal was treated to some amazing seafood. For something a little more informal, we loved the gastro-pub feel of The St Mawes Hotel. Here we ate pizzas and Scotch eggs, all with the same emphasis on exceptional quality.

Rooms at The Idle Rocks start from £200 per night, based on two people sharing on a B&B basis. To find out more, visit https://idlerocks.com or call 01326 270 270.

NEXT ISSUE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER
AVAILABLE: 1st October, 2020



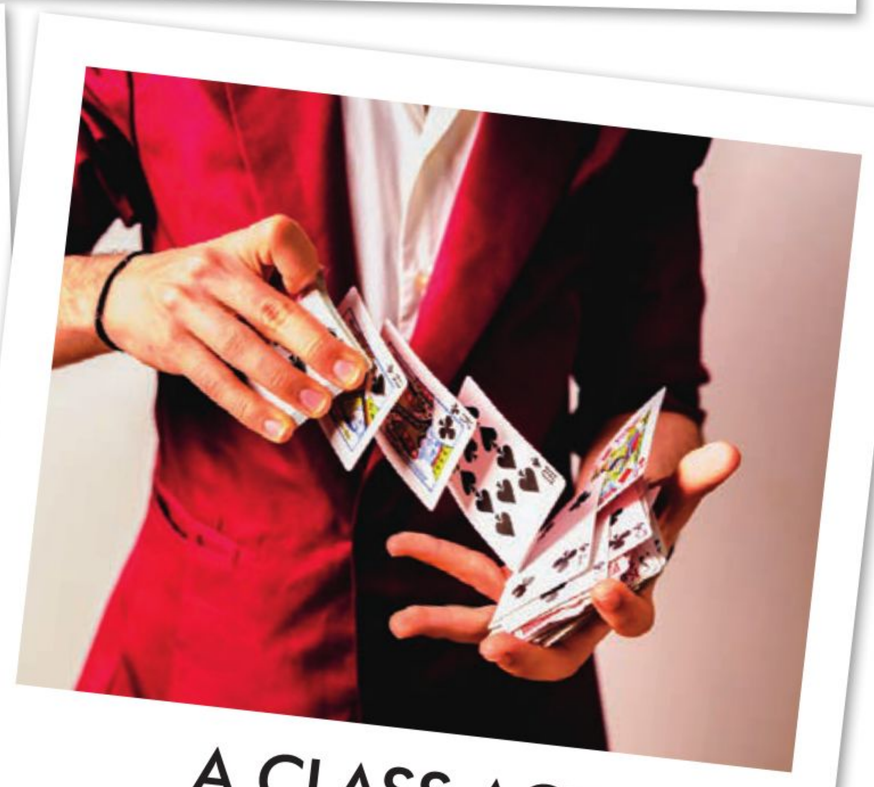
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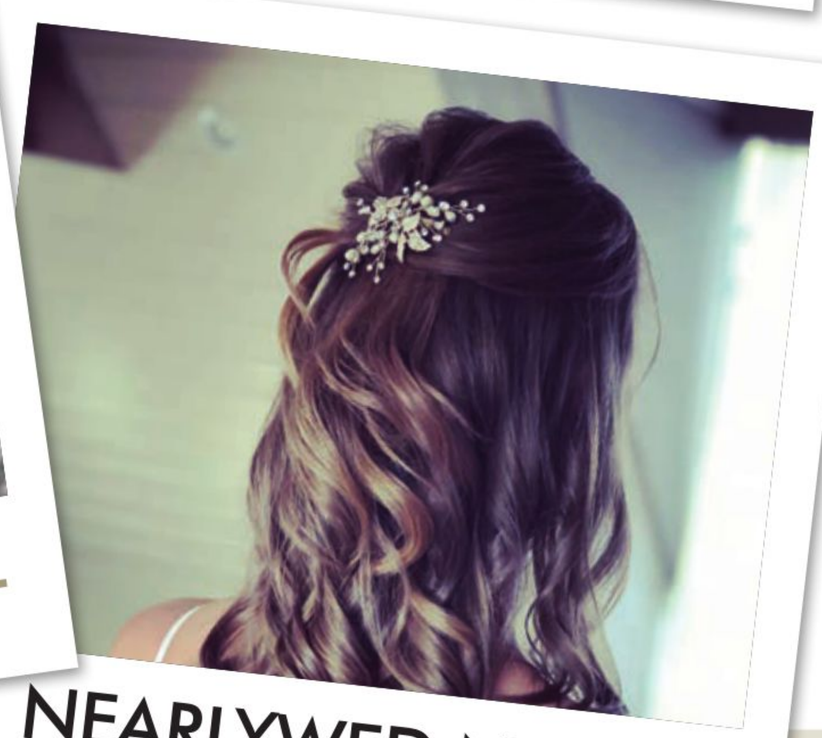
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